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The Catch



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

CoCoRaHS -- From The Road

Boone, NC -- June 6, 2014

Good wishes to all,

This e-mail update is coming from the mountains of western North Carolina where I just got to meet with a fine group of long-time CoCoRaHS volunteers and a few beginners. This was my first time on the campus of Appalachian State University attending the "Eastern Snow Conference". This is a beautiful area, and the conference was great (except for the flat tire getting here). I met many new people and hopefully talked a few of them into joining CoCoRaHS.

Our conference group took a tour this afternoon of Grandfather Mountain where we battled 40 mph winds on "Swinging Bridge" and were shrouded in cloud while nearby areas below were enjoying a fine June day. What a thrill it was to discover that this extraordinary park is also dedicated to CoCoRaHS! There was a CoCoRaHS rain gauge installed at the entrance gate to the park and another one nestled in the butterfly garden near their Nature Museum. They even have a special program each day where park visitors can help a ranger take weather observations. So if you ever find yourself in western North Carolina, [Grandfather Mountain](#) is a great place to visit and get a good dose of climate education.

[Get Started](#)

[The CoCoRaHS Survey](#)

[Broken Record -- Hail and Significant Weather](#)

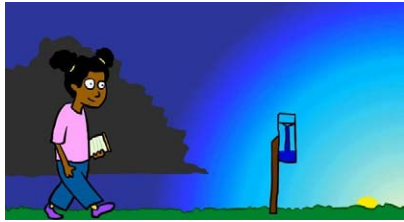
[ET and Water Balance](#)

[Anniversary Time](#)

[WxTalk Webinar -- June 19th - Waterspouts](#)

[Farm Story - Wrestling with Hay](#) [The "CoCo" of CoCoRaHS](#)

Get Started



Hundreds of us are signed up and equipped but have not started sending in rainfall measurements. If you happen to fall into that category, I encourage you to get started this week. Scattered storms have been dotting the country -- and some have been locally very heavy. So get your rain gauge set up and start

reporting today!

The CoCoRaHS Survey

It was more tedious and tiresome than we hoped, but nearly 5,000 of you successfully endured. Thank you so much! Your responses will help us a lot. The survey is open until later today, so if you still want to take it, [here's the link](#).

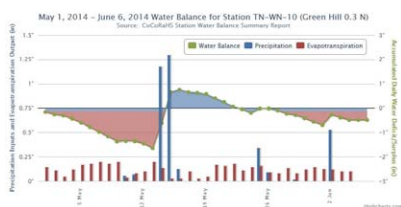
We'll be compiling results this summer and will let you know what we learn.

We failed to ask one very important question: "What suggestions do you have to make CoCoRaHS better?" I may regret this, but if you have suggestions, please drop me a note or send it in an e-mail to info@cocorahs.org with the words "CoCoRaHS Suggestion" in the subject line. We'll compile and rank suggestions, but we won't be able to write back to everyone individually.

Broken Record -- Hail and Significant Weather Reports

I sound like a broken record, but this is important. Most CoCoRaHS volunteers have never sent in a "Significant Weather Report." But someday it might be the most important thing you could do. Your daily 24-hour reports are awesome and valuable, but if you really want to make somebody's day at your local National Weather Service Office, then if you're having a bad storm, send in a ["Significant Weather Report"](#). Each report is automatically directed to the appropriate National Weather Service office and sounds an alarm for their forecasters. Reports of heavy rain, heavy snow, hail, high winds, or other conditions help forecasters make critical assessments and sometimes help issue severe weather warnings. You'll still need to send in your regular daily report the next day, but do the NWS a favor, and send in special reports when you can. [Click here](#) if you would like to search for past reports in your area.

ET and Water Balance



Have you ever checked out the [CoCoRaHS ET \(evapotranspiration\) page](#)? Or viewed [ET reports](#) and [water balance charts](#)? Over 100 of us have special "ET" gauges set up along with our rain gauges in order to track both the water that is arriving from the sky from precipitation and what is leaving to go back to the

atmosphere. The resulting water balance can be seen graphically (for those stations that continue to report both).

The ET gauge costs more than \$200 but provides valuable information. If you or your organization would like to host one of these gauges, please let us know.

Anniversary Time

Time flies when you're having fun! On June 17th we'll be celebrating the initial launch of the CoCoRaHS website back in 1998. Three high school students, one climatologist, a recently flooded but motivated community, and the much younger (at that time) internet all converged. The result was a web-based volunteer rain gauge network. We never dreamed where this would take us, but it's a fantastic journey where we all make a difference. Let's celebrate June 17th!

And just how can we celebrate? My suggestion is let's all go out that day, rain or shine, and everybody send in your report even if you haven't been reporting for months. On June 17th, let's swamp the computer with rainfall reports (and zero reports) and shoot past 12,000!

WxTalk Webinar -- June 19th: Waterspouts



"Waterspouts: The Wet-Whirlwind Cousin to the Tornado" will be presented by Joseph Golden of Golden Research and Consulting in Boulder, CO.

Space is limited to the first 500 registrants, so [click here to register today!](#) We will notify the first 500 who register of their acceptance to the Webinar. Those who aren't able to attend will be able to watch this episode on-line the following day.

Wrestling with Hay

I know what I'll be doing when I get back to Colorado this weekend -- wrestling with hay. We've got enough pasture to graze our horses now, but it doesn't take long for their appetites to exceed the rate of midsummer grass growth. It's about haying time for our farmer neighbors, and looks like a good crop this year. We usually stash traditional 65-pound bales up in our hay loft, but hay has been expensive so we bought some of the large 650 pound round bales to get us through a few more months. The horses love it, but we don't have the equipment to move it. I'll be flaking it off and stacking the flakes and then carting the last 200 pounds into our feed area. It's enough to keep me young. As for the other animals -- status quo is good, and it's been mighty quiet since those geese found a new home.

Community Collaborative

Working as individuals but working together, we are measuring and tracking the precipitation resources of our continent. Keep up the great work and spread the word.

Sincerely and appreciatively,

Nolan Doesken
Colorado State University

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