



CoCoRaHS Collections

“Because Every Drop Counts”



The Ohio Newsletter



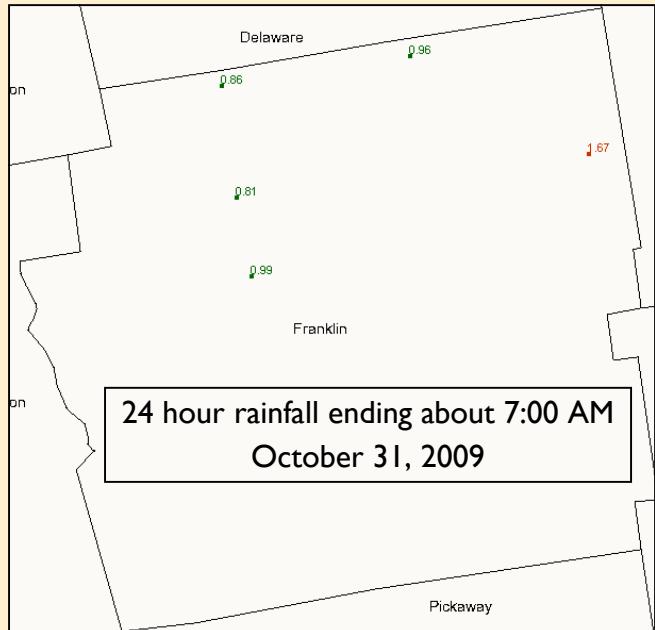
2009

Statistically Dry Month a Wash Out

October Rain

October in the state's capital, Columbus, is usually one of the driest months. The normal October precipitation amount is 2.31 inches. A normal in this case refers to a period from 1971 to the year 2000. 4.89 inches fell this October in Columbus at the airport. Below is a map showing one day that contributed to the higher rainfall totals. This map shows a 24 hour period of rainfall ending at 7:00 AM October 31st 2009. Close to an inch of rain and in one case over an inch of rain fell in Franklin County. To the right of the map is a table showing CoCoRaHS observers who reported everyday during October. Due to the observation time of ~7:00 AM, observations were included from ~7:00 AM on September 30th until ~7:00 AM on November 1st in order to include all of the precipitation that occurred during October. The values ranged from 4.02 inches to 5.29 inches, significantly higher than the normal October value at the Columbus airport of 2.31 inches.

Climate Normal-Columbus			
January	2.53 in.	July	4.62 in.
February	2.20 in.	August	3.72 in.
March	2.89 in.	September	2.92 in.
April	3.25 in.	October	2.31 in.
May	3.88 in.	November	3.19 in.
June	4.08 in.	December	2.93 in.



Station Name	Oct. Rainfall (in)	Ob Time
OH-FR-2	4.72	7:00 AM
OH-FR-3	4.97	7:00 AM
OH-FR-8	5.29	7:00 AM
OH-FR-10	4.02	8:00 AM
OH-FR-12	4.53	7:00 AM

CoCoRaHS Expansion Update: With the recent addition of Minnesota, CoCoRaHS is now active in all 50 states!

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Is there something you would like to see in an upcoming newsletter? If so please let me know at Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov

Welcome to all of our new CoCoRaHS observers out there!

Special Thanks to Brian Astifan and OH-PB-1 for contributions to this newsletter.



Your CoCoRaHS Story



Please submit your CoCoRaHS story to Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov

CoCoRaHS is growing across Ohio and it would be great to hear some of your CoCoRaHS stories. We all have a story to tell, whether it is about how we got involved in Co-

CoRaHS, an exciting observation we had, or a way we use the data. While it might be difficult to share those stories with other CoCoRaHS observers in person due to the miles

between us, we can share our story through this newsletter. If you have a CoCoRaHS story of some kind, please e-mail your story to Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov and include your CoCoRaHS station number.



Ashley's Question Corner



Do you have a question about CoCoRaHS? If so, please feel free to e-mail your regional coordinator. A list of coordinators can be found on the Ohio CoCoRaHS website under state coordinators.

Home for the Holidays

Question: How do I report my precipitation when I have been gone for a few days?

Answer: With the holiday season a lot of people might be traveling and have to be away from the gauge

for a few days. There is a form on the CoCoRaHS website called "multi-day accumulation." This form is found on the left hand side under "enter my new reports." Here you can say how many days you were away from the gauge and the amount of precipi-

tation you have on your return. It is good to use this form if you have been out of town instead of the daily precipitation form since it might be difficult to tell on what day or days the precipitation fell.



Spread the News!



CoCoRaHS has now expanded across the country. Everyday, dedicated observers like yourself go out to measure precipitation. Did you know that although CoCoRaHS has

made it to every state, it has not made it to every county in Ohio? The following is a list of counties in Ohio that have no observers signed up as of 12/1/09. Do you know

someone in one of these counties or any county interested in CoCoRaHS? If so, spread the news about how exciting and interesting CoCoRaHS can be!

