

Messages of the Day
January 2014

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! The "Five For CoCoRaHS" Year-End Fundraiser
... continues through January 15, 2014**

We are now more than two-thirds thru our annual year-end fundraiser! . . . (thanks for enduring these messages each day). So far we have had over 1,500 individual contributions, bringing us ever and ever closer to the fundraiser goal of 5,000 donations.

To those who have already given to our annual year-end fundraiser, we thank you for your support! If you have yet to make a donation please consider giving \$5.00 today.

For more information and to access the donation portal click here: ["INFO/DONATE"](#).

Friday, January 3, 2014

**"It's early January . . . are you thinking about Drought Impacts? Perhaps
Not . . .**

CoCoRaHS in collaboration with the National Drought Mitigation Center ([NDMC](#)), continues to give observers the opportunity, via the CoCoRaHS Web site, to provide the nation with important information on how drought is impacting their communities.

With it being winter, many of us do not think about drought for some odd reason. In parts of the country right now, such as our western states, things are much drier than normal. Please take a look around your area in the upcoming weeks and think about how drought might be impacting your community. Drought can impact us in many ways. Effects may be associated with agriculture, energy, public health, wildfire and recreation just to name a few areas. Although your part of the country may not be experiencing drought at the present time, many of us may be affected by varying degrees of drought in 2014. When you start to feel these effects it's time to let us know about it by filing a ["Drought Impact Report"](#).

Please take a few moments in the next few days and re-visit our ["Drought Impacts Reporting Resource Page"](#) to get re-acquainted with drought impacts. In addition there is a short slideshow that you will benefit from reviewing.

In 2014 we can all be "sentinels" of drought right in our own backyards!

Sunday, January 5, 2014

Join us for a special webinar put on by the “Engaged Preparedness Communities working group of the National Integrated Drought Information System” this Wednesday, January 8th

Since we have been talking about reporting drought impacts during our recent messages of the day, we thought you might be interested in sitting in on the final in a series of Drought Impacts Webinars put on by the Engaged Preparedness Communities working group of the National Integrated Drought Information System.

Wednesday, January 8th’s National Integrated Drought Information System, Engaging Preparedness Communities webinar will begin at 1pm Central and conclude by 2pm Central. Kirsten Lackstrom will describe [CISA’s](#) project to cultivate a network of drought impact observers in the Coastal Carolinas. CISA is recruiting volunteers for the Collaborative Community Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) and providing special training on coastal impacts. We will also hear from Henry Reges of [CoCoRaHS](#), which has been providing its precipitation observers with the chance to submit drought impacts to the National Drought Mitigation Center’s (NDMC) [Drought Impact Reporter \(DIR\)](#) since 2010. Kelly Helm Smith of the National Drought Mitigation Center will provide a brief overview of the DIR’s citizen science function. As always, a [NIDIS](#) update will conclude the webinar.

To register for this special webinar please click here: [REGISTER](#)

As always CoCoRaHS thanks for your drought impact reports, helping us all to become "sentinels" of drought right in our own backyards!

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

**The "Five For CoCoRaHS" Year-End Fundraiser
... FINAL WEEK .. concludes January 15, 2014**

We are now in the final week of our annual year-end fundraiser! . . . So far we have had over 1,600 individual contributions. That’s Awesome! We’re a long way from our goal of 5,000 donations, but we’re not too far from 2,000! Perhaps we will reach that plateau, stay tuned!

To those who have already given to our annual year-end fundraiser, we thank you for your support! If you have yet to make a donation please consider giving \$5.00 today.

For more information and to access the donation portal click here: ["INFO/DONATE"](#).



CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for January 2014: "The Hydrologic Cycle: How River Forecast Centers Measure the Parts"

River Forecast Centers and the hydrologic cycle will be the focus of our next "[WxTalk Webinar](#)" on January 16th. "*The Hydrologic Cycle: How River Forecast Centers Measure the Parts*" will be presented by Greg Story of the National Weather Service's West Gulf River Forecast Center in Fort Worth, TX.

