

The Catch

COCORAHS UPDATE AND SATURDAY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FORT COLLINS, CO — Friday, April 22, 2005

CoCoRaHS

We've enjoyed a week of meeting with new CoCoRaHS volunteers and county coordinators in nearly every county of western Colorado. It is great to see snowcapped mountains, green valleys, and streams tumbling full with snowmelt runoff. Hopefully we will be seeing more data points on the barren maps of some of Colorado's western counties.

In the meantime, I really missed out on the storm action. Much of Wyoming received marvelous wet snow and cold rains at the time of year when it helps the forests and rangeland the most. NE Colorado also picked up a lot of moisture. When I arrived home, my son showed me the damaged hail pad from our own yard, and a nice bag of hail stones he collected from our Tuesday evening storm. Some stones here were an inch in diameter, but that was nothing compared to the stones that fell out north of Sterling and in a few other areas. Already, I've gotten several messages from volunteers apologizing for failing to have a hail pad out. Drat!

PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO HAVE YOUR HAIL PADS OUT AND READY. THIS IS THE TIME! Remember, if you are out of pads or don't know where to drop off your damaged hail pads, your CoCoRaHS county coordinator can help. (Contact info listed on the website for most counties except New Mexico). Also, your county Cooperative Extension Office or USDA Service Center, can probably help you.

Surge of new applications

The wild weather appears to have contributed to a huge surge in new applicants. I see at least 40 new applications in my inbox this AM—WOW! I sure hope we can keep up.

Training Sessions

There will be two CoCoRaHS informational and training sessions tomorrow (Saturday). At 11 AM, Matt Kelsch will be leading a session up at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Mesa Lab high atop Table Mesa in SW Boulder. It is worth going just for the view and the access to this remarkable research and educational facility.

The new CoCoRaHS t-shirts will be on display there and available for sale. This is a project fundraising effort that you will hear more about in the near future.

Then at 1 PM there will be a CoCoRaHS session at the Parker Library 10851 Crossroads Drive just NW of the corner of Parker Road and Main.

Gauges and extra hail pads will be available at both meetings.

Website

Many of you have made the transition to the new website. Thanks so much for making this effort. We still have some compatibility issues with some older web browsers and operating systems that we hope we can overcome soon. We will do our best. In the meantime, we will keep the old site

<http://old.cocorahs.org>

operating for data entry.

Thanks for all the comments and suggestions many of you have offered. I know this transition has been difficult for some of us, but we appreciate your patience and willingness to try something new.

Summer activities

In May, we will be posting a schedule of upcoming opportunities for CoCoRaHS participants including field trips and some special seminars.

Best wishes to all. Keep those weather observations coming. We are looking forward to getting more than 100 reports each day soon from Wyoming, Kansas and New Mexico, respectively -- and we're aiming for 1000 here in Colorado.

Nolan Doesken

Colorado State University and the CoCoRaHS Network