Counties with no observers in Ohio

Adams, Belmont, Coshocton, Fulton, Harrison, Holmes, Mercer, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Pike



Change in Severe Hail Criteria



As of January 1, 2010, severe criteria for hail changes from 0.75 inches to one inch in diameter for Ohio. This is based on a study where it was determined that meaningful damage begins at a one inch hail criterion. In addition to this, feedback indicated

that fewer warnings for marginal events would allow for the public to be more vigilant to higher end events. CoCoRaHS observers are encouraged to still report all sizes of hail as long as you are

safely able to do so. As a reminder, CoCoRaHS observers do not have to wait until their normal observation time in order to report hail. Hail reports can be submitted at any time by using the hail form on the CoCoRaHS webpage. Thank you for those hail reports!



Volunteer Spotlight

Do you take pride in your CoCoRaHS station? Would you like to be featured in a future CoCoRaHS Collections newsletter? If so, we are looking for pictures of you with your rain gauge. Please send your picture in an e-mail to

Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov and include your station ID number. Up to two volunteers will be featured in each upcoming newsletter so if you do not see your picture in the next newsletter, stay tuned to future newsletters!



OH-PB-1 Eaton 1.0 N is a Skywarn Spotter for the National Weather Service. He has been a member of CoCoRaHS since February 2009.



Fall 2009 Honor Roll

From September 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009, these Ohio stations reported everyday. Here are those stations who get a tip of the cap for their dedication!

OH-AB-4	OH-FR-8	OH-SN-1
OH-AT-1	OH-LK-1	OH-SN-3
OH-AT-2	OH-LS-1	OH-SM-8
OH-BT2	OH-LS-5	OH-VN-1
OH-CK-1	OH-LS-12	OH-WN-1
OH-CN-4	OH-MD-2	OH-WL-2
OH-CB-2	OH-MM-1	
OH-CW-3	OH-MY-5	
OH-CY-4	OH-MY-7	
OH-CY-8	OH-PB-1	
OH-DR-1	OH-RS-1	
OH-DF-1	OH-SD-2	
OH-FR-3	OH-SD-3	



THANK YOU to all of our observers for their consistent reporting!

Get to Know Your Coordinators

Brian Astifan is one of the State Coordinators for Ohio. He has worked at the National Weather Service office in Cleveland since 2004 as the Service Hydrologist. Prior to Cleveland, Brian worked for the Army Corps of Engineers in the Quad Cit-

ies forecasting and regulating most of the rivers in Iowa and Illinois. Brian is no stranger to measuring rain. He had his first rain gauge in grade school and measured rainfall from Hurricane Gloria as it worked its way up the East Coast. At times, Brian

would read his rain gauge every 15 minutes to see how much additional rainfall had occurred. Now Brian has some helpers to read his rain gauge. He is married and he has two boys who help read and empty the rain gauge. Have a question for Brian? He can be reached by e-mail at Brian.Astifan@noaa.gov



State Coordinator

Brian Astifan



Newsletter

CoCoRaHS Collections The Ohio CoCoRaHS Newsletter

E-mail:
Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov

Because Every Drop Counts



www.cocorahs.org

Helpful Links for Ohio CoCoRaHS Observers

Obtain replacement or extra equipment from our official suppliers-

<http://www.weatheryourway.com/cocorahs/store.html>

<http://www.ambientweather.com/strgloetprra.html>

Report Local Impacts of Dryness or Drought:

<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/>

For information on Ohio Climate:

<http://www.geography.osu.edu/faculty/rogers/statclim.html>

For Current Forecasts and Severe Weather Warnings:

<http://www.weather.gov>

For river information:

<http://www.weather.gov/ahps/>

Reporting Revisited - Snow

Snowfall and winter will be here before long. So what are the main things to remember?

First and foremost, when snow or freezing temperatures are expected, remove your funnel and inner tube and bring them inside. You only want the large outer canister in place for proper measuring of snowfall. It's not a bad idea to bring them in during the winter season even if snow is not expected, as cold nights here in Ohio can sometimes freeze any water left in the gauge and might crack the tube! It's very important to remember exactly what the three main

things we measure are going to be, and how to measure them.

Depth of New Snow, in inches and tenths. This is your most familiar reading, one we have all taken on countless occasions. This is simply the amount of new snow that fell in the last 24 hours, in inches and tenths, like 5.2 inches. This is taken with a ruler or yardstick.

Depth of total snow, to nearest half inch. This is a reading of all the snow (new and old) on the ground, at your location. This reading is taken every day, regardless of whether any new snow fell in the past 24 hours.

Total Rain and Melted Snow in gauge, to the nearest hundredth of an inch. This is the most complicated snow measurement. It requires you to melt your snowfall sample down, and see how much liquid was contained in that snowfall sample. To do so, bring your snow-filled canister inside. Carefully pour a measured amount of warm water into your inner tube, say 0.50 inches. (Write it down!) Then pour this measured warm water into the snow canister, and swish it all around. When the snow is melted, pour the water into the smaller tube using the funnel, and



measure what comes out. Then subtract how much warm water you added, and you now know how much liquid came from the melted snow!

For example:
0.81 inches of water - 0.50 inches of warm water added = 0.31 inches of liquid equivalent in the snowfall that I measured.