



Texas Weather Wire



NWS at the SA Citizen Preparedness Workshop

By Orlando Bermúdez

Members of the Austin/San Antonio Weather Forecast Office (Jason Runyen, Trevor Boucher and Orlando Bermúdez) participated at the 2016 San Antonio Citizen Preparedness Workshop on September 24, 2016.

Jason spoke about hazardous weather threats that can impact the San Antonio metro area, having a weather safety plan, and the many different ways to receive warnings. Trevor spoke about challenges the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community constantly encounter receiving weather notifications, current technology options for this demographic, and future work to help alleviate these challenges. Orlando spoke about the difficulties that different cultural groups from Central and South America are facing with the translation of weather terms and discussed of a group of Spanish-speaking NWS forecasters working to solve this issue.



Orlando Bermúdez helping out a San Antonio citizen with lightning brochure.



Jason Runyen responding to weather questions about the weekend forecast.



Trevor Boucher assisting the gentlemen to setup weather alerts on his cellular device.

Sections on this issue:

SA Citizen Prep. Workshop	1
South Central Texas Climate	2-3
Coop Observer Awards	4
NWS Connects	5
NWS Office Info.	6

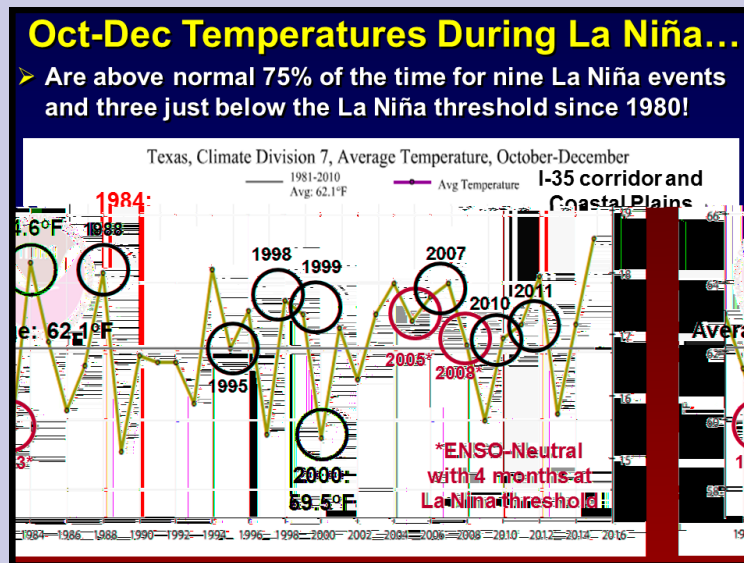
South Central Texas Climate next...

South Central Texas Climate

By Larry Hopper

Wetter than normal conditions continued across South Central Texas during the July-September period, which on average was about 3 inches above normal. After a relatively dry first two months of summer, a series of upper level disturbances and a rare August front that stalled produced 5-15 inches of rain over much of the region between August 12 and 22 when many sites received rain each day. Another dry and warm 3-4 weeks followed before our first strong front of the fall arrived right on its average date of September 25th to cause additional heavy rainfall for a few days across the region. Austin Bergstrom's 17.13 inches of rain during the July-September period was their highest on record, finishing off their record wet water year (October 2015-September 2016) with 73.16 inches of rain to shatter their previous record of 54.28 inches set in 1991-92. Del Rio's 16.23 inches over the same period was their third highest since 1906, a remarkable feat without a tropical storm or hurricane.

However, Mother Nature will most likely remind us over the coming months that South Central Texas is indeed a land of perennial drought interrupted by the bouts of flood we have seen these past two years. Decreasing sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the east and central Pacific following our strong 2015-16 El Niño episode have finally fallen below the La Niña threshold of -0.5°C for the July-September period. In addition, the majority of models predict that 3-month average SSTs will remain below the -0.5°C threshold for at least the five months needed to constitute an official La Niña. Therefore, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is predicting around a 70% chance of La Niña this fall with slightly lower chances (about 55%) that it will continue through this winter.

