

The Catch

COCORAHS - LET'S TRY FOR 10,000

FORT COLLINS, CO — Monday, October 25, 2010

Rain gaugers:

October ends with lively weather

After weeks of mostly dry and dull weather, the country is now either receiving or forecast to receive stormy weather this week. Northern California and parts of Oregon were been doused with heavy rains this weekend. Now this large storm is headed inland and likely to produce heavy snow in the Rockies. Normally nice Sonoma County in California, where we have a great team of volunteers (adjacent to Napa county just north of San Francisco Bay), was walloped by up to 9" of rain yesterday and today -- quite the fast start to the new water year.

Thunderstorms are rumbling across the South, cold air is headed for the northern plains, and a hurricane is headed toward south Texas. High winds are predicted for many states. Put this all together, and this looks like a fine and interesting week to be a CoCoRaHS rain gauge reader.

Trying for 10,000

Starting tomorrow (Monday, October 25th) and for four days (through the 28th) we will strive to reach 10,000 daily precipitation reports each day. I hope you can help. Up until now, we've only surpassed 9,000 reports per day about a dozen times and we've never reached 10,000. Let's try before the cold of winter slows some of us down.

I encourage you to make a conscious effort, if you can, to check your rain gauge and send in your reports each day this week. If you've gotten out of the habit of reporting, please try again this week. If you are a regular reporter but don't report unless you have rain in your gauge, then please report this week even if you have 0.00". If you are a beginner and have

not yet started sending in daily precipitation reports, please try to start this week. And for the 8,000 of us that report almost every day -- thanks so much and please keep those rain gauge measurements coming.

If you would like to keep track of how many reports are coming in each day, here's how. Select "View Data" on the top menu bar of the CoCoRaHS webpage. Then select "Daily Precipitation Reports" from the list of options (it's right at the top of the list). Go to the line that says "Location" and click on the state. Go to the top of the state list and select "Select State" and you'll get the entire list of all daily reports for the country for whatever date you select. Click on the heading "Total Precip. In." and the computer will rank in order from highest to lowest or lowest to highest all the precipitation amounts for the day you selected. That's one of the ways I check every day to see who's getting the moisture and who's not. You can also use the "Rainy Days Report".

CoCoRaHS Family Connections

It is fun to see the many CoCoRaHS family connections that are developing. Nearly one in every four new volunteers signing up has been recruited by a family member nearby or across the country. Brothers and sisters who have migrated to far distant parts of the country are tracking each other's rainfall reports (my sister in Santa Clara County, CA and I are one of these CoCoRaHS family pairs). Parents and their adult children are comparing rainfall reports. As we all keep getting older, we're also seeing more and more grandparents encouraging and helping their grand children to become weather watchers and rainfall reporters. This is a trend I hope continues.

If you have relatives who just might be interested in helping CoCoRaHS, please let them know and encourage them to sign up. The upcoming holiday season is always a good time for this.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Application.aspx>

50 States Climates

We've been getting a lot of comments about our series of daily messages containing short descriptions of the climate of each of the 50 states. We're up to our sixth state now with only 44 to go. Monday is Idaho's turn. If you want to view this series of state climate descriptions or keep it as a reference, here is the link.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=50StatesClimates>

Last week of October

The three new geese that were "donated" to our little farm have not been accepted yet into the local flock. But each day they are allowed to get a little closer to our group of five. It will be interesting to see how long it will take to become one flock. Our chicken's egg production has really slowed now that the sun rises so late and sets early. I think it's time I set up a timer and some lights to encourage more enthusiastic egg laying.

Have a great week and get ready for a 'La Nina" winter. We'll report back next week on the results of our quest for 10,000 precipitation reports per day. Thanks for participating in CoCoRaHS.

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken
Colorado State University