CoCoRaHS Collections

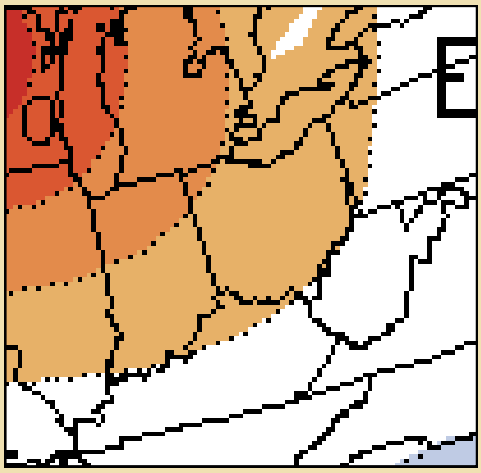
"Because Every Drop Counts"

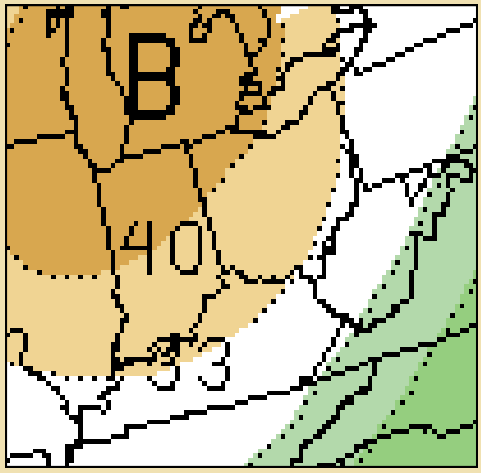
The Ohio Newsletter

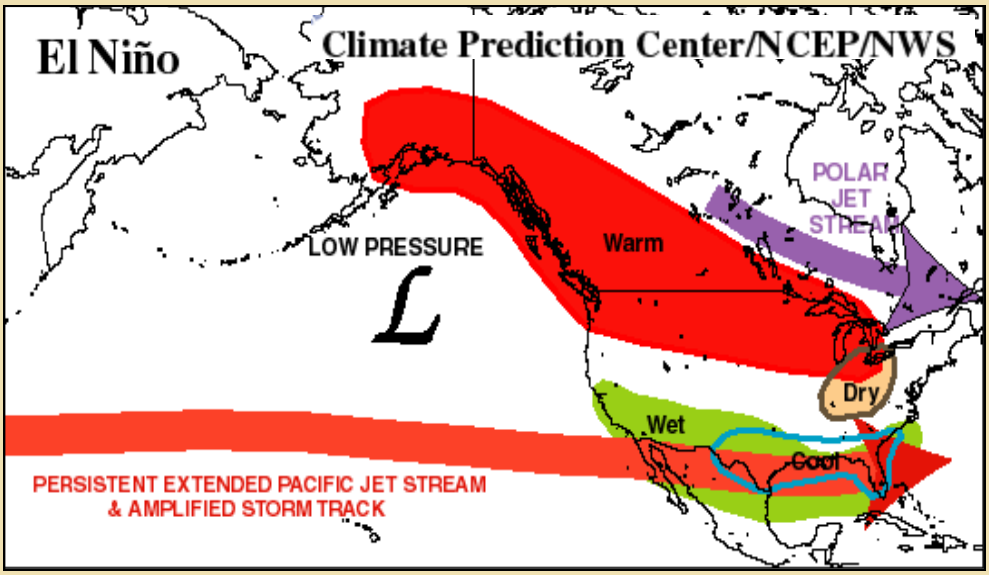
Summer 2015

Strong El Niño Expected

A strong El Niño is currently forecast to develop and peak during the late fall and into the early winter months. With an El Niño event waters over the eastern Pacific are warmer than normal and rainfall normally over the Western Pacific shifts east. This in turn lends itself to a greater likelihood of the pattern below (bottom image). This pattern is similar to the latest forecast from the Climate Predication Center in which there is an increased likelihood of above normal temperatures (top left) and below normal precipitation (top right) across Ohio during the winter months. Although no two El Niño events are the same, with stronger El Niño events certain characteristics have an increased likelihood of occurring, such as above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.







