

# The Catch

## COCORAHS -- STARTING AND FINISHING

Fort Collins, CO —Saturday, January 12, 2013

Good morning,

We're starting a new year already but still wrapping up what we started last year. It's a cold one here this morning in northern Colorado -- +2F with an inch of new snow on the ground. I can't wait to go out and fetch my gauge and see how much water is in this snow. And it will be a perfect day for a football game :- ) as the Broncos will be playing later this afternoon. From here on, mornings will be getting brighter as we're already 3 weeks past the winter solstice.

On mornings like this I'm sort of amazed to see CoCoRaHS reports rolling in -- even from the frigid parts of the U.S. as well as Manitoba, Canada where a blizzard has just blasted you and subzero temperatures now abound. It's not that easy doing winter measurements in the cold, dark, snow and wind. Thanks to all of you cold weather friends for sticking with us. I am most grateful.

### **"Five for CoCoRaHS" -- Grand Finale -- Help appreciated**

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=2012yearend>

Our annual CoCoRaHS fundraiser concludes on Tuesday (January 15th). I am delighted to report that as of this morning we've received hundreds and hundreds of donations totaling nearly \$33,000. This really makes a huge difference. For example, our new snow training materials and the neat "Water Cycle" video we made this year were totally funded by last year's donations. Here's the links if you haven't viewed these already.

<http://www.youtube.com/cocorahs/>

If you appreciate what CoCoRaHS is all about, and if you feel OK sparing a few dollars, we'll put it to very good use teaching and learning about

precipitation. We also have a unique set of new CoCoRaHS shirts (one for rain, one for snow and one for hail) as a "thank you" for contributions of \$50 or more.

With a strong finish between now and Tuesday, let's see if we can reach \$40,000.

Again, here's the link:

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=2012yearend>

If you don't like doing online credit/debit card transactions, checks sent in by mail are great too. Click on the link above and then select one of the giving levels. Instructions appear at the bottom of the form on where to send in the check. Or just drop me a line and I'll send you the mailing address.

### **"WeatherTalk Webinars"**

We've now been producing monthly "WeatherTalk Webinars" for over a year. These are online seminars given by renowned weather experts sharing their passion and expertise with us CoCoRaisins. Topics so far have ranged from Northern Lights and heavy rains, to lightning, snow and clouds. One of our presenters had such a good time he even broke into song. We have a whole line up set now for the next year, too.

We realize that our daytime webinar schedules don't work for everyone. Therefore we archive every webinar and make them available for viewing at your leisure. You'll need a fairly high speed connection, so if you can't view them from home you should be able to catch them at your library, etc.

Here is the link for viewing past webinars:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDDC91E3A979406CE>

### **El Nino and Climate Variability**

Our next WeatherTalk presentation is coming up very soon.

Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup>

1 PM Eastern time, noon Central, 11 AM Mountain time and 10 AM Pacific

Expert: Gerry Bell from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

We get so many questions here about how El Nino and related large-scale climate factors impact our local climate, and why conditions vary so much from one year to the next. Gerry will provide some great insights and explanations. Please sign up here:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/704362414>

### **CoCoRaHS Participant Survey**

That's next on our "to do" list. Expect to hear from me in a few days with instructions on how to take the 2013 CoCoRaHS survey. That will help us in many ways.

### **Austin -- AMS**

We just got back from the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Austin, TX with nearly 3,000 atmospheric scientists from the U.S. and abroad. It's not just amateurs doing CoCoRaHS. I bet we ran into 100 or more CoCoRaHS volunteers from across the country. We even set up a gauge outside the Austin Convention Center and nearby on the roof of one of the hotels. Our new AMS president, Marshall Shepherd from the University of Georgia, is a CoCoRaHS participant and utilizes CoCoRaHS in some of his research.

The highlight for the CoCoRaHS team was "WeatherFest." At least 15 volunteers from the Austin area enjoyed an afternoon of weather displays, conversations with their favorite TV meteorologists and even live weather music performed by Nick from the Weather Channel. For those of you who stopped by or helped us out, THANKS! I even got to spend an evening with a local CoCoRaHS family eating Texas chili and telling rain gauge stories. And then came the rain -- 2" - 4" in Travis County during the convention and some much appreciated thunder.

### **Puppies**

No, there not ours. But we do have a friend staying with us who helps with chores while we're out of town. Her sweet little Australian shepherd gave birth to 7 healthy "austrodoodles" (not sure that's the right name -- cross between Aussie and standard poodle) up in the upstairs bedroom closet on Christmas Eve. They are cuter than cute, but getting louder by the day as their eyes have just opened and they are starting to crawl around. I think they are all spoken for, but the next few weeks will get

very interesting around here. Our dogs have been quite "concerned" about the odd sounds coming from the upstairs. We ended up installing two sets of baby gates just to make sure.

### **Appreciation**

Again, thanks for helping in our ongoing efforts to measure and track the amazing variations in precipitation. If you have any questions or need any help, just let us know.

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken  
Colorado State University