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Southern Mississippi CoCoRaHS Newsletter February 2009

Latest Activity

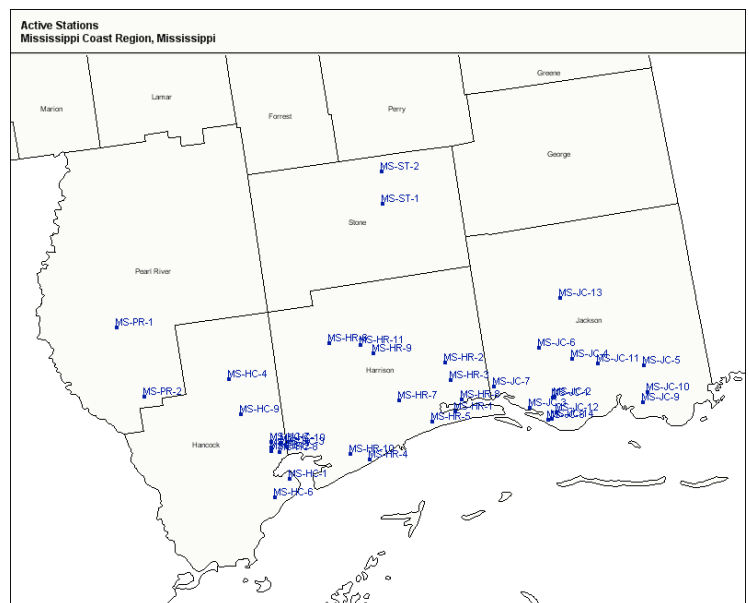
January and early February was a very rewarding period for the Mississippi CoCoRaHS network. I spent much of the day on January 13th meeting with our broadcast and print media to tout the CoCoRaHS program. TV Weatherman Mike Reader at WLOX-TV 13 (ABC affiliate) met with me and was quite receptive to the program. Together, we recorded a 7 minute web cast to casually discuss the benefits of joining CoCoRaHS. After that, I visited Melissa Scallan at the Sun-Herald. This was on the eve of a strong Arctic cold front, so I provided her a weather story regarding cold weather preparedness while wearing my National Weather Service hat. I then changed into my CoCoRaHS hat and gave a lengthy feature story about the program. This was intended to be run the next Sunday, but was pre-empted due to extensive Inauguration Day coverage. The story did run in the February 2nd edition and received an overwhelming response. Later that evening of the 13th, I attended, as a guest speaker, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MS DMR) – Shellfish Division Oyster stewardship meeting in Long Beach. The meeting was well attended and some interest was noted.. I did manage to sign up two participants from the meeting. The WLOX broadcast yielded another 2 or 3 applicants and the feature story in the Sun-Herald garnered 18 new applicants. One day's effort more than doubled the roster for our coastal Mississippi counties.

Twenty-three New Members

If this is your first newsletter, welcome to the CoCoRaHS family! You have signed up to share your enthusiasm for weather and to take an active role in helping the nation record our weather history through volunteerism. If you need any assistance with training, setting up your rain gauge, or acquiring a rain gauge, feel free to contact me at one of the many options in the header on the top of this newsletter. I realize you did not sign up to be bombarded by a bunch of e-mail, so I only send a newsletter once a month. If you have any observation or weather stories of interest, please send them to me for inclusion in future newsletters. Once again, welcome and we look forward to your observations.

New Regional Map

As an action item for the MS DMR, I requested of the national CoCoRaHS programmers the provision of a regional map zoomed into the six southernmost Mississippi counties. Zach and Julian turned this request around in 1 day! Thanks guys for the quick response. The regional map can be selected from the 'Maps' menu on the CoCoRaHS web site, then changing the "Cities/Counties" option to "Mississippi Coast Region". The image right is the latest station location map on the new map with 40 active observers across the southern counties. Feel free to use this map to view your observations if you are one of the coastal county observers.



January Monthly Maxima

For the entire state of Mississippi, the wettest location for the month of January was **Starkville 2.7 WSW (MS-OK-4)** in Oktibbeha County with 7.11 inches on 12 rainy days out of 30 reported days. The southern counties were relatively dry in January and I had to go way down on the list to find the wettest location in our area. **Biloxi 4.3 NNW (MS-HR-3)** tallied a monthly total of 3.00 inches from 11 rainy days out of a perfect 31 reported days. The wettest single day was on January 6th, when **Starkville 2.3 SSE (MS-OK-7)** measured 3.87 inches. Across the south, the wettest day was January 4th, when **Ocean Springs 3.3 E (MS-JC-2)** measured 1.30 inches. No hail or snow was reported for the entire month across the entire Magnolia State.

Ham Fest

The amateur radio community held a statewide “Ham Radio Festival” in Jackson Mississippi the weekend of January 31-February 1, 2009. Central Mississippi regional coordinator and state co-coordinator, Marty Pope, staffed a booth for CoCoRaHS. I am aware we received one new applicant in Vancleave, Jackson County as a result of Ham Fest. Thanks, Marty!

NWS Open House

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 16th, 2009. The National Weather Service in Slidell will be hosting an Open House. CoCoRaHS is tentatively scheduled to have a booth at this event. I hope to meet some of our CoCoRaHS observers and to get a chance to show off our NWS facility. Come out and spend a day with the weather forecasters that issue forecasts, watches and warnings for your area. The Open House is free to the public and should be fun time for the entire family. Hope to see you there.

State of the Network

In January, Mississippi had 77 stations record 1865 observations in 31 days. The statewide network indicates 154 active observers across the Magnolia State. In my southern counties, the membership drive in January swelled the active participants from 17 to 40. We added 5 more observers in January and 18 observers in early February. The county breakdown across the southern counties is indicated in the table.

| County | Observers |
|-------------|-----------|
| Wilkinson | 0 |
| Amite | 2 |
| Pike | 1 |
| Walthall | 0 |
| Pearl River | 2 |
| Hancock | 10 |
| Harrison | 11 |
| Jackson | 14 |



*Keep those rain reports coming.
Make every drop count.*