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A special thank you to those listed below for contributing to this newsletter!

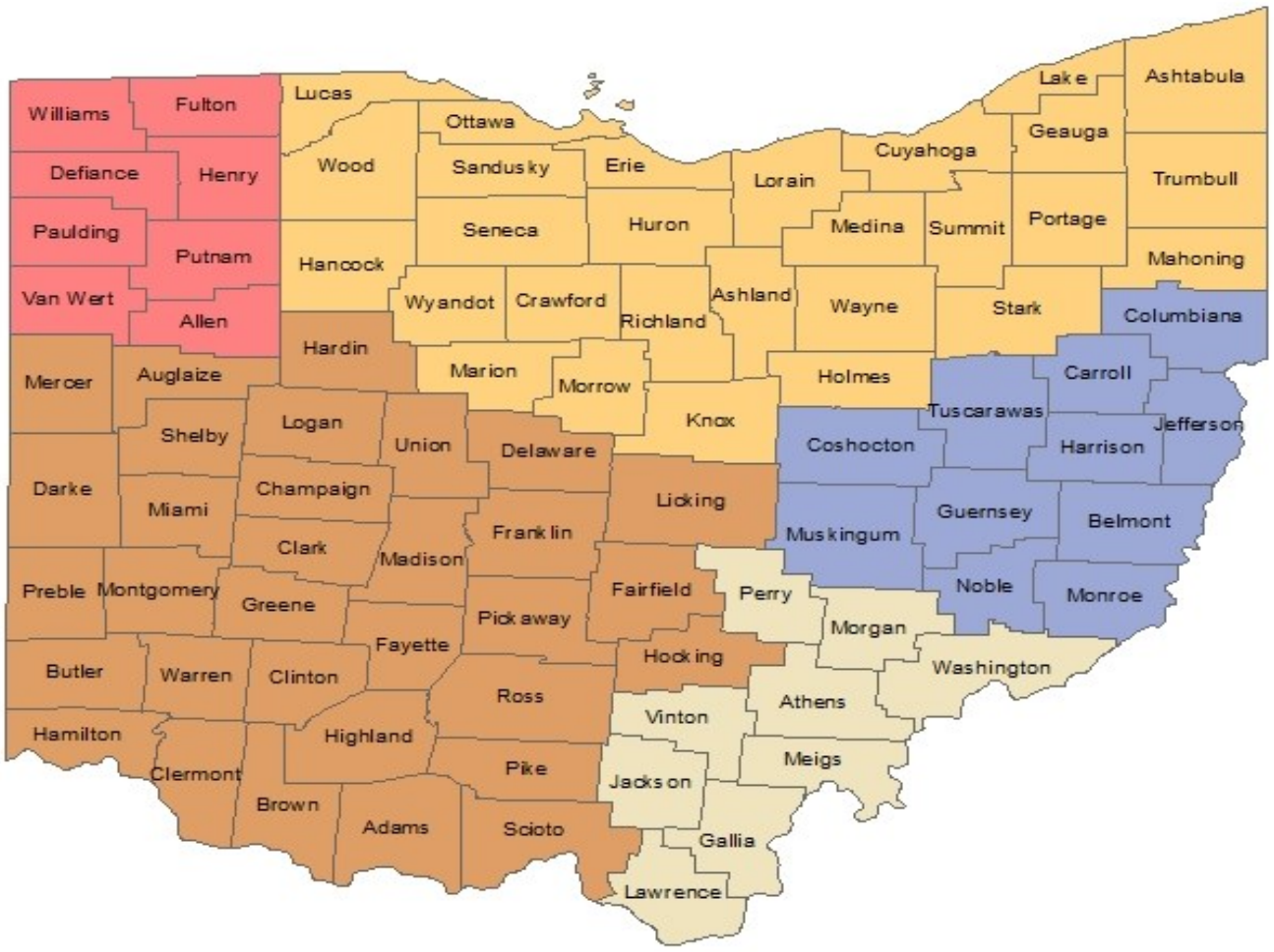
-Julian Turner and Zach Schwalbe, CoCoRaHS Headquarters

