

## **GIVE THANKS—FOR SNOW**

FORT COLLINS, CO — Wednesday, November 23, 2005

### **A short message for once**

It is Thanksgiving Eve and I sense our local National Weather Service Forecast Office is getting excited. There is a storm showing up on the long range computer models and it could be a snowy end to the Thanksgiving weekend (Saturday night into Sunday) if things go as they are currently projected.

We still haven't had any measurable snowfall in most parts of Fort Collins and many areas of eastern Colorado. In fact, I just checked our official records and it's been 40 years since our first snow came this late (in 1965 it waited until Dec. 13). So, I reckon it's time. I better bring in my hail pad and make sure my snow measurement board is in position and my ruler is handy. Yikes, my funnel is still in my gauge, so I better get that out before Saturday.

While snow may be around the corner, we had a fabulous day today, and 5 of the last 6 days have been in the 60s for high temperatures. I couldn't resist any more, especially after seeing the forecast for a cold week ahead, so I took the day off and worked on some outdoor projects.

While the high temperature today was 63 F, it felt downright toasty with light winds and full sun.

### **Let's Give Thanks**

Thanksgiving is a great holiday—and I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all. I wish we could all have dinner together. That would be such a blast. It seems now that anywhere I go I find fellow CoCoRaHS precipitation reporters. I was in St. Louis for a weather conference in October and bumped into at least two fellow observers. At a recent meeting in California I saw two of you there. At the Colorado Science Convention last week I probably ran into at least 10 CoCoRaHS folks (and hopefully recruited a dozen more) —what fun and what great people you all are. I wonder how many CoCoRaisins were on airplanes today traveling to be with family. We're everywhere? And when I run into fellow CoCoRaHS folks, you seem to always be smiling. That warms my heart more than you will ever know.

I can't fully express my feelings when I get on the computer, click "CoCoRaHS" on my "favorites" list, and look at all the maps and reports. We are now getting

over 1000 precipitation reports almost every day (although it takes a few days for them to all trickle in) even at this time of year. I'm not sure what motivates you all to do this—it's sort of amazing to me. But I love it, and I appreciate you—as do many others.

I may be tempted to take it for granted now that I will always be able to click the mouse a time or two and immediately compare Evergreen precipitation with Conifer (Colorado), Casper with Glenrock (Wyoming) Minden with Holdrege (Nebraska) and west Albuquerque with east Albuquerque (New Mexico). We can see more details of precipitation more quickly than ever before. And we're relying on it. I had several hundred complete or nearly complete 2005 water year totals from CoCoRaHS volunteers and it was a huge and beneficial data resource to evaluate our current climate and water supply conditions (which, I am happy to report, have returned to near average precipitation and reservoir levels for much of Colorado). We don't yet have the large numbers of stations to do this in the new states that have joined recently, but that will come in time.

I know that some of you are dealing with pain, illness, and other trials. Some have lost love ones recently, some are lonely, and some may not feel very thankful or in the mood for celebration right now. Others have had a great year and are full of joy and gratitude, and you feel like celebrating. That's SUPER! But regardless, we're still here, still plugging along, and still puzzled and amazed at what the weather can throw at us.

So Happy Thanksgiving to the whole CoCoRaHS team. - - - - and GET READY FOR SNOW!!

*Nolan*