Messages of the Day
June 2011

Saturday, June 4, 2011

"CoCoRaHS hits 10,000 Reports" Challenge Week

June 6-9, 2011 is our chance to reach 10,000 precipitation reports per day for the first time in CoCoRaHS history. Please join us in reaching this significant goal.

Most of you already report your daily measurements each and every morning rain or shine (zero). We (CoCoRaHS Team) and all those who use CoCoRaHS data each day are grateful for your excellent rainfall reports.

To reach our goal of 10,000 reports, we will need the help of the hundreds of other CoCoRaHS volunteers who report less frequently -- or only when it rains. Please help June 6-9 by reporting rain or shine.

Finally there are some of us who have signed up, bought a gauge and are waiting for a good opportunity to put it out and make that first report. This week is for you!

Thanks for helping reach this goal. We will report on the results next week.

Friday, June 10, 2011

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.

Monday, June 13, 2011

LAX . . . DTW . . . MCO and don't forget GGG!

Have you ever read a weather report and noticed one of those three letter location identifiers like ORD, DEN or RDU representing the place that the observation is coming from? What are they? Those are the Federal Aviation Administration's three letter airport codes for US cities (other countries use them as well). If you haven't seen them on a weather report, you've surely seen them on the tags on your checked airline luggage.

Why is MCI used for Kansas City? ORD for Chicago's O'Hare International Airport? BNA for Nashville? Click here find out why and also learn the history of these codes: Explanation of Airport Identifier Codes.

Below are the three letter codes for several cities across the United States:

ALB - ALBANY, NY
ABQ - ALBUQUERQUE, NM
ESF - ALEXANDRIA, LA
ABE - ALLENTOWN, PA
AMA - AMARILLO, TX
ANC - ANCHORAGE, AK
AVL - ASHEVILLE, NC
ATL - ATLANTA, GA
AUS - AUSTIN, TX
BFL - BAKERSFIELD, CA
BWI - BALTIMORE, MD
BGR - BANGOR, ME
BTR - BATON ROUGE, LA
MBS - BAY CITY, MI
BPT - BEAUMONT/PT ARTHUR, TX
BIL - BILLINGS, MT
BHM - BIRMINGHAM, AL
BMI - BLOOMINGTON, IL
BOI - BOISE, ID
BOS - BOSTON, MA
BUF - BUFFALO, NY
BUR - BURBANK, CA
BTM - BUTTE,MT
CID - CEDAR RAPIDS, IA
CMI - CHAMPAIGN/URBANA, IL
CHS - CHARLESTON, SC
CLT - CHARLOTTE, NC
CHA- CHATTANOOGA, TN
MDW - CHICAGO, IL/MIDWAY
ORD - CHICAGO, IL/O'HARE
CVG - CINCINNATI, OH
CLE - CLEVELAND, OH
COS - COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
CAE - COLUMBIA, SC
CMH - COLUMBUS, OH
CRP - CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
DFW - DALLAS/FT. WORTH, TX
DAY - DAYTON, OH
DEN - DENVER, CO
DSM - DES MOINES, IA
DET - DETROIT, MI/CITY
DTW - DETROIT, MI/METRO
DBQ - DUBUQUE, IA
DRO - DURANGO, CO

