



THE SOUTH TEXAS REGIONAL COCORAHS NEWSLETTER

NWS
Corpus
Christi



Fall 2013
Edition

October rains help ease area drought

By Juan Alanis

It has definitely been a wet fall season across many areas of our south Texas region. After a dry spring and summer, a heavy rain event on October 14-15th brought flooding to the brush country, Nueces River basin and filled Lake Corpus Christi to capacity.

The rain event was a result of several key ingredients coming together. A combination of a slow-moving outflow boundary, a very deep layer of tropical moisture from both the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Ocean, met up with some forcing caused by a disturbance in the upper levels of the atmosphere and last, an active jet stream...all mixed together to dump between 6 and 14 inches of rain across the Brush County and Nueces River basin. CoCoRaHS observers in La Salle and Webb Counties recorded between 4 to 7 inches of rainfall, with Carrizo Springs, at the western tip of the Nueces River recording nearly 14 inches of rainfall. The rains flooded towns and ranches along the

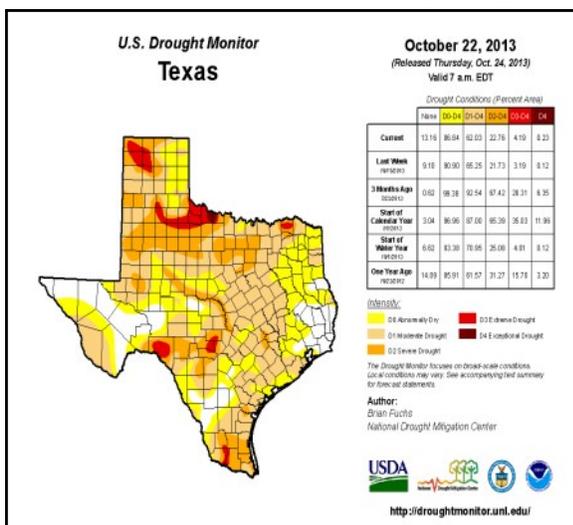
Nueces River basin and raised the levels of Lake Corpus Christi from 25% to 100% capacity

The heavy rains have also brought the drought to a halt for the time being. The latest data from the U.S. Drought Monitor show the western half of our forecast area now with little to no drought. Only the areas east of U.S. 281 and Interstate 37 remain in moderate drought stage.



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Warm and dry winter ahead?

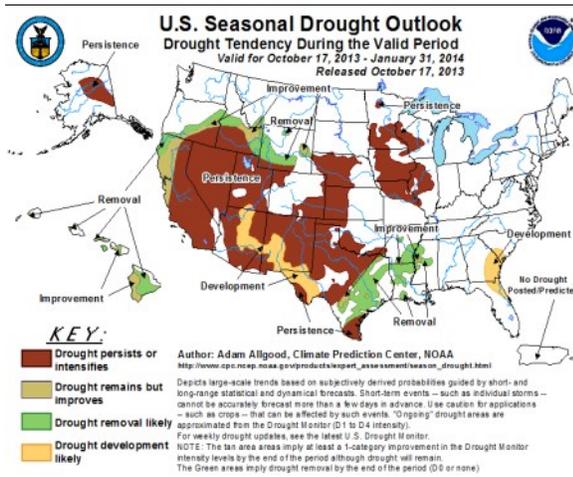
And while the drought has come to a halt in the western portions of our forecast area, the coming winter is showing mixed signals on whether the drought will end or come back.

The key factors that are monitored by forecasters are currently leaning toward a warm and dry winter. The El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in neutral, though is showing signs of leaning more into a La Nina phase. In either case, a neutral or La Nina phase had been shown to correlate to a warmer, drier winter season based on data collected since 1950.

The North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) returned to a relatively strong phase during October and resulted in a trend of increasing atmospheric flow out of the west and northwest. Stretching back to the leeside of the Rocky Mountains. This flow favors quick moving storm

systems that favor bringing drier air toward the surface, versus slow, overrunning systems that bring drizzly/rainy systems, which are more common in other winters.

