



CoCoRaHS Collections

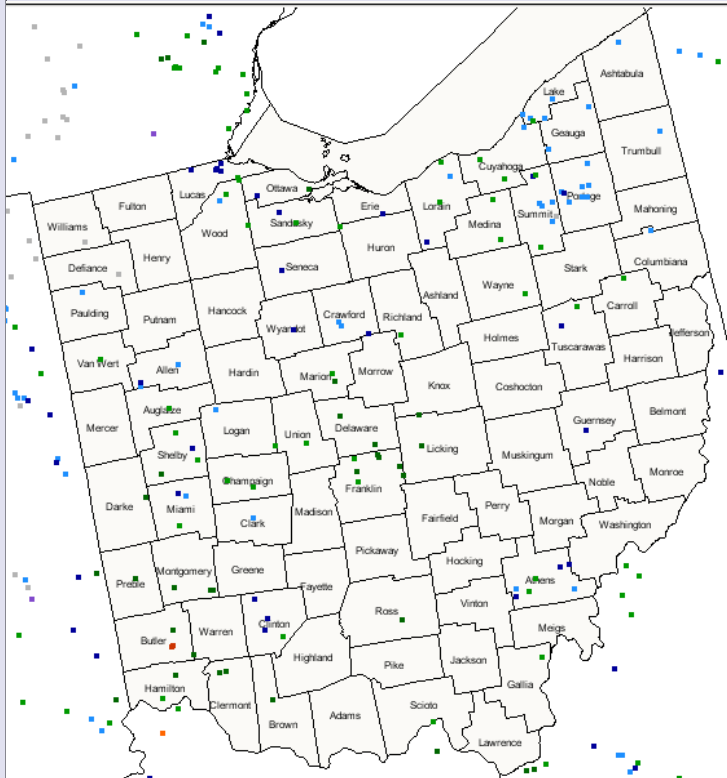
“Because Every Drop Counts”

The Ohio Newsletter

Summer 2009

Rain, Hail, and Damaging Winds Sweep Through the State June 25-26, 2009

CoCoRaHS Expansion Update: Recently Arizona and Delaware have joined the CoCoRaHS network. This makes the state count up to 49!



The Event

A complex mesoscale event occurred during the afternoon and into the overnight hours. A very moist and unstable air mass coupled with a surface trough axis from north central Kentucky northward into central Ohio ignited the first round of severe thunderstorms. A more organized line of thunderstorms moved across central Ohio during the evening hours and was associated with damaging winds. Hail was quite prevalent with sizes reaching golf ball and even the size of tennis balls. Slow moving storms also resulted in flash flooding. Storms during the overnight hours were mainly outflow boundary driven, coupled with weak low level forcing out ahead of an advancing cold front.
(Contributed by Scott Hickman NWS Wilmington, Ohio)

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Daily Precipitation (inches x.xx), for the 24 hour period ending ~7:00 am
Ohio 6/26/2009



CoCoRaHS Reports

This event just goes to show how varied precipitation can be over an area and how valuable CoCoRaHS information is. OH-BT-1 or Hamilton 4.7 E experienced 4.56 inches of rainfall in a 24 hour period ending June 26th at 7:00am. The observer comments in the report “flooding in the area, gravel washed onto street, water several inches deep flowing across front of home, water into first floor of home.” Observers can write comments on their daily precipitation form or if flooding is going on or if intense precipitation is occurring, the observer can additionally use the intense precipitation form. OH-BT-3 or Butler sent in an intense precipitation report stating 2.20 inches of precipitation fell in the past 2 hours with unusual flooding. In addition, the observer said 0.75 hail briefly occurred as well. The intense precipitation report is found on the CoCoRaHS website.

Station Name	County	Rainfall (in)	Ob Time
OH-BT-1	Butler	4.56	7:00 AM
OH-BT-2	Butler	4.30	7:00 AM
OH-WR-2	Warren	3.30	10:00 AM
OH-BT-3	Butler	2.39	7:00 AM
OH-DL-2	Delaware	2.37	7:00 AM

Ohio Reports!