DUT - DUTCH HARBOR, AK
ELP - EL PASO, TX
EUG - EUGENE, OR
EVV - EVANSVILLE, IN
FAI - FAIRBANKS, AK
FYV - FAYETTEVILLE, AR
FLO - FLORENCE, SC
FAT - FRESNO, CA
FLL - FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
RSW - FT. MYERS, FL
FSM - FT. SMITH, AR
VPS - FT. WALTON BEACH, FL
FWA - FT. WAYNE, IN
GRR - GRAND RAPIDS, MI
GRB - GREEN BAY, WI
GSP - GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG, SC
GSO - GREENSBORO, NC
GUC - GUNNISON, CO
HRL - HARLINGEN, TX
MDT - HARRISBURG, PA
BDL - HARTFORD, CT
HNL - HONOLULU, HI
HOU - HOUSTON, TX/HOBBY
IAH - HOUSTON, TX/INTERCONTINENTAL
HSV - HUNTSVILLE, AL
IND - INDIANAPOLIS, IN
ISP - ISLIP, NY
JAN - JACKSON, MS
JAC - JACKSON HOLE, WY
JAX - JACKSONVILLE, FL
AZO - KALAMAZOO, MI
MCI - KANSAS CITY, MO
EEN - KEENE, NH
EYW - KEY WEST, FL
ILE - KILLEEN, TX
TYS - KNOXVILLE, TN
LSE - LA CROSSE, WI
LFT - LAFAYETTE, LA
LCH - LAKE CHARLES, LA
LAN - LANSING, MI
LRD - LAREDO, TX
LAS - LAS VEGAS, NV
LAW - LAWTON, OK
LEX - LEXINGTON, KY
LNK - LINCOLN, NE
LIT - LITTLE ROCK, AR
GGG - LONGVIEW, TX
LAX - LOS ANGELES, CA
SDF - LOUISVILLE, KY
LBB - LUBBOCK, TX
MSN - MADISON, WI
MHT - MANCHESTER, NH
MQT - MARQUETTE, MI
OGG - MAUI, HI
MFE - MC ALLEN , TX
MFR - MEDFORD, OR

MLB - MELBOURNE,FL
MEM - MEMPHIS, TN
MIA - MIAMI, FL
MKE - MILWAUKEE, WI
MSP - MINNEAPOLIS, MN
MOB - MOBILE, AL
MLI - MOLINE, IL
MRY - MONTEREY, CA
MGM - MONTGOMERY, AL
MKG - MUSKEGON, MI
MYR - MYRTLE BEACH, SC
BNA - NASHVILLE, TN
HVN - NEW HAVEN, CT
MSY - NEW ORLEANS, LA
JFK - NEW YORK, NY/KENNEDY
LGA - NEW YORK, NY/LA GUARDIA
EWR - NEWARK, NJ
SWF - NEWBURGH, NY/STWRT FIELD
ORF - NORFOLK, VA/INTERNATIONAL
OAK - OAKLAND, CA
MAF - ODESSA/MIDLAND, TX
OKC - OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
OMA - OMAHA, NE
ONT - ONTARIO, CA
SNA- ORANGE COUNTY, CA
MCO - ORLANDO, FL
OWB - OWENSBORO, KY
OXR - OXNARD, CA
PSP - PALM SPRINGS, CA
PNS - PENSACOLA, FL
PIA - PEORIA, IL
PHL - PHILADELPHIA, PA
PHX - PHOENIX, AZ
PIT - PITTSBURGH, PA
PWM - PORTLAND, ME
PDX - PORTLAND, OR
PVD - PROVIDENCE, RI
RDU - RALEIGH-DURHAM, NC
RNO - RENO, NV
RIC - RICHMOND, VA
RST - ROCHESTER, MN
ROC - ROCHESTER, NY
RFD - ROCKFORD, IL
SMF - SACRAMENTO, CA
SLC- SALT LAKE CITY, UT
SJT - SAN ANGELO, TX
SAT - SAN ANTONIO, TX
SAN - SAN DIEGO, CA
SFO - SAN FRANCISCO, CA
SJC - SAN JOSE, CA
SJU - SAN JUAN, PR
SBP - SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA
SBA - SANTA BARBARA, CA
SMX - SANTA MARIA, CA
SRQ - SARASOTA, FL
SEA - SEATTLE, WA