Plus, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

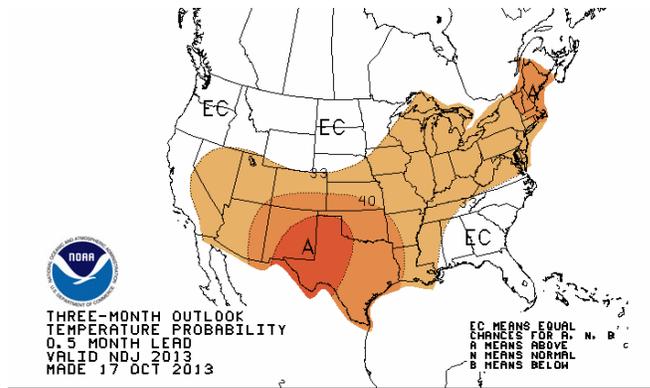
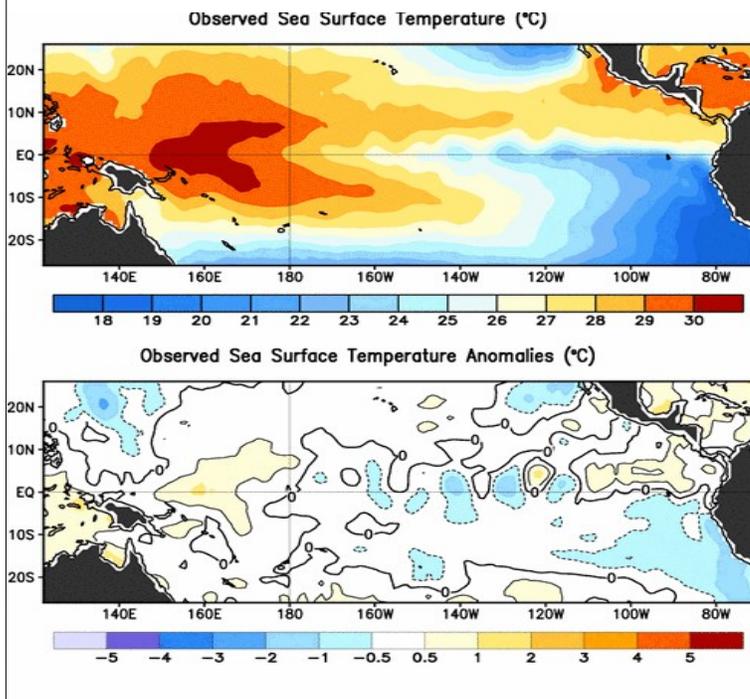




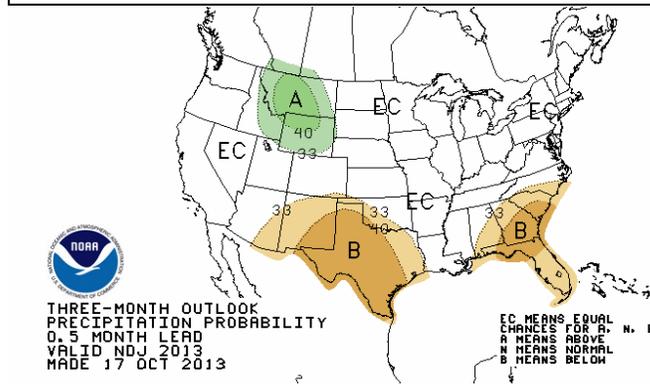
is showing signs of a "negative" phase, meaning there is increased confidence in a weather pattern that is drier and warmer from November to January.

Despite the drier, warmer outlook, the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, from the Climate Prediction Center shows that most of our forecast area (except coastal counties) will be either removed from the drought all together or remain in neutral status for the time period October 17, 2013 thru January 31, 2014.

