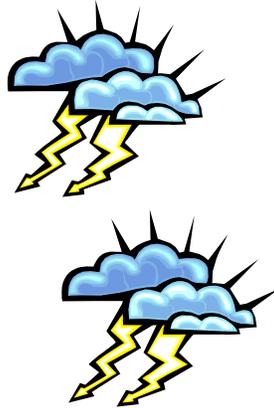




FROM THE AIR PROGRAM

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE VISIT

On March 15, 2016 Daniel Berc, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from the National Weather Service in Las Vegas, visited Bishop for a special Kids' Weather Demonstration at the Bishop Indian Education Center's after-school tutoring program, and a Storm Spotters Training at the Cultural Center.



EDUCATION CENTER WEATHER EVENT

With much help from the Education Center, the 1st through 3rd grade students there were able to participate in demonstrations of different weather phenomena. Dan explained the different types of weather that meteorologists can measure, and basics of the instruments involved. He demonstrated a 1" rain gauge, a weather balloon, a barometer/hygrometer, and a dual-scale thermometer. A number of the kids knew what these are for. He then demonstrated how hot air is lighter than dense, cold air by filling a balloon with cold then hot air; how air pressure will hold a ping pong ball suspended- even diagonally with enough pressure, and demonstrated the venturi effect (pressure changes in liquids) by making a "tornado in a bottle". The "grand finale" came when he turned on the "lightning machine", an instrument that generates a very small, harmless charge, and showed how our bodies can conduct electricity! The kids held hands in a line and conducted the charge down the line, person by person. Thanks so much to the staff at the Ed Center!



STORM SPOTTERS TRAINING

Approximately 45 people participated in the Storm Spotters training. Storms have been bringing weather to the Eastern Sierra during this year's El Nino season, including a major front that passed through on March 11. The Las Vegas office issues weather advisories, watches, and warnings for Inyo County and the Bishop area. As much of this area is remote, or simply too far away from their office, the meteorologists rely partly on trained spotters' reports of on-the-ground observations. There are a number of Tribal members, bishop area individuals and officials who are long-time volunteers of this program. The event was for anyone who wanted to learn more. Dan explained the different types of thunderstorms and how they are formed, hail sizing, flash floods, funnel clouds and tornados, wind shear, and other phenomena. He showed video footage illustrating the dangers of flash floods, one of the largest hazards in the forecast area, and tornados.