

The Catch



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

CoCoRaHS -- Happy Halloween!

Fort Collins, Colorado -- October 31, 2014

Dear CoCoRaHS rain gauge team,

Thanks for another fascinating month of rainfall information. 15,612 CoCoRaHS volunteers have sent in at least one daily report in October. Nationwide nearly 1/3 of a million daily rainfall reports were submitted. Hurray for rain gauge reports, and thank you!!

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October Rainfall Patterns

The heaviest rains this month have been on the Oregon Coast and in parts of Hawaii and southern Alaska where several locations have exceeded 15".

I've been in this business a long time, and seasonal prediction is NOT EASY. We'll all watch to see how things turn out. One way or another, there will be some wintery changes showing up before we know it and almost certainly by the end of November. So be watchful!

Stick It Out or Pack It In?



Speaking of winter, this is the time we begin to ask ourselves this critical question. Will I stick with my CoCoRaHS rain gauge reporting or will I bring in the gauge and pack it up for the winter?

Of course, we greatly appreciate year-round measurements. CoCoRaHS is the primary source for winter measurements of snowfall, depth and water content, along with the precious long-term [National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network](#). But we are all volunteers. Winter measurements are no "walk in the park", especially in the snowy cold northern states. So remember your age, your mobility and your winter enthusiasm. If and when the time is right to pack up your CoCoRaHS gauge and wait until spring, we'll all understand.

So stay warm, stay safe and stay healthy.

Water-Year Reports -- Last Call for Updates!

If you haven't already, please take a look at the [Water-Year summary reports for your station](#) or for [any other part of the country](#) you may be interested in. These reports are the icing on the cake for all our hard work each year. Enjoy them and feel free to share them with others interested in precipitation. This is Good Stuff!

This is your last call for this year (the 2014 Water-Year) to go back, check and correct or fill in any missing reports. We will then run the final update around Nov 6.

If you've made changes to your data already (and many of you have), you may have been frustrated to discover that these changes haven't appeared on your Water-Year Summary reports yet. All the updates will appear when we re-run the entire batch next week. Thanks for your patience.

Time to Think about Snow!



No matter how long you've been taking measurements, winter still seems to sneak up on us. Our CoCoRaHS snow measurements are hugely useful and important, but quite frankly measuring snow takes work, thought and a certain amount of discomfort (to offset the thrill and beauty of snow -- insert link to the Snow Booklet)

For those of you in snow country, please consider reviewing our CoCoRaHS [snow measurement instructions](#). Over the course of the last 3 years we've developed a [series of animations](#) to make this training quicker and more upbeat. If you own a digital kitchen scale, you may want to consider [the weighing method](#)!

WxTalk Webinar: NOHRSC



Unknown to most in our country, but well known to water managers, is the "[National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center](#)" -- actively tracking the extent and water content of snow across North America. Join us on Thursday. Carrie Olheiser will be our guest speaker on Thursday, November 13th to tell us how they track and model snowcover -- and how CoCoRaHS data contributes to this important

process! [Click here to register](#).

Then, coming up next On Dec 4, we'll have a unique opportunity to learn about Tsunamis from the Deputy Director of the NOAA/Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. Registration coming soon.

Remember you can view any of our large and growing number of [WxTalk Webinars at any time on our YouTube Channel here](#).

Rain Gauge Calendar



It's a beauty, and will make a unique holiday gift for the weather watcher in your family. We've already shipped out several hundred. They remain [on sale now while supplies last](#) or we'll be offering them as a premium with our [end-of year fund raiser](#) coming up at

the end of November. Proceeds go to supporting the ongoing operations of CoCoRaHS. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Farm Story - Little Chicken Eggs and Large Wild Turkeys

Last time I mentioned that wild turkeys showed up in our neighborhood for the first time in decades. Well, they've been making themselves right at home. In fact, the other day our neighbor noticed four of them perched on the crest of our 2-story roof -- a good 25 feet off the ground. I wish I had been there to watch them fly up -- and fly down. I hear they make quite a commotion. Our cats have chosen to keep their distance -- but our dogs got riled up pretty good. The dogs have also not taken kindly to the 3 large bucks that have been resting back in the woods behind the corral during the day. It's a good safe place for them this time of year, and they seem to know the dogs can't get to them.

It's been an adventure every day to go out and see what's in the laying boxes in the hen house. As days get colder and darker, our old hens are taking a vacation (may be permanent) from egg laying. Except a couple times each week we find a giant double-yolk-er! Meanwhile the survivors of your new flock have just started laying -- popping out

mini eggs every day -- less than half full size. They look great but it takes about 10 of them to make a decent omelet.

Happy Halloween!

I don't know what it is about our old farm house. We're so close to town that you'd think we'd have at least one trick-or-treater. But in 19 years we haven't had a one. I guess it does look a bit haunted. So we don't buy any goodies anymore since we were the only ones to eat them. If you plan to drop by and surprise us, don't expect treats

Have a great autumn, welcome to all you CoCoRaHS newcomers, and thanks for helping. Keep recruiting -- we still have plenty more gaps to fill!

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken
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