The CPC is currently forecasting a warmer than normal November-December-January time period. Precipitation-wise, the CPC outlook is calling for a drier than normal November-December-January time frame. Early outlook for spring 2014 shows continued warmer than normal weather, though precipitation could be close to seasonal normal.



ABOVE: CPC temperature outlook for November – December-January. Current outlook shows a 40% chance of warmer than normal temperatures for South Texas. BELOW: CPC outlook shows at least a 40% chance of drier conditions over south Texas region from November



Above Left: 7-day average of sea surface temperatures over tropical Pacific Ocean centered on 23 October 2013. At Left, 7 day average of sea surface temperature anomalies centered over 23 October 2013. Waters over eastern Pacific Ocean currently running 1 to 2 degrees C below normal.

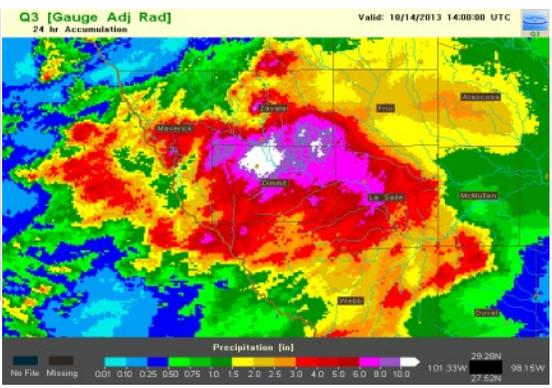
Nueces River Basin Flooding

Rain totals ending @ 7a.m. Oct 15, 2013

Crystal City 0.5 ESE	13.88"
Carrizo Springs 0.6 SSW	11.39"
Cotulla 1.6 NW	7.83"
Cotulla Airport	7.38"
Laredo 2.0 NNE	7.04"
Laredo E. Clark	6.70"
Laredo Heights	6.24"
Laredo 1.8 SSE	6.24"
Artesia Wells	6.15"

Nueces River crest levels

Asherton	29.70ft	14th
Tilden	23.50ft	17th
Cotulla	22.81ft	17th
Three Rivers	38.95ft	21st



Top: Radar image showing estimated rainfall from October 14, 2013. The white areas over Dimmit and Zavala Counties represent 10 inches of rain or more., areas which feed into the Nueces River.



CoCoRaHS News and Tips

Maintaining your Gauges.....

During these dry times, it is very important to keep your gauge well maintained. If your gauge is starting to look cloudy and grungy then it is time to clean. It is not unusual for dirt to gather at the bottom of the inner cylinder. In fact, algae can even grow in the tube in humid climates. Either way, when dust and other materials start gathering in the inner tube, rainfall readings can be altered.

To clean your rain gauge, put some warm water and gentle liquid hand soap in the inner tube and let soak. Then twist a thin soft towel and spin it into the cylinder until it reaches the bottle. This will wipe out most of the dirt. And contrary to popular belief....it is NOT recommended to use a bottle brush to clean your gauge. The bristles will actually scuff and hazed your gauge in the long run.



Another method to clean your gauge is with newspaper. Simply roll it to make a tight cylinder, then rotate the paper on the inside of the tube all the way down to the bottom. This will generally clean all the dirt out.

Requesting New or Additional Rain Gauges

When many of you joined CoCoRaHS here in our South Texas region, you were automatically sent a rain gauge free of charge.

This service has ended. The National Weather Service can no longer give out rain gauges for free. All new observers will now have to buy their own gauge through the approved vendors on the CoCoRaHS web site at www.cocorahs.org

Observers who are needing new gauges due to damage or simply old age (the gauge...not observer) will need to order a new one through the CoCoRaHS website as well.

Reporting Zeros and Comments....

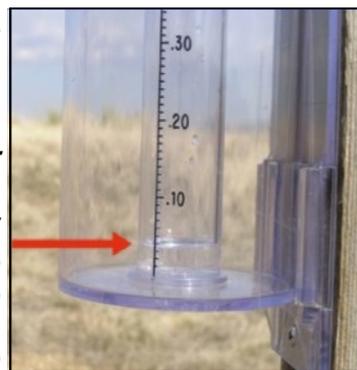
Your data is very important to not only the National Weather Service, but numerous other agencies such as local river authorities, ranchers, climate researchers and even insurance agencies.

