

# The Catch

## COCORAHS STORMY GOOD MORNING TO THE CENTRAL GREAT PLAINS

FORT COLLINS, CO — Wednesday, December 20, 2006

### **Storm alert:**

After a perfectly glorious sunny, calm winter day yesterday here in Northern Colorado, the "Winter Storm Warning" that the National Weather Service boldly issued and later changed to a "Blizzard Warning" seemed distant and unreal. At the same time, you who like to look at satellite images could see the swirl of clouds down over Arizona moving eastward. Then the large bands of freezing rain began spreading from Oklahoma to Nebraska as the day progressed with hundreds of miles of roads becoming treacherous.

Well, I stayed up late last night and it was still clear after midnight, but sometime early this AM I awoke to the sound of a very strong northerly wind whistling around our house. My wife, with her recently replaced right knee, got up first to let me know "*It's Snowing!*"

Well, it's now 7 AM and I need to go out and take my measurement. There is scarcely any snow on the ground or in the gauge, and it's all traveling swiftly **SIDEWAYS**. I guess that's what you folks on the Great Plains are accustomed to.

Anyway, as Christmas approaches, I just wanted to send you a morning greeting, a "Good luck" with your observation wish, and a friendly warning to be careful out there. Remember, if you have any questions about how to measure precipitation when it falls as snow, sleet or freezing rain—or if you have questions about core samples or how to measure wind blown snow—etc., etc. just let us know or please check out our written and video instructions. Measuring snow is **NOT EASY**, but many eyes are on our maps and reports on these winter mornings.

Those of you farther east are chuckling with the nice mild weather you are having—but just remember. You'll get yours eventually!

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