



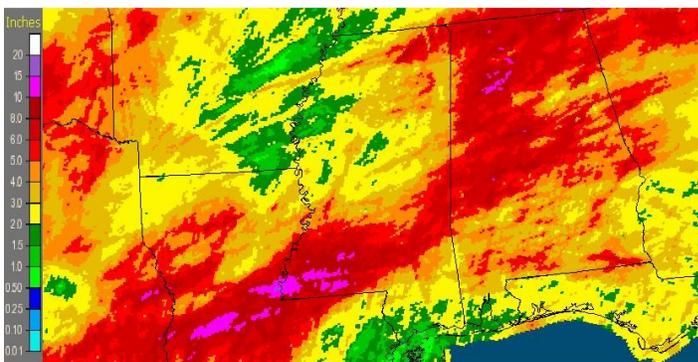
"Because every drop counts"

South Mississippi CoCoRaHS Newsletter

A Wet Southwest MS but dry Southeast MS

Rainfall variability is always a daunting concept to grasp on most scales. Surely, one understands climate differences from arid deserts to moisture rich tropical rain forests. However, within a relatively short distance of a little over 100 miles, the Magnolia State saw the rainfall extremes of both wettest and driest. The southwestern most counties, Wilkinson and Amite received over 1 foot of rainfall in January, mostly on the 17-18th and on the 25th. Meanwhile, the entire month only saw less than 1 inch accumulated precipitation along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. It is this kind of rainfall pattern behavior that creates interesting research utilizing networks such as CoCoRaHS—truly an invaluable commodity.

Mississippi: January, 2012 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 2/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 2/3/12 21:37 UTC



March Madness Soon Upon Us

The annual March Madness recruitment drive is only weeks away. The national goal is to add 2000 new observers to the rolls of CoCoRaHS. It has long been a local goal to have at least one observer in every parish within my coordination area. That will continue to be the target this year to add someone in Wilkinson and Walthall Counties. Of course, we look forward to any new additions from anywhere, so if you do know someone who may be interested, please encourage them to join.

January Statistics

- **Wettest Month State**
MS-AM-2 Liberty 1.0 WNW
12.57" on a perfect 31 reports
- **Wettest Month Local**
Also MS-AM-1 Liberty 6.4 ENE
10.47" on a perfect 31 reports
- **Number of Rain Days: 25**
- **Wettest Day State & Local:**
MS-AM-2 Liberty 1.0 WNW
4.61" on the 26th & 4.34" on the 18th (2nd month in a row)
- **Driest Month Local**
MS-HR-12 Long Beach 0.8 SSE
0.98" on a perfect 31 reports
- **Hail Days: 2**
Rice size hail at MS-HC-11
Waveland 1.1 NW on the 26th;
Marble hail at MS-MS-1 Potts
Camp 2.1 SSW on the 21st.

New Observers

January saw the addition of four new observers in southern Mississippi. All four are in Harrison County and appear to be educators in different school districts. A big welcome to MS-HR-30, MS-HR-31, MS-HR-32 and MS-HR-33!

Reporting Statistics (January)

- **Stations reporting: 146**
- **Number of reports: 3764**
- **Average daily reporting: 121.0**

Busiest Reporting Day

- **Date: January 26th**
- **Number of Reports: 131**
- **Average reported rainfall: 0.93"**
- **Max amount: 4.61"**

Wettest Reporting Day

- **Date: January 26th**
- **Number of Reports: 131**
- **Average reported rainfall: 0.93"**
- **Max amount: 4.61"**

Comment of the Month - From Picayune 5.6 ENE (MS-PR-4) on January 26, 2012

“Rain had just started right before I checked the gauge, the rain is coming down now like someone opened the flood gates. There is a line of heavy showers with lighter rain on the backside. Flood and tornado watches and warnings are up for the entire area.”

This is a nice summary of events on this stormy day across the region. A strong cold front was sweeping through the area, lined with a squall line and occasional severe thunderstorms. One such storm produced an EF-0 tornado 11 miles north of Poplarville, in upper Pearl River County, causing minor damage to a farm. It was also one of the rainiest days in quite some time, helping to ease the long-term drought a tad.

National Weather Service Open House was a Huge Success!!!

The much anticipated NWS Weather-Ready Nation kickoff event went off without a hitch (so to speak) as an unusually warm January day near 80 degrees greeted over 800 people in attendance. The open house featured the un-tarping of the new mobile response unit—named the Significant Weather Emergency Response Vehicle (SWERV). This one of a kind mobile weather office is equipped with weather instrumentation, computers for weather briefings and modeling, briefing walls with magnetic boards, a large screen television for monitoring news and current events, a briefing area and ready room. In the image below left, New Orleans/Baton Rouge area Meteorologist-in-Charge, Mr. Kenneth Graham addresses the attendees to explain the role of the new mobile unit and the pilot project’s objectives. Also in attendance was Senator Mary Landrieu’s Chief of Staff, Deputy Administrator for NOAA, Dr. Katheryn Sullivan, the Director of the NWS, Dr. Jack Hayes, Area Commander for the Coast Guard, along with state, parish and local officials. The open house also featured a tour of the facility with its newly configured emergency response layout. A head-count of tour participants was nearly 800 moving through the facility. Attendees also got to witness an actual weather balloon release, as seen in the photo, right. Some of the Cooperative Weather Observers who happen to also be CoCoRaHS observers, were presented with certificates of appreciation for between 10 and 25 years of dedicated service.



Remember, zeroes count!

Several observers do well to report everyday, regardless of whether it rained or not. For the sake of climate studies, a no report can not be assumed to be a zero rain day. If possible, please report your zero rain days.

Robert J. Ricks, Jr.

NWS Forecast Office
62300 Airport Rd
Slidell, LA 70460

Phone: (985) 649-0429 ext 4
Phone: (504) 522-7330
E-mail: robert.ricks@noaa.gov
E-mail: robricks86@gmail.com