



Southeast Louisiana CoCoRaHS Newsletter

"Because every drop counts"

Rare Ice/Sleet Storm Strikes Southeast Louisiana

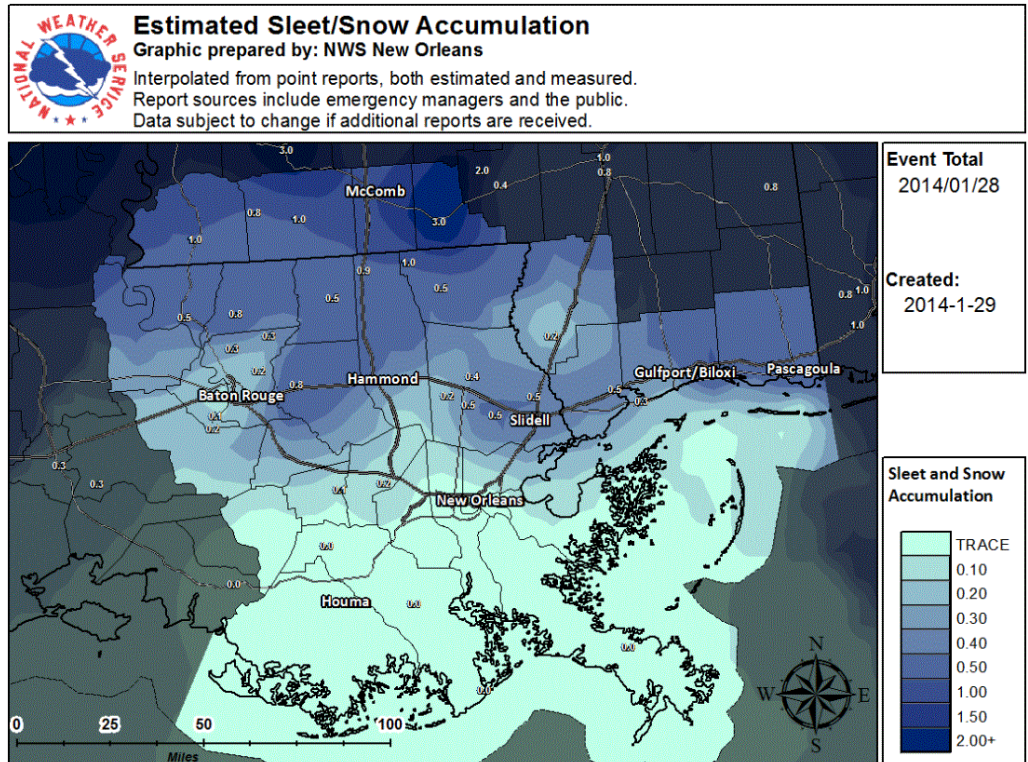
Another in a series of Arctic surges of this season came barreling out of Canada into the Deep South early on the 27th of January. This sent temperatures into the lower 30s and upper 20s for much of the area. An upper level disturbance then approached the area from Mexico that activated the Arctic cold front with precipitation on the 28th. Due to the freezing or near freezing conditions at and just above the ground, much of the precipitation fell in the form of sleet or ice pellets. The sleet would then freeze on contact with frozen surfaces and become mixed with freezing rain later in the day on the 29th. Very frigid temperatures ensued the following night with any wet surfaces succumbing to rather thick ice accumulations. Many bridges and roadways were closed for about two full days before a thaw onset late on the 30th. The well written comments from LSU summarize the impacts—***"Mixed wintry precipitation began around 9 am Tuesday morning. Precipitation was mainly sleet with some freezing rain. A heavier band of sleet set up over the LSU area from about 4PM to 6PM. Observer noted that streets and parking lots in and around campus were basically a sheet of ice with hard slush covered with grainy ice pellets. Very hazardous for drivers and walkers alike. LSU was closed both Tuesday and Wednesday due to icing conditions. Interstates and highways around LSU were closed most of Tuesday and Wednesday."*** Incidentally, LSU had liquid equivalent of on 0.11 inches on the 30th, which proves it doesn't take much to cause major problems. The image below (called an isohyetal analysis) is an estimated depiction of ice/snow accumulations for the event, with a maximum of 3 inches frozen near Tylertown, MS. The overall general average for the event was around one-half inch across the Florida Parishes, trace amounts over the lower parishes.

Comment of the Month -

From LSU (LA-EB-33) on January 30, 2014.

See the narrative above

This was one of 263 comments submitted in January. Most of the very good comments submitted on the 29th and 30th were similar in message with the fine accounting by LSU observer. These type of comments add character to the weather event with historical significance.



JANUARY STATISTICS

Wettest/Driest/Hail/Reporting

- ◆ Wettest Month, State - 5.27" on 15 reports at Coushatta 1.4 NE (LA-RR-1)
- ◆ Wettest Month, Local - 4.58" on 25 reports at Marrero 1.9 E (LA-JF-6)
- ◆ Wettest Day, State & Local -1.66" on the 14th at Abita Springs 0.8 WSW (LA-ST-1)
- ◆ Number of Rain Days—17 with at least 0.01" average in the state on a given day.
- ◆ Driest Month, State — 0.68" on 28 reports at Bossier City 6.7 NNW (LA-BS-1)
- ◆ Driest Month, Local— 1.22" on 22 reports at Brownfields 5.8 NE (LA-EB-9)
- ◆ Hail Reports: None.
- ◆ Stations Reporting: 93; Number of Reports: 2095; Average per day: 67.6
- ◆ Busiest Reporting Day: 14th, average: 0.48", max amount: 1.66", number of reports: 83
- ◆ Wettest Reporting Day: 14th, average 0.48", max amount 1.66", number of reports 83
- ◆ Number of 31 report observers: 35 stations statewide; 18 locally

March Madness Drawing Near: State of the network

I am happy to report that we have at least one observer in 20 of the 22 parishes within my area of coordination. We have almost accomplished a goal of 100 percent participation from all our parishes east of the Atchafalaya. The only two that are missing are St. Helena and Plaquemines. St. Helena is highly rural and sparsely populated but may have some opportunities for an observer or two in the Greensburg area. The Kleinpeter Dairy is a large industry in that parish and may be a viable candidate. In Plaquemines Parish, there is a broad spectrum of interests from agricultural, industrial, petrochemical and fisheries. I intend to send out a press release in the next couple of weeks targeting those areas, but we can always use observers from other areas as well. We are sooooo close. Across the entire state, there are 306 observers listed, with 221 active. In the local southeast Louisiana area, we have 94 active members. Can we get to 100 this march? The parish breakdown is as follows:

Ascension: 10	Orleans: 3	St. Tammany: 11
Assumption: 2	Plaquemines: 0	Tangipahoa: 8
East Baton Rouge: 30	Pointe Coupee: 1	Terrebonne: 2
East Feliciana: 1	St. Bernard: 1	Washington: 2
Iberville: 2	St. Charles: 2	West Baton Rouge: 1
Jefferson: 4	St. Helena: 0	West Feliciana: 1
Lafourche: 2	St. James: 1	
Livingston: 8	St. John the Baptist: 2	

Keep those rainfall, sleet, snow and hail reports coming!