

The Catch

COCORAHS - PHOTOS OF THE GIANT HAILSTONE

FORT COLLINS, CO — Saturday, July 31, 2010

Hi again and good morning:

I apologize for the frequent e-mails this week. However, we have had many, many requests for pictures and additional information about the new U.S. record hailstone that we helped transport yesterday.

Here are some links if you are interested.

1) An excellent storm summary assembled by the meteorologists at the National Weather Service office in Aberdeen, SD. They have had an amazing week dealing with this event and the resulting media interest from the area, the country and the world

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/abr/?n=stormdamagetemplate>

2) A South Dakota regional news story with a couple of good pictures. Note the mistake here. The headline says "World Record" but this is only a U.S. (and likely North American) record. Global climate statistics indicate that the global record hail stone weighed 2.25 pounds -- 5 ounces more than the recent Vivian, South Dakota stone.

<http://www.keloland.com/News/NewsDetail6371.cfm?Id=102949>

3) A photo summary from Henry's leg of the great hail stone relay where he met up with National Weather Service officials in Cheyenne, WY and drove the stone to the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado to deliver it to internationally-renowned hail expert Dr. Charles (Charlie) Knight. . Henry Reges is the CoCoRaHS national coordinator and author of most of the "Messages of the Day" you see when you submit your precipitation reports.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/regesphoto/>

4) Finally, as you might expect for these days and times, here is a YouTube video from yesterday

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxYC8QbqRx0>

What makes this story especially interesting to me is that this very same scientist also performed the analysis and made the mold of the long-standing previous record hail stone from Coffeyville, Kansas -- 1970.

Yesterday, one of our volunteers sent me a photo of the cover of the August 1971 issue of Weatherwise Magazine with a great photo of young boys holding stones from the famous Coffeyville, Kansas 1970 storm. My guess is the Vivian, SD stone will be showing up in Weatherwise very soon, too.

By the way, the next issue of Weatherwise due out in early September will have the 2010 weather photo contest winners and a story on "Deep Hail" that may be of interest. As magazine's go, Weatherwise is pricey but very, very good. They give a 20% discount to CoCoRaHS observers, so if you'd like to try it for awhile, here is some info

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

Finally, 34 years ago today was the catastrophic Big Thompson flood here in northern Colorado where over 140 people lost their lives in a single evening -- most along normally-beautiful U.S. 34 between Loveland and Estes Park (the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park). Upwards of 12 inches of rain fell that late afternoon and evening in a concentrated area. When I mentioned this event in a previous e-mail, I was amazed to hear back from a few people in various parts of the country who happened to be here in Colorado when that event occurred and were eyewitnesses in a variety of ways.

We never know where the next "extreme event" may occur but hopefully we'll be alert enough to take action when that time comes.

Thank you all for being a part of CoCoRaHS. We (and many others) greatly appreciate your daily precipitation reports. If and when the "heavy weather" comes to your neighborhood, please use the "Significant Weather Report" form to enter reports of heavy rain, heavy snow or other significant weather in progress.

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

CoCoRaHS is the most comprehensive data gathering system for hail information, so please use the "Hail Report" form to submit reports of hail when it occurs at your place -- even little stuff. You do not have to have a hail pad installed in order to report hail.

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

Have a fine Saturday.

Nolan