

Messages of the Day
December 2012

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012

"Sunrise, sunset . . . Swiftly flow the days"

"Sunrise, sunset . . . swiftly flow the days" . . . so goes the song from the musical "Fiddler on the Roof". This is the time of year that many of us are keenly aware of sunrise and sunset as for many of us one comes way too late, and the other comes way too early. In just about two weeks we reach the shortest day of the year (winter solstice on December 21st) and as we move into January many of us will be getting another two minutes of daylight each day (more in the higher latitudes).

If you're interested in sunrise/sunset times, and how they change for anywhere in the country, you may wish to pay a visit to the U.S. Naval Observatory website: "[Naval Observatory](#)"

They also specialize in such obscure, but critically important information such as twilight -- the amount of light visible before sunrise and after sunset.

For those of you who miss those long sunny evenings, just remember that Daylight Savings Time, observed in many states, is not that far away. It begins on March 10th in 2013.

Monday, Dec. 10, 2012



The "Five For CoCoRaHS" Year-End Fundraiser
. . . now through January 15, 2012

It's time for our annual year-end fundraiser!

At the end of each year we hold an on-line fundraiser providing the opportunity to make a donation to the CoCoRaHS Network. There is certainly no obligation to give as you already help out immensely by taking your daily observations, but many CoCoRaHS volunteers have also offered to help financially and this makes a big difference. 100% of these gifts go directly to support CoCoRaHS activities and supplement any outside funding (grants, etc.) that we receive. Donations help support web development, training, outreach and supplies. Your giving goes a long way to help sustain the network throughout the year and provide 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, the donations add up quickly and have great impact.

For those who wish to give above and beyond this amount we have a nice "thank you" gift awaiting you: At the **\$50 level and above** we will send you your choice (rain, hail or snow) of one of cool new "CoCoRaHS Precipitation Series" t-shirts as a thank you gift. At the **\$100 level and above** we will send you your choice (rain, hail or snow) of one of brand new "CoCoRaHS Precipitation Series" t-shirts in a long sleeve version as a thank you gift. Please consider giving today.



CoCoRaHS 'precipitation series shirts' are currently only available as part of this year's year-end fundraiser.

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

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

Friday, Dec. 14, 2012

Are you familiar with the U.S. Drought Portal?

When we think of the December holiday season, most of us don't picture a dry Christmas tree covered in dust do we? We usually think of lots of snow, but this year many places are lacking the fluffy white stuff on their trees.

"Drought is one of the most costly natural disasters affecting the U.S. The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was established in 2006 (NIDIS Act) to help begin to move society from a reactive response to drought to a proactive stance. NIDIS was envisioned to be a dynamic and accessible drought information system that provides users with the ability to determine the potential impacts of drought and the associated risks they bring, and the decision support tools needed to better prepare for and

mitigate the effects of drought. In this, NIDIS forms the backbone of a national Drought Early Warning System and the U.S. Drought Portal is the public face of NIDIS on the Web."

You may not realize it, but CoCoRaHS precipitation observations play an important role along with other factors in helping our friends at NIDIS determine where drought conditions exist. Especially important are those zeros when nothing falls from the sky and your comments on how the conditions are impacting you.

To visit the NIDIS Website and learn more about the portal click here: [NIDIS](#).

Please take a few moments and share the NIDIS Portal website with others and keep up the good work by sending in your precipitation reports -- rain, snow or shine!

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012

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.

On Tuesday afternoon, NSSL launched its iPhone and Android apps to collect precipitation reports from the Public. The NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory, in partnership with the University of Oklahoma has launched an app where users can anonymously report precipitation from their iPhone or Android through the "mobile Precipitation Identification Near the Ground "mPING" app. NSSL researchers will compare the reports with what radars detect and use 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.

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!

Friday, Dec. 21, 2012

**The "Five For CoCoRaHS" Year-End Fundraiser
continues through January 15, 2013**

To those who have given to our annual year-end fundraiser, we thank you for your support! If you have yet to make a donation please consider giving \$5.00.

For more information and to access the donation portal click here: ["INFO/DONATE"](#)

**Perhaps you've seen the "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" TV special
one too many times? Start a new tradition! -- "CoCoRaHS Snow
Training Shorts"**

Have you seen Rudolph, Frosty and the Grinch for the 25th time? Are you looking for some "new" animated cartoon to watch this holiday season, one about precipitation? . . . we know it's a stretch, but why not gather around the big screen and watch our CoCoRaHS short animations showing how to measure precipitation in wintery weather. They're short and we guarantee no commercial interruptions!

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 and perhaps a glimpse of a "Charlie Brown Christmas" between measurements might sound pretty good after all.

Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012

**To be eligible for the 2012 tax year, please make your CoCoRaHS
donation by December 31st.**

**The "Five For CoCoRaHS" Year-End Fundraiser
continues through January 15, 2013**

To those who have given to our annual year-end fundraiser, we thank you for your support! If you have yet to make a donation please consider giving \$5.00.

For more information and to access the donation portal click here: ["INFO/DONATE"](#)

Windchill . . . "Baby it's cold outside!"

When the wind blows it often feels much colder than what the thermometer says. One way to quantify what you are experiencing is known as the "wind chill factor". The AMS Glossary of Meteorology defines it as: "a means of quantifying the threat of rapid cooling during breezy or windy conditions that may result in hypothermia in cold conditions."

In 2001 the National Weather Service revised the "windchill index" that many of us are familiar with. To find out more about windchill visit: ["The Windchill Page"](#).

And one last thing . . . remember to wear a hat!

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012

Today's the last day of 2012 . . . please consider making a 'Year End Donation' to the CoCoRaHS Campaign today to be eligible for the 2012 tax year.

The "Five For CoCoRaHS" Year-End Fundraiser continues through January 15, 2013

To all who have given to our annual year-end fundraiser, we thank you so very much for your generous support! If you have yet to do so please consider giving \$5.00 during our campaign.

For more information and to access the donation portal click here: ["INFO/DONATE"](#)

Goodbye 2012, Hello 2013!"

The staff and coordinators of CoCoRaHS would like to thank you for being a vital part of the network during the past year. Without you all that we have been able to accomplish would not be possible. You folks are awesome!!

We wish you a healthy and prosperous new year ahead!

Happy New Year! Your friends at CoCoRaHS