

Messages of the Day **January 2012**

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

We're in our final week of our "Five for CoCoRaHS" fundraiser (runs through January 10th). If you have yet to make a donation please consider donating \$5.00. To those who have already given, we thank you for your support!

For more information and to access the donation portal click here: ["Info/Donate"](#)

◆Goal: \$38,000 ◆Donations to date: \$28,669 ◆Days left in campaign: 7

Check out our new map views!

As we have mentioned for the past couple of days, you will notice that we've added a "View on Map (New | Classic)" link on top of every daily report detail page, including the one that comes up after you submit your report. Click on this new feature just below this message to try it out. You'll notice two versions of maps to view, the classic version which you are already familiar with and the "new" version that we will continue to modify in the year ahead. There will be plenty of new things for CoCoRaHS in 2012, this is just a taste . . . stay tuned!

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

Six days left in our "Five for CoCoRaHS" fundraiser (runs through January 10th). We are getting close to our goal. If you have yet to make a donation please consider donating \$5.00. To those who have already given, we thank you for your support!

For more information and to access the donation portal click here: ["Info/Donate"](#)

◆Goal: \$38,000 ◆Donations to date: \$29,069 ◆Days left in campaign: 6

Wanted: Questions for the "Weather Queries" column in Weatherwise Magazine

As you go out each morning to take a look at your rain gauge, or any other time you're outdoors, do you ever puzzle about what's going on in the sky? Do you wonder about spells of unusual weather? If you have a question about weather or climate, sent it to: weatherqueries@gmail.com. Tom Schlatter, a fellow CoCoRaHS volunteer, has been writing a question and answer column in *Weatherwise* since 1980, and he welcomes questions from young and old. No question is too simple. In fact, sometimes the "simple" questions are the most profound.

Send your questions to weatherqueries@gmail.com, and be sure to include your name and the city or town where you live.

Thursday, January 5, 2012

"It's Early January . . . are you thinking about Drought Impacts? Perhaps Not.

CoCoRaHS in collaboration with the National Drought Mitigation Center ([NDMC](#)), continues to give observers the opportunity, via the CoCoRaHS Web site, to provide the nation with important information on how drought is impacting their communities.

It's January and that means cold and snow to many observers. For some reason, and I don't know why, many of us don't think about drought in winter. But many of you know from first hand experience that some regions of the country are much drier than normal right now . . . Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arizona, Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia just to name a few.

Please take a look around your area this week and think about how drought might be impacting your community. Drought can impact us in many ways. Effects may be associated with agriculture, energy, public health, wildfire and recreation just to name a few areas. Although your part of the country may not be experiencing drought at the present time, many of us may be affected by varying degrees of drought in the months to come. When you start to feel these effects it's time to let us know about it by filing a "[Drought Impact Report](#)".

If you have some spare time, please take a few moments in the next few days and re-visit our "[Drought Impacts Reporting Resource Page](#)" to get re-acquainted with drought impacts. In addition there is a short slideshow that you will benefit from reviewing.

We thank you for your drought impact reports!

Friday, January 27, 2012

Weather Symbols - What's that "S" with the arrow through it?

Those of you interested in weather will want to learn the 100 weather symbols used today in meteorology. You might recognize some of the more common ones and there will be others that are unfamiliar.

Here is a great list of those symbols by the National Weather Service's JetStream - Online School for Weather. Click here: [Weather Symbols](#).

Weather symbols have been used by meteorologists for many years on surface weather maps, often seen at station weather plots. Click here: [Weather Maps](#).

So the next time you see a comma or set of periods you might think punctuation, but than again you just might think precipitation! By the way, that "S" with the arrow through it . . . that's a moderate duststorm.

Friday, February 3, 2012

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 985 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal.

Click on the following link to find out more about where to listen to NOAA Weather Radio in your area:
[NOAA RADIO](#)

Monday, February 6, 2012

Upcoming "CoCoRaHS WeatherTalk Webinar Series" Presentations

CoCoRaHS recently kicked off a new and exciting monthly Webinar series called CoCoRaHS WxTalk (wx is shorthand for weather). CoCoRaHS WxTalk consists of a series of monthly one-hour interactive Webinars featuring engaging experts in the fields of atmospheric science, climatology and other pertinent disciplines. These easy to follow presentations are live and approximately sixty minutes long. The audience is given a chance to submit questions for our experts to answer.

Here's a link to our Webinar page: [WxTalk Webinars](#)

CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinars are free. February will feature two Webinars in our series: "*Remote Sensing: How Weather Satellites Sense the Earth*" on February 9th and "*Who Uses Weather and Climate Data and How Do They Do It?*" on February 16th. ***Space is limited to the first 100 registrants***, so register today! We will notify the first 100 who register of their acceptance to the Webinar. Those who aren't able to attend will be able to watch these episodes on line at a later date.

REGISTRATION INFO

Title: "Webinar #2 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: Remote Sensing: How Weather Satellites Sense the Earth"

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2012

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern, 12:00 Noon Central, 11:00 AM Mountain, 10:00 AM Pacific

This Webinar will feature the Naval Research Laboratory's Research Meteorologist Arunas Kuciauskas.

"The US public is typically informed of daily weather from either TV newscasts or internet outlets, where glossy colored movie loops of clouds over land and water compliment the forecasters' analyses and predictions. But beyond that, there's so much more weather information that satellites provide – there are also plenty of different weather satellite sensors, and the technology in this field is accelerating. This presentation will introduce and hopefully entice folks with little or no science background to understand the exciting world of weather satellite sensing. Part of this talk will also address CoCoRaHS members - by relating the daily rainfall (and snowfall) reports to the atmosphere that sits above them."

Reserve your seat now for the February 9th Remote Sensing Webinar by registering here: [Remote Sensing Webinar Registration](#)

Title: Webinar #3 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: Who Uses Weather and Climate Data and How Do They Do It?

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2012

Time: 1PM Eastern, 12PM Central, 11AM Mountain and 10AM Pacific Time

This Webinar will feature former Midwest Regional Climate Center director (retired) and CoCoRaHS Illinois state coordinator Steve Hilberg.

"The constant changes in the ocean of air we live in affect everyone. Weather and climate information is used for a decision as mundane as "What do I wear today?" to multi-million dollar business decisions. Data collected from a variety of networks, including CoCoRaHS, are important to a wide variety of users, including government agencies, businesses, and the general public. This Webinar will highlight some the typical and not so typical uses of weather and climate data and will demonstrate the contributions of CoCoRaHS observations."

Reserve your seat now for the February 16th Webinar by registering here: [Climate Data Webinar Registration](#)

Our next CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar "Understanding and Identifying Clouds" will take place on March 8th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.