



Southeast Louisiana CoCoRaHS Newsletter

"Because every drop counts"

Louisiana Embarks on Fourth Year in CoCoRaHS

The American Meteorological Society held its annual convention at the Morial Convention Center the week of January 22-27. It was during the last AMS convention back in 2008 that CoCoRaHS was officially launched in the state of Louisiana. Since then, we've come a long way in sustaining a network of dedicated volunteers who provide essential rainfall observations nearly every day of the year. True, some folks have dabbled in it then opted to leave. Others report only on rainy days. Yet, the CoCoRaHS spirit of getting people who are interested in weather to take an active role in participating in the process, with little requirements aside from have an interest, a rain gauge and a computer. I have been a charter member along with several of you, and it has been fun. I enjoy experiencing the level of dedication and volunteerism that you provide. Here's hoping for many more years of success and growth with CoCoRaHS in the Bayou State.

March Madness Soon Upon Us

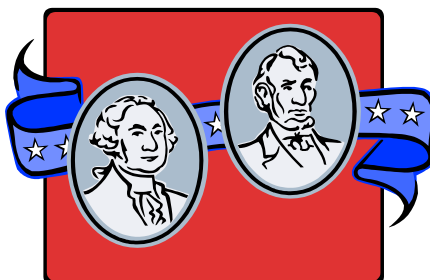
The annual March Madness recruitment drive is only weeks away. The national goal is to add 2000 additional observers to the roles of CoCoRaHS. It has long been a goal of ours to have at least one observer in every parish within my coordination area. That will be the target this year to add Plaquemines, St. Helena, Washington and West Baton Rouge Parishes with new observers. Of course, we look forward to any new additions from anywhere, so if you do know someone who may be interested, please encourage them to join.

January Statistics

- **Wettest Month State**
LA-SL-1 Grand Coteau 2.7 E
10.86" on perfect 31 reports
- **Wettest Month Local**
LA-EB-28 Zachary 3.5 WNW
7.73" on 30 reports
- **Number of Rain Days: 21**
- **Wettest Day State:**
LA-SL-1 Grand Coteau 2.7 E
8.47" on the 10th
- **Wettest Day Local:**
LA-EB-28 Zachary 3.5 WNW
4.12" on the 26th
- **Driest Month Local**
LA-EB-9 Brownfields 5.8 NE
0.69" on 24 reports
- **Hail Days: 0**

New Members

Recently, we did manage to add a few more new observers, due in part to promotions at a recent science teachers convention and from Co-operative Extension Service word of mouth. Two new observers join us from the Baton Rouge area. Welcome to the CoCoRaHS family.



Reporting Statistics (January)

- **Stations reporting: 101**
- **Number of reports: 2479**
- **Average daily reporting: 80.0**

Busiest Reporting Day

- **Date: January 26th**
- **Number of Reports: 88**
- **Average reported rainfall: 1.46"**
- **Max amount: 4.12"**

Wettest Reporting Day

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Comment of the Month - From Ponchatoula 11.8 E (LA-TG-7) on January 28, 2012

“Very cool and beautiful this morning!!!! Lots of sunshine.”

This pretty much summarizes the entire month of January, with many mild days and even some late spring-like days near 80 degrees at times. The closing days of the month were rather cool but not terribly cold, actually a bit of a pleasant cool down after a premature warm spell that has azaleas and Chinese Magnolias already in bloom. Rainfall was sporadic, but did manage to get heavy on a few days of the month.

National Weather Service Open House was a Huge Success!!!

The much anticipated NWS Weather-Ready Nation kickoff event went off without a hitch (so to speak) as an unusually warm January day near 80 degrees greeted over 800 people in attendance. The open house featured the un-tarpping of the new mobile response unit—named the Significant Weather Emergency Response Vehicle (SWERV). This one of a kind mobile weather office is equipped with weather instrumentation, computers for weather briefings and modeling, briefing walls with magnetic boards, a large screen television for monitoring news and current events, a briefing area and ready room. In the image below left, New Orleans/Baton Rouge area Meteorologist-in-Charge, Mr. Kenneth Graham addresses the attendees to explain the role of the new mobile unit and the pilot project’s objectives. Also in attendance was Senator Mary Landrieu’s Chief of Staff, Deputy Administrator for NOAA, Dr. Katheryn Sullivan, the Director of the NWS, Dr. Jack Hayes, Area Commander for the Coast Guard, along with state, parish and local officials. The open house also featured a tour of the facility with its newly configured emergency response layout. A head-count of tour participants was nearly 800 moving through the facility. Attendees also got to witness an actual weather balloon release, as seen in the photo, right. Some of the Cooperative Weather Observers who happen to also be CoCoRaHS observers, were presented with certificates of appreciation for between 10 and 25 years of dedicated service.



Keep those rainfall and hail reports coming!