

**Messages of the Day**  
**November 2012**

Friday, Nov. 2, 2012

**CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for November 2012 take place this Thursday!**

**Weather Optics - "There are more 'bows' in the sky than just rainbows" . . . register today!**

An overview of the weather optics will be the focus for our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on November 8th, *Weather Optics - "There are more 'bows' in the sky than just rainbows"* presented by Grant Goodge of Earth Resources Technology, Inc., Laurel, Maryland.

*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 #12 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: Weather Optics - "There are more 'bows' in the sky than just rainbows"**

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2012

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

*This webinar will provide an overview of weather optics and will show many examples of these wonderful phenomena. "If one takes time to look there are many beautiful displays of light that are formed by the light bent as it passes through or reflected from both rain drops and ice crystals. Most of these are seen during the day, but some are also seen at night when the moon is more than half full. Even though the Northern Lights are not produced from sunlight or moonlight, they can also bring great pleasure to the observer."*

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

Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012



## **Announcing the PRISM-CoCoRaHS Climate Portal!**

It's finally here, the PRISM-CoCoRaHS Climate Portal. What is that you might ask? The PRISM portal is a new CoCoRaHS data analysis tool developed in collaboration with the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University. This is an exclusive feature available only to CoCoRaHS participants. It helps connect our daily precipitation measurements (weather) to seasonal patterns, long term averages and year to year precipitation variations (climate). This portal provides access to estimates of "normal" precipitation for any location in the contiguous United States. PRISM also provides estimates of total precipitation for each month and year since 1895. View the ["PRISM Portal Reference page"](#)

You can access the portal by going to the CoCoRaHS home page and clicking on "My Account" at the top of the page. From there you have two choices. One is to select the PRISM Portal section and click on on the "blue" words PRISM PORTAL to get access to the Continental United States or under the My Station heading click on the "blue" words PRISM DATA to get access to your specific station's PRISM estimates.

Once there you'll be able to find the estimated precipitation for any location in the continental United States or create a historical time series for monthly and annual precipitation.

We recommend watching the PRISM Portal Guide YouTube instructional video on how to use the portal by clicking here: ["PRISM PORTAL VIDEO"](#)

Please enjoy and use this great new feature to explore the climate of the U.S.

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012

## **Mid-Autumn Snow . . . good time for a review!**

It's the middle of November and snow has already fallen in many of our observers backyards. As we move later into the month many more of you will experience snow as well.

Snow is very important for our environment as well as our daily activities. Your reports of "New Snow", "Total Snow on Ground" and "Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)" provide valuable information.

This is a good time of year to review the information on our website on how to measure snow, [Things to know about snow](#), as well as watch our [YouTube Snow Training video](#) .

As you think about the approach of winter, keep in mind that water left in the inner cylinder of our gauge will freeze and crack the gauge if left outside in prolonged subfreezing weather. It is best to bring the funnel and inner tube inside and catch the winter precipitation in the large outer cylinder.

Finally, many of you have asked where to find good rulers that read in tenths of an inch. We now have a source. Snow rulers were recently designed and manufactured specifically for distribution and use by CoCoRaHS volunteers.

Here is a link to where these new snow rulers can be ordered:  
<http://www.weatheryourway.com/cocorahs/store.html>

Many thanks for your mid-autumn snow measurements!!

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012

### **Thanks CoCoRaHS Observers!**

As we reflect on all that we have to be thankful for during this Thanksgiving week, we want to let you know that we are especially thankful for YOU. We appreciate all of your daily efforts in measuring precipitation in your local communities. Taking measurements can sometimes be challenging, as well as rewarding and fun often at the same time. Your efforts as "citizen scientists" (that's really what you are) are noticed and appreciated by many across the country. Your individual measurements really do make a difference and when combined with others in your town, county and state paint a wonderful picture of what we can do together in community!

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at CoCoRaHS!

Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012

### **Check out CoCoRaHS on Facebook and Twitter!**

Did you know that CoCoRaHS is on *Facebook* and *Twitter*? We hope you will check us out on these networks and perhaps become 'fan' of CoCoRaHS on Facebook or a 'follower' on Twitter. You can click on the icons at the top of the CoCoRaHS homepage or below to join in today!

For CoCoRaHS on Facebook, click here: [CoCoRaHS Facebook](#)

**For CoCoRaHS on Twitter, click here: [CoCoRaHS Twitter](#)**

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012

### **Snow Training Shorts**

No, we're not talking about weather apparel here, these are short animations showing how to measure precipitation in wintery weather. Please take a look.

You can view the snow training animations by clicking here: [CoCoRaHS Snow Shorts](#).

Additional training can be found on our [CoCoRaHS Training Slide Show Page](#).

**Thanks for your observations in wintery weather.**

Friday, Nov. 30, 2012

**CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for December 2012:  
"Historic Winter Season Weather Events : What's the best of the  
worst....." . . . register today!**

A look at historic winter season events will be the focus for our next "[WxTalk Webinar](#)" on December 13th, "*Historic Winter Season Weather Events : What's the best of the worst.....*" presented by Paul Kocin - of NOAA's Hydrologic Prediction Center, College Park, MD.

*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 #13 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: "Historic Winter Season Weather Events : What's the best of the worst....."**

Date: Thursday, December 13, 2012

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

*This webinar will take a look at historic winter season events and highlight some of the biggest winter weather events on record.*

*"Many meteorologists, weather observers, enthusiasts and students are fascinated by weather extremes, whether it be hurricanes, tornadoes and in my case, winter storms.*

*In particular, winter storms have driven me for much of my life and have led to a career studying, writing and trying to understand what makes these big storms develop, how well we can forecast them, and what makes them so interesting. While my focus has been on the eastern United States, since that is where I grew up, I would like to present some examples of some of the biggest winter weather events on record, from the legendary Blizzard of 1888, the Appalachian Storm of November 1950 as well as a brief summary of October 2012's Superstorm Sandy, which morphed from a tropical hurricane to one in which its identity as a hurricane/winter storm was not quite so straight forward with few historical precedents.*

*The impacts of these storms make for some compelling stories, both from their huge impacts as well as changes that have occurred in our ability as scientists to forecast them in advance. These are the stories I'd like to tell. "*

Reserve your seat now by registering here: [HISTORIC WINTER EVENTS](#)

Our January CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "Flavors of Climate variability: El Nino, La Nina and Recurring Jet Stream patterns" by Gerry Bell of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center will take place on January 17th . Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.