

Messages of the Day

June 2016

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

CoCoRaHS Welcomes the Bahamas!

As the month of June begins, CoCoRaHS kicks off its expansion to the family islands of the Bahamas! Here during the official first week of the 2016 Hurricane Season, we proudly launch our rainfall network across the archipelago of over 700 islands, cays and inlets. In collaboration with the Bahamas Department of Meteorology, you can join the CoCoRaHS network and help measure rainfall at your location, whether it be in downtown Nassau, on Andros, Exuma, Abaco, Long Island, or one of the other family islands. We welcome our friends from the land of white sand beaches, conch shells and turquoise blue waters!

To learn more about CoCoRaHS in the Bahamas click here: [BAHAMAS](#).

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Weather Preparedness 2016

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](#).

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

June 17th -- CoCoRaHS Day! ... Happy Eighteenth Anniversary!

Friday is CoCoRaHS Day. The CoCoRaHS website was launched June 17, 1998 -- officially marking the beginning of this volunteer rain gauge network. One hundred beginner weather observers reported that day. We now have over 20,000 rain gauge observers who send in reports regularly or occasionally. Let's celebrate our 18th anniversary with everyone sending in their CoCoRaHS daily precipitation reports and setting a new all-time record for most CoCoRaHS reports in one day. Let's shoot for 13,055+ reports and break the record!

For those of you who did not know, the number of reports received each day is listed just above the national map on our home page.

Thanks very much!

Saturday, June 18, 2016

Fire Weather . . . Information and Outlooks for 2016!

Another zero in the rain gauge? Hot, dry weather during the summer can create ideal conditions for wildfires in many parts of the country. As you read this message, large fires are burning in several western states and throughout Alaska. To see where current wildfire activity is taking place across the country click here: [ACTIVE FIRES](#).

Most NWS Weather Forecast Offices provide fire forecasts twice a day and provide warnings in close partnership with local, state and federal fire control agencies. Learn more about [Wildland Fire Safety](#) and the NOAA Storm Prediction Center's latest [Fire Weather Outlooks](#) for your part of the country by clicking on the underlined text.

The [Incident Information System Website](#) is another great resource for finding out where wildfires are currently burning. This site gives a vast amount of information that many of you will find very informative.

For additional info on wildfire prevention and other wildfire topics, visit the National Interagency Fire Center's web site by clicking here: [NIFC](#)

Want to learn more about Fire Weather? View the CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar presented by Liz Page of UCAR/COMET. You can do so by clicking here: [WILDFIRE](#)

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

The Heat Index . . . What's That?

The Heat index (HI) is sometimes referred to as the "apparent Temperature". The HI, given in degrees F, is a measure of how hot it feels when relative humidity (RH) is added to the actual air temperature.

So if the temperature was 85F and the Relative Humidity was 85% the Heat Index value would be 99F. Believe me, that's an uncomfortable value. Many parts of the country will see heat index values over 100F this summer. Thanks to the invention of air conditioning many are fortunate to keep cool during the heat of summer. For those who do not have air conditioning it's important to try to keep cool.

NOAA's Weather Prediction Center has created a great "[WPC Heat Index Forecast Page](#)" that you can use to determine the heat index forecasted at your particular location. They also have a wonderful "[Heat Index Calculator](#)" for you to try out, as well as a "[Heat Index Scale](#)" to view.

Finally here is a list of possible heat disorders that could result for people in high risk groups when the HI reaches a certain value:

Heat Index of 130F or higher = Heat stroke or sunstroke likely.

Heat Index between 105 - 129F = Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion likely. Heatstroke possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

Heat Index between 90 - 105F = Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

Heat Index between 80 - 90F = Fatigue possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

For additional information on "[HEAT](#)" and "[HEAT STRESS](#)" click on those words.

On a final note, animals such as dogs are very susceptible to heat stroke. Don't forget to find a shady, cool spot for your pets, they will be thankful you did.

Friday, June 24, 2016

The four-inch gauge -- how is it calibrated?

An observer from Alabama writes: "I've always tried to figure out how rain gauges are calibrated and I read somewhere that the principle is how much water falls on one square inch of ground. In that case, a gauge with a one inch square opening would need to be six inches tall to measure six inches of rain. Trying to reconcile this knowledge with my new gauge, I figured that a 4" opening represents 12.56 square inches ($A=\pi r^2$), and that the tube should be 12.5" tall to measure an inch of water. However, from the bottom of the tube to the inch mark it isn't that tall. Could you help me understand the principle?"

Great Question! Here is our answer:

Rainfall is a DEPTH measurement and not a "volume" measurement. In other words, it's not "an inch per square inch" but it's an inch for any area in your immediate vicinity that the rain happens to land on. In the case of your new rain gauge, the "inch" of rain is falling into a cylinder that has an inside diameter of slightly less than 4" is then being funneled into a calibrated cylinder of a much smaller diameter (just greater than 1.2 inside diameter). The area of the opening of the inner cylinder is exactly 1/10th the area of the funnel and outer cylinder. This means, the inner tube will magnify the depth of rain by a factor of exactly 10. What this means is that 1.00" of rain will fill that inner cylinder to a depth of 10.0". It is then scaled accordingly.

Tuesday, June 28, 2016



"Field Photo Weekend" July 2-4th . . . Celebrate the Fourth of July Weekend by taking a photo or two!

Here's your chance to join hundreds of other CoCoRaHS observers to see what our landscapes look like during early summer. If you have participated before, this is a great chance to go back to your favorite spots and see what has changed. All you have to do is:

- Take your camera or smartphone
- Find a landscape in your community (streams, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, a forest, a crop field, a pasture, etc.)
- Take a single photo or a panorama in four different directions (N, E, S, W) from where you are standing. And then take one looking down.

There are four ways to post your photos

- Use the "Field Photo" App on your phone, which can be downloaded from the "Apple Store" and "Google Play Store". Enter metadata to describe the landscape and add #CoCoRaHSJuly16 as a keyword.
- Email your photos with your location to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. When uploading your photos please include the words #CoCoRaHSJuly16 in the notes field. Remember you don't have to email your photos this weekend, just take them, but we do encourage you to email them soon afterward.
- Upload photos directly to the (EOMF) Earth Observation and Modeling Facility's photo archive website: "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos>".

- Or post your photos on your phone or online to our new partners at iSeeChange.org, a climate and weather journal that collects stories about change.

View the Field Photo Weekend [Instructional Animation](#).

Field Photo Weekend is a partnership between CoCoRaHS, the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) and the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility (EOMF) to help ground truth through photos, what is going on with our landscapes throughout the country. It's not just drought we are looking for either, it could be flooding, fire, or whatever state the landscape is now in. For detailed instructions, click here: ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#)

This year - Field Photo Weekend has a new partnership with ISeeChange, to help tell stories about the photos you're taking. If you have an interesting observation about the landscape you are photographing ISeeChange would like to hear from you. They take observations and questions from citizens about the changes citizens are seeing in the environment and then write stories about the underlying science. Plus you can send photos and stories anytime. Check it out at ["ISEECHANGE.ORG"](#)

In a few weeks this weekend's photos will be posted and you'll be able to see your photos and those taken by other volunteers. Reference the ["FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS"](#) page to see how to view the photos.

Remember you don't have to email your photos this weekend, just take them, but we do encourage you to email them soon afterward. That address again is: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. When uploading your photos please include the words #CoCoRaHSJuly16 in the notes field.

Thanks in advance for participating during the long July 4th weekend-Have fun snapping!