An important way you can help us track the ongoing drought is by reporting "zero." Sure, it's not fun to report "nothing," but your zero report will help verify that no rain fell at your location.

When no report is submitted, we are not sure if it rained or didn't rain at your location. Your comments are also greatly appreciated. Comments that are sent in are useful in helping us get a better picture of what weather has taken place during the past 24 hours. Was there no rain but very dense fog? Or heavy dew? Submit these notes to supplement your precipitation report.

Do Not Round your rainfall....

Did you receive 3.00" or 2.91"? It is very tempting to sometimes round your total to nearest inch, quarter or tenth, however we ask everyone to enter the exact amount.



Your data is used by the National Weather Service and other scientific agencies and scientists for research and studies on climate. As a result, accuracy of data is crucial for having accurate archives and data for studies and research.

Happy New Year—Water Year

The 2013 Water Year ended on September 30, 2013 and that means it is time to verify our data.

The "Water Year" is used because it tracks important aspects of the hydrologic and vegetation cycles. October 1st is the end of the annual growing season in the majority of our country. October 1st also marks the start of the new snow accumulation season in the western mountains. Snow will build up on the mountains

and by the time spring planting season arrives, the snow will melt causing rivers and streams to recharge.

To mark the end of a water year, we would like to remind everyone to go in and verify your precipitation. If you have missing reports, please fill in any missing dates between Oct 1, 2012 and the end of September 2013. We now have summaries for the last four years posted at www.cocorahs.org. Plus all data is stored at the National Climatic Data Center.



Texas wins CoCoRaHS March Madness

Each year during March, CoCoRaHS leaders challenge each state to see which one can recruit the most new observers.

This year, Texas and Wyoming took top honors in their respective divisions. A total of 226 people signed up to become observers in Texas, giving the Lone Star State the overall top spot. Wyoming won the per-capita division.

In this division, a state's rank is determined by calculating the number of new stations per one million residents. Wyoming ranked first with 133 new stations per million residents.

And remember, just because the March Madness Recruitment campaign is over, does not mean new observers can't sign up. New volunteers are needed year round. For information on joining, log onto www.cocorahs.org



TEXAS COCORAHS

FINAL MARCH MADNESS STANDINGS

TRADITIONAL DIVISION

STATE	NEW STATIONS
1. Texas	226
2. North Carolina	155
3. Arkansas	87
4. Wyoming	75
5. Maine	49

PER CAPITA DIVISION

STATE	NEW STATIONS*
1. Wyoming	133.07
2. North Dakota	43.12
3. Maine	36.89
4. Arkansas	29.89
5. South Dakota	29.48

*= new stations per one million residents



Observer has reported every drop since joining CoCoRaHS

By Juan Alanis and William Pieri

Every rain drop has been accounted for on Padre Island since the fall of 2007. William Pieri has been the CoCoRaHS observer for station TX-NU-7 on Padre Island since September 2007. To date, Mr. Pieri has submitted a report every single day.

A retired sheriff's deputy, volunteer firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician, Mr. Pieri came to the Corpus Christi from Minnesota in 2004. He has always had an interest in weather, especially in emergency situations. After high school, Mr. Pieri spent a tornado season chasing tornadoes, before join-

ing the United States Air Force. During his air force years, he was stationed at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio. He is currently employed with the Department of Army at the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) in Production Control. Previously at CCAD, he was a security shift sergeant for 8 years. Pieri has also assisted with hurricane preparedness, fire, EMS, hazardous material spills and chemical releases with the CCAD and Naval Air Station -Corpus Christi Fire Rescue, Safety and Emergency Management.

