

The Catch

DRY WEATHER AGAIN—SO COME TO THE FARM SHOW

FORT COLLINS, CO — Saturday, January 22, 2005

CoCoRaisins:

Recent weather update

What a week—four days in the 60s here in Fort Collins here in mid January and one was mightily close to 70. I guess this is what we call the "January Thaw". The ice had finally gotten good for skating on the local lakes, and now it's slush and open water again. Skiers report some slushy conditions on the slopes—especially down by the bases. It's a little early for spring, but the January thaw has felt pretty good this week.

Long range forecasts look like there will be a couple of opportunities for mountain snows before the end of the month. But for now enjoy the good roads and easy travel for I'm sure winter is far from over.

A few of you in SW Colorado sent some photos of what things looked like during and after your giant storm last week. We saw head-high and higher snows in a few areas—it was more like 10-15 feet deep down by Wolf Creek Pass. Very impressive.

Come to the Farm Show

For the 3rd year in a row, CoCoRaHS and the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University will be teaming up with the National Weather Service to staff an exhibit at the Colorado Farm Show in Greeley this coming week. If you're in or near Weld County, stop by and visit.

The Farm Show schedule is tough on you city folks—it's only open from 9 to 5 PM each day Jan. 25–27 with no evening hours, so don't come driving over hoping to stop by after dark.

New Website—Give it a try

We are not ready yet to unplug the original CoCoRaHS website and switch over to the new one. But the new site is improving every day, and you are welcome to test it any time <http://new.cocorahs.org>

You can check how the new maps and reports look and work, but if you want to enter data or check on your own station info, you will need a password. The system can get this for you automatically. If you want to get your username and password, so you can test the data entry system, then just click "Login" on the top menu bar and then select "Find your login info". As long as the email address you give matches the one we have for you, and your station number matches, it will go ahead and automatically e-mail you your ID information. When you log in, you can then select a more convenient password that you can remember. If that doesn't work, send us an e-mail and we'll try to help you get signed up.

In the meantime, you can enter data via the new system if you want, but we'd appreciate if if you also entered data on the old system, just to make sure we don't lose anything. We welcome any suggestions you may have on how to improve the new site. Just drop us a message.

Training Sessions

If you are still waiting for a chance to attend a CoCoRaHS training session, several are being planned. Wednesday, Jan 26th from 3-5 PM, we'll be leading a comprehensive training session for new volunteers. We'll be meeting at the Weld County Fairgrounds, Island Grove Park in the Bunkhouse.

Beginning in February and continuing through the spring, we will be offering training sessions for new volunteers all over the place. We really need volunteers in rural Weld County, and it looks like the Future Farmers of America chapter in Grover will be hosting a session in February or March. We're still pretty spread out in Wyoming, but we do have trained individuals now in almost every county that can help new folks get started.

Kansas is starting

Kansas is preparing for their first mass recruiting efforts and training sessions. See the new website and click on "Kansas" to find out more. Be sure to tell your friends and relatives back east.

Hail Pads

Guess what—a truck pulled up this week and dropped off 36 large boxes filled with Styrofoam—hopefully enough foam to keep all of us supplied with good hail pads for the 2005 thunderstorms season. We may be needing some help making hail pads, so let us know if you would like to help. For sure, we will be organizing a few hail pad parties very soon.

Goodnight

We've had two days in a row with zero precipitation at every station in the region. That turns out to be an uncommon occurrence. So make the most of it, and remember—always keep your gauge level if you want your readings to be accurate.

Nolan Doesken

P.S. Ground Hog day is coming up soon. This is a good time to brush up on your weather folklore.