

Messages of the Day
March 2013

Friday, March 1, 2013

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2013 Begins! Recruit one or two!

"CoCoRaHS March Madness", is our friendly annual recruiting competition between all of our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March.

We have a simple challenge to everyone out there during March: "Would you please take a moment to recommend the program to at least one friend or relative and encourage them to sign up to be a volunteer observer?" That's it just one (OK, two or three if you are really ambitious). If just half of our 17,500 current volunteers gave this a shot, we could really see the density of our coverage improve. Let the madness begin!

To help you with recruiting a downloadable CoCoRaHS Brochure is available by clicking here:
[CoCoRaHS Brochure](#)

We will post an ongoing tally of results by state once a week (most likely on Fridays) on our "Message of the Day" with the final results posted on April 1st. The winning states will get to hold onto and display one of the two "CoCoRaHS Cup" trophies until next March.

Like last year, states will be competing for two national trophies. The first will be awarded for a "*Traditional Count*" . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers in March. The second will be "*Population Weighted*" . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers per one million of it's total population.

The first category is pretty straight forward. The state with the most new volunteers signed-up wins.

The second category is a little trickier. For each new volunteer who signs-up, the state will be given a percentage of "one point" based on the state's total population (potential volunteer pool). This will give those states with sparser populations an equal chance. States with smaller populations will receive a larger point value for a new volunteer compared to those with larger populations (For each new volunteer Wyoming will receive 1.77 points based on their population of 563,626 residents, whereas California who will receive 0.03 points with their population of 37,253,956 residents). These point values are based on "new stations per million residents" which is derived from the 2010 estimated population information (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_population). Please see: "[Population based scoring](#)" for a breakdown of each states point value per new volunteer.

Keep track of and learn about the tournament on our CoCoRaHS March Madness page:
["http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness"](http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness)

Good luck to your state! Don't forget to tell someone about CoCoRaHS, especially this month!

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

THIS THURSDAY . . . CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for March 2013: "I before E" Except in Drought . . . register today!

Drought will be the focus of our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on March 7th, "*I before E" Except in Drought*" presented by Mark Svoboda of the National Drought Mitigation Center located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Space is limited to the first 500 registrants, so register today! We will notify the first 500 who register of their acceptance to the Webinar. Those who aren't able to attend will be able to watch this episode on-line the following day.

REGISTRATION INFO

Title: Webinar #15 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "I before E" Except in Drought

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2013

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

"Drought is one of the least understood, yet most costly of all disasters. This talk will focus on how all droughts are local and how their impacts affect us and the environment around us. Impacts are the face of drought and they expose our vulnerability to this unique hazard. Special attention will be paid to drought early warning and information systems and the integral role networks such as CoCoRaHS play in feeding useful information to those in decision support and policy making. Tools of the trade will be explored to look into the state-of-the-science in tackling drought in the U.S. in a proactive manner."

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [DROUGHT](#)

Our April CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "*Forecasting the Ferocious: The How, What, Where and Why of Tornadoes*" by Greg Carbin of the NOAA's Storm Prediction Center will take place on April 11th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

NOAA's Severe Weather Preparedness Week (March 3-9, 2013)

Know your risk. Take action. Be an example.

Be a Force of Nature this year with National Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 3-9, 2013.

During this week, NOAA and FEMA are highlighting the importance of planning and practicing how and where to take shelter before severe weather strikes. Being prepared to act quickly can be a matter of life and death.

Being a force of nature goes beyond taking appropriate preparedness action. It's about inspiring others to do the same. We're asking people not only to be prepared, but also to encourage their social network to act by texting, tweeting, or posting a Facebook status update.

Please take a few moments to visit this informative site: [Severe Weather Preparedness Week](#).

Thursday, March 7, 2013

NOAA's Severe Weather Preparedness Week (March 3-9, 2013)

Know your risk. Take action. Be an example.

Be a Force of Nature this year with National Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 3-9, 2013.

During this week, NOAA and FEMA are highlighting the importance of planning and practicing how and where to take shelter before severe weather strikes. Being prepared to act quickly can be a matter of life and death.

