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# The Catch



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

## CoCoRaHS -- Happy New Year and Highlights of 2014!

**Fort Collins, Colorado -- December 30th, 2014**

Happy New Year to all you rain (and snow) monitors!

I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year as we close out another *calendar* year.

What a year! With the help of nearly 20,000 of us (19,826 to be exact), we've done an extraordinary job tracking almost every storm as it moved across the U.S. and southern Canada. Yesterday I looked back at every map for the year and made a loop. I could visually detect nearly 100 large-scale storm systems sweep across the continent from west to east -- and then literally thousands of more localized summer thunderstorms. Some strengthened, some weakened. Some moved quickly and some slow. Some dropped copious amounts of rain, and others not so much. Still others brought snow. It was beautiful to watch! I've compiled some fun highlights and statistics that you'll see below - and to know that we're doing all of this with just our plastic rain gauges (and a bit of community spirit) -- Thanks!

But for many it's also been a challenging year. As you know, many of our volunteers are "seniors". We've never had a year when so many of us had to retire from CoCoRaHS due to the inevitable symptoms of getting older. Last years' hard winter didn't help that. Anyway, whether you're still plugging or if it's been time to step away from CoCoRaHS, we still appreciate what you've done.

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Did I mention calendars? Please, please, pretty please -- order a CoCoRaHS rain gauge calendar today -- or tomorrow, or soon! Order many!! It is truly unique and beautiful. You'll love it and you'll help CoCoRaHS too. Do you sense urgency? :) Yes! We still have a lot left and we don't want any to go to waste. [Click here.](#)

[Year-End Fundraiser - Update and Special Request](#)



Donations are a very important part of our budget. I sometimes hate to sound like one of those awful "fund raisers". But it's something I need to do to help our project, so bear with me.

Donations support much of our education, training, outreach and a growing amount of our computer and data management expenses. We are so grateful for the 825 of you who have already sent in a donation this year. The number of donations are down quite a bit compared to recent years -- but those who have donated have been generous (averaging nearly \$30/donation).

Please consider pitching in a few dollars today -- either online or by mail. Donate by midnight Dec 31 (that's tomorrow) for a 2014 tax deduction. [The "Five for CoCoRaHS" campaign](#) continues through January 15th. Thanks for considering!

**CoCoRaHS Coming to Phoenix AMS WeatherFest - Jan. 4th**

Do you live near Phoenix, AZ? Will you be there next week? We'll be there next week participating in the American Meteorological Society's 2015 WeatherFest on Sunday, January 4 from noon to 4 PM. It is free and open to the public as a kickoff to the 95th Annual Meeting of this incredible meteorological organization. [Here is a link to additional information!](#) I hope to see you there. We'll then have an informal CoCoRaHS "meet and greet" beginning about 5:30 PM at "Bricks" pizza over at the Arizona Center. I'll be sending more specific details to our Arizona volunteers shortly in a separate e-mail.

[CoCoRaHS Highlights of 2014](#)

- 19,826 stations had at least one report in 2014.
  - 4,387 new volunteers signed up to help
  - 2,727 have started to take measurements. (Hopefully the other 1660 will get started soon -- we need you!)
  - 3,594 stations reported every day or almost every day
  - 7,569 stations had at least 300 daily reports.
- 
- A total of 4 million daily precipitation reports have been submitted this year.  
HOORAY!!

#### Miscellaneous CoCoRaHS precipitation statistics from 2014

Most rainfall for this year as of 12/30/2014:

- 210.75" on the big Island of Hawaii HI-HI-14 Honomu 2.8 SW

Greatest rainfall in a day:

- 20.00" Baldwin County, AL near Mobile Bay on April 30, 2014 AL-BW-45 Silverhill 5.0 (35 CoCoRaHS observers measured at least 10" of rain that day).

Greatest one-day rainfall in California (during the drought, no less):

- 10.84" Nevada County NE of Sacramento CA-NV-6 Grass Valley 5.0 S

There were 11 days during the year where one or more CoCoRaHS observers measured 10" or more of rainfall in a day (that's A LOT of rain!).

There were 99 days where it rained at least 6.00" somewhere in the country. The most prolific heavy rain producing states in 2014 were Florida and Texas (19 days over 6") followed by Hawaii (12 days). Half of the states had at least one day where it rained 6" or more somewhere in their state.

#### Some other highlights (and I'm skipping over tons of noteworthy events):

- Deep snowpack in southern Canada, New England and the Great Lakes states in March and April.
- Rapid snow melt in April in the Canadian Atlantic provinces.
- Mother's day snowstorm in Colorado.
- Drought in California but with some relief in December.
- Great Lakes water levels rose sharply during a cool, damp summer.
- Several major flood events in August and September associated with thunderstorm complexes including Detroit, MI, Islip (Long Island) NY, Phoenix, AZ, Hampton/Newport, VA floods plus Maine, Missouri, Indiana, Nebraska and others.
- A really low year for Atlantic hurricane activity.
- And then there was the super Buffalo, NY lake effect snowstorm in November.

Thanks to contributing to all of these 2014 memories.

### [Have You Moved? Have You Changed Your E-mail?](#)

Have you moved? Are you moving soon? Have you changed your e-mail address? CoCoRaHS only works if we can stay in touch and if we can accurately plot your measurements on our maps. Please let us know by contacting us at [info@cocorahs.org](mailto:info@cocorahs.org)

### [The Last Farm Story of 2014](#)

Things had been going well. My wife left on a trip to Mesa Verde and northern New Mexico on Saturday with a friend. Since then, with me "firmly" in control :) , things here on the farm have been going steadily downhill (as has the temperature). "Mittens" -- the last of the generation of barn kittens that our daughter had lovingly raised 17 years ago - - died suddenly on Sunday -- seemed like a stroke. I found some ground that had not yet frozen under a pile of leaves in the garden and we had an appropriate memorial. As a mouser, she had served the farm very long and well and deserved honor and respect.

Then the arctic air arrived. Between extra feed, water heaters, shoveling snow, etc -- chores that should take 45 minutes are taking hours. The horses have been particularly feisty. The good news is the chickens (who are now full feathered after their November molt) seem to be doing fine and are staying in the coop (wisely). They are still laying well despite the cold.

The main problem is the extra dog and cat we're taking care of while their owner vacations in FL. They are disrupting the normal routine. We're letting the dog sleep in the laundry room but that means our dogs are displaced (and not happy about it either). The visitor dog doesn't get along with our dogs and we can't let them loose in the yard at the same time. I put one out and bring the others in, and then reverse. It gets old in a hurry, especially with snow on the ground. The visitor dog doesn't come when called and today, with the temperature well below zero, she refused to come back inside despite nearly collapsing with frozen feet. And then our young Aussie has decided to protest and won't come when called either and will only come in and out the living room door (The door the dogs are never supposed to use). And then our neighbor's kitten (also keeping in the laundry room) has knocked down most everything from the counters while trying to engage someone in play. Today he broke his water bowl. I heard sounds of things rolling on the floor only to discover he had grabbed the eggs out of the chore bucket and was spinning them around on the floor. Great -- raw scrambled eggs. My wife should be back on Thursday, and by then the temperature will be back above zero. The new year looks bright. :)

Again, Happy New Year -- and I hope to see some of you in 2015. If your travels happen to bring you to Northern Colorado (Fort Collins), please let us know and stop in and see us!

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken and the CoCoRaHS team,

Colorado State University

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