His first Christmas in Texas (2004) brought three inches of snow. In Minnesota, he was a weather observer for the MNGage, the Minnesota Volunteer Climate Observing Program and as a Severe Weather Observer in the Skywarn Program. Mr. Pieri enjoys



Observer William Pieri, TX-NU-7 has submitted a report everyday since joining in 2007.

the island weather with lots of sun, heat and wind. He does miss however, the beautiful changing of the fall colors and crisp night air. He also enjoys spending time outdoors enjoying the coastal bend wildlife. His newest hobby is tracking storms in the Gulf of Mexico.

Thanks for your dedication.



Skywarn Storm Spotter Classes

Christi is extending an invitation for all those interested in taking part in free Skywarn training courses. Courses are typically held during the late winter/early spring months before the peak of severe weather season.

NEW ONLINE Skywarn Training Course.

Do you have a full schedule already? Then take the new online Skywarn course. It will cover the basics of becoming a storm spotter. Click on the link to the main website (linked below), review the courses and then email your certificate to our warning coordination meteorologist, John Metz at (john.metz@noaa.gov). It's that easy! Check out the following link for upcoming courses in your area: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/?n=skywarn>

If there are currently no courses in your area and you would like to see what Skywarn is all about, please email John Metz and we will try to organize a course for your community.



What is Skywarn? Skywarn is a volunteer program comprised of nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. Skywarn spotters provide timely and accurate reports of severe weather to their local National Weather Service office. You'll learn what to look for when observing severe weather, as well as understand the development of severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and flash flooding.

How do I get involved?

Your local National Weather Service office in Corpus

2013 Tropical Season recap

What was supposed to be a *very active* hurricane season turned out very quiet. Through the end of October, the Atlantic basin had 12 named storms, just above the average of 11. The number of hurricanes however was well below average of about 6, with only 2 developing this season. The number of major hurricanes is also well below average, with none forming this season as compared to the normal of 3. In it's original outlook for the season, the Climate Prediction Center, had forecast 13 to 20 named storms, 7 to 11 hurricanes and 3 to 6 major hurricanes.

Overall, in terms of Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE), which measures the combined strength and duration of named tropical cyclones...the 2013 season is 70% below the 1981-2010 average through the end of October. If no more storms form in November, this season will rank as the 4th quietest on record in the last 70

years, based on the ACE index.

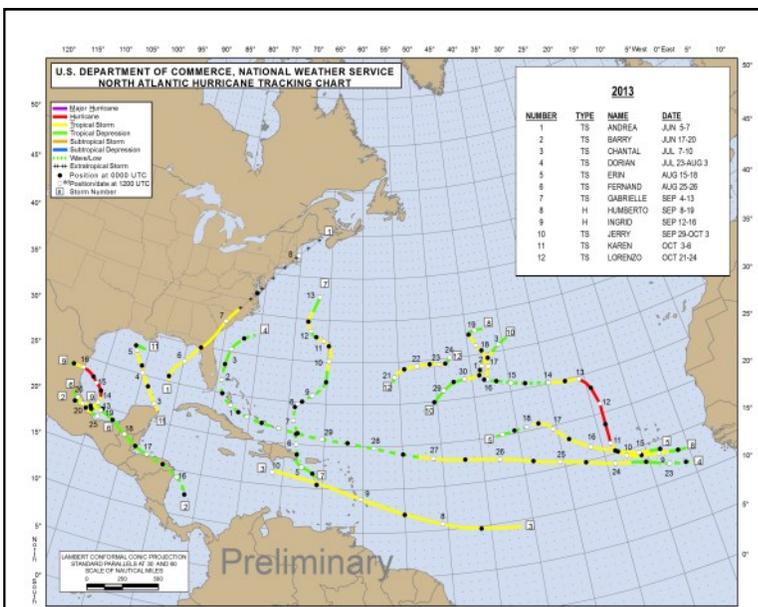
The strongest storms this year were Humberto which stayed out in the open waters of the central Atlantic Ocean and peaked with winds of 85 mph.