Being a force of nature goes beyond taking appropriate preparedness action. It's about inspiring others to do the same. We're asking people not only to be prepared, but also to encourage their social network to act by texting, tweeting, or posting a Facebook status update.

Please take a few moments to visit this informative site: [Severe Weather Preparedness Week](#).

Monday, March 11, 2013

PING - What "type" of precipitation is falling by you? . . . NOAA's NSSL appreciates your help!

NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) is located in Norman, Oklahoma. They study severe and hazardous weather processes and develop tools to help National Weather Service forecasters, and federal, university and private sector partners use weather information more effectively.

Back in December, NSSL launched its iPhone and Android apps to collect precipitation reports from the public: "[PING](#)". The NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory, in partnership with the University of Oklahoma launched this app allowing users to anonymously report precipitation from their iPhone or Android through the "mobile Precipitation Identification Near the Ground "mPING" app. NSSL researchers are comparing the reports with what radars detect and are using the information to develop new radar and forecasting technologies and techniques to determine whether snow, rain, ice pellets, mixtures or hail is falling. NSSL hopes to build a valuable database of tens of thousands of observations from across the U.S.

Some CoCoRaHS observers have asked "Could PING be potential competition for CoCoRaHS?"

Kim Elmore of NSSL addresses this question: *"CoCoRaHS has interest in precip type (snow depth, hail occurrence, etc.) but doesn't focus on in situ, real time observations of precipitation type. Yet, that's essentially all PING does! It cannot, under any circumstances, replace CoCoRaHS, nor can CoCoRaHS independently serve the research interests of PING. Both deal with precipitation, but PING is singularly interested in precipitation type while CoCoRaHS is primarily (though not exclusively) interested in precipitation amount. Again, both deal with precipitation, but each deals with a different aspect of precipitation. As of yet, neither tracks precipitation rate in real time, which is something that the radar QPE algorithms need but is very difficult to obtain. Even harder is liquid equivalent rate for frozen precipitation, such as snow.*

NSSL can not stress enough that CoCoRaHS observers must not confuse the data CoCoRaHS collects with the data that PING collects and PING observers must not assume that PING yields data that CoCoRaHS needs. CoCoRaHS observations must not be abandoned for PING! Frankly, we need them for our work in QPE algorithm development. PING observations are of very limited value to the CoCoRaHS mission and CoCoRaHS precip type reports and amounts are of very limited value to the PING mission, yet both are absolutely necessary because they serve in a complimentary fashion the overall mission embraced by remote sensing. "

More info on the PING app:

The apps are available on iTunes or Google Play for use on both phones and tablets.

The reports can be viewed here in real-time: <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/ping/display/>

Lab's main PING page: <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/ping/>

Link for iTunes app: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mping/id584383400?mt=8>

Link for Android app:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.ou.cimms.wping&feature=search_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwyLDEsImVkdS5vdS5jaW1tcy53cGluZyJd

If you have some extra time please give this a try, NSSL would really appreciate your help!

Monday, March 11, 2013

CoCoRaHS FLASH UPDATE -- March Madness 2013 results as of March 11th (week one) . . . Texas and Wyoming widen leads

"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2013" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) continues into it's second week.

To view this week's standings as of March 11th and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: "<http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness>". We will post an ongoing update of points by state each Friday via our "Message of the Day". Final results posted on April 1st.

A reminder that this year we are challenging everyone to sign-up a friend or relative as a CoCoRaHS observer during the thirty-one day competition.

Good luck to your state!

Friday, March 15, 2013

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2013 results as of March 15th (week two)

"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2013" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) continues into it's second week.

Here in week two of the contest, the "traditional count" category (shear number of new observers) has **Texas (79)** in the lead followed by North Carolina (63), Wyoming (41), Maine (38) and New York (18).

In the "population weighted" category, **Wyoming (72.74)** is in solid control of first, followed by Maine (28.61), North Dakota (16.35), Nebraska (9.31) and North Carolina (6.61).

