

# NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood...and Beyond!



From left: Warning Coordination Meteorologist Barry Goldsmith, Meteorologist Chris Birchfield, and Forecaster Maria M. Torres promote the 2015 Rio Grande Valley Weather Festival at Brownsville's March CycloBia event.

## March 2015

March 2, 9, 16, and 30: Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* and Meteorologist *Erin Billings* participated by e-mail, phone, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Teleconference**.

March 3: *Barry Goldsmith* gave a live **interview** about Severe Weather Awareness Week on **Fox 2 Good Day Valley**, and a taped **interview** highlighting severe, hazardous and spring preparedness season with Annalise Ortiz at **Valley Central KGBT Channel 4**.

March 4: *Erin Billings* provided an **interview** to **Telemundo** regarding possible freezing drizzle, and a second longer feature **interview** to the **Valley Morning Star** regarding rainfall from October 2014 through March 4, 2015.

*Blair Scholl* taught **two Skywarn classes** in **Brownsville** at the Brownsville Central Public Library to 31 students, and *Barry Goldsmith* taught a **Skywarn class** in Brownsville at the Brownsville Central Public Library that evening to about a dozen students.

Senior Forecaster *Mike Castillo* gave a **presentation** and an **office tour** to a group of 7 students from **Kaplan College**.

March 5: *Barry Goldsmith* recorded **video and sound bites** for Severe Weather Awareness Week and hurricane preparedness with Rick Lara of **PharrNow**. *Barry* also attended the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVC) Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Monthly Meeting** in Weslaco.

Forecaster *Maria Torres* provided a **Spanish interview** on Severe Weather Awareness Week with **Radio Esperanza** in Edinburg and invited their listeners to attend the weather festival. *Maria* also taped **two interviews** on Severe Weather Awareness Week with the **City of Edinburg** and invited the community to attend the weather festival.

March 9: *Blair Scholl* taught a **Skywarn class** in **Falfurrias**.

March 10: *Barry Goldsmith* attended and staffed a booth at the annual **University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) Spring Career Fair**.

March 12: Meteorologist *Chris Birchfield* and *Barry Goldsmith* attended a **Marine and DSS workshop** at NWS Austin/San Antonio and presented on social media best practices for WFO Brownsville/RGV: "Baiting the Hook." Dozens of effective examples of Facebook and Twitter posts were shown and discussed at the workshop, attended by staff from WFO EWX and WFO CRP.

March 17: *Blair Scholl* taught a **Skywarn class** in **Zapata**.

March 20: *Maria Torres* taught a **Skywarn class** in **Harlingen**.

March 22: *Chris Birchfield*, *Maria Torres*, and *Barry Goldsmith* attended **Cyclobia Brownsville** and promoted Weather Festival 2015 to about 100 passers-by in north Brownsville. Brochures and promotional materials were also handed out (above).

March 23: *Barry Goldsmith* gave an **interview** with Freddy Vela on **Fox 2 Good Day Valley** promoting Weather Festival 2015.

*Maria Torres* taped an **interview** with **Univision 48** promoting the Rio Grande Valley 2015 Weather Festival, and provided a **live promotional** with **Univision Radio** promoting Weather Festival.

March 24: *Mike Castillo* taught a **Skywarn class** in **Weslaco**.

*Blair Scholl* taught a **Skywarn class** in **Raymondville**.

March 25: *Barry Goldsmith* gave a **live interview** on **KGBT 4** promoting the 2015 Weather Festival, and gave an interview on the KURV-710 AM morning show promoting the Weather Festival.

Blair Scholl taught a **Skywarn class** for the **International Museum of Arts and Sciences** staff in McAllen.

March 26: Chris Birchfield gave a **live on camera in Spanish** with **KTLM Telemundo Channel 40** regarding the severe weather.

Blair Scholl taught a **Skywarn class** for the **Valley International Airport** staff in Harlingen.

March 28: Steve Drillette, Barry Goldsmith, Geoffrey Bogorad, Mike Castillo, Maria Torres, Jason Straub, Blair Scholl, Kirk Caceres, Justin Gibbs, Erin Billings, Chris Birchfield, Tim Speece, Joe Tomaselli, Paul Schafsmaa, Everett Briggs, and Derrick Urch participated in the **2015 Rio Grande Valley Weather Festival**.

March 30: Barry Goldsmith joined other Warning Coordination Meteorologists serving coastal Texas, in describing historical hurricanes for each region dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries at the **National Hurricane Conference** in Austin. The session was titled “Grasping Your Hurricane History: Texas”.



Warning Coordination Meteorologists Barry Goldsmith (NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, left), Dan Reilly (NWS Houston/Galveston, center) and John Metz (NWS Corpus Christi, right) spoke at the National Tropical Weather Conference on South Padre Island in April.

## April 2015

April 1: Forecaster *Justin Gibbs* attended the **Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Evacuation Study Status Update meeting** at the Brownsville Central Public Library.

April 2-3: *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **2015 National Hurricane Conference** in Austin. On April 2, Barry participated in a session entitled “Private Industry – The Changing Face of Hurricane Meteorology and What It Means to Business.” Barry’s **presentation** was titled “Hurricane Information for Business Protection: Forecasts You Can Use to Make Smart Decisions.”, and was attended by a dozen conference-goers.

April 8 – 11: *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **2015 Tropical Weather Conference** on South Padre Island. Barry joined WCMs John Metz (WFO CRP) and Dan Reilly (WFO HGX) for the **opening presentation**. Barry’s talk, titled “Seamless Impact-Based Decision Support in Hurricanes,” described opening alternate operating locations for WFO Brownsville Decision Support in Weslaco should the office location in Brownsville be compromised by a natural or manmade catastrophe.

April 10-11: *Erin Billings* and *Chris Birchfield* provided **onsite weather support** for the **2015 Pharr Hub Phestival**. Heavy rainfall and frequent lightning on April 10<sup>th</sup> required *Erin* to provide additional support for hazardous weather to help ensure the safety of thousands of fair-goers.

April 14 – 15: Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* and *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at the **2015 South Texas Hurricane Conference** in McAllen. More than 1100 persons attended the conference, and several hundred stopped by the booth to pick up information and discuss weather and hurricanes. On April 15, *Barry* presented to a full room of over 100 persons “Building a Weather Ready Rio Grande Valley: One Person, One Family, One Neighborhood at a Time.

April 22 – *Maria Torres* gave a hurricane preparedness **presentation** in **Spanish** as part of the **Good Neighbor Program** to 10 residents in the Rockwell Manor Apartments in Brownsville.