

# The Catch

## COCORAHS - CALENDARS, FORECASTS AND VERY LOW PRESSURE

FORT COLLINS, CO — Sunday, October 31, 2010

Hello on this last weekend in October 2010

### **CoCoRaHS rain gauge calendars -- Hooray!**

This calendar was just a wild idea a few months ago and now it's reality. The first-ever CoCoRaHS rain gauge calendar is printed and ready for distribution. The calendar features 48 awesome photographs of CoCoRaHS rain gauges in action selected from over 500 photos that were submitted to us by your fellow CoCoRaHS observers.

You can now order the "CoCoRaHS 2011 Rain Gauge Calendar" from "WeatherYourWay.com". Just click on the banner at the top of our homepage ([www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)) or paste this link in your browser:

<http://www.weatheryourway.com/cocorahs/cal2011coco.htm>"

Calendar orders will begin shipping on November 9th. If you are interested in this unique calendar, we hope you order early (and often :-)). That way we'll have time to make sure we've printed enough.

This is a high-quality calendar produced by BrownTrout Publishing, a well known worldwide leader in photographic and fine art calendars for over 25 years. We are thrilled that they loved our project and offered to help. I think you'll enjoy having one and showing it off to your weather-loving friends. Actually, anyone can order one -- not just CoCoRaHS volunteers. So spread the word.

## **10,000 precipitation reports per day? -- Maybe not yet**

We will fall short in our (my) goal of achieving 10,000 CoCoRaHS daily precipitation reports for Monday through Thursday of this past week but we gave a good try. As I write this message the counts are as follows

Mon. Oct 25:	8,754
Tues. Oct 26:	8,700
Wed. Oct 27:	8,254
Thurs. Oct 28:	7,723

The weather cooperated with widespread precipitation across the country early in the week. This motivated many trips outside to check our CoCoRaHS rain gauges. In fact, on Tuesday nearly 5,300 of us reported measurable precipitation on the same day -- and another 550 of us reported trace amounts. The average is closer to 2,500 measurable report so this was a very wet day nationally. We've only had a handful of days where so many of us had precipitation to report on the same day.

Over the next couple of weeks I expect that several hundred more of us will have time to go back and enter our reports. Tuesday (Oct 26th) will likely end up being our biggest day -- probably around 9,300 reports. That's great! Thanks so much for helping -- especially for the several hundred of you who either just got started reporting for the first time or went back out to dust off your gauge to start again. Your efforts are indeed appreciated.

### **Reporting late**

Remember, you can always go back and enter precipitation amounts from previous days. Use the up or down arrows of the "date picker" to select the date, or just type in the correct date in the date field for each report. (a few of you have browsers that aren't compatible so this may not work for everyone). Hit "Submit" when you have completed your entry and then wait for the confirmation message that lets you know your report has been archived.

### **Entering Zero**

Yes, and if you have time please send in your reports of NO precipitation -- 0.00' Zeros may not be very exciting, but they are important. For those of you who are new to CoCoRaHS data reporting, the "Monthly

Zeros" report form makes it easy to fill in all the days when no precipitation fell. Give it a try.

### **What a storm!**

This was a wild week in the world of weather watching as one of the deepest low pressure areas ever documented over the continental U.S. crossed the country. New records for low pressure were set in Minnesota and Wisconsin and strong winds howled for several days from the northern Rockies all the way to the Appalachians.

Here is an interesting write-up on this recent storm and the extreme low barometric pressure assembled by one National Weather Service office that was near the center of the storm

[http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/?n=101026\\_extratropicalow](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/?n=101026_extratropicalow)

### **The Winter Forecast**

Will we be seeing more storms like this? Last time I wrote I mentioned the word "La Nina" and many of you wrote back to ask what that might mean for this coming winter. Well, here's what the folks at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center think. With a strong La Nina in place, it looks like winter may be cool and wet for the Pacific Northwest, warm for Texas and most of the southern states, wet for the Ohio Valley, and dry for the Southwest, Florida and the Southeast. Some forecasters also anticipate a windy winter for the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains.

Here are a couple of links you can go to if you want more information.

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101021\\_winteroutlook.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101021_winteroutlook.html)

So let's see how this winter plays out and if these forecasts are on the mark.

## **2010 Water Year Summaries**

It's almost November already. We'll be rerunning and posting new and revised water year summaries for every CoCoRaHS station early this week. Thanks to all of you who looked at the first draft of the summary for your station and then checked and updated your data to make sure it was as complete as possible. This is really a big help. After the new updated summaries are completed, we will get to work compiling a national summary with all the highlights (drys and wets) of the year.

To access the summary for your station, just click "My Account" on the top menu of the CoCoRaHS webpage and you'll see the notification with the link to your station summary. Remember, CoCoRaHS uses the October 1 – Sept. 30 definition of the "Water Year".

### **Tomato finale**

When the winds finally died down this week our temperatures plummeted and we had our first hard freeze of the year with a low of about 20F Thursday AM. I did my traditional midnight tomato picking to find all the last remaining tomatoes before they froze solid. I don't know why I always put it off like that but it's become an autumn tradition in our garden -- midnight subfreezing headlamp tomato picking -- very odd.

The leaves on our ash trees hung in there even during the 50 mph winds, but once the temperature dipped into the 20s then all the leaves dropped straight down within a matter of just a few hours. Funny how that works. Nature is amazing.

### **Best wishes**

November isn't always the easiest month to enjoy -- with frequent cloudy and progressively colder weather across the country -- and a lot of darkness as the daylight keeps getting shorter. But make the best of it. Keep your CoCoRaHS reports coming, and practice up on measuring snow.

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken  
Colorado State University