

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CoCoRaHS NEWSLETTER



SPRING/SUMMER 2011

WELCOME!!!

Warmer weather has certainly been a welcome sight, especially after the winter we just experienced in southern New England! Snowfall was above average, and in some cases was nearly double the average seasonal amount! Interestingly, most of the snow fell in a 6 week period beginning around Christmas.

Here are some snowfall totals (in inches) from the long term climate sites:

Site	2010-11 Snowfall	Average	Departure
Bridgeport, CT	62.6	25.2	+ 37.4
Hartford, CT (Bradley)	86.4	46.2	+40.2
Worcester, MA	92.6	60.9	+31.7
Boston, MA	81.0	42.5	+38.5
Blue Hill Observatory, MA	95.2	56.9	+38.3
Providence, RI	53.2	32.8	+20.4

You can find your seasonal total (and from other CoCoRaHS observers) by using the **Station Snow Summary Report** feature in the **View Data** menu.

CoCoRaHS continues to expand and remains an active observation network in southern New England. As of late April, there were a total of 228 observers:

- 119 observers in Massachusetts
- 63 observers in Connecticut
- 46 observers in Rhode Island

Many observers have been reporting daily, even when no precipitation fell. Keep it up! ***Even Trace amounts and “zeroes” are important to CoCoRaHS!***

EVER HEARD OF NOHRSC???

Many of you “braved the elements” this past winter to provide daily snowfall, snow depth, and even snow water equivalent observations.

Be assured these reports are widely used by the National Weather Service, both here in Taunton by the Weather Forecast Office and Northeast River Forecast Center, and also at ***NOHRSC - the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center*** located outside Minneapolis.

NOHRSC is part of NOAA’s National Weather Service and provides comprehensive snow observations, analyses, data sets, and map products for the Nation. Your observations help “calibrate” their snow model, and provide information to flood plain managers, water supply officials, and the research community.

Check out their website at <http://www.nohrsc.nws.gov/>. You can even find your CoCoRaHS station in the “Interactive Maps” section, where you can review your data from the winter!

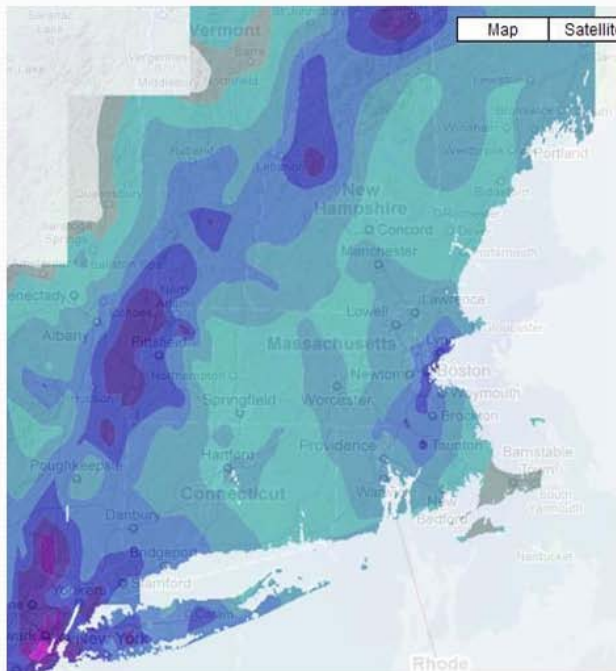
THE “POST CHRISTMAS” BLIZZARD

DECEMBER 26-27, 2010

One of the more memorable storms from this past winter was the first significant storm to impact southern New England – the December 26-27 “Post Christmas” Blizzard which brought heavy snow to much of the region. This storm had a significant impact on air, rail, and road transportation at the end of a busy holiday weekend.

Heavy snow and blizzard conditions affected portions of northern New Jersey and southeast New York, including New York City and Long Island. Many places reported as much as 18 to 30 inches of snow. A second, but smaller area of heavy snow with near blizzard conditions impacted the Providence to Boston corridor where 12 to 18 inches of snow was common. In between, there was an area of lower snowfall totals (5 to 10 inches) across Connecticut and western and central Massachusetts.

December 26-27 2010 Snow Totals



Heaviest snowfall occurred across eastern New Jersey and New York City Metropolitan Area.

A second area of heavy snow fell across the Boston to Providence Corridor.

A snow minimum occurred in between across Central MA And Eastern CT.

This storm was difficult to forecast, in that computer model guidance varied significantly until about a day before the storm hit. Normally, the computer models predict larger winter storms with a fair amount of accuracy a couple of days in advance. Forecasters were less confident than usual, since it first appeared the storm would pass well out to sea.

Ongoing research is looking into why there was such a dramatic shift in the computer model forecasts. One theory is that all of the models ingested erroneous observations across the southern Plains, which led to a less accurate forecast.

SUMMERTIME REMINDERS



* Warmer weather means it's time to place the inner cylinder and funnel back on your rain gauge. ***Remember to remove them, however, if freezing weather is in the forecast!***

* Measure rainfall to the nearest hundredth (0.01) of an inch and report your daily precipitation total. Trace amounts and zeroes are important too!

* If you observe hail, measure the diameter of the largest hailstones (use a ruler or coin) and send a **Significant Weather Report**. Your report will automatically be forwarded to the nearest National Weather Service office! ***The same holds true for anything you feel is significant, such as heavy rainfall, flooding, or storm damage (downed trees, branches, power lines, etc.)***

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Have a great summer! Look for the next Southern New England CoCoRaHS Newsletter in the fall.