

Messages of the Day
August 2013

Friday, August 2, 2013

**CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for August 2013:
"Atlantic basin seasonal hurricane prediction and the forecast for the 2013
Atlantic hurricane season"**

Rainwater harvesting will be the focus of our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on August 15th. "*Atlantic basin seasonal hurricane prediction and the forecast for the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season*" will be presented by Phil Klotzbach of Colorado State University.

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 #21 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "Atlantic basin seasonal hurricane prediction and the forecast for the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season"

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2013

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

"This month's Webinar will discuss the methodology behind Colorado State University's seasonal hurricane forecasts. The initial outlook for the 2013 hurricane season will also be presented. New techniques for issuing two-week forecasts and Caribbean basin forecasts will be examined, and the causes of observed multi-decadal variability in Atlantic basin hurricane activity will be proposed ."

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

Our September CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "*The Hundred Hunt for the Red Sprite*" by Walt Lyons of FMA Research will take place on September 12th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Rainfall is Variable

We know from our CoCoRaHS observations that precipitation is distributed very unevenly across our network. If we look across the globe, we find that the variability is even greater. According to the US Geological Survey, Mt. Waialeale, Hawaii holds the world's record for average-annual rainfall.

"Mt. Waialeale averages about 450 inches (1,140 cm) per year. A remarkable 642 inches (1,630 cm) was reported there during one twelve-month period (that's almost 2 inches (5 cm) every day!). Is this the world

record for the most rain in a year? No, that was recorded at Cherrapunji, India, where it rained 905 inches (2,300 cm) in 1861. Contrast those excessive precipitation amounts to Arica, Chile, where no rain fell for 14 years, and in Bagdad, California, where precipitation was absent for 767 consecutive days from October 1912 to November 1914."

Want to find out more about the remarkable properties of precipitation? Click here: [Precipitation](#)

Tuesday, August 5, 2013

Have you changed your email address lately? Please let us know.

From time to time for better or worse folks change their email addresses. If that's the case and you haven't been receiving email from CoCoRaHS (for example: Nolan's bi-monthly messages know as "The Catch") you can send us your new email address, along with your station number to: info@cocorahs.org .

Friday, August 9, 2013

Heavy Rain? . . . stay safe . . . Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD)

Local summer thunderstorms, as well as tropical systems can wreak havoc, especially when a large amount of rain falls in a short period of time. In the case of a flash flood the rain may not even fall in your local area, but upstream, resulting in cascading water heading in your direction.

In today's Message of the Day, we highlight the National Weather Service's campaign "**Turn Around Don't Drown**". It is meant to inform people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters. Knowing what to do ahead of time when a flooding situation arises can help save your life.

NOAA's site recommends several things when it comes to flooding:

- *Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information."*
- *If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.*
- *Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown®*
- *Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don't Drown®"*
- *Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.*
- *Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers."*

Please take a few moments to visit NOAA's informative site at: [TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN](#).

Stay safe this summer!

Monday, August 12, 2013

**THIS THURSDAY --- CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for August 2013:
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Friday, August 16, 2013

Calling All Educators! Join the "CoCoRaHS School Network"!

With the beginning of school right around the corner, we want to make our educators out there aware of CoCoRaHS activities for K-12 teachers.

With over 400 educators across the country that are already involved, the CoCoRaHS Education Team is continuing to develop and pilot new materials and activities. We invite any existing educators, teachers, students, schools, and home schools that are currently involved as CoCoRaHS volunteers to contact us. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming part of the developing "CoCoRaHS School Network", please send your contact information to: education@cocorahs.org

Monday, August 19, 2013

Have you visited the CoCoRaHS Blog? It's one of our coolest features with great graphics!

The CoCoRaHS blog administered by Illinois state coordinator Steve Hilberg, covers a wide range of topics on weather and climate. Steve, the former director of the Midwest Regional Climate Center, brings his expertise and passion for the earth's atmosphere to the blog by highlighting interesting current events.