To view this week's standings as of March 15th and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: "<http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness>". We will post an ongoing update of points by state each Friday via our "Message of the Day". Final results posted on April 1st.

A reminder that this year we are challenging everyone to sign-up a friend or relative as a CoCoRaHS observer during the thirty-one day competition.

Good luck to your state!

Saturday, March 16, 2013

SWE Monday -- Coming down the Home Stretch

What snow there was has already melted for many of us, but at high elevations and in northern states and provinces, snow is still accumulating. The next few weeks become the most important all year for knowing how much water is in the snowpack. Will there be flooding or will there be drought? Knowing the water content of the remaining snow (we call that SWE -- Snow Water Equivalent) helps answer these very important questions.

That's why we will continue our "Total SWE Monday" habit for a few more weeks.

We realize it is difficult to take core samples of deep snow or icy layers and to get a perfect measurement. That's why we only ask for one reading a week. More often is great when conditions are changing, but we appreciate once a week readings until the snow has melted. Several hydrologic and flood forecasting organizations like the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (<http://www.nohrsc.nws.gov/>) utilize and greatly appreciate our SWE reports.

Thanks very much. For instructions on how to measure Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) click here: [SWE](#).

Monday, March 18, 2013

NOAA Flood Safety Awareness Week (March 18-22, 2013)

Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States and its territories in all months of the year. National Flood Safety Awareness Week is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what you can do to save life and property.

Please take a few moments to visit this informative site: [Flood Information](#).



CoCoRaHS March Madness 2013 results as of March 18th (week three)

"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2013" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) continues into it's second week.

To view this week's standings as of March 18th and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: "<http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness>". We will post an ongoing update of points by state each Friday via our "Message of the Day". Final results posted on April 1st.

A reminder that this year we are challenging everyone to sign-up a friend or relative as a CoCoRaHS observer during the thirty-one day competition.

Good luck to your state!

Friday, March 22, 2013

CoCoRaHS March Madness 2013 results as of March 22nd (week four) -- TEXAS BREAKS ALL-TIME MARCH MADNESS RECORD WITH 141! WYOMING CONTINUES TO GALLOP AHEAD IN PER CAPITA CATEGORY!

"CoCoRaHS March Madness 2013" (our friendly annual recruiting competition between our CoCoRaHS states to see how many new volunteer observers we can recruit during the month of March) continues into it's fourth week.

To view this week's standings as of March 22nd and learn more about our contest, visit our March Madness webpage by clicking here: "<http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=marchmadness>". We will post an ongoing update of points by state each Friday via our "Message of the Day". Final results posted on April 1st.

A reminder that this year we are challenging everyone to sign-up a friend or relative as a CoCoRaHS observer during the thirty-one day competition.

Good luck to your state!



CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for April 2013: "Forecasting the Ferocious: The How, What, Where and Why of Tornadoes"

Tornadoes will be the focus of our next "[WxTalk Webinar](#)" on April 11th. "*Forecasting the Ferocious: The How, What, Where and Why of Tornadoes*" will be presented by Greg Carbin, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist of NOAA's Storm Prediction Center located in Norman, Oklahoma.

Space is limited to the first 500 registrants, so register today! We will notify the first 500 who register of their acceptance to the Webinar. Those who aren't able to attend will be able to watch this episode on-line the following day.

REGISTRATION INFO

Title: Webinar #17 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "Forecasting the Ferocious: The How, What, Where and Why of Tornadoes"

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2013

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

Greg will give an overview of how the Storm Prediction Center forecasts severe weather in general and then concentrate on tornado forecasting specifically. We can learn a lot by looking at the historic record of tornado events in the United States. We also will take a look at why tornadoes form where they do in the U.S. and elsewhere and why twisters are much more common in North America compared to other parts of the world. We'll finish by looking at the current events during the spring of 2013 and take a look at what's ahead in terms of tornado forecasting and warning technology.

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [TORNADOES](#)

Our May CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "*At the Cutting Edge: Harry Wexler and the Emergence of Atmospheric Science*" by Jim Fleming of Colby College, Waterville, Maine will take place on May 9th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.