

The Catch



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

CoCoRaHS -- Welcome to Spring!

FORT COLLINS, CO -- March 26th, 2014

Dear rain gauge watchers and caretakers,

Spring has arrived and temperatures are rising, but winter has not given up. Washington DC has just had its 6th significant snow in the past three months. Most of the Appalachians are snow covered today. New England has just survived yet another blizzard and the snow there is still 2-4 feet deep in many areas. There is also plenty of snow remaining in the Great Lakes region and in parts of the Rocky Mountains. So far, the severe weather season has gotten off to a very slow start in March, but that could begin to change as a storm sweeps out onto the plains on Thursday. It's that time of year and I hope you're all ready for what lies ahead.

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New rain gauge volunteers are signing up in droves across the country. As of today,

900 new volunteers have signed up this month to help measure precipitation. Every few minutes I hear another “bing” on my computer – another volunteer is joining our team. This is HUGE and many gaps are being filled on our maps. [Click here to see how your state is doing with recruiting this month.](#)

For those who are new, welcome to CoCoRaHS – the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. We’re just a bunch of enthusiastic weather watchers willing to take a couple minutes each day to check the rain gauge and report our observations. Together, amazing things happen as the CoCoRaHS maps light up with each of our data each day showing where rain and snow (and hail) has fallen and where it’s missed. Each data point helps tell the story better. And as those of us who have been participating for years have learned – every storm is different and no two years are ever the same. While CoCoRaHS is intended to be fun and enjoyable, it’s also serious stuff as our precipitation reports are used by forecasters, decision makers and scientists all across the country as we track and map our precipitation resources.

Thanks for joining the team and for sticking with us!

CoCoRaHS - Get Started!

Regardless if you’re new or a pro, it’s time to clean and polish our gauges and get ready for spring action. Thunderstorms will be popping soon, and rainfall patterns become even more varied and localized. A couple thousand volunteers chose (wisely) to take the winter off to avoid the hazards of cold, ice and snow. But the threat of snow will soon be passed and it’s time to have as many rain gaugers as possible.

If you have any questions or need any help getting started, please [contact your state or local coordinator](#). Or you can always e-mail our Help Desk: info@cocorahs.org

Hail Season



We move quickly from winter to hail season. Review our instructions and be ready to report any hail that you experience, large or small. Remember, our CoCoRaHS hail reports are also automatically (and instantly) sent to your local National Weather Service Forecast Office – and your reports are greatly appreciated. The same is true for Significant Weather Reports -- please use this report option to report significant weather any time of day in addition to your

regular daily precipitation report.

WxTalk Webinar Featuring NASA - Tomorrow (March 27th, 1:00 PM Eastern)

You may think of NASA as an organization that sends astronauts into space and studies stars and galaxies. In fact, NASA also has a long tradition of studying our very own planet Earth, including its weather, climate and hydrology. In this webinar, you will learn about



NASA's history with weather and climate observations, both from existing satellites and aircraft, as well as some of the five Earth science missions set to launch

in 2014. [Click here to register for the live webinar on Thursday, March 27 at 1:00 PM Eastern, 12:00 Central, 11:00 Mountain and 10:00 Pacific.](#)

[The 2015 Rain Gauge Calendar](#)



We experimented back in 2010 and produced the first ever "CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar" I know, that sounds geeky but it was awesome. [Click here to see what it looked like.](#)

It will be hard to beat but we want to try to do even better. We've received many great photos of CoCoRaHS rain gauges in action during this past winter. Now we need spring and summer-like warm weather photos to round out the collection so we can make our final selection.

Please e-mail us close-up photos of your rain gauges with warm weather spring/summer backgrounds for our possible "2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar". The deadline is June 1st.

We are looking for artistic high-quality, high-resolution photos (jpeg format) of your rain gauge with spring-summery backgrounds. The photos should be of "the gauge" only and should not include people in them. Close-up shots of the gauge are best. Also make sure that they are well lit, better in the sunlight than in a shadow. They can be artistic and creative. We will narrow down our final photos in June.

Please [e-mail your photo to Henry Reges](#) at: hreges@atmos.colostate.edu with the words "Rain Gauge 2015 Calendar Photo - Spring" in the subject line. Please include the name of the photographer for credit purposes, as well as the location - city, state - of the gauge (ex- John Smith: Columbus, Ohio). Finally include in the text of your message that "you give CoCoRaHS permission to publish the photo and use it for other possible CoCoRaHS promotions".

We will ask for additional gauge photos through May 1st, so if you have the opportunity, keep your camera handy and keep shooting! . . . dusty gauges, full gauges, dew on the gauge, animals in the gauge, special lighting circumstances, rainbows in the background, lightning bolts in the background, etc. -- be creative, all photos should be natural, no photo-shopping please.

[Apps for Data Entry](#)

You've been asking for them for years. [The CoCoRaHS Observer Android app](#) has been functional now for a couple of years and your welcome to use it. Recently, a long-awaited [iPhone app](#) was completed by one of our very own volunteers. It's publicly available now so try it out if you're interested.

[Survey Coming Soon](#)

Just wanted to let you know that in a few weeks we're going to post a survey for you to take. Results will help us determine how we're doing and what could be improved. Your participation will be greatly appreciated, even if you are not currently a rain gauge reader.

[Farm Story - Visitor Chickens](#)

One of our neighbors took a trip for spring break. She has 3 backyard chickens and needed a "chicken sitter" to care for them while she was gone. We didn't volunteer but instead we invited the chickens over to our place for a "play week". We banded each of them to make sure we could tell whose were whose. They were a little shy and didn't mingle much with our dozen, but somehow they were very motivational. After three or four days our hens were laying about twice as many eggs as usual. Monday, the three visitors returned to their home across the horse pasture having had a fun frolic with our flock. Alas, immediately egg production was back down to the old normal. I can't figure it out. By the way, the extra roosters that we processed last fall have been absolutely delicious on the dinner table. The meat is definitely tougher (they got a lot of vigorous exercise every day) but the meat is so much more flavorful than store bought.

Thanks for being a part of CoCoRaHS.

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken
Colorado State University

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