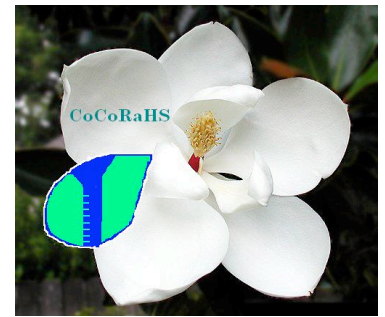


# Southern Mississippi CoCoRaHS Newsletter

October 2008



## Welcome to CoCoRaHS!

Since the Magnolia State joined the national ranks of CoCoRaHS volunteers in August 2008, the southernmost counties have added 13 observers into the fold. Eight individuals signed on in August and another five joined in September. Thank you for your interest and involvement into this national endeavor. You are now charter members within the state of Mississippi.

## Regional Coordinator – Robert J. Ricks, Jr.

My name is Robert J. Ricks, Jr. I am your regional coordinator for the southernmost counties in Mississippi. I am a National Weather Service lead forecaster stationed at the forecast office in Slidell, LA (since 1995). I am the climate services program leader for our area of responsibility across Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi. This function incorporates the various sources of data and observations to produce climate related products and services for our citizens, stakeholders and research community. I, too, am a NWS cooperative observer and a CoCoRaHS observer for my home town of Abita Springs, LA. This newsletter is the first of what should be a monthly issuance to notify the local observers of happenings within the local network. I intended to speak with you in a September newsletter, but the work load with busy tropical cyclone activity precluded that. I am happy to report that storm impacts incurred from Hurricane Gustav have been resolved and quiet weather is helping me “catch up” on the various projects with which I am involved – including CoCoRaHS. I want to formally welcome each of you and thank you for helping the network get off to a good start across Mississippi. As a regional coordinator, I am here to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to contact me for assistance either through e-mail or by phone.

My e-Mail address is [Robert.ricks@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.ricks@noaa.gov) and my work phone is (985) 649-0429. You have a very good supporting cast across the state – individuals whom I know personally - from the other regional coordinators, through the state coordinators at WFO Jackson and the Mississippi State University, as well as the national program folks based in Fort Collins, Colorado.

My coordination area in Mississippi includes the following counties: Wilkinson, Amite, Pike, Walthall, Pearl River, Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties. We have four observers in Hancock County, four in Harrison County, two in Jackson County, and 1 each in Pearl River, Pike and Amite Counties. I will be trying my best to generate some interest in Walthall County (Tylertown area) and Wilkinson County. We can also add more observers in the other counties.

## Hurricane Gustav

If you visit the CoCoRaHS website ([www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)) and go to the Mississippi page under “States”, there is a nice write-up and graphics depicting rainfall from Hurricane Gustav. This report explicitly mentions the use of CoCoRaHS observations within the compiled rainfall totals. Some of YOUR reports were included within this national report prepared by the NOAA Hydro-meteorological Prediction Center. This report can be found at <http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/tropical/rain/gustav2008.html>. This is one example of how your voluntary efforts are benefitting the nation.

## Monthly Maxima

In August, the highest accumulation in southern Mississippi was **10.28 inches** measured in 28 days from **Carriere 3.2 SSW (MS-PR-1)**. The single day maximum reading was also from **MS-PR-1** with a measurement of **2.78 inches** on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. In September, the highest monthly accumulation was **14.06 inches** measured in 24 days from **Diamondhead 1.6 ENE (MS-HC-3)**. A close second was **13.78 inches** measured in 26 days from **Liberty 6.4 ENE (MS-AM-1)**. The single day maximum reading in September was **6.09 inches** at **Biloxi 4.3 NNW (MS-HR-3)** measured on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. No hail reports were received in August or September.

Please remember a zero observation is just as important as a ‘real’ rainfall report, as this helps depict the areas affected by a rain event with better accuracy. Until next month, take care and keep those observations coming!