

The Catch

COCORAHS -- IMPORTANT REMINDERS

FORT COLLINS, CO — Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Good morning.

Here are some important CoCoRaHS announcements and reminders to pass along. I'll be sending another message shortly with additional news, stories and updates, but I just wanted to make sure you got this first.

1) This Thursday (April 12) CoCoRaHS is sponsoring a special Webinar on Flash Flood awareness. At one time or another, every part of the U.S. can experience flash flooding. Every year, millions of dollars of damage occur and people have frightening experiences (and some lose their lives) when they are caught in flash floods. CoCoRaHS was really started because of a catastrophic flash flood right here in our own city (Fort Collins, Colorado) literally in my own back yard.

Meteorologist Matt Kelsch, a long-time CoCoRaHS volunteer leader as well as a renowned expert on flash floods, will be our special guest. The webinar will be this Thursday at 11 AM Mountain Daylight time (1 PM Eastern, noon Central and 10 AM Pacific). Here is the link to register.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/428287734>

If you are not available at that time, the entire webinar will be archived for later viewing (as well as our many other webinars and training resources) at <http://www.youtube.com/cocorahs/> . I hope you can join us for this very important awareness training.

2). Monday, April 16 at 6:30 PM Mountain time (8:30 PM Eastern, 7:30 Central, 5:30 PM Pacific, and earlier in AK and HI). Zach Schwalbe from the CoCoRaHS staff will be giving a much-requested presentation on "How to use the CoCoRaHS website!"

We get questions every week -- how to edit typos in daily precipitation

reports, how to fill in missing data, how to find hail reports, how to find Alaska snowfall maps, etc. etc. -- you name it. Zach will demonstrate many features of the CoCoRaHS website and how to use it. If you are new to CoCoRaHS or just want to get better at using the website, please consider joining us. I hope this evening webinar time works for you. To register, please go to:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/832871798>

3) Other upcoming events

For a schedule of upcoming webinars this summer and fall (lightning, hurricanes, extreme rainfall, wildfire, aurora borealis and more plus a special feature on "How to Become a Meteorologist", check out our WxTalk Webinar webpage at:

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

4) IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT!!

Nearly all of us in CoCoRaHS are familiar with and have used the "Daily Precipitation Report Form". That form is the one that automatically appears when you log in and when you click on "My Data". But did you know there are several other forms you can fill out in special situations? Just look over on the left hand side of the page and you will see "Enter My New Reports". There is a list including:

- Hail
- Significant Weather
- Multi-Day Accumulation
- Monthly Zeros
- Drought Impact Report

If you have hail of any size or amount, please use the "Hail" report to send in this information as soon as you safely can during or after a hail event. The information immediately shows up on the CoCoRaHS hail maps <http://www.cocorahs.org/Maps/ViewMap.aspx?state=usa>

But even more importantly, the data are immediately sent to your local National Weather Service office to help provide early warning of severe or significant weather. The next time you experience hail at your location, please remember to use the hail report. If you are also a NWS Severe Weather Spotter, use their reporting criteria first, but then use the CoCoRaHS report form for the additional detail. There is no other similar

reporting system in the country for documenting stone size, color, hardness etc. -- and this is very important information especially with the new Dual Polarization radar system being deployed by the National Weather Service now to help distinguish rain from hail.

If you experience heavy rain (or snow) in progress or just ended, or if you experience any other conditions that you feel would be important for your local weather forecasters to know then please use the "Significant Weather Report" form. Again, this information goes directly to your local National Weather Service. Many people ask "how do I know what is considered "significant"? What constitutes "heavy rain"? That varies a lot from place to place in the country. In Oregon and Washington 0.30" or more in an hour constitutes very heavy rain while in Florida and the Gulf Coast folks may not get excited until the rainfall rate is 1 or 2" per hour. But if YOU think the weather you are experiencing is significant, then please report it.

Please familiarize yourself with these options (including Drought Impact Reports) and please make use of these features when you can.

Also, be on the lookout for a new reporting option coming soon (Evapotranspiration) that we will be using to help track the water balance across the country.

Forgot your CoCoRaHS Login??

If you have forgotten how to log in or if your login no longer works, please contact us at info@cocorahs.org . Also, you can just click on "Log in" and use the "Find My Login" information to help yourself.

Thanks, Thanks and Thanks!

I cannot tell you enough how helpful your precipitation reports are (and have been) -- to climatologists, to meteorologists, to agronomists, to entomologists, to hydrologists, to emergency managers, to dam safety engineers -- etc., etc., etc. Thank you for being a part of CoCoRaHS. Continue to spread the word to other potential volunteers so we can fill in the reporting gaps across the country.

Have a fine spring day.

Nolan Doesken
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