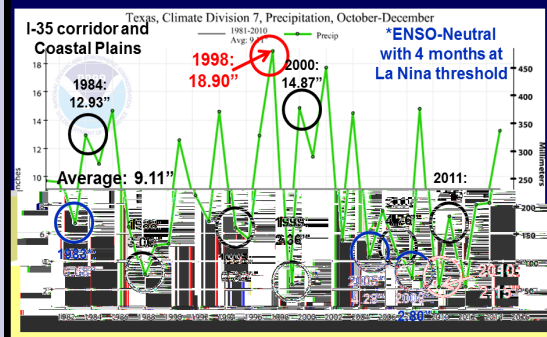


Climate continues...

South Central Texas Climate Continues

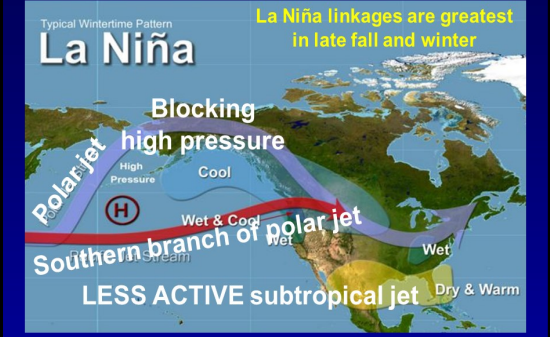
Oct-Dec Precipitation During La Niña...

- Is below normal 75% of the time for nine La Niña events and three just below the La Niña threshold since 1980!



How Does La Niña Affect Our Weather?

- High pressure and a much less active subtropical jet often causes dry and warm weather over Texas during La Niña



Local climate research shows South Central Texas will most likely be warmer and drier than normal this fall regardless of whether or not a weak, short-lived La Niña occurs or we just miss out on an official La Niña and remain ENSO-neutral. Drier and warmer than normal conditions have occurred across the region during the October-December period 75% of the time since 1980 during La Niña episodes or ENSO-neutral episodes that spend four months below the La Niña threshold.

During these episodes, blocking high pressure over the western United States and Pacific Ocean minimizes the number of cold outbreaks by keeping the polar jet to our north while also encouraging a less active subtropical jet that results in fewer precipitation opportunities. Therefore, CPC is predicting odds tilted towards a drier and warmer than normal fall (and winter). However, our wettest fall occurred during La Niña when 10-30 inches of rain fell in mid-October 1998 due to a deep upper level disturbance and slow-moving front interacting with moisture from two East Pacific hurricanes! Although the chances of a heavy rainfall event occurring this fall is relatively low, South Central Texans must always be prepared for these type events considering they have occurred each of the last three fall seasons!

Coop Observer Awards

By Steve Smart



H. M. "Mac" Northington, Jr. (right) of Cooperative Observing station Northington Ranch accepts his 30 year Length of Service Award presented to him on September 8, 2016 by Steve Smart, Observing Program Leader from the Austin/San Antonio National Weather Service (NWS) office. Mac has been observing and reporting weather and rainfall data for the NWS since August 4, 1986. Actual rainfall records from his location extend back to 1963. Photo taken by Jon Zeitler, Science and Operations Officer.



Rose Hudson is presented with her 40 year Length of Service Award by Steve Smart, Observing Program Leader from the Austin/San Antonio National Weather Service (NWS) office. Rose has been observing and reporting weather and rainfall data to the National Weather Service since August 1, 1976. Her Cooperative Observing station name is Canyon Dam #4. Photo taken by Jon Zeitler, Science and Operations Officer.

Austin/San Antonio National Weather Service Connects...

By Orlando Bermúdez



NWS Austin/San Antonio teamed up and cleaned a 2 mile stretch as part of National Weather Service Week of Service celebrated during the week of September 25th through October 1st, 2016.



NWS information next...

*National Weather Service
Austin/San Antonio
Weather Forecast Office (WFO)
2090 Airport Road
New Braunfels, Texas
Phone: 830-606-3617*

National Weather Service Mission Statement

“The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.”



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Austin/San Antonio National Weather Service Home Page

<http://www.weather.gov/austin>

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

*Have a happy fall and enjoy
South-Central Texas weather!*