

Messages of the Day
March 2012

Thursday, March 1, 2012

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012 Begins! Recruit one or two!

"CoCoRaHS March Madness", is our friendly annual recruiting competition between all of our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March.

We have a simple challenge to everyone out there during March: "Would you please take a moment to recommend the program to at least one friend or relative and encourage them to sign up to be a volunteer observer?" That's it just one (OK, two or three if you are really ambitious). If just half of our 15,000 current volunteers gave this a shot, we could really see the density of our coverage improve. Let the madness begin!

To help you with recruiting a downloadable CoCoRaHS Brochure is available by clicking here:
[CoCoRaHS Brochure](#)

We will post an ongoing tally of results by state once a week (most likely on Fridays) on our "Message of the Day" with the final results posted on April 1st. The winning states will get to hold onto and display one of the two "CoCoRaHS Cup" trophies until next March.

Like last year, states will be competing for two national trophies. The first will be awarded for a "Traditional Count" . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers in March. The second will be "Population Weighted" . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers per one million of it's total population in March.

The first category is pretty straight forward. The state with the most new volunteers signed-up wins.

The second category is a little trickier. Here for each new volunteer who signs-up, the state will be given a percentage of "one point" based on the states total population (potential volunteer pool). This will give those states with sparser populations an equal chance. States with smaller populations will receive a larger point value for a new volunteer compared to those with larger populations (For each new volunteer Wyoming will receive 1.77 points based on their population of 563,626 residents, whereas California who will receive 0.03 points with their population of 37,253,956 residents). These point values are based on "new stations per million residents" which is derived from the 2010 estimated population information (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_population). Please see: "[Population based scoring](#)" for a breakdown of each states point value per new volunteer.

Keep track of and learn about the tournament on our CoCoRaHS March Madness page:
["http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness"](http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness)

Good luck to your state! Don't forget to tell someone about CoCoRaHS, especially this month!

Keep track of the state standings and learn about our recruiting tournament on our CoCoRaHS March Madness page: "<http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness>"

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Prepare for Severe Weather Ahead . . . NWS Severe Weather Training Classes

It's that time of year when severe weather can show up across many sections of the country as we have already seen earlier this month. Please be ready to report hail and intense rainfall using our appropriate reports:

To report hail: [Hail Report](#)

To report Significant Weather (Intense precipitation): [Significant Weather Report](#)

Throughout the spring many National Weather Service offices are holding local in-depth training classes on spotting severe weather. To find out more information about attending one of these visit: www.weather.gov and click on your local area on the national map. Your local NWS forecast office home page will appear and most likely have a schedule of upcoming severe weather spotter training classes held in your area. These are free and well worth your time.

Friday, March 9, 2012

 Message of the Day:	CoCoRaHS Blog Go to end of message
 <p>CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012 March 1–31, 2012 How many new volunteers can you recruit in your state?</p>	
<h3>CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012 results as of March 9th (week two)</h3> <p>"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) continues into it's second week.</p> <p>Here in week two of the contest, the "traditional count" category (shear number of new observers) has Indiana and Texas (13) in the lead followed by Tennessee (12), Oklahoma, North Carolina, Michigan (9) and South Carolina, Minnesota, Ohio (8).</p> <p>In the "population weighted" category, North Dakota (2.97) moves into first, followed by Oklahoma (2.40), Indiana (2.00), Tennessee (1.89) and South Carolina (1.72).</p> <p>To view this week's standings as of March 9th and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: "http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness". We will post an ongoing update of points by state each Friday via our "Message of the Day". Final results posted on April</p>	

1st.

A reminder that this year we are challenging everyone to sign-up a friend or relative as a CoCoRaHS observer during the thirty-one day competition.

Good luck to your state!

