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The Catch



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

COCORAHS -- RAINS, RACCOONS AND ROOSTERS

FORT COLLINS, CO -- November 13, 2013

CoCoRaHS greetings,

It's a cold morning across much of the country today -- a nippy 16F back in my home county in east central Illinois, for example. Like it or not, we're well on our way towards winter now. We'll all have to deal with it -- or head south.

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[Thank You!](#)

Hawaiian Rains



While it's been a relatively dry week for most of the mainland, that's not been the case for Hawaii (Yes, we have CoCoRaHS rain gauges there, too). Two of our volunteers on the big Island (Hawaii) woke up to find more than 8" in their gauge Monday morning. Rain is no stranger to this part of Hawaii, though. HI-HI-14 is now up to 135.67" of rain since January 1. And this is dry compared to last year when they had already received over 150" by this date. Thanks all you

Hawaii observers -- and keep recruiting your friends and neighbors.

Special Webinar Tomorrow

Tomorrow (Thursday, November 14) at 11 AM Mountain time (that is 1 PM Eastern, Noon Central and 10 AM Pacific) we are hosting a special webinar entitled "A Review of Significant Weather Events Occurring in 2013". The presenter is Greg Carbin, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at [NOAA's Storm Prediction Center](#) located in Norman, Oklahoma. Each year Greg is invited to give an annual weather review at the annual meeting of the National Weather Association. It is a fantastic that he offered to do this for us, too.

If you're interested and can fit this into your schedule, [please click here to register](#). Otherwise, it will be recorded for later viewing on the CoCoRaHS YouTube Channel. [Click here to view any of our past webinars](#).

Snow -- Make Sure You're Ready



Snow was widespread yesterday -- first snow of the year for many of us. Well over 1000 reports of fresh snowfall were reported. Stevensville, Michigan took the prize for heaviest snowfall with 11" at a couple of CoCoRaHS stations near there (good job!).

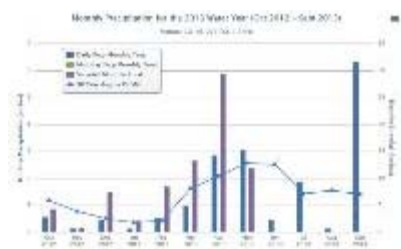
Most of you handled this first snow well -- remembering to report the water content, the accumulation of new snow and the total depth of snow on the ground (a subtle but important difference). But others weren't quite ready yet and decided not to report.

Measuring snow is not hard, but neither is it easy. It can blow and drift, stick to your gauge, melt, settle and even avoid your gauge (dry, windblown snow is deflected around gauge receptacles). It takes some discipline and practice to get good at measuring snow.

In past years [I've written long step-by-step instructions](#) on how to take accurate measurements. But with each passing year, fewer and fewer people take the time to read detailed instructions. But we have alternatives. I've mentioned them before, but I'll do it again -- Please take a look at our [Snow Measuring Instructional Videos](#). These short animations were developed to be both fun and instructive.

Finally, keep in mind that winter measurements mean that it could be cold, slippery and even dark when you go out to take measurements in the morning. We're not all as young and agile as we once were. Even though our measurements are important, it is not worth risking slipping and falling. Feel free to take some time off from CoCoRaHS during the cold, dark and icy days of winter, and then start up again next spring.

Water Year 2013 Summary Reports



The last few changes are being made now (thanks for checking over your data). We will rerun all the data on November 20th and the final summaries for the 2013 Water Year will be posted. [Click here to view the data.](#)

PRISM Maps

Last time I wrote, we mentioned the [fantastic new daily precipitation maps](#) that make use of CoCoRaHS rainfall data. We just found out that our collaborators at Oregon State University have recently gone back and regenerated monthly precipitation maps for past years and now incorporate all available CoCoRaHS data from the past, too. These PRISM climate maps are used widely by scientists across the world, so it is fantastic that our data are included in this product. Thank you all for being a part of this important accomplishment.

Dog Meets Raccoon -- Raccoon Wins

Our dogs woke us up at about 4 AM one morning last week -- and convinced us with their whining that they just couldn't hold it much longer. But alas, what was bothering them was the sounds of some curious (and likely hungry) raccoons looking for spilled pet food. This has happened before and usually the raccoons sneak away quickly. Somehow, Terra, the larger (and normally slower) of our two Aussies ended up nose to nose with a raccoon that would not back down. Our other Aussie circled behind and grabbed the raccoon by the tail. A commotion ensued, and soon the barking and screeching was waking the whole neighborhood. I was the first one outside to try to break it up, but I stopped to put on boots and gloves. Meanwhile, my wife and daughter got there first-- barefoot despite 25 F temperatures - to try to separate the animals. The raccoon latched onto Terra's ear, and our smaller dog (Lily) was latched onto the tail of the raccoon. It probably only lasted 30 seconds but it seemed like an eternity. When we did get the animals separated -- without us getting injured -- everyone seemed to have survived OK until we noticed the trail of blood. Terra's ear was neatly pierced and bleeding profusely. It took ice packs and towels -- and then a trip to the vets for both dogs. But all is well. And amazingly, the next night the raccoon was back. But we're not letting the dogs talk us into letting them out again until at least sunrise.

Meat in the Freezer

We now have a much quieter chicken coop and a freezer full of re-purposed roosters. We kept our handsome but very gentle older rooster just to keep some order.

Thankful For All of You

Just wanted to let you all know how much I appreciate this opportunity to work with all of you. We have an incredible community of rain gauge volunteers, and together we're making a difference. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken
Colorado State University

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