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The Catch



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

CoCoRaHS -- Prime Time

Fort Collins, Colorado -- September 7, 2014

Greetings from Colorado

We've had anything from intense heat, thunderstorms, hail, high-mountain snow and cold drizzle in the past few days -- so we must be approaching fall.

Thanks to all of you for joining and sticking with our rain gauge team. As always, your rainfall measurements mean a great deal. If there is anything we can do to help you out, let me know. Better yet, send a message to info@cocorahs.org since I'm going to be away for a few days.

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CoCoRaHS *WxTalk* Webinar Series

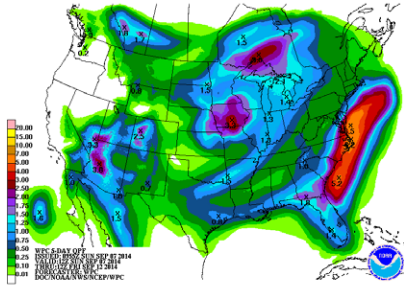
Our next CoCoRaHS webinar is coming up this week and will delve into the inner workings of the National Weather Service. If you'd like to learn more about

what NOAA's National Weather Service is all about, please join us for our next CoCoRaHS Webinar featuring John Gordon, the "Meteorologist in Charge" at the

Louisville, KY National Weather Service Office (and a CoCoRaHS enthusiast, too).

[Click here to register for the Webinar which will take place this coming Thursday, September 11th at 1:00 PM Eastern, 12:00 Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain and 10:00 AM Pacific.](#)

Quiet in the Atlantic -- Active in the Pacific



We're now in "prime time" for tropical storm activity, but it continues to be very quiet in the Atlantic. More than 10" of rain fell at one CoCoRaHS station (FL-CB-8 near Lake City) in northern FL this morning, associated with a low pressure trough there, but the National Hurricane Center does not expect this system to develop into a tropical storm.

Meanwhile there has been plenty of action in the Pacific. Hurricane Norbert is currently spinning off the west coast of Mexico and appears likely to pull tropical moisture into the desert SW (SE California, western Arizona, southern Nevada and much of Utah over the next 3 days). It seems odd, I know, but when it rains on the desert, most of that water runs off the barren land very quickly -- a formula for flash flooding. The National Weather Service has already hoisted flash flood watches there for many counties, so if you live in that area or are traveling through, please be wary. This is the second year in a row with an early September flush of tropical moisture into the SW. Stay tuned.

And for the Eastern US and the Atlantic Provinces of Canada, don't get too relaxed. There is still a good chance that hurricane activity will ramp up soon.

And don't forget, no matter where you are in the country, if you're experiencing a storm that you think we and the National Weather Service should know about, please take a minute and [submit a significant weather report!](#)

Explore CoCoRaHS!



Our website may need some reorganization to make it easier to find things, but we really have a lot of good information. If you have a few minutes, go on a

CoCoRaHS exploration. Start at the home page www.cocorahs.org. Try the "Resources" on the left hand column. If you've never visited our [training slide shows](#), [videos](#) or [webinars](#), there's a lot of good stuff. I highly recommend the [CoCoRaHS Blog](#), too. This week there was a feature on "[Heat Bursts](#)" well worth reading. Then try "[View Data](#)" from the top menu. There are more data resources than most of us realize. If you are logged in, try clicking on "[My Account](#)" on the top menu. The Water Year Summary reports and PRISM Portal provide a wealth of valuable precipitation information. Also, from your "[Data Entry](#)" page (click on 'My Data' at the top of the page), there are a host of links on the left hand column to view or edit your data, or enter other types of reports.

And if you don't have time now, wait for a cold dark winter day and then go exploring.

Good News!

Our 3-day August fundraiser took in nearly \$17,000 to support CoCoRaHS operations. It also found homes for nearly 200 of the new CoCoRaHS rain gauge calendars. We'll be getting the calendars from the printer any day now. Thank you very much to all of you who contributed.

A few of you took our invitation to initiate a CoCoRaHS endowment fund seriously, and it looks like we collected enough to get started. This is really great news. Thank you so much! This small step opens the door to possibly supporting CoCoRaHS for many, many years to come. If you know of individuals or organizations that would like to help sustain CoCoRaHS, please have them contact me. Later this fall we'll set up an online system for donating to this new Endowment fund.

CoCoRaHS For Schools: Rain Gauge Week

CoCoRaHS [for](#) [Schools](#). Twice per year, our education team hosts a week-long campaign titled 'Rain Gauge Week'. Our growing group of participating schools may not report every day (especially weekends and holiday breaks), but their participation is fostering a new generation of weather watchers and we are thrilled that they have become involved with CoCoRaHS. This coming week, over 700 schools in 47 states are being invited to read their gauges and submit their data to CoCoRaHS. If you know a teacher or school in your area and would be interested in helping them get started, contact education@cocorahs.org and we will help to get them on board!

From Whales to Perch -- To Lightning!

With our daughter and grandson staying with us this summer, there was no time for vacation. But we just got back from helping get them moved and settled in Davis, CA and enjoyed a Labor Day picnic lunch with Mike Anderson and his family. Mike is the [California State Climatologist](#) and co-state CoCoRaHS coordinator as well as a longtime resident of Davis. So we had plenty to talk about. In five days there I don't recall seeing a single cloud over Davis (near Sacramento). But that was not the case by the Pacific coast where the fog and stratus were alive and well. We had a chance to rendezvous with my sister in the Bay area and took a day trip to Monterey Bay. It may be commonplace for the locals, but watching whales feeding and frolicking (or so it seemed) just a few hundred yards off shore was nothing short of magical for landlocked folks like us.

Then on Tuesday, we go on part two of our vacation -- a quick trip to upper Michigan. Instead of lovely dry late summer weather, it looks like our plans may collide with an early fall Great Lakes cold-wave, and maybe even some lake effect rain (not snow yet, thankfully). Hopefully there will be a few perch still waiting for a fisherman.

When we return on September 18th, a long-time friend, weather photographer and fellow weather observer, Grant Goodge, will be visiting Colorado. He'll be giving two presentations in case your interested and in the area of Fort Collins. At 7 PM Thursday

Sept 18th he'll be presenting a talk on aviation weather to the local Civil Air Patrol. Then on Sunday afternoon at 3:30 PM, at the Harmony Public Library, he'll be giving an oral and pictorial description of the power and beauty of lightning.

Farm Story - Chickens and Turkeys

Things remain peaceful on our little farmstead. Our dogs have been remarkably well behaved (this can't last :-). The only excitement has been our growing flock of chickens. A neighbor brought over a couple of hens for us to babysit while she went on vacation and she seems to have forgotten them. They are productive egg layers, and very attractive birds, so that's fine with us. Some teenagers we know brought their mother 3 cute little chicks that they thought for sure she would love to raise and care for. Alas, they were wrong. So she donated them to our flock. They are doing fine so far.

Our best surprise was when a small flock of wild turkeys appeared in August. In nearly 40 years here we'd never seen wild turkeys in these parts, but they came in and acted like they owned the place. They stayed on the other side of the fence and were very efficient grass hopper harvesters -- totally ignoring our barking dogs. Then when evening came they decided to roost. Instead of flying up into a tree, they chose the back of our son's pickup truck -- very odd. I tried to take a picture but that riled them up and off they went.

Thanks, everyone and please keep those rain gauge reports coming!

Sincerely,

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