

The Catch

COCORAHS MILESTONE– NOT QUITE YET

FORT COLLINS, CO — Wednesday, June 3, 2009

CoCoRaHS rain gaugers

I have been getting many inquiries about whether we hit the 8,000 daily reports milestone on June 1 and 2. As of this moment, the answer is NO -- but we are so very close.

As of this moment, the count for Monday is 7961 -- 39 short. Reports continue to trickle in. I expect that enough people are still entering data from a few days ago that we will reach the mark. For June 2 we still are 500 reports short.

About Hail

It hasn't been a terribly bad year for hail so far, but there have been some interesting reports. Yesterday, an observer from Ohio sent me impressive photos of 2" diameter stones -- and that's big for Ohio.

As a reminder, if you have receive hail of any amount or size, please take a minute to submit a "Hail Report" using the Hail Report Form from the "Enter My New Reports" menu. You do not need to have a hail pad out in order to submit a hail report to CoCoRaHS. Hail pads are optional but they are excellent at allowing us to quantify with good accuracy the number, size and density of the stones that fall.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Admin/MyDataEntry/HailReport.aspx>

Enter the information that you know and leave the other columns on the form blank. If you know that it hailed, for example, but don't know when, then enter the date but not the time or duration

What date to put on the hail form?

Enter the date when the hail actually fell. If the storm occurred last night (Tuesday, June 2) at 10 PM and lasted for 7 minutes, Enter June 2 as the date -- not this morning's date.

Also, make sure you click the correct AM or PM button. We see quite a few reports that say AM when we think it should have been PM (since much more hail falls in the afternoon and evening than in the morning hours for most of the country.

If you have questions about hail, refer to our information on "Things to know about Hail" on the CoCoRaHS website.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=hail>

Big Thanks for Reporting!

Finally, I just wanted to thank everyone for making the effort to report your precip. this week. I realize that June 1 was not the most interesting day for many. Of the 7,961 reports received, about 5,300 were ZERO (0.00"). It is amazing to me -- and greatly appreciated -- that so many of you reported your zeros. Thanks!! Had it been a rainier day across the country I'm sure we would have passed the 8,000 mark -- but we may still as the late reports arrive.

Tropical season upon us

It is now the official hurricane season -- and in a few weeks the North American Monsoon wind/moisture pattern will kick in over the SW US. This is yet another reason that CoCoRaHS precipitation reports are useful, needed, and very interesting. But as for California, things get pretty boring this time of year. Do what you can to hang in there.

Hawaii

Hawaii is now officially a part of CoCoRaHS. We only have one volunteer signed up yet -- so spread the word. With the addition of Hawaii, we are beginning the transition that many of you have requested to having zoomable clickable Google-ish maps. We will add this feature to other states in the near future.

Best to all,

Nolan