Space is limited to the first 500 registrants, so register today! We will notify the first 500 who register of their acceptance to the Webinar. Those who aren't able to attend will be able to watch this episode on-line the following day.

REGISTRATION INFO

Title: Webinar #26 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: The Hydrologic Cycle: How River Forecast Centers Measure the Parts"

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2014

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern, Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain, 10:00 AM Pacific

"Greg's presentation will take a look at all aspects of the hydrologic cycle. Questions to be answered include: Which parts of the hydrologic cycle can be measured directly? Which parts of the cycle are estimated? And, which part of the cycle is sampled the least and is the most difficult to estimate? One component of this presentation will be an explanation of what tools hydrometeorologists use to measure or estimate the hydrologic cycle, and where CoCoRaHS observations fit into this process."

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [RFC](#)

Our February CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "*Life as a climatologist – what the heck does a climatologist do?*" by Ryan Boyles the North Carolina State Climatologist from Raleigh, NC will take place on February 20th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Thursday, January 16, 2014

Download a "CoCoRaHS Brochure" . . . in English or Spanish!

This week, download a CoCoRaHS brochure and give one to a friend or family member who might be interested in weather. Anyone can download it from his or her home as a pdf file. The brochure is an easy and concise way to share CoCoRaHS with others.

To download the brochure in English click here: [CoCoRaHS Brochure in English](#)

To download the brochure in Spanish click here: [CoCoRaHS Brochure in Spanish](#)

Your help in recruiting new volunteers helps bolster our network while filling in the precipitation reporting gaps across the country. It's a fun way to get your friends involved in "citizen science" as well. Thanks for passing the word along!

Sunday, January 19, 2014

The NOAA Resources Page

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has many exciting informative resources available for the public to view and learn about our oceans and atmosphere. CoCoRaHS in partnership with NOAA will continue to strive to bring you the latest products and information as they become available.

During the year NOAA runs a series of weather awareness and preparedness weeks providing important information on a variety of weather related subjects. These include: Severe Weather Preparedness Week, Flood Awareness Week and Lightning Safety Awareness Week just to name a few. [CLICK HERE](#) to see this year's schedule.

To learn more about NOAA Resources listed on the CoCoRaHS Web site click on the NOAA logo on the left side of our home page: www.cocorahs.org or click here: ["NOAA Resources"](#)

Thursday, January 23, 2014

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 985 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal.

Click on the following link to find out more about where to listen to NOAA Weather Radio in your area:
[NOAA RADIO](#)

Thursday, January 30, 2014

The PRISM-CoCoRaHS Climate Portal!

The PRISM-CoCoRaHS Climate Portal. What is that you might ask? The PRISM portal is a CoCoRaHS data analysis tool developed in collaboration with the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University. This is an exclusive feature available only to CoCoRaHS participants. It helps connect our daily precipitation measurements (weather) to seasonal patterns, long term averages and year to year precipitation variations (climate). This portal provides access to estimates of "normal" precipitation for any location in the contiguous United States. PRISM also provides estimates of total precipitation for each month and year since 1895. View the ["PRISM Portal Reference page"](#)

You can access the portal by going to the CoCoRaHS home page and clicking on "My Account" at the top of the page. From there you have two choices. One is to select the PRISM Portal section and click on on the "blue" words PRISM PORTAL to get access to the Continental United States or under the My Station heading click on the "blue" words PRISM DATA to get access to your specific station's PRISM estimates.

Once there you'll be able to find the estimated precipitation for any location in the continental United States or create a historical time series for monthly and annual precipitation.

We recommend watching the PRISM Portal Guide YouTube instructional video on how to use the portal by clicking here: ["PRISM PORTAL VIDEO"](#)

Please enjoy and use this great feature to explore the climate of the U.S.