

MARYLAND/DC COCORAHs

Volume 1, Issue 7

OCT 2009

Sept Weather Review

Maryland as a whole was impacted by only two significant rainfall events during the month, both of which mainly affected central and eastern portions of the state. Most of the western half of the state turned out to be rather dry, with below normal rainfall, while the Maryland Eastern Shore and Northeast Maryland saw heavier rain. A non-tropical low moved northward along the coastline on Sep 10th and the circulation around this system brought in plenty of warm Atlantic moisture in the form of moderate to heavy rainfall at times though the 11th. Sandy (MD-WR-2) near Berlin Maryland reported the heaviest 24 hour rainfall total in the state that month on 9/11 with 5.88". Northeast MD was hit hard through most of the morning on Sept 11, where Dale (MD-HR-10) north of Jarrettsville Maryland picked up 4.50 inches in 24 hours. A second storm system, though not as intense, brought some moderate to heavy rains at times to much of the state on Oct 26 and 27. For the month, Dennis (MD-BL-15) south of Jacksonville MD, reported the heaviest monthly rainfall total at 8.52". Temperatures across the state averaged slightly below normal across the eastern half of the state, while some areas to the west, where rainfall and cloudiness was less prevalent, temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal. The National Weather Service Office in Sterling VA, reported that there were no 90 degree days reported at Dulles, National or BWI airports during the month of September.

There was one hail report submitted during the month from Lester (MD-GR-2) near Friendsville in Garrett County. He reported rice size hail from an early morning thunderstorm on Sept 28th.

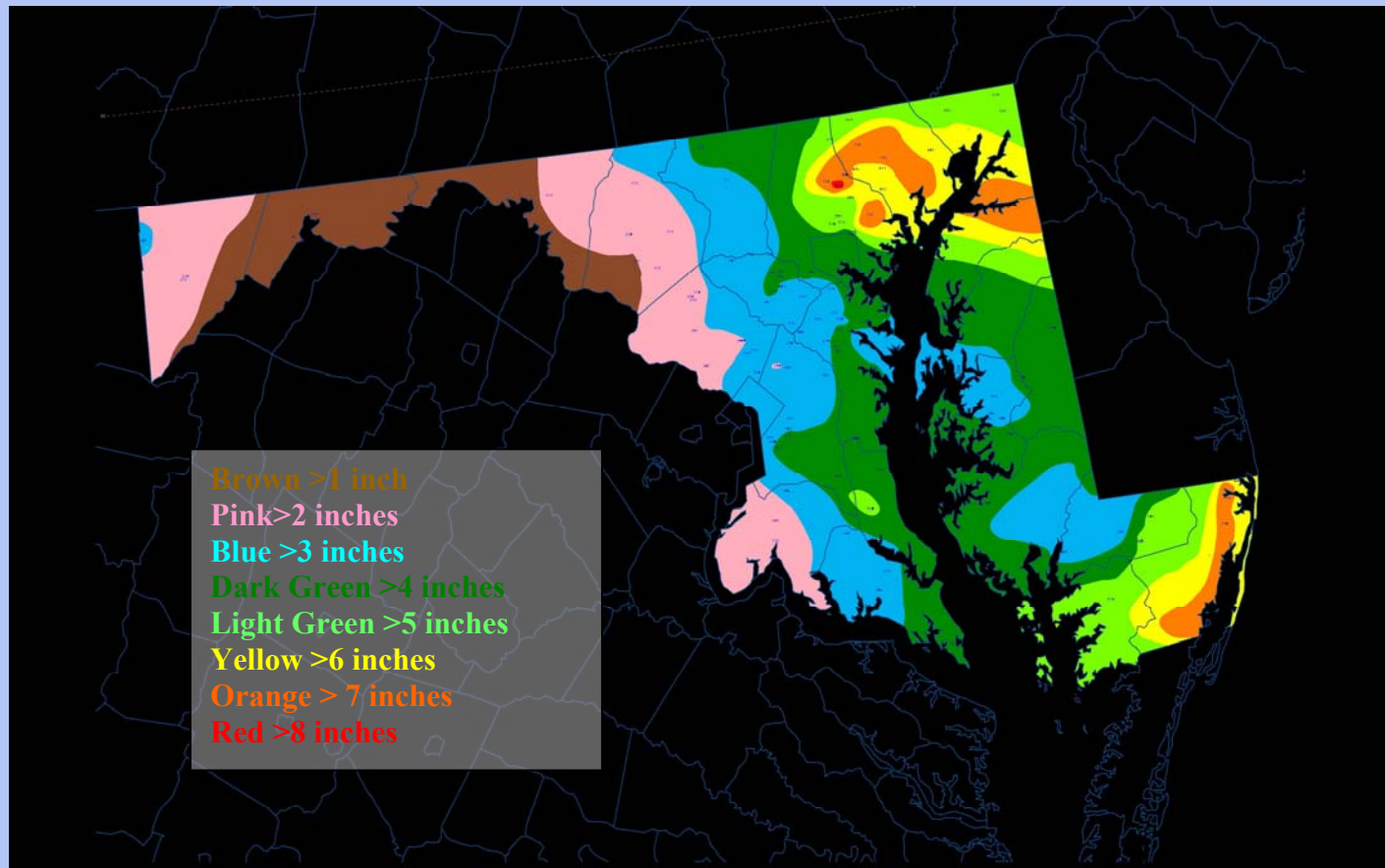


Getting Prepared for Winter

For those of you who are not on “The Catch” email list, Nolan Doesken, our National Cocorahs Program Director) has included some very helpful tips on getting prepared for wintry precipitation. While rare for most of the state (except Western Maryland) in October, it is not impossible to get measurable snow this early. So it becomes especially important to become weather conscious this time of year so that we aren’t surprised to wake up to find a winter wonderland and a frozen gauge! To quote Nolan,

“Our gauges work well for measuring the water content of frozen precipitation, but remember to remove the funnel and inner tube prior to snow. Make sure that rain or melted snow is not allowed to freeze inside the inner cylinder. If water freezes in the calibrated cylinder, it may crack and you’ll be out of luck. Also, it’s about time for reviewing instructions for measuring snow. We have training materials on our website. Look at “Things to Know about Rain, Hail and Snow” and click the “snow” symbol. Snow is much more dynamic and illusive than rain when it comes to measurements, but if we all follow the same guidelines, our data will be consistent. CoCoRaHS has quickly become the most extensive observing network for snow and freezing rain across the country, so give it your best shot.”