SHV - SHREVEPORT, LA
FSD - SIOUX FALLS, SD
SBN - SOUTH BEND, IN
GEG - SPOKANE, WA
SPI - SPRINGFIELD, IL
SGF - SPRINGFIELD, MO
STL - ST. LOUIS, MO
SYR - SYRACUSE, NY
TPA - TAMPA, FL
TXK - TEXARKANA, AR
TOL - TOLEDO, OH
TVC - TRAVERSE CITY, MI
TUS - TUCSON, AZ
TUL - TULSA, OK
TCL - TUSCALOOSA, AL
TYR - TYLER, TX
EGE - VAIL/EAGLE, CO
ACT - WACO, TX
IAD - WASHINGTON DC/DULLES
DCA - WASHINGTON DC/NATIONAL
CWA - WAUSAU/STEVENS POINT, WI
PBI - WEST PALM BEACH, FL
HPN - WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
ICT - WICHITA, KS
SPS - WICHITA FALLS, TX
AVP - WILKES BARRE, PA
ORH - WORCESTER, MA

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

"The Catch"

What's "The Catch" you may ask? "The Catch" is the name of the bi-weekly e-mail that many of you receive from CoCoRaHS's national director Nolan Doesken. These folksy messages are chocked full of very helpful precipitation information and provide for an interesting read. Many of you enjoy following the adventures on Nolan's farm (they're usually at the end of the message). In case you haven't received the most recent one you can always view it and archived additions on the web by clicking here: "The Catch"

If you are not receiving "The Catch" via your e-mail or just need to update your email address, please contact zach@cocorahs.org.

PS - The term "catch" is another way of saying what has fallen in your rain gauge.

Friday, June 17, 2011

CoCoRaHS Celebrates 13 Years Today!

On June 17, 1998, the first CoCoRaHS (then known as the Colorado Collaborative Rain and Hail Study) precipitation reports came rolling in from a handful of volunteers, as the network got underway along the Front Range of Colorado's Rocky Mountains. Now thirteen years later, we have over 15,000 active volunteers taking daily measurements in all fifty states. CoCoRaHS has become the largest provider of daily precipitation measurements in the country. Who could have guessed that this local project would grow to what it has become today!

We thank you for being part of our team. We could not have done it without you! Happy Anniversary CoCoRaHS!

Friday, June 24, 2011

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.

Monday, June 27, 2011

The Southeast Regional Climate Center

As we continue our "Climates of the Fifty States" series, we move to our fifth region of the country and look at the states of the Southeast Regional Climate Center.

The Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC) is one of six regional climate centers and, as part of NOAA's Regional Climate Center Program, serves as the hub for climate services, applications, research, and education in the Southeast. The SERCC provides climate service support and engages in research germane to the states and territories of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the American Virgin Islands. Originally established in 1989 at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in Columbia, SC, the SERCC relocated to the Department of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the spring of 2007, and operations began in June of that year.

The SERCC provides a variety of climate services to meet sector-specific needs in the southeast region. These include climate data ingest, quality control, and product development via the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS); monitoring of regional climate patterns and their societal impacts in the context of climate variability and change; education and outreach support; and applied climate research. These services and activities are enhanced through regional support from and collaboration with a variety

of entities, including a strong and active network of state climate offices, NOAA centers (including NCDC), RISAs, Sea Grant programs, and academic institutions, among others.

Currently, the SERCC is focusing its user-engagement and research activities in areas where there is a strong need for expertise in the use of climate information. Topically, these areas include public health, planning, tourism, and coastal conditions. A number of outreach activities and research projects are presently under various stages of development. These include collaborative research projects on the health impacts of heat waves and the spatial patterns of precipitation across the southeast. Additionally, the SERCC has initiated a research program, in collaboration with experts and professionals in other fields, to explore the socioeconomic and human health impacts of extreme weather events in the southeast. The ultimate goal of this research program is to provide extended-range weather and climate forecasts that are tailored to specific user groups. These forecasts would provide valuable climatological context and more specificity with respect to the character and probability of extreme events.

To find out more about the SERCC, visit: http://www.sercc.com

To learn more about the "Climates of our Fifty States" and view past state climate messages, visit our 50 States Climate Page.

Join us on Wednesday, as we look at the next state in our series: Alabama