Some of the topics addressed this summer have been "*Flooding in the Ozarks*", "*Two (More) Cases for CoCoRaHS*", "*The Spectacular Hail Storm Near Calgary*", "*A Window on the Upper Atmosphere*", "*Devastating Floods in Southern Alberta, Calgary*" and "*Tropics Becoming Active*" just to name a few. These are well written pieces with fantastic graphics. If you haven't had a chance to view them, please take the time to. Steve usually posts a new topic mid-week

The blog is also interactive, meaning you can leave comments or messages for Steve and all our CoCoRaHS blog readers by clicking on comments below each post. This is located after the time stamp for each posting.

Please check out the blog and don't be shy if you want to talk weather and climate! To visit the blog please click here: ["CoCoRaHS Blog"](#).

We hope you'll visit the blog this week!

Thursday, August 22, 2013

CoCoRaHS T-Shirts ("Precipitation Series" and "Classic") . . . where can I purchase one?

Recently one of our observers wrote us and asked: "*I really like your CoCoRaHS t-shirts. Where can I purchase one?*"

Great question. Perhaps you have asked yourself this same question as well. The good news is that you can obtain our shirts from our good friends at [Weatheryourway.com](#). Weatheryourway is the "*Official Distributor*" of all of our CoCoRaHS products. Each CoCoRaHS order includes a free CoCoRaHS decal.

CoCoRaHS Precipitation series shirts are now available for a limited time. Get your 'hail' shirt now and be on the lookout for 'snow' shirts by October and 'rain' shirts in March 2014!"

Classic CoCoRaHS t-shirts are priced at \$12.75 each plus shipping (\$14.75 for XXL). For each shirt sold \$5.00 is donated to the CoCoRaHS network. "[Shirt colors](#)" include: Navy Blue, Forest Green, Cardinal Red, Royal Blue, Prairie Dust and Indigo Blue. CoCoRaHS shirts are a great way to show your participation in the network. Each order includes a free CoCoRaHS decal.

Weatheryourway.com is also stocked with CoCoRaHS caps, sweatshirts, polo shirts, snowrulers, snowswatters, hail pads, rain gauges and gauge parts, as well as other items". To find out more visit: [www.weatheryourway.com](#) or click here: "[CoCoRaHS & Weatheryourway](#)".

Saturday, August 24, 2013

Are there any improvements in your drought affected communities? . . . Is there water in your pond once again?

This summer we have run several messages asking you to report "drought impacts" in your community. Thank you for all the reports we have received so far.

With many areas seeing frequent afternoon thunderstorms this month. Several of you have started to see slow improvements in areas which have been in drought. Good news indeed! Those elusive rains have finally come and you are beginning to see a difference. Your grass is green again, dust is no longer blowing across your fields and that pond that you love to fish in actually has water in it, with fish to boot. In fact fire danger has subsided, there are no longer watering restrictions in your neighborhood and those biting bugs are making a late summer appearance (*drat!*).

If this is the case in your part of the country, we'd love for you to share the visible evidence of how things are improving in your community. Improvements in drought conditions can impact us in many ways. Most positive, some not so much . . . "*With all of this rain, the weeds have taken over the garden!*" and "*that dirt road to our farm is awfully muddy!*". Effects may be associated with agriculture, energy, public health, wildfire and recreation, just to name a few.

Please take a look around your local area this week and think about how the improvement in drought conditions might be impacting it. Then, as a big favor to CoCoRaHS and the National Drought Mitigation Center, file a "[CoCoRaHS Drought Impact Report](#)". It should only take a minute or two. Report what you can, don't let the "monetary impacts" part scare you away. That part is highly desirable, but if you don't know a dollar amount, feel free to skip that part.

Your reports go directly to the National Drought Mitigation Center ([NDMC](#)) and they provide critical information on how drought is impacting the nation. Just like your precipitation reports, drought impact reports help fill in the gaps by providing important "eyewitness information" for your geographic area.

