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# The Catch



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

## CoCoRaHS -- Sweet 16, Waterspouts and More!

**Fort Collins, Colorado -- June 16, 2014**

Greetings from Colorado,

Tomorrow (June 17) is a special day for CoCoRaHS. 16 years ago -- with excitement, enthusiasm and a little trepidation -- a small group of high school students from Fort Collins, Colorado working with us (the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University), launched the first CoCoRaHS website for web-based data entry and precipitation data sharing. The project was originally named the "Colorado Collaborative Rain and Hail Study" and was a direct response to a local flash flood that had wreaked havoc on our community in July 1997. But in the years that followed, we added snow to our measurements and expanded beyond Colorado resulting in a name change to "Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network" and thousands of new volunteers. We never dreamed that 16 years later, the project would be international with more than 30,000 volunteers who set up a gauge and, at least for awhile, observed and reported precipitation. It is so good to work with all of you and continue this rain gauge "tradition".

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## Celebrate - Check your Gauge -- Send in your Observation!



To celebrate our sweet 16th birthday, let's make June 17th "Check Your Rain Gauge Day". If you are able, please go check your gauge tomorrow and send in your report -- even if the reading is ZERO (0.00"). Let's aim for over 12,500 reports tomorrow and set a new one-day record (previous record is 12,147 set September 12, 2013).

If you've forgotten your username and password for logging in your data, just click ["login" at the top of the CoCoRaHS website](#) and then click ["Find your login info"](#). If you've moved or changed your e-mail address, please let us know by notifying us at [info@cocorahs.org](mailto:info@cocorahs.org). Thanks to all of you for 16 great years!

## New To CoCoRaHS?



If you're new to CoCoRaHS . . . Welcome. Every week a few dozen new volunteers sign up. Gradually we're filling more and more gaps on our maps. Currently, new volunteers from Puerto Rico are joining every day. It's great to have you all on the rain gauge team! There is even a [new Training Slide Show en Español!](#)

## New Animation - How to Measure Rainfall



We just finished a new training video to help new volunteers get started. [Take a look, and enjoy!](#)

## WxTalk Webinar -- June 19th: Waterspouts

I've never seen a water spout and I've only got a glimpse of a distant tornado. Whether you've seen one in person or not, this remains a topic of both fear and keen curiosity. If you're interested in learning more about the amazing phenomenon of waterspouts, join us this Thursday at 11 AM MDT (1 PM Eastern, noon Central, 10 AM Pacific) for another in our educational series. Joe Golden, our featured presenter, has been studying severe weather, hurricanes, tornadoes and water spouts for nearly 50 years. It is an honor indeed to have him. [Click here to get registered.](#)

Also, we've got [our schedule posted for the rest of the year](#) -- everything from snow to tsunamis to space weather.

Also, most all of our previous webinars have been [archived on our YouTube Channel!](#)

and can be viewed at any time.

### How CoCoRaHS Data are Used

In response to many requests, we are finishing a special series on how CoCoRaHS rain gauge observations are being used. These will be posted on our website but also featured in a series of short "Message of the Day" segments.

We know many ways that our data are put to use (weather forecasts, water supplies, agriculture, recreation, etc.), but there are likely more we don't know about. If you or your organization make use of the observations being collected and compiled by CoCoRaHS, let me know and please provide an example. We may be able to include this in one of our info messages. If you're a CoCoRaHS data user, I look forward to hearing from you.

### Want to Get More Involved?



We recently asked for suggestions on how to make CoCoRaHS better. Quite a few asked for more opportunities to get involved in meteorology and get acquainted with other volunteers. Here are some suggestions.

- [Read the CoCoRaHS Blog](#)
- [WxTalk Webinars](#)
- [NOAA Resources](#)
- CoCoRaHS [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Help recruit and train CoCoRaHS volunteers from your area

Our privacy policy makes it impossible to share contact info with nearby volunteers, but there may be some options in the future.

### Irrigation Time

In our part of the country, you can't grow much without irrigation. By mid June, temperatures are rising, rains are ending, evapotranspiration rates are climbing and the soil is drying out. Now instead of mowing and weeding, it's time for irrigating. We had a good snowpack in the mountains this year, so our water supply looks good. It's just a question of getting the water to go where we need it. So you'll know what I'm doing now in my spare time. :-)

Thank you again and Happy Sweet 16!

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