

The Catch



NOLAN DOESKEN'S MONTHLY COCORAHHS E-MAIL MESSAGE

CoCoRaHS -- Summertime When the...Weather is Easy?

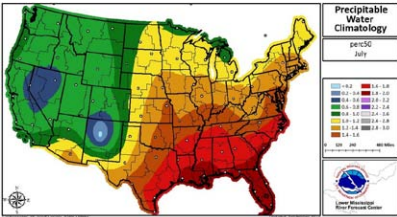
Fort Collins, Colorado -- July 1st, 2016

Greetings and happy summer to you all,

Happy July, everyone! As we move into mid summer, we are in the time of year where, with the exception of much of California and some of the Pacific NW, thunderstorm downpours are most prolific. It is also the time where rainfall can be most dramatically localized -- with flash flooding in one part of town and possibly dry elsewhere. [As I mentioned in my note two weeks ago](#), this was the situation that motivated CoCoRaHS to be born -- out of an extreme, but highly localized flash flood here in Colorado in the late 1990's.

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Why We Do CoCoRaHS



It is now that time of year, so I ask you to be on your toes. Situations like that are repeated every summer. These next several weeks are the time of year when the atmosphere can carry more water vapor than any other time of year. This is because "[precipitable water](#)" -- the total depth of water that could be condensed out of a column of air directly overhead -- is limited by temperature. The

warmer it is, the more water the atmosphere can hold, and this is non linear. Increasing the temperature of the air 2 degrees F increases the moisture-holding capacity by about 7%. Ocean waters also continue to warm so that vast water vapor resources lurk nearby over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the warming Atlantic. (Remember, the dry summers on the W. Coast result from the fact that the Pacific Ocean currents remain chilly -- reducing evaporation and suppressing convection.) Click on the image above to see the 'climatology of precipitable water' during different months of the year.

So keep your eyes on the skies and have your rain gauge ready. Maybe the storm will dump on you or maybe it will miss, but either way your measurement and report will be very important.

Real Time Reports - Could Your Report Be THE One?

While CoCoRaHS is best known for our once-a-day 24-hour precipitation reports and our [colorful daily precipitation maps](#), you can also send in special reports throughout the day. "[Significant Weather Reports](#)" are designed to feed real-time (that means "occurring now") reports directly to your National Weather Service office of heavy rain (or snow), flooding, high wind, dense fog, or any other weather phenomenon of meteorological or hydrological significance. Our "[Hail Report](#)" forms also sound alarms at your NWS office and may help trigger or verify severe weather warnings. These reports, and others, can be found in the left hand menu of your data entry page. Of course, many of you are already [NWS Skywarn "Storm Spotters"](#), but either way, it can be very helpful to your weather forecasters to receive timely reports any time during the day or night of heavy weather in progress. These reports are supplemental though, so please make sure to still submit your 24-hour total the next morning.

So, the next time you experience a heavy downpour or a shower of hail, try sending in one of these special reports. It only takes a minute and it could really make a difference. You can also view [Significant Weather Reports](#) and [Hail Reports](#) that others have submitted in the '[view data](#)' section of our website.

4th of July -- Time For a 'Flood' of Photos



It's photo time! The U.S. "4th of July" weekend is the third of four special weekends for documenting how the time of year and the recent rains (or lack thereof) and temperatures affect the appearance of our landscapes. Please help us by taking a few photos this weekend of a favorite nearby landscape that you are likely to be able to visit regularly. [Here is](#)

[additional background information and instructions](#). We also just completed a new cartoon animation to help explain the project and provide instructions, so if you have enjoyed our past animations, I encourage you to [take a look](#). We would love to get some photos from every state and province -- from both wet areas and dry.

Farm Story

Not much to report as I've been slowed by my sore foot. Our 5-year old grandson, who was with us the past 2 1/2 weeks, was a bit disappointed in grandpa's slowness, but we still managed to have a good time playing with our animals and digging in the dirt. My foot would be doing much better if it weren't for the encounter with a tinker-toy and a yo-yo, but it was worth it. Also, with the help of our next door neighbor == our son, we've been irrigating our field. Irrigation has been very important this past month, since we only received [0.16 inches for the month of June](#). It actually rained 15 of those days but most were just a trace, or .01.

Thanks for everything, and keep on reporting!

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