

## **Messages of the Day** **November 2014**

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

### **November Snow . . . good time for a review!**

It's the first week 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 [Snow Training video](#). In addition our website also features a whole suite of short snow measurement animations: [Snow Training shorts](#)

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 November snow measurements!!

Friday, November 7, 2014

### **Who Uses CoCoRaHS Observations? Climatologists**

#### **6. Climatologists**

Climatologists have more uses for CoCoRaHS data than you may ever realize. They monitor the development, spread and retreat of drought locally and across the nation. This requires as many rain gauge reports as possible. This is just one of many reasons why it is important for volunteers to report "0.00" on days with no precipitation as well as rain on snow amounts on stormy days. Climatologists track the year-by-year variations in precipitation to determine common patterns, long-term averages, probabilities and extremes. Climatologists look to see if there are areas that regularly receive more precipitation than others - are there preferred storm tracks and rain shadows? It may take years to prove, but scientists are patient and constantly on the watch for variations and change. They are very interested in the size, intensity and duration of different types of storms. Having many volunteers close together makes it easier to understand

the spatial variability of precipitation and how that varies from place to place and with the season of the year. Also, the more rain gauges there are, the easier it is to spot and correct observation and reporting errors. Once such group of climatologists using CoCoRaHS data are members of the [American Association of State Climatologists \(AASC\)](#) .

Stay tuned as we highlight our ten most obvious (or perhaps not so obvious) categories in the weeks ahead. Please visit our [WHO USES COCORAHHS OBSERVATIONS?](#) page where we will continue to update the summary of this series. Thanks for your very, very useful observations!

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

## **THIS THURSDAY — CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar for November 2014: "NOHRSC - The National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center"**

The National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center will be the focus of our next ["WxTalk Webinar"](#) on Thursday, November 13th. *"NOHRSC"* will be presented by Carrie Olheiser, of NOAA's National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center located in Chanhassen, MN.

*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 #36 - CoCoRaHS WxTalk: NOHRSC**

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014

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

*"The National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) operates the Snow Data Assimilation System (SNODAS), a sophisticated snow model that produces hourly estimates of snowpack distribution and characteristics for the continental United States and southern Canada.*

*This webinar will talk about the SNODAS model, the observations that are incorporated into the model including satellite imagery, airborne remote sensing, and most importantly, ground based observations like those collected by the CoCoRaHS network. We will also explore NOHRSC's products and services and the importance of the adequate and accurate CoCoRaHS observations in providing the best estimates of snow water equivalent.*

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

Our December CoCoRaHS WxTalk Webinar: "Tsunami Science and Tsunami Warning Systems", will feature Stuart Weinstein, the Deputy Director of NOAA's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. It will take place on Thursday, December 4th. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on how to register.

Friday, November 14, 2014

## Who Uses CoCoRaHS Observations? The Insurance Industry

### 7. Insurance Industry

Insurance claims adjusters have learned about CoCoRaHS as a way to verify if storms were present on days when damage claims were filed. Use of CoCoRaHS data helps to prevent fraudulent claims. CoCoRaHS reports can play a role in hail damage, flood damage, crop losses, traffic accidents, lightning strikes, structural snow load accidents, ice related injuries and other precipitation related claims. Knowing what fell from the sky, in what area, on a certain date is important information for this industry.

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Friday, November 21, 2014

## Kicking off the "Five For CoCoRaHS" Year-End Fundraiser

It's time to kick-off our annual year-end fundraiser!

At the end of each year we hold an on-line fundraiser providing the opportunity to make donations to support the CoCoRaHS volunteer rain gauge Network. Our goal this year is 5,000 donations.

There is certainly no obligation to give. So many of us already help out immensely by taking daily rain, hail and snow observations. But many CoCoRaHS volunteers choose to help financially and that really makes a difference. Your gifts go directly to support CoCoRaHS activities such as precipitation data management, web development work, educational resources and outreach. Your giving helps sustain this project and provides opportunities for the future. We greatly thank you!

Our traditional "Five For CoCoRaHS" campaigns have asked folks to give just five dollars. Please consider giving **\$5.00** to this campaign. Although the amount may seem small, your donations add up quickly and have great impact in keeping the network going throughout the year.