Way to go Ohio! Since Ohio joined the CoCoRaHS network in February over 250 stations have come on board with an average of around 120 people reporting across the state on a given day. **Keep up the great work!**

Each issue we will spotlight a specific usage of your CoCoRaHS reports to show just how much your hard work means!

CoCoRaHS Observers: How do you utilize CoCoRaHS data? We would like to hear from you. E-mail Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov and let us know!

A special thanks to Nick Webb of the NWS Charleston office for his contribution to this article.

Your Hard Work...IN ACTION!

Your reports are of great value to many groups of people. One of those groups happens to be the National Weather Service. Both intense precipitation reports and regular daily precipitation reports have been used to verify how well the radar and different types of gauges are doing in measuring precipitation. Recently the Charleston WV office used a CoCoRaHS report

to identify that there was a problem with a STORMS (State of Ohio Rain/Snow Monitoring System) gauge in Athens County Ohio. The CoCoRaHS observer's accurate report varied greatly from the nearby STORMS gauge. Due to the CoCoRaHS report, the NWS office was able to contact the appropriate people to fix the STORMS gauge. Another way that your

reports are utilized are in verifying how well our radar estimates are. Radar estimates can have biases and ground truth from CoCoRaHS rain gauges can help the NWS determine whether the radar is overestimating or underestimating precipitation. This can be very important in flash flooding situations to see how much rain has fallen and how bad the flooding situation is going to be. The NWS thanks you for your reports.

Ashley's Question Corner

Do you have a question about CoCoRaHS? If so, please feel free to e-mail your regional coordinator. A list of coordinators can be found on the Ohio CoCoRaHS website under state coordinators.

Question: How can CoCoRaHS be used as an educational tool?
Answer: Now that school is back in session, we would like to remind teachers, parents, and students that CoCoRaHS provides educational tools. These tools can provide

good ideas for teachers and parents in addition to enhancing the learning experience of students. Out of school? Don't worry, there is information for you as well. From the web site www.cocorahs.org look at the menu on the left side

of the page. Under "resources," click on "education." You can browse "lesson plans" and "educational links." There you will find a variety of weather information and tools, enough to keep most weather enthusiasts busy for some time. Enjoy!

CoCoRaHS, Drought, and You

Many times with CoCoRaHS we think of where it rained. However, just as important is the other end of the spectrum, where did it not rain? For example, have you ever experienced two inches of rain from a thunderstorm and then drove a few miles

away only to find the ground completely dry? Statistically September and October are a couple of the months that average lower precipitation amounts than other times of the year in Ohio. When there are lower amounts of precipitation knowing where rain has not fallen becomes in-

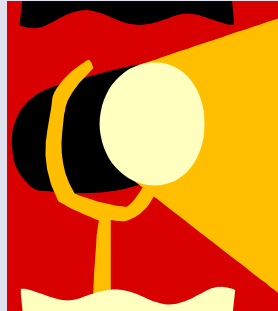
creasingly important. <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html> gives weekly updated information on where drought is occurring or is in danger of occurring. Drought can cause billions of dollars in damage each year nationally. With detailed tracking of where rainfall has not occurred

precautions can be taken to protect lives and property. So remember the importance of those zero reports as you sign into your CoCoRaHS account each morning after a dry day. Thanks again for those reports!



Volunteer Spotlight

Do you take pride in your CoCoRaHS station? Would you like to be featured in a future CoCoRaHS Collections newsletter? If so, we are looking for pictures of you with your rain gauge. Please send your picture in an e-mail to Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov and include your station ID number. You also have the option of having your name at the bottom of your picture as well, however this is not required. Two volunteers will be featured in each upcoming newsletter so if you do not see your picture in the next newsletter, stay tuned to future newsletters!



Summer 2009 Honor Roll

From June 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009, these Ohio stations reported everyday. Here are those stations who get a tip of the cap for their dedication!

- | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| OH-AT-1 | OH-LS-5 | OH-SM-5 |
| OH-AT-2 | OH-LS-12 | OH-SM-6 |
| OH-CK-1 | OH-LS-14 | OH-TR-1 |
| OH-CM-2 | OH-MR-1 | OH-TS-1 |
| OH-CN-1 | OH-MD-2 | OH-WN-1 |
| OH-CB-2 | OH-MM-2 | OH-WL-2 |
| OH-CY-4 | OH-MY-5 | |
| OHCY-9 | OH-PT-1 | |
| OH-DR-1 | OH-PB-1 | |
| OH-FF-1 | OH-SD-3 | |
| OH-FR-8 | OH-SN-1 | |
| OH-HR-2 | OH-SH-1 | |
| OH-LS-1 | OH-SH-4 | |



Thanks to all our observers for their consistent reporting!

Get to Know Your Coordinators

CoCoRaHS coordinators are there to help answer your questions. In Ohio, coordinators cover different regions. The Northern Ohio Region is covered by James Kosarik (yellow), the Northwest Ohio Region by Sam Lashley (red), the Central Ohio Region by Bob Davis (green), the Eastern

Ohio Region by Bob Coblentz (blue), the Southeast Ohio Region by Nick Webb (tan), and the Southwestern Ohio Region by Julia Dian-Reed (brown). The two Ohio State Coordinators are Jeffrey Rogers and Brian Astifan. During upcoming newsletters we will feature one coordinator per

newsletter so that you will get to know a little about the people that are there to help you. For contact information for your coordinator and to see which coordinator is serving you go to www.CoCoRaHS.org. Click on Ohio. At the bottom of the page click on 'List of Ohio Coordinators.'



Newsletter

CoCoRaHS Collections The Ohio CoCoRaHS Newsletter

E-mail:
Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov

Because Every Drop Counts



www.cocorahs.org

Helpful Links for Ohio CoCoRaHS Observers

Obtain replacement or extra equipment from our official suppliers-

Ambient Weather:

<http://www.ambientweather.com/strgloteprra.html>

Report Local Impacts of Dryness or Drought:

<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/>

For information on Ohio Climate:

<http://www.geography.osu.edu/faculty/rogers/statclim.html>

For Current Forecasts and Severe Weather Warnings:

<http://www.weather.gov>

For river information:

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

Reporting Revisited - Hail

The CoCoRaHS program is full of talented individuals who share a passion for measuring rainfall and working with rainfall data. In addition to measuring rainfall there is another part of the CoCoRaHS program you might not be quite as familiar with and that is the H in CoCoRaHS, hail. Hail reports are valuable to a variety of individuals in addition to the National Weather Service. As a reminder, CoCoRaHS observers do not have to wait until their normal observation time in order to report hail. Hail reports can be submitted at any time by using the hail form on the CoCoRaHS webpage. This

report is found under the "enter new reports" section on the left side of the CoCoRaHS reporting page. The CoCoRaHS observer can input as much information as they would like into the report. The information that is of highest priority includes the largest hail size, when the hail began, and when the hail ended, however the more information that is provided, the more valuable the report becomes. Did you know that as soon as you submit a hail report that it immediately alarms warning forecasters at the National Weather Service office? With this knowledge we can instantly take action on

the information. With this ground truth information we can make the decision whether to issue a severe thunderstorm warning, continue a severe thunderstorm warning, or cancel a warning if a storm has dropped below severe limits. Listed to the right are common hail sizes. Severe hail begins at 0.75 inches in Ohio, however observers are encouraged to report any hail size. Please note that your safety is of the highest priority and we never encourage you to go out during a hail storm or while there is lightning around. Please wait until you are safely able to observe and measure the hail.

Common Hail Sizes

0.25 inch Pea Size
0.50 inch Mothball or Grape Size
0.75 inch Penny Size
0.88 inch Nickel Size
1.00 inch Quarter Size
1.25 inch Half Dollar Size
1.50 inch Walnut or Ping Pong Ball Size
1.75 inch Golf Ball Size
2.00 inch Hen Egg Size
2.50 inch Tennis Ball Size
2.75 inch Baseball Size
3.00 inch Teacup Size
4.00 inch Grapefruit Size
4.50 inch Softball Size