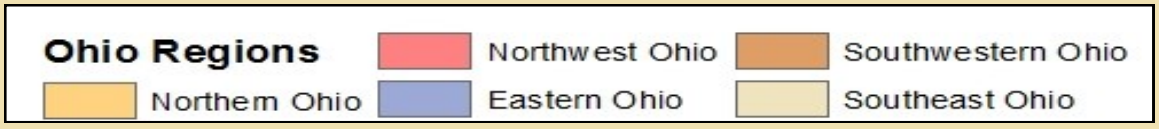
-Climate Prediction Center, National Weather Service, Storm Prediction Center, and CoCoRaHS websites

-Kristen Cassady, National Weather Service Wilmington, Ohio

Is there a topic that you would like to hear about in a future newsletter? If so, please contact Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov

Regional Coordinators in Ohio





This summer we had a change in our central Ohio coordinator as Bob has moved on to new endeavors. First I would like to thank Bob Davis for his work as CoCoRaHS regional coordinator for central Ohio over the last several years. Your dedication to CoCoRaHS is appreciated. In addition there has been a change in coordinators across southwest Ohio. Brian Haines is now the southwestern regional coordinator. Thank you to previous coordinator Julie Dian-Reed for your service to CoCoRaHS!

With CoCoRaHS there are a few local, then regional, state, and national coordinators. For Ohio, the regional coordinators are for the southwestern region Brian Haines (Brian.Haines@noaa.gov), northwestern region Sam Lashley (Sam.Lashley@noaa.gov), for northern region James Kosarik (James.Kosarik@noaa.gov), for eastern region Bob Coblentz (Robert.Coblentz@noaa.gov), and for southeastern region Nick Webb (Nicholas.Webb@noaa.gov). A complete list of coordinators can be found on the CoCoRaHS website by clicking on 'volunteer coordinators' on the left land menu bar.

Silver Snowflake Award
2000 Daily Precipitation Reports

Congratulations to our new Silver Snowflake Award members! These individuals have reported over 2000 daily precipitation reports. You should receive your award certificate in the mail soon! Thank you for your daily dedication to CoCoRaHS!

OH-CN-6	**OH-MR-3**	**OH-PT-9**
OH-LC-1	**OH-OT-2**	**OH-PT-12**

Bronze Observer Award-1000 Daily Precipitation Reports

Congratulations to our new Bronze Observer Award members! These individuals have reported over 1000 daily precipitation reports. You should receive your award certificate in the mail soon! Thank you for your daily dedication to CoCoRaHS!

OH-LC-11

500 Club!

Congratulations to our newest 500 Club members! These observers have submitted at least 500 daily precipitation reports since becoming a CoCoRaHS observer. We look forward to adding onto this list with the next newsletter. Way to go!

OH-DF-6	**OH-KN-4**	**OH-MY-19**
OH-DR-9	**OH-MS-2**	**OH-PY-1**

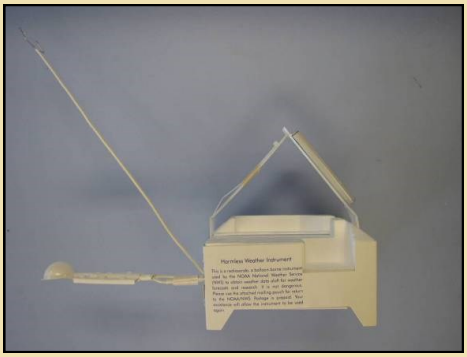
Summer 2015 Honor Roll

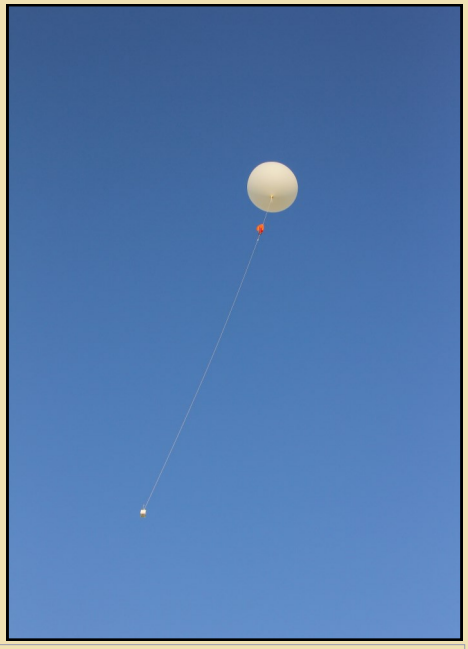
From June 1, 2015 through August 31, 2015, these Ohio stations reported everyday. Here are those stations who get a thumbs up for their dedication!