Prepare for Severe Weather Ahead . . . NWS Severe Weather Training Classes

It's that time of year when severe weather can show up across many sections of the country as we have already seen earlier this month. Please be ready to report hail and intense rainfall using our appropriate reports:

To report hail: [Hail Report](#)

To report Significant Weather (Intense precipitation): [Significant Weather Report](#)

Throughout the spring many National Weather Service offices are holding local in-depth training classes on spotting severe weather. To find out more information about attending one of these visit: www.weather.gov and click on your local area on the national map. Your local NWS forecast office home page will appear and most likely have a schedule of upcoming severe weather spotter training classes held in your area. These are free and well worth your time.

"Message of the Day"

[Archives](#)

The current "CoCoRaHS Message of the Day" automatically displays on your screen after you enter your daily observation on the data screen.

Keep track of the state standings and learn about our recruiting tournament on our CoCoRaHS March Madness page: ["http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness"](http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness)

Monday, March 12, 2012

NOAA Flood Safety Awareness Week (March 12-16, 2012)

Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States and its territories in all months of the year. National Flood Safety Awareness Week is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what you can do to save life and property.

Please take a few moments to visit this informative site on [Flood Information](#).

Friday, March 16, 2012



**CoCoRaHS WeatherTalk Webinar for April 2012:
"Flash Floods: It's More Than a Bunch of Rain" . . . register today!**

Speaking of Flash Floods, this is a good time to sign up for our next CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar which coincidentally is on . . . you guessed it, "Flash Floods".

CoCoRaHS offers a monthly one-hour Webinar series called CoCoRaHS WxTalk (wx is shorthand for weather). CoCoRaHS WxTalk interactive Webinar's feature engaging experts in the fields of atmospheric science, climatology and other pertinent disciplines. These easy to follow Webinars are presented live with an opportunity for the audience to submit questions for our experts to answer. CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinars are free.

Here's a link to our Webinar page: [WxTalk Webinars](#)

April features: "*Flash Floods: It's More Than a Bunch of Rain*" presented by Matt Kelsch of UCAR/COMET in Boulder, CO on April 12th. *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 at a later date.

REGISTRATION INFO

Title: "Webinar #4 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: Flash Floods: It's More Than a Bunch of Rain"

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2012

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern, 12:00 Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain, 10:00 AM Pacific

The Webinar will examine the key characteristics of the rainfall and the hydrologic response that affects the locations, timing and severity of flash floods. We will talk about short-term bursts of intense rainfall and the importance of ground surface conditions, including conditions such as soil saturation, steep drainages, urban development, and forecast fires.

Reserve your seat now for the April 12th "Flash Floods" Webinar by registering here: [Flash Floods](#)

Our May CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar "Lightning and Its Impacts" will take place on May 3rd. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

NOAA's Storm Prediction Center (SPC)

The Storm Prediction Center's mission is to provide timely and accurate forecasts and watches for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes over the contiguous United States. The SPC also monitors heavy rain, heavy snow, and fire weather events across the U.S. and issues specific products for those hazards.

To learn more about the Storm Prediction Center: [“SPC”](#)

Friday, March 23, 2012

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012 results as of March 23rd (week four)

"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) continues into its fourth week.

Here in week four, the "traditional count" category (sheer number of new observers) has **Texas (31)** in the lead for the third straight week, followed by North Carolina (47), Tennessee (32), South Carolina (30) and Michigan (28).

In the "population weighted-per capita" category, **North Dakota (32.71)** continues to run away with this category, followed by South Dakota (9.83), South Carolina (6.49), Oklahoma (6.13) and Kansas (5.61).

To view this week's standings as of March 23rd and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: ["http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness"](http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness). We will post an ongoing update of points by state each Friday via our "Message of the Day". Final results posted on April 1st.

As we enter the last week of the contest, take a minute to mention the program to a friend or relative in your state. The more observers in a local community, the better picture we all get of what has and has not fallen from the sky.

Look for more frequent updates next week!

Sunday, March 25, 2012

What is the real shape of a raindrop?

Based on pictures we've seen in magazines, on TV, and elsewhere, most of us would guess that raindrops are shaped like a teardrop. It turns out that this is not the real shape of a raindrop. Small raindrops (< 1mm in diameter) are spherical, like a round ball. This is because a sphere is the shape that requires the least amount of energy for the drop to hold itself together.