SEPTEMBER 2009 PRECIPITATION

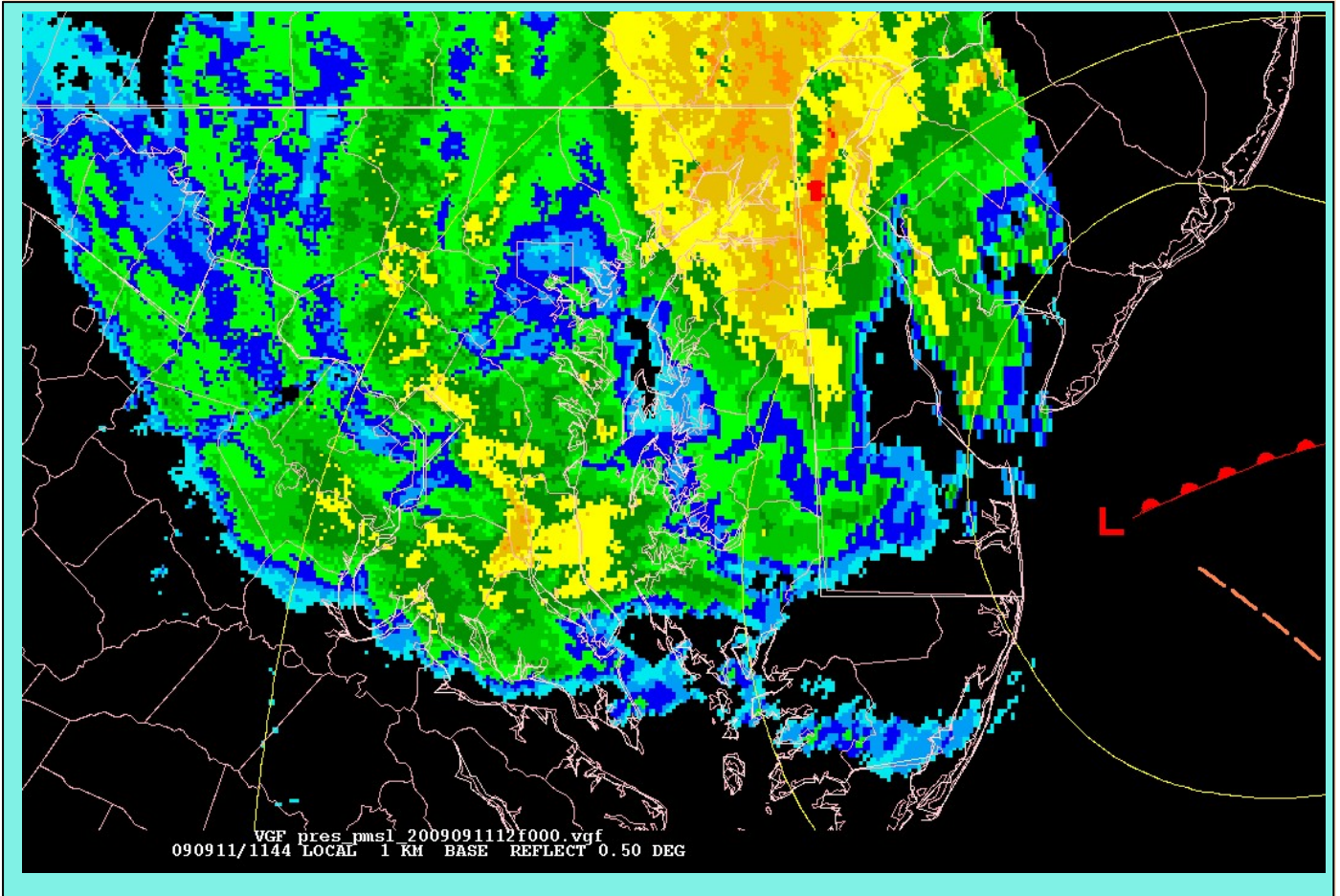


SEPTEMBER PRECIPITATION ANALYSIS BASED ON COMPLETED SEPTEMBER COCORAHs REPORTS AND ADJUSTED MANUALLY BY COMPARISON WITH THE MONTHLY TOTALS FROM THE ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC PRECIPITATION SERVICE ANALYSIS.

MARYLAND COCORAHs WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW OBSERVERS

MIKE MD-AA-36

CARSON MD-BL-23



RADAR AND SURFACE ANALYSIS DEPICTION FROM SEPTEMBER 11 2009 EVENT SHOWING MODERATE TO HEAVY RAIN ACROSS PORTIONS OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN MARYLAND IN RESPONSE TO NON-TROPICAL LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM NEAR THE DELAWARE COAST. RADAR IMAGE IS FROM 7:44 AM EDT.

If you have any question or comments about Maryland/DC CoCoRaHS or would like to submit something for our newsletter please send to bruce.sullivan@cocorahs.org or bruce.sullivan@noaa.gov