A great resource on drought is the "[Drought Impacts Reporting Resource Page](#)". If you are new to CoCoRaHS please take a moment to look it over, if you've seen it before please take a moment or two to review it.

Thank you for your drought impact reports! We hope that you are able to report some positive improvements!

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for September 2013: "The Hundred Hunt for the Red Sprite"

Sprites will be the focus of our next "[WxTalk Webinar](#)" on September 12th. "*The Hundred Hunt for the Red Sprite*" will be presented by Walt Lyons of FMA Research, Inc. in Fort Collins, CO.

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 #22 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "The Hundred Hunt for the Red Sprite"

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013

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

"This presentation will document one of the most unexpected scientific findings in the atmosphere during the late 20th century... the discovery of the red sprite (<http://www.sky-fire.tv/index.cgi/Sprites.html>). For over a century, people, including well respected scientists, had reported seeing strange lights in the night sky about thunderstorms - and they were. But it remained for a "happy accident" in 1989 when the first such event was captured on a low-light camera's video tape. One researcher exclaimed it was as if Biology had just suddenly discovered a new human body part. Since then, an entire "zoo" of luminous creatures have been found in the thin air above thunderstorms. And the discoveries are still being made. We will discuss how the public can become engaged in the search for new thunderstorm related electrical phenomena. After the presentation, you can also take the online "Sprite Quiz" and receive your score and a certificate of completion!" (<http://www.sky-fire.tv/index.cgi/Sprites.html>)

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

Our October CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "Meteorological Instruments -- Everything you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask!" by Stephen Burt of the University of Reading in the United Kingdom will take place on October 17th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Thursday, August 29, 2013

"Field Photo Weekend" August 31st - Sept. 2nd . . . Celebrate the traditional end of the summer season by taking a photo this weekend!

Have you participated in the CoCoRaHS Field Photos Weekends before? If not, here's your chance to join in with hundreds of other CoCoRaHS volunteers to see what our landscape looks like. If you have participated before, this is a great chance to go back to your favorite spots and see what has changed. On August 31st, September 1st or 2nd, you can help by participating in our fourth "Field Photo Weekend".

All you have to do is take your camera or mobile device, find a landscape in your community (streams, lakes, rivers, reservoirs, a forest, a crop field, a pasture, etc.) and take a single photo or a panorama in four different directions (N, E, S, W) from where you are standing. After that you can either email your photos with your location to: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org, or upload them directly to the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility's photo archive website: "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos>". For detailed instructions, click here: "[FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS](#)"

If you want to see what others have submitted before, go to "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos/cocorahsmay13/>" and click on any of the dots (these photos were from

Memorial Day weekend last May). We are working on going back to the earlier events and tagging all those photos so you will be able to easily find all the ones from our initial event last Labor Day or Presidents Day this past winter. If you upload photos directly to the EMOF website, you can help us by adding a tag *#CoCoRaHSSep13* in the Field Notes section. Then your photos will pop up on the link "<http://www.eomf.ou.edu/photos/cocorahssep13/>" along with any that we receive by e-mail.

Field Photo Weekend is a partnership between CoCoRaHS, the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) and the Earth Observation and Modeling Facility (EOMF) to help ground truth through photos, what is going on with our landscapes throughout the country. It's not just drought we are looking for either, it could be flooding, or whatever state the landscape is now in. There is the possibility that we may hold additional "Field Photo Weekends" during the year to show how conditions to your landscape may have changed over time. This should be fun!

In a few weeks this weekend's photos will be posted and you'll be able to see your photos and those taken by other volunteers. Reference "Viewing Photos" on the "[FIELD PHOTO WEEKENDS](#)" page to see how to view the photos.

Remember you don't have to email your photos this weekend, just take them, but we do encourage you to email them soon afterward. That address again is: fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. When uploading your photos please include the words: *#CoCoRaHSSep13* in the notes field.

Just think if all 19,000+ CoCoRaHS volunteers take photos! Wow!!

Thanks in advance for participating and have a great Labor Day weekend!