As drops grow bigger than a millimeter or so, they start to become flat along their bottom edge as they fall, due to the resistance of air flowing around the drop. By the time a drop reaches 2-3 mm in diameter, it looks more like a hamburger bun than a sphere. Drops bigger than about 6 mm in diameter are relatively rare because the air resistance tends to cause the drops to breakup as they fall.

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

This is the final week of the contest. Keep track of the state standings and learn about our recruiting tournament on our CoCoRaHS March Madness page:

["http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness"](http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness)

Please scroll down to the bottom of this page . . . after reading this message

. . .

Did you know you can check your precipitation report right on this page? Simply scroll down and presto . . . there is the report you just entered. This is a great way to check your report for accuracy making sure it says exactly what you meant it to. By taking this simple step we can all help to make sure that we are presenting the most accurate data to the public. Thanks!

OK, don't forget to keep scrolling . . .

Friday, March 30, 2012

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012 results as of March 30th (final week)

"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) continues through 12 midnight (EDT), Saturday, March 31st .

As the contest quickly heads to a finish, the "traditional count" category (sheer number of new observers) has **North Carolina (116)** in the lead over Texas (108) followed by Tennessee (40), South Carolina (40) and Michigan (40).

In the "population weighted-per capita" category, **North Dakota (55.01)** has just about clinched the CoCoRaHS Cup, followed by South Dakota (31.93), North Carolina (12.17), Oklahoma (9.06) and South Carolina (8.65).

To view the latest standings as of March 30th and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: ["http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness"](http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness). We will post the final results midday Sunday, April 1st via our "Message of the Day" and on the March Madness page.

Thanks to all of you who have mentioned the network to a family member or friend!

CoCoRaHS Hail Reports . . . What are they, how can I access them?

Thanks so much for your CoCoRaHS hail reports. You may not realize it, but there are very few sources for accurate data about hail. Most weather stations don't even measure or report hail. Scientists have great difficulty finding good data to help analyze hail storm patterns, frequencies, probabilities, etc. Therefore, our CoCoRaHS hail reports are especially important.

If you experience hail at your location (even the small stuff) please use the CoCoRaHS hail report form to submit a report. Even if you don't have much information about the hail or weren't home to know exactly when it happened, still send in a report: [Hail Report](#)

Hail pads help us document the size and number of stones. If hail pads are not provided in your area, you can make your own: [Making Hail Pads](#). More on this subject tomorrow!

Please report hail even if you don't have a CoCoRaHS hail pad: [Measure Hail](#)

"Days with Hail" reports are viewable to the public and include a list of all days during a calendar year with one or more hail reports entered into the CoCoRaHS database. This is a great way to see where hail fell across the country on any given day as well as the size of the hailstones. Those reports with a camera icon next to them indicate that a photo of a hail pad associated with that specific report is available for viewing on-line.

To access the "Days with Hail" report click "View Data" on the CoCoRaHS homepage's top menu bar. Under "Summary Reports" click "Days with Hail Reports". That's all there is to it.

You can also see a map of hail reports for any given day by clicking here: [Hail Maps](#)

Once again, thanks for reporting when hail falls in your backyard!

Sunday, April 1, 2012

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012 FINAL STANDINGS

Congratulations to our 2012 "CoCoRaHS March Madness 2012" CoCoRaHS Cup winners: NORTH CAROLINA and NORTH DAKOTA!!

In the "traditional count" category (sheer number of new observers), **North Carolina (138)** wins a close one over Texas (134) to take the cup for the second consecutive year. They are followed by Michigan (46), South Carolina (45) and Tennessee (41).

In the "population weighted-per capita" category, **North Dakota (55.01)** wins the CoCoRaHS Cup. The Peace Garden States is followed by South Dakota (31.93), North Carolina (14.47), South Carolina (9.73) and South Carolina (9.33) in the standings.

To view the final standings for all the states and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: ["http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness"](http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness).

Thanks to all of you who have mentioned the network to a family member or friend! With your help we have recruited a new March Madness record 859 new volunteer observers in March!