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The Catch



NOLAN DOESKEN'S MONTHLY COCORAHS E-MAIL MESSAGE

CoCoRaHS -- Thanksgiving Greetings!

Fort Collins, Colorado -- November 25th, 2015

Life is never perfect. Problems are many. Good health is not guaranteed, and long life is never assured. Our children sometimes take paths that we might not choose for them. World peace remains elusive. Loneliness, homelessness and hunger are far too common. Yet, if we take notice, there is plenty to be thankful for and to help with.

I am thankful for much -- family, a wonderful grandson who turns five next week, many days of warm sunshine, a full and fun vacation, and enough rain to keep our pasture green and our horses fed. I am thankful for having the chance to make a full career out of the fascination I had with weather in my youth. This month I hit my 38th anniversary of working here at the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University -- not bad considering my college adviser told me in the early 1970s to "avoid climatology because it is a tired and dying field." He meant well, I'm sure, but times change and I certainly am glad I didn't give up on my dream.

I especially want to say "Thanks" for all your help this year. Every morning of the year I am amazed as the CoCoRaHS precipitation map lights up with thousands of colored dots -- spreading gradually from east to west as people wake up and read their rain gauge. How odd and yet how wonderful and useful.

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The CoCoRaHS Thanksgiving Dinner Table Challenge!

Many of us will be sharing Thanksgiving dinner (and leftovers) with friends and family from every nook, cranny, sunny spot and shady corner of the country. Conversation will be lively and upbeat (hopefully), but inevitably there will be a lull. That's your chance to spring into action. Begin an endearing conversation about weather and precipitation. Mention CoCoRaHS. Break out your smartphone or tablet and show them the website and maybe a picture of your handsome rain gauge (everyone has a photo of their rain gauge with them at all times, I presume) and talk about how much the rain (or snow) varies across town. Then challenge your friends/family to fill in more gaps on our maps by joining CoCoRaHS. Show them how easy it is to sign up. The direct link is below, but you can find the "Join CoCoRaHS" button in the upper right corner of our home page.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/application.aspx>

And now -- an incentive. If you successfully recruit a new rain gauge volunteer and they are the 10th new volunteer to sign up, I will send you the new "CoCoRaHS Hurricane shirt" free of charge -- or a new rain gauge if you'd prefer that instead. Here's how you qualify. Make sure your new recruit registers to join. Have them fill in the application form. Make sure they fill in the blank on the application form that asks for "How did you find out about CoCoRaHS? " Have them reply by saying. "Found out from ____"your name"____ at Thanksgiving dinner." That will give me what I need to choose a winner.

Weather for Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving often brings stormy weather to some parts of the country. Here in northern Colorado it will be very cold with light snow much of the day. From Dallas, TX to Traverse City, Michigan it looks like rain. The West Coast cities from Seattle to San Francisco will have remarkably clear blue skies but chilly temperatures. And the eastern states are in for some very pleasant weather. Boston and Buffalo are each expecting highs in the mid 50s with scattered clouds. But don't take my word for it. Go to weather.gov and get the specific local forecast for anywhere in the country.

Lake Effect Snow (and Upcoming Webinars)

We had a big turnout last week for Tom Niziol's (The Weather Channel's Winter Weather Expert) fantastic presentation on Lake Effect Snow. If you missed it, we've got it [recorded on YouTube](#) and you can watch it any time. I have to admit, Tom's enthusiasm makes mine look quite tame. Enjoy.

Also, during the long nights of winter check out all of our dozens of [YouTube videos and training cartoons](#). It sure beats watching the evening news.

Don't forget, we have two upcoming webinars ahead. You can register for them below:

- [Thursday, December 3rd, 1:00 PM EST: Special Webinar: "A Review of Significant Weather Events Occurring in 2015" featuring Greg Carbin from NOAA's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.](#)
- [Thursday, December 10th, 1:00 PM EST: "Radiosondes, it's what's overhead that counts" featuring Paul Ciesielski from Colorado State University.](#)

Last Call for Fixing and Filling in Data for Water Year 2015

Some of you asked for a few more days to finish checking over and filling in data for the 2015 water year. We'll give you this weekend, but please finish up. Starting on November 30th we'll be rerunning the computer program that produces all the "Water Year Summary" reports. If you already have made your corrections and additions but were wondering why the summary reports hadn't changed, that's because the changes don't show up right away. Wait for this final computer update and your reports will then refresh. I provided some detailed instructions on how to edit your data in the last 'Catch' I sent earlier this month. [You can review that e-mail here.](#)

Farm Stories

Last week I gave a talk to a group of retired citizens and told them that here in Colorado El Nino conditions in the Pacific correlated with lighter wind speeds here in the lee of the Rockies. The next day, we had winds gusting to 77 mph -- strongest in 7 years. I think I'll just keep my mouth shut from now on.

The garden isn't done yet. We're still eating some swiss chard from the garden and a few of the last tomatoes that we picked 6 weeks ago. We've stocked enough spaghetti squash to have one a week until next summer.

The chickens are re-feathered just in time for the first cold wave of winter. The barn cats are staying closer to home now. They did pretty well with their duties this fall, but a few mice snuck past them and found there way into the house.

Happy Thanksgiving

Enjoy the day. Drive safely if you're traveling. We'll be in touch again soon.

Sincerely,

Nolan Doesken and the CoCoRaHS team
NOAA's Weather Ready Nation Ambassador Program
Colorado State University

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