Not listed below, but thought you reported everyday? You can check your reports. There are multiple ways to do this. You can go into your account and click on list/edit my daily precipitation reports. This will show your reports everyday. You can also go into 'view data' at the top of the page and click on 'station precipitation summary report.' Input your station and the period of interest. The missing days will be shown with dash marks. If there are additional questions e-mail Ashley.Novak@noaa.gov.

OH-AS-2	**OH-CY-4**	**OH-FR-8**	**OH-HY-5**	**OH-MD-2**	**OH-SH-11**
OH-AT-1	**OH-DL-8**	**OH-GG-4**	**OH-KN-4**	**OH-MY-25**	**OH-SN-1**
OH-AT-12	**OH-DL-10**	**OH-GG-7**	**OH-LC-10**	**OH-MY-34**	**OH-TS-1**
OH-CB-2	**OH-DR-1**	**OH-GR-6**	**OH-LK-9**	**OH-PB-1**	**OH-WD-12**
OH-CC-1	**OH-DR-7**	**OH-HD-18**	**OH-LS-22**	**OH-PT-9**	**OH-WD-14**
OH-CK-1	**OH-ER-18**	**OH-HR-2**	**OH-LS-23**	**OH-SD-2**	**OH-WL-2**

Up, Up, and Away!





Twice a day at locations indicated above, weather balloons are launched in order to obtain valuable information on what conditions are in the atmosphere. The National Weather Service office in Wilmington, Ohio is one of those locations and a picture of the shelter where balloons are filled up can be seen in the upper left hand photo.

The balloons are made of latex and are filled with helium (or in some locations hydrogen). Around 100 feet of twine is attached to the balloon with the radiosonde (device used to measure conditions in the atmosphere) at the end of the twine. An orange parachute is also attached to the twine for when the balloon bursts so that the radiosonde will gently fall back down to the ground.

The balloon when filled has a diameter of about 6 feet, however due to a decrease in atmospheric pressure with height, the balloon expands as it continues to go up and approaches 30 feet in diameter before bursting. The radiosonde is equipped with a GPS receiver. The instrument will transmit temperature, humidity, and pressure data. With the GPS information the wind speed and direction can also be determined during ascent. The balloon will rise at a rate of about 1000 feet per minute or about one mile every five minutes. Flight times are around two hours and reach elevations of above 100,000 feet. The atmospheric pressure at that point is less than one percent of that found on the surface of the earth.

When the radiosonde reaches a pressure level of 70 millibars, an altitude of around 60,000ft, the data is processed for transmission to the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). After transmission, the data is made available to the National Weather Service, (continued on page 5)

Newsletter

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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/strgloteprra.html

For information on Climate:

http://www.geography.ohio-state.edu/faculty/rogers/statclim.html

http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/

For Current Forecasts and Severe Weather Warnings:

http://www.weather.gov

For river information:

http://water.weather.gov/ahps/

For drought information:

http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

Up, Up, and Away (Continued from page 4)

the private sector, the research community, and anyone else who may be interested. Since there are hundreds of soundings processed across the entire planet at the exact time, the data can be thought of as creating a "snapshot" of the weather on a global scale. This large dataset is one ingredient used in defining the initial atmospheric conditions for processing by numerical weather prediction models.

Radiosondes have been found anywhere from a few miles to over 100 miles from the original launch point depending on the strength of the winds in the atmosphere. Each radiosonde is equipped with a mailer and instructions for return shipment. About 20% of the radiosondes are located and returned for reconditioning and reuse.

A picture of the data plotted from a flight is located to the right.