

The Catch

COCORAHS KEEPS RAINING—AND RECRUITING—AND PICNICING

FORT COLLINS, CO — Wednesday, September 7, 2005

CoCoRaHS participants, friends and family:

Wow—nearly 4" of rain in parts of Las Cruces, NM last evening. The desert is damp! And nearly 40 CoCoRaHS volunteers, all quite new to the project, were there to report it. (Remember that entering "Intense Rain Reports" could be very valuable as they go directly to the appropriate local National Weather Service office and could help save lives!!!!)

Meanwhile, to the north over Wyoming September has been very dry so far.

Greeley CoCoRaHS Picnic

I know this notice is coming to you late, but if you are available, head over to Bittersweet Park in Greeley Friday afternoon (Sept 9) and you'll find a group of enthusiastic CoCoRaHS volunteers enjoying food and fellowship. Click "Calendar" on the menu on the left side of your screen and you can find the details. It's a potluck, so even though we'd like you to RSVP, if you bring some food I'm sure you'd be welcome.

Send in your comments

A very valuable part of your daily observation is your "Observation Notes". We strongly encourage your comments—brief or otherwise—to help describe the weather of the previous day and the details of the precipitation you may have experienced. And when ever your rainfall exceeds 0.99" we especially hope you type in some notes. It's really frustrating to see a report of a large amount of rain and then not be able to find out any details about the storm. Let us know when and how it fell and how long it lasted! Your notes become a part of our historical record—your chance to be a history maker.

Recruiting Contest

The recruiting contest only has a few weeks to go. So far, only a handful of individuals have recruited more than one new volunteer, so the competition is still wide open and the prizes (gift certificate, dinner with CoCoRaHS, engraved sandstone, ice cream sundae feast, Climate Atlas's, NOAA Weather Radios, and more) are still up for grabs. SO GO OUT AND RECRUIT SOME FINE NEW CoCoRAISINS.

Pennsylvania Joins CoCoRaHS

PA is the first state east of the Mississippi to join our network, and last night the first volunteer from PA signed up. We expect VA, MD and the District of Columbia to start within a month. So if you have friends or family back east, let them know that they can sign up soon.

Out West, our big impediment to accurate precipitation measurements is wind. But back east the problem is trees. It's going to be very interesting to see how many volunteers can find good open locations for their rain gauge.

Katrina

There is still a sense of disbelief that a disaster as bad as what has just occurred in Louisiana and Mississippi could actually occur in this country. But the reality is IT CAN. We know that at any time we could all be within just a few days of chaos. So be thankful for what we have, and share what we can. As we've said before, CoCoRaHS is fun and useful, but in the great scheme of things there are many more important things.

Continue to watch the skies. The next 5 weeks are ones where the western sky turns it's deepest blue, but at the same time hurricane remnants have periodically reached the southern and central Rockies and brought extensive flooding. It is unlikely, but it can happen. Be watchful.

Conclusion—and a Challenge

Best wishes. I keep hoping to see the day when 1500 CoCoRaHS volunteers all report the same day. Nearly that many of us (not counting Nebraska's NeRAIN volunteers and Colorado Springs' Rain Check volunteers) have reported on occasion this summer, but the most to report on any one day has been 1196 on July 26. So let's all work together and on September 20, rain or shine, let's all remember to report in and let's top 1500!!!!

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken