



"Because every drop counts"

South Mississippi CoCoRaHS Newsletter

A cold February—some rain and snow

It certainly seemed that February lived up to typical winter this year with several stretches of below normal temperatures. Rainfall was on the lower end of normal but several wet days were noted in the Magnolia State. Mardi Gras Day was memorably cold and , for some, was also wet. Mardi Gras also happened to be the busiest reporting day in Mississippi in February, with 129 observers submitting observations. Snow fell in rather large amounts across the northern portions of the state—upwards to 7 inches in Aberdeen, MS. Rainfall totals ranged from 1.00 inch at West to around 6.6 inches near Ackerman for the month.

Meet Your Observer— Introducing MS-HC-13 (Kiln 6.6 N)

Not a native of the Magnolia State we moved here at the end of 1978 when I received a job offer from the Naval Oceanographic Office. NAVO is located at what was the National Space Technology Laboratory, now the Stennis Space Center, in Bay St. Louis, MS.

We lived in Bay St. Louis until 2005 when Katrina totaled our house. I tell people that that is the bad news. The good news is that we had flood insurance and the insurance paid the full value of the policy with no hassle. We used the insurance money to buy a house north of Kiln where we currently live and where my CoCoRaHS station is located..

I retired from NAVO on January 1, 2010. About three months later I hear a story on Mississippi Public Radio about Mississippi CoCoRaHS. I had always been curious about how much rain we receive and I thought it would be a good way to get a grip on that data.

I signed up and after getting my gauge I sent in my first report on April Fools Day. I always wonder at the significance of that fact. I started out just giving rainfall accumulation with my report then over time added cloud cover, condensation, temperature and barometric pressure.

My other avocations include the Society for Creative Anachronism, Wheres George, wine making, and growing carnivorous plants.

The Society for Creative Anachronism, or SCA for short, is a group of medieval enthusiast rather like the Civil War re-enactors but we are interested in a period about 500 to 1000 years earlier. We hold events at which we try to recreate the clothes, customs, sword play etc. of the medieval and Renaissance period. Our big event is held in March at Poplarville where we have a week long ?war? between the ? Kingdoms? of Ansteorra (Texas and Oklahoma) and Trimaris (Florida).

Wheres George is a currency tracking web site for people who want to know where their money goes, literally! Members enter the serial numbers of their paper money into the Wheres George database and mark the bill with the Wheres George web-site address. They then spend the bill and hope that somewhere down the line someone will notice the marking and report finding the bill.

I started wine making when I was an undergraduate at Penn State University. It was cheaper then buying wine and I was underage so I couldn't buy it anyway. I make wine from commercially available concentrates and from fruit I pick both from farms and the wild. My strawberry and blackberry wines are both considered quite good.

As for the carnivorous plants, well, my wife tells me that you are suppose to retire and grow orchids. I guess that says something about me.

FEBRUARY STATISTICS

Wettest/Driest/Hail/Reporting

- ◆ Wettest Month, State— 6.59” on just 9 reports at Ackerman 4.9 W (MS-CT-2)
- ◆ Wettest Month, Local — 3.88” on 13 reports at Diamondhead 1.4 NNW (MS-HC-7)
- ◆ Wettest Day, State — 2.20” on the 22nd at Southaven 4.8 SE (MS-DS-2)
- ◆ Wettest Day, Local—1.21” on the 26th at Jayess 5.6 SW (MS-PK-2) * **2nd straight month**
- ◆ Number of Rain Days—14 with at least 0.01” average on a given day in the state.
- ◆ Driest Month, State—1.00” on 18 reports at West 4.9 ENE (MS-AT-5)
- ◆ Driest Month, Local—1.34” on 28 reports at Ocean Springs 3.6 ESE (MS-JC-12)
- ◆ Hail Reports: None.
- ◆ Snow Reports: 1 to 7 inches fell in the northern part of state on 2/25. Aberdeen 8.7E had 7.0”.
- ◆ Stations Reporting: 145; Number of Reports: 3268; Average per day: 117.4
- ◆ Busiest Reporting Day: 17th, average: 0.75”, max amount: 1.42”, number of reports: 129
- ◆ Wettest Reporting Day: 22nd, average 0.92”, max amount 2.20”, number of reports: 120
- ◆ Number of perfect 28 report observers: 61 stations statewide, 18 locally

Comment of the Month - From Kiln 6.6 N (MS-HC-13) on February 17, 2015.

“ Happy (cold) Mardi Gras! Temperature at time of observation was 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Barometric pressure was 29.96 in. Skies were overcast with cumulus clouds. No condensation was on the gauge. ”

This was one of 382 comments submitted from Mississippi observers in February. Our featured observer also provides this month’s favorite comment. Indeed, Mardi Gras was chilly cold and a little wet.

A Farewell of sorts

This year marks my 7th year as a regional coordinator with CoCoRaHS. It has been a fun and rewarding experience. Lately, I have taken on several operational assignments that are going to be occupying a great deal of time in developing and programming prior to the start of the hurricane season. I am also the lead on a national long range forecasting effort that has been underway for 20 years. This project is growing and gaining ground within our day-to-day operations. As a result, I will be performing a diminished role as CoCoRaHS regional coordinator for Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi. Mr. Shawn O’Neil is our Observations Program Leader at the office in Slidell, LA. CoCoRaHS falls neatly into his purview of operations, and he has asked if he can become a larger part of this fine program. I will stay in touch as an advisor and assistant, and may continue to assist with the newsletter, as I feel it is vital to maintain a dialogue with the volunteers to maintain interest and to share happenings within the network. Once again, it has been a pleasure serving you these past 7 years. I will continue to be an observer in Abita Springs, LA. You truly have been like family to me.

Keep the DAILY rainfall reports coming!