

The Catch

COCORAHS -- PREPARE FOR STORMS -- ECLIPSE

FORT COLLINS, CO — Sunday, December 19, 2010

CoCo Rain gauge folks

California

Forecasters are watching a series of warm, wet Pacific storms heading into California and then on into the Central and Northern Rockies. Large rainfall totals are possible in CA over the next few days. Today (Saturday) 340 California CoCoRaHS precipitation reports were submitted. Already there were many reports of over 2" of rain. Much more is possible in the coming days and some areas may experience flooding. This is our chance to collectively really make a difference as we contribute to better weather and streamflow prediction and storm documentation. Let's hope for 500 reports each day in CA for the next several days to help document this impressive storm. Also remember to submit "Significant Weather Reports" any time of the day or night to report heavy precipitation, flooding, heavy snow, or other current weather of local significance.

Albuquerque?

Wait long enough and we all seem to get our chance to be the wettest part of the country. Yesterday it was the Albuquerque, NM area where cold rain and wet snow fell adding up to nearly 2" of water content. We received some photos of conglomerate snow flakes bigger than golf balls tumbling down. Beautiful!

Upstate New York?

Wow! I ran a quick "Total Precipitation Report" and found that several CoCoRaHS stations in New York state have received over 60" of snowfall since December 1 and a couple places had over 80". We can thank Lake Ontario and Lake Erie for sharing their moisture to help make some of these near record early winter snowfall totals possible. And thanks to you adventurous winter weather watchers for measuring it.

Central Illinois

My home county (Champaign County) is still blanketed by several inches of snow as are other parts of the Midwest. Snow cover has persisted now for 2 weeks straight. At least another week of cold and potentially snowy weather ahead. Kind of makes me wish I was a grade school paper boy again. Tips and Christmas presents were always good when the ground was snow covered.

Florida and surrounds

It looks like you survived another arctic onslaught this week. Parts of Florida and the Southeast have been really this fall and winter <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>. Remember, if you are experiencing drought and its impacts, please submit CoCoRaHS "Drought Impact Reports" when conditions warrant.

Calendars

Thanks to all of you who have purchased our first-ever CoCoRaHS rain gauge calendar. I know it doesn't sound like much -- maybe even a bit hokey -- but this is a really fine calendar -- top notch. It contains 48 fabulous photos of our CoCoRaHS rain gauges in action taken by fellow CoCoRaHS volunteers across the country. Quite frankly, it's spectacular. It's not too late to order, and proceeds will help our network. Go to the CoCoRaHS homepage and you'll see the link to the calendar

<http://www.cocorahs.org>

End of Year Fundraiser

The generosity of more than 2,000 CoCoRaHS volunteers and sponsors helped keep CoCoRaHS rolling through some lean times this year. I can't thank you enough for your help. We'll have our "Five For CoCoRaHS" banner posted through January 3rd if you would like to support the CoCoRaHS cause.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=2010yearend>

Brown and Dusty

Storms are still skipping us in Northern Colorado this winter. Our horse corral is bare and dusty. Our Great Pyrenees are wishing for snow, but our chickens and barnyard cats aren't complaining at all and neither are travelers as highway driving conditions here east of the Rockies will be good for the days leading up to Christmas. Many of you will be traveling, this next week so please drive safely and have a wonderful time with family and friends. Share a few CoCoRaHS stories while you're at it and maybe we'll recruit a few more volunteers. :-)

Turning the corner

Hard to believe but we've almost reached the winter solstice. This year we have a special treat -- a total lunar eclipse tomorrow night (Monday, Dec 21, 2010)

http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2010/17dec_solsticeeclipse/

The current forecast is for cloudy skies here and over much of the western U.S. but maybe the forecast will be wrong for at least a few hours. Please go out and enjoy this phenomenon. From here on out, the days (daylight hours) will be getting longer again.

Thank you so much for your interest and participation in CoCoRaHS. Do your best to have a good week at this festive, special but often stressful time of year.

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