

# The Catch



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

## CoCoRaHS -- Volunteer Stats, Measuring Madness and A Final Fundraising Update

FORT COLLINS, CO -- January 13, 2014

Greetings,

We've received questions lately about how many people are really involved with CoCoRaHS. As you know, we are very much "grass roots" -- a community of all ages and backgrounds covering over 80% of the counties of the U.S. (and hoping for 100% soon). Here are some fun stats we've put together:

- 356 volunteer State/Regional/County Coordinators -- these are team leaders who are helping to recruit, train and engage volunteers at the state and local level all across the country.
- 19,000 volunteers who have sent in at least one daily precipitation report in the past year
- More than 14,000 are regular reporters -- at least on days when it rains

Then we have another 10,000 or so who have been involved in the past and are still interested but not currently reporting, or who have registered and are thinking about getting started with rain gauge reports in the near future. Believe it or not, we have an additional 10,000 - 15,000 who signed up and never got started or who have lost interest or lost contact or are no longer alive (we learn quickly the realities of actuarial tables). In recent years, we've been adding a few thousand new participants each year, but much of these are needed just to keep up with attrition - and that's why we always need to keep on recruiting new rain gaugers! :)

Add up these numbers and we find that our community of rain gauge volunteers is close to 30,000 people with another 15,000 alumni -- essentially a modest sized city of weather enthusiasts, if we happened to all be in the same place at the same time.

## Measuring Madness - Special Training Webinar! - Tuesday, January 21st (8PM Eastern/5PM Pacific)

A common question comes up, "What should I do if it's pouring rain/lightning and thundering/squalling/blizzarding or otherwise storming badly right at my scheduled observation time?". From a scientific point of view it's best if we all take our observations at the exact same time, but the fact of the matter is that's not always possible or appropriate, and there are always exceptions. So, what should we do if it's too nasty to go outside at our observation time?

We are scheduling a special webinar to answer that question and some of the other very common observation questions. [Click here to register for this special webinar.](#)

Also don't forget, our normally scheduled WxTalk Webinar is still set for this Thursday (Jan 16th) 11:00 AM MST. Greg Story with the National Weather Service will be presenting about how River Forecast Centers measure parts of the hydrologic cycle, and how CoCoRaHS data fit in. [Click here to register for the WxTalk Webinar.](#)

## Final Fundraiser Update



Our fundraiser wraps up on Wednesday (January 15th). Our expectation is that for most of us, the donation of time to check and report our rain gauge readings and sharing our personal interest in weather and water is already a generous and sufficient gift to CoCoRaHS. But some of us have a strong desire to be even more invested and to try to make sure that CoCoRaHS is strong, active and improving now and for years to come. As the federal grants that helped us launch to become a nationwide program are phased out, donations are becoming a bigger and

bigger portion of our budget.

We set a goal for 5,000 small donations this year -- something around 12% - 18% of us. Well, we're not there yet -- but we're getting closer. As of this morning, we've received nearly 2000 contributions. While the majority of the gifts have been in the \$5 - \$15 range, many have decided to help more. In fact (perhaps encouraged by the unique CoCoRaHS T-shirt opportunity :-)) we've received over 200 contributions ranging from \$50 to \$500. As a result, we are quickly closing in on \$50,000 in donations. This generosity is just fantastic! Thank you very, very much!!

If you've been thinking about helping out with a donation this year, there is still time. The campaign (with the CoCoRaHS thunderstorm t-shirt premium) ends Wednesday night at midnight. On-line giving is very easy. The link is available on the CoCoRaHS home page, or [click here](#) and then click the appropriate button at the bottom of the page. You'll see the short and long-sleeved t-shirt options there in case that seems appealing.

If you'd prefer to send a check by mail, the instructions and address are there near the end of the on-line forms.

If you don't or can't help financially, that's just fine. Your gift of time is the greatest of all.

Sincerely and appreciatively,

Nolan Doesken

P.S. If you are considering a larger gift, feel free to contact me personally to discuss budget plans, priorities, immediate needs or the potential for starting a CoCoRaHS endowment.

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