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# The Catch



NOLAN DOESKEN'S BI-MONTHLY COCORAHS E-MAIL MESSAGE

**November 1, 2013**

Dear CoCoRaHSters:

Greetings, and thanks again for helping measure and track precipitation across our large and wonderful land. For everyone who is new to this project (the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network), welcome aboard.

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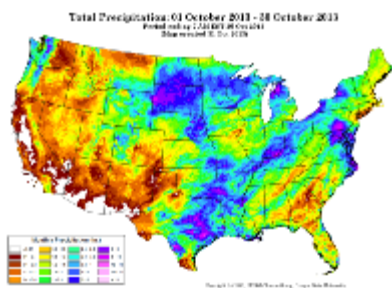
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## **Color Contour Maps**

Many of you have asked (for years) if we could make color contour maps of our daily precipitation reports. That would be great to do but we just don't have the density of observers in many parts of the country to be able to accurately interpolate between stations with the skills and tools that we have.



But there is good news -- really good news!

Beginning just a few days ago, our colleagues at Oregon State University (who built the CoCoRaHS PRISM Climate Portal that is so amazing), utilizing our CoCoRaHS data combined with all National Weather Service networks (airports and volunteers), NWS radar products and several other observing networks, have begun to produce daily contour maps of U.S. precipitation. This is a dream come true for climatologists and many others.

[Click here to access the page](#)

These maps are incredible. Each day is like a new work of art. But they are only as good as the data we send them. The more rainfall reports, the better these maps will be. So please know, each and every time you send in your precipitation report, you are helping create these amazing maps. Congratulations!

### **Still Recovering in Colorado**

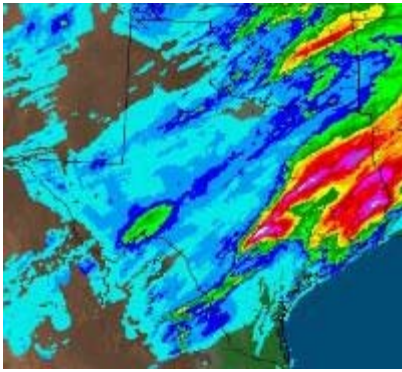
Our flood here in Colorado from back in September has receded and is slowly migrating from being a "current event" to being "history", but it will have long lasting impacts. There are still ponds and bubbling springs in the Front Range foothills that haven't been seen for decades.

One by one, major highways are being repaired and reopened, and some level of normalcy has been reestablished. It's still hard to believe that 15" to 19" of rain fell during this storm system just within the city limits of Boulder, Colorado -- pretty much a year's worth of rain concentrated into one week. No wonder flooding was so bad.

We continue to compile and check data and hunt down additional eye witness reports to fill in gaps. If any of you just happen to have friends or relatives that live near Glen Haven, Colorado -- please check with them and see if they happened to measure the rainfall. That area is one of the data voids we're still trying to fill. We'll be completing a comprehensive storm rainfall report in the coming weeks.

### **Texas**

After some lulls in the action, recent heavy rains have taken aim on Texas. Yesterday (Thursday, October 31) about 20 of us in south central Texas woke up to rain gauges full to the brim (11" or more). Dozens more totaled more than 8", most of that falling overnight. That's quite a Halloween "trick". When rains come overnight like that and with so much



lightning and thunder, it was impossible for most observers to get out and keep their gauge from overflowing.

In all, there were at least 700 CoCoRaHS volunteers who measured at least 2" of rain yesterday morning all oriented in a line from south Texas up to Lower Michigan. That's a lot of rain measurement!

### **First Snow**

Since I last wrote, quite a few folks in the middle of the country have also seen their first snowflakes. Thanks for the pictures that some of you sent of gorgeous giant snowflakes. We got our second snow of the season yesterday AM -- along with lightning and thunder. I managed to sleep right through it -- very embarrassing.

### **Charlevoix**

That's a beautiful area of NW Lower Michigan, but it's been mighty gray and damp recently. Looks like almost 9" of rain in the past month including another inch or more this morning. Hang in there.

### **Our Zero Heroes**

And for all the talk of heavy rains, there are a remarkable number of us who day after day find nothing in our rain gauges. We've had several examples of stretches of 120 days or more in CA, AZ and NV with nothing to report, and yet some of you keep sending in reports. Bless you!!! Those "zeros" are important and we appreciate it.

### **Canada**

Numbers of CoCoRaHS volunteers in Canada are growing steadily. Just click on the [CoCoRaHS maps north of the border](#) and go exploring. Reports are coming in now all the way from Newfoundland up to Lac Ile-a-la-Crosse in central Saskatchewan. What a great way to learn more geography!

### **Last Call for Data Reviews Prior to Final WY 2013 Processing**

Thanks to so many of you for checking back over your data and filling in gaps and fixing errors. We're going to wait one more week and then we will rerun all the Water Year Summary Reports for 2013 so if you haven't [checked over your data](#) yet, this is the time.

It is fantastic to see that several thousand of us have complete records for the entire year. That is amazing.

### **Learn About Cloud Seeding**

For two years now, we've been hosting monthly online seminars (webinars) on important weather and climate topics. Our next webinar is coming up soon on Wednesday, November 6. The topic is Cloud Seeding (or "advertent weather modification"). Since World War II scientists have been legitimately exploring ways to clear fog from airports, increase precipitation in water-short areas and suppress hail to increase crop yields. Please join us for what is sure to be a fascinating talk given by Bart Geerts of the University of Wyoming. [Click here to register.](#)

### **Weather Highlights Webinar**

Looking ahead, we will also be hosting a special webinar on Thursday, November 14th, 2013 at 1PM Eastern, 10AM Pacific and the subject will be: "A Review of Significant Weather Events Occurring in 2013"

Our guest expert will be Greg Carbin, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at NOAA's Storm Prediction Center located in Norman, Oklahoma. I hope you can join us then, too. [Click here to register.](#)

### **Social Media**

There is more to CoCoRaHS than just our rain and snow reports on the cocorahs.org website. If you are not already following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), you may enjoy seeing some of the photos, facts and fun we have on these popular social media networks. We also have a [YouTube channel](#) with lots of great videos and animations, not to mention our entire [archive of WxTalk Webinars](#). The [CoCoRaHS blog](#) is also a fantastic page to bookmark!

### **A Very Little Horse**

All is well here on our little farm on the outskirts of Fort Collins. We still have a little grass growing in the pasture (thanks to our incredible fall rains). Egg production is way down now that day-length is shrinking so fast (believe it or not, only 7 1/2 weeks now until the winter solstice). Our daughter and grandson (almost 3 years old now) have been visiting us. When they arrived our little Grandson was desperately afraid of our dogs, the geese, the roosters and certainly the horses. But as he's helped "Grandpa" with the chores each day, now boldly bosses the geese, directs the chickens (and loves gathering eggs), hugs the dogs and has even enjoyed his first horseback ride. When it came time to selecting a costume for his first U.S. Halloween, he chose to be "Bela" (that's our small two-year-old horse". Mother and Grandma found the perfect fabric to match the horse and sewed up a perfect custom equipped with a braided mane and tail. He's worn the custom now for two straight days. We'll see what day three brings.

### **Thanks Again**

Again, I so appreciate your interest and involvement in CoCoRaHS. Even if you're not yet (or no longer) reading your rain gauge, we're happy that you're a part of the group.

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken  
Colorado State University

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