For those who wish make larger donations, we have some nice "thank you" gifts for you. At the \$50 level we will send you our 2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar as our way of saying thanks. If you haven't seen it, it is fantastic, and can also be purchased separately without donating (a unique holiday gift? hint hint :-). At the \$75 level we will send you a unique "sandstorm" t-shirt, the latest in our "CoCoRaHS Precipitation Series" t-shirts. Finally, at the \$100 level and above we will send you our sandstorm t-shirt in a long sleeve version. Please consider giving today.

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Click here to make a donation: ["DONATE"](#)

Those who wish to mail in their donation, click on the donate button above and follow the instructions for donating by postal mail.

Contributions to CoCoRaHS are deductible as charitable contributions within the limits of the Internal Revenue Code. Please consult with your tax professional.

Please note that all donations received will go directly to the support of the CoCoRaHS Network and its sustainability. No funds received will be used to support the National Weather Service, which is a great advocate of CoCoRaHS.

Thank you very much for being a part of CoCoRaHS!

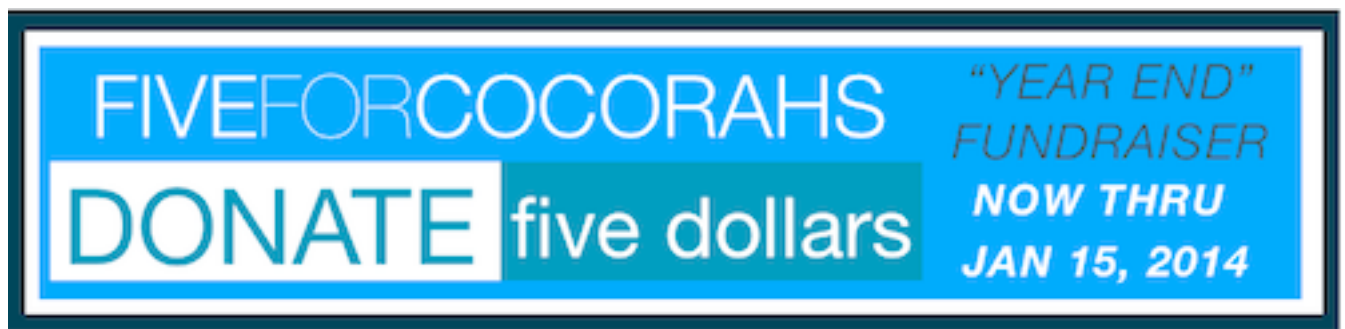
Your friends on the CoCoRaHS staff

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

### **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!



### **The "Five For CoCoRaHS" Year-End Fundraiser**

Please consider donating to our annual year-end fundraiser!

For more information and directions on how to make a donation please click here: ["INFO/DONATE"](#)



## **2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendars now on sale! Order one today**

Our popular 2015 CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge calendars are now on sale! They make great holiday gifts for that weather enthusiast in your family. Each calendar features over fifty photos by fellow precipitation observers displaying their gauges in a variety of settings. It truly is a work of art that you won't find anywhere else. Click here for a closer look: [VIEW THE CALENDAR](#)

The calendars sell at a reasonable price with a portion of each purchase going toward the CoCoRaHS Network. Just click on the banner at the top of the page or click [ORDER A CALENDAR](#) to place your order today. We hope you'll enjoy the calendar throughout the year ahead.

Friday, November 28, 2014

## **Who Uses CoCoRaHS Observations? Engineering**

### **8. Engineering**

Did you realize that engineers and architects who design our homes, offices, roads, downspouts, etc. have to take precipitation into account. Roof drains, slopes and gutter designs are based on rainfall and snowfall data. Many aspects of building engineering in cold regions of the country are based on the potential weight (load) from accumulated snow and ice. The design of roads, parking lots, bridges, culverts and storm sewers must all carefully consider the likelihood, magnitude and intensity of heavy rains in order to safely and cost effectively handle flood waters, and much more. Hail data are used by engineers for developing roofing materials, for building airplanes, for designing roof trusses (based on the heaviest anticipated weight of accumulated hail in the most hail-prone regions of the country). Your data goes in to helping engineers know the probability for extreme events such as 100 year storms in an area. This information helps them make the right choices for safety when developing their designs.

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