

Messages of the Day March 2015

Tuesday, March 2, 2015

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2015 Begins! Please recruit someone in your state!

"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 20,000 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 in the "*Traditional Count*" category. This is pretty straight forward. The state with the most new volunteers recruited in March 2015 wins. The second category will be "*Population Weighted*" . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers per one million of it's total population wins. This second category is a little trickier. For each new volunteer who signs-up, the state will be given a percentage of "one point" based on the state's 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: [COCO MARCH MADNESS HEADQUARTERS](#)

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

Friday, March 13, 2015

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2015 results as of March 13th (week two)

"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2015" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) heads into it's third week.

Here in week two of the contest, the "traditional count" category (shear number of new observers) has **North Carolina(69)** in the lead followed by Texas (27), Michigan (16), California (12), New Mexico (11) and Minnesota (11).

In the "population weighted" category, **North Dakota (11.89)** is in first, followed by North Carolina (7.24), Wyoming (7.10), New Mexico (5.34) and Iowa (2.30).

To view this week's standings as of March 13th and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: [COCO MARCH MADNESS HEADQUARTERS](#) . We will post an ongoing update of points by state each Friday via our "Message of the Day". Final results posted on April 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!

The "*Total SWE Monday*" Habit

The [National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center](#) utilizes CoCoRaHS reports of precipitation, snowfall, snow depth and the water equivalent of the snow on the ground every day. CoCoRaHS data provide critical "Ground Truth" information that can improve the skill of their products and models. This will improve the accuracy of flood forecasts in the weeks and months ahead. Click here to see how your [CoCoRaHS SWE Reports](#) are used by NOHRSC

Their guidance to us has been that if you can only report one day a week it's best to all report on the same day. Monday was chosen:

"The analysts at NOHRSC prefer a Total Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) observation taken once a week on Monday. The simple reason is that digging cores every day ruins your sample snowfield area (unless you have a big yard or open fields nearby).

A flood of Monday morning SWE reports gives us a better picture of the overall snowpack instead of a few scattered results trickling in throughout the week. Daily total SWE would be great, but let's make "Total SWE Monday" a habit.

(Note: If you have the room, more frequent observations are appreciated, especially when conditions are changing. For areas that only infrequently get snow, there is no need to wait for Monday -- report SWE whenever you have the chance). For instructions on how to take core samples and report the snowpack SWE, please view our on-line training materials on snow: [Training Slide Shows](#) or watch the YouTube short animation on: [SWE](#).

Monday, March 16, 2015

Weather Preparedness 2015



As part of [NOAA's Weather Ready Nation](#), NOAA encourages you to “Be a Force of Nature” when it comes to extreme weather by learning about potential hazards. Help advance the Weather-Ready Nation by being prepared for the worst. NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) and its partners encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to know their risk, take action, and be an example when it comes to dangerous weather.

Look for seasonal campaigns for spring, summer and fall in your state — all designed to keep the public safe. Preparedness event topics include:

- Severe Weather Awareness Week
- Flood Safety Awareness Week
- Tsunami Preparedness Week
- Safe Boating Week
- Rip Current Awareness Week
- Lightning Safety Awareness Week
- Tornado Drill
- Monsoon Awareness Week
- Hurricane Preparedness Week
- Heat Awareness Day
- Avalanche Safety
- Winter Weather Awareness Week

To find out more visit: [Weather Preparedness Events Calendar](#).

Monday, March 23, 2015

”Little snow, few showers, a dry start to spring . . . Is drought lurking about in your community? Let us know!

A dry start to spring so far in your region? You're not alone. A good deal of the southwest half of the country has been extremely dry. Much of California and parts of Nevada and Oregon, Northwest Texas and Western Oklahoma have been experiencing extreme or exceptional drought. Many of you are experiencing this dryness firsthand and we'd love to hear how drought is 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.

Please take a look around your community this week and think about how drought might be impacting it. Then, as a big favor to CoCoRaHS and the National Drought Mitigation Center, file a ["CoCoRaHS Drought Impact Report"](#). It should only take a minute or two. Report what you can, don't let the "monetary

impacts" part scare you away. That part is highly desirable, but if you don't know a dollar amount, feel free to skip that part.

Your reports go directly to the National Drought Mitigation Center ([NDMC](#)) and they provide critical information on how drought is impacting the nation. Just like your precipitation reports, drought impact reports help fill in the gaps by providing important "eyewitness information" for your geographic area.

When you have some spare time, please re-visit our "[Drought Impacts Reporting Resource Page](#)" to get re-acquainted with drought impacts. In addition there is a short slideshow that everyone can benefit from reviewing.

Wednesday, March 25, 2015



A CoCoRaHS Gauge at the White House!

On Monday this week, a CoCoRaHS gauge made its debut at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in the White House Kitchen Garden. Station number DC-DC-19. The National Park Service staff manages the grounds and are very interested and eager to help. Here is the [official fact sheet](#).

CoCoRaHS's Nolan Doesken was on hand that day and had the privilege to attend the [White House's Fifth Annual Science Fair](#) in the East Wing of the White House. Nolan said that it was a great event and very inspiring to see so many young citizen scientists presenting their work. To read more about the day click here: [Weather Underground News & Blogs](#)

Over the past few years, the field of "Citizen Science" (which is how they describe us at CoCoRaHS) has grown steadily, and practitioners have even formed an [association](#).

Where will a CoCoRaHS gauge show up next? Good question. Stay tuned . . . you might be surprised!

Monday, March 30, 2015

TWO DAYS LEFT — CoCoRaHS March Madness 2015 results as of March 30TH

"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2015" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) heads into it's final two days.

Here with two days left in the contest, the "traditional count" category (total number of new observers) has **North Carolina (145)** running away in the lead followed by Texas (56), South Carolina (55), Michigan (34), and Ohio (31).

In the "population weighted" category, **North Dakota (22.30)** holds onto first, followed by North Carolina (15.21), New Mexico (13.11), South Carolina (11.89) and Wyoming (8.87).

To view the current standings and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: [COCO MARCH MADNESS HEADQUARTERS](#) . We will post an update of points by state again tomorrow morning on the final day of the contest. Final results posted on April 1st.

Good luck to your state as this year's contest comes to a close!