

# The Catch

## **STORM OVER—COCORAHS VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO HELP NASA**

FORT COLLINS, CO — Thursday, April 14, 2005

**CoCoRaHS notice** (read to end to see about NASA volunteer)

Here in Fort Collins, our roads never iced up and all snow was melted by Monday morning. Many other parts of CoCoRaHS territory had no snow at all. But the Denver area south to Colorado Springs and then south of Pueblo to Trinidad, you all had a fine April storm. I know our data reports were not all flawless, and there are some curious patterns on some of our maps. But considering the intensity of the snow and wind—in comparison to the dimensions of our CoCoRaHS precipitation gauge, I think you did a dandy job.

### **Training Sessions**

A lot of CoCoRaHS information meetings and training sessions are coming up. If you have not yet received your supplies or have not yet trained to become a CoCoRaHS weather observer, then please try to attend one of the upcoming sessions. Check the "Calendar" to get the latest information.

Also, this is a good time to help us fill some of the gaps on our maps. If you have friends or family who live in some of our data voids, encourage them to come.

Here are some of the upcoming sessions

Sat, April 16; 1-3 PM Smoky Hill Library in Centennial

Sun, April 17; 5-7 PM Courthouse Annex in Steamboat Springs

Tue, April 19; 10-noon Chamber of Commerce—Palisade, CO

Tue, April 19; 7-9 PM in Norwood, CO Lone Cone Building, 1120 Summit

Wed, April 20; 10-noon, Empire Electric Building in Cortez

Thu, April 21; 2-4PM Lamb Branch Library, Pueblo, CO

Sat, April 23; 11 AM NCAR Mesa Lab in Boulder, CO

Sat, April 23; 1-3 PM, Parker Library in Parker

We are also planning sessions for Chugwater, WY, May 4 at the Chugwater Community Center.

Sessions in Lusk, WY and Grover, CO are being scheduled

Sterling, CO 4-6 PM on May 17th at the Cooperative Extension Office

Hope to see you or some of your friends at one of these classes.

### **NASA teams up with CoCoRaHS —ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED ASAP!!!.**

Several years ago one of the space shuttles was damaged by a Florida hailstorm while sitting on the launch pad at the Kennedy Space Center. One of the project engineers has subsequently been testing a new sensor for detecting hail electronically. He has been in contact with CoCoRaHS and would like to test this new instrument here in Colorado.

We are looking for one volunteer to help with this investigation. Here are the requirements

- 1) Needs to live east of I-25 between Fort Lupton and Elizabeth
- 2) Needs to have a modest to large-sized yard with no major obstructions and one or two hail pads well mounted and in good locations at all times
- 3) Ideally is at home most afternoons during the spring and summer to manually report when hail begins and ends
- 4) Ideally has a digital camera for photographing hail
- 5) Would not mind having a small pyramid-shaped device in your yard
- 6) Has an electronic weather station continuously recording and archiving temperature, humidity, wind and also keeping track of rainfall rates.
- 7) Has an extra computer sitting around that is not currently being used

8) Would not mind having a 50-foot cable running across your yard from the hail device to the computer

9) Will be home on Tuesday, April 26th, 2005 to meet with John Lane from NASA and me to install and test the new device

I know this is a tough set of requirements, but if you qualify, please contact me as soon as possible at

nolan@atmos.colostate.edu or call 970 491-8545

Best wishes to all. And for all of you with arthritis pain—hang in there.

*Nolan*