Closer to home, Hurricane Ingrid made landfall near La Pesca, Mexico with winds of 75 mph. Ingrid brought some much needed rains to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in September.

Forecasters have been somewhat baffled by the lack of activity as all the ingredients for an active season were in place (warmer than normal

waters; no El Nino event).

Blame has been placed on a large amount of dry air and wind shear over the key cyclone formation areas of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.



Map of preliminary Atlantic Tropical Cyclones tracks for the 2013 Hurricane Season



South Texas CoCoRaHS Observer Honor Roll

The National Weather Service in Corpus Christi would like to extend a big Texas sized congratulations and Thank You to all our CoCoRaHS observers. All your data and information is greatly appreciated and helps us better understand the precipitation patterns of our South Texas area.

An especially big thank you to the observers listed below for their many years of dedication and service to the CoCoRaHS observer network. It is because of you, that CoCoRaHS has become such a success across the United States and Canada.

More volunteers are always needed. All that is needed is a high interest in the weather and be willing to report rainfall totals daily. To join CoCoRaHS, log onto www.cocorahs.org and click on "Join CoCoRaHS". For more information, call Christina Barron at 361-289-0959 or Juan Alanis, Jr. at 956-251-3996.

WEBB COUNTY

Consuelo Lopez	TX-WB-2	6 years
Jerry Lopez	TX-WB-27	6 years
Antonio Rodriguez	TX-WB-4	6 years
Jim Fulgham	TX-WB-5	6 years
Sheila Glassford	TX-WB-6	6 years
Gwen Garza	TX-WB-13	6 years
Lee White	TX-WB-14	6 years
Jorge Calderon	TX-WB-21	5 years
Prada Elem School	TX-WB-19	5 years
Jesse Gonzalez	TX-WB-26	5 years

LIVE OAK COUNTY

James Jungmam	TX-LO-2	6 years
Choke Canyon Reservoir	TX-LO-5	6 years
Mark Katzfey	TX-LO-9	5 years
Lonnie Stewart	TX-LO-11	5 years
Lonnie Stewart	TX-LO-12	5 years
David Saenz	TX-LO-13	4 years

JIM WELLS COUNTY

Bill Gunn	TX-JW-3	6 years
Joe Cano	TX-JW-4	4 years

KLEBERG COUNTY

Patricia Allison	TX-KL-2	6 years
Lance Hamm	TX-KL-9	5 years

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

Ronald LeBoeuf	TX-SP-8	6 years
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LA SALLE COUNTY

Steven Mafridge	TX-LS-3	5 years
Joe Crisp	TX-LS-4	5 years
Elton Page	TX-LS-5	4 years
Peggy Hillje	TX-LS-6	4 years

NUECES COUNTY

Larry Street	TX-NU-4	6 years
James Ermis	TX-NU-9	6 years
James Sautter	TX-NU-10	6 years

Gilbert Gibbs	TX-NU-11	6 years
Harvey Buehring	TX-NU-12	6 years
Joseph Carr	TX-NU-13	6 years
City of Corpus Christi	TX-NU-15	6 years
Larry McNair	TX-NU-17	6 years
Jason Runyen	TX-NU-18	6 years

McMULLEN COUNTY

Isaac Cavazos	TX-MCM-3	6 years
Steven Mafridge	TX-MCM-4	5 years

ARANSAS COUNTY

Carole & Gordon Goosney	TX-AR-3	6 years
Robert Critchlow	TX-AR-5	4 years
Cherry Foster	TX-AR-6	4 years

REFUGIO COUNTT

Dwight Mutschler	TX-RF-2	6 years
William Albert	TX-RF-3	6 years
J R Palmer	TX-RF-5	4 years

CALHOUN COUNTY

John Gretchen	TX-CLH-1	6 years
Tommy Hargrove	TX-CLH-2	6 years
Kerry Hanselka	TX-CLH-4	6 years
Paul Greenwood	TX-CLH-9	4 years

VICTORIA COUNTY

Katrin McDonough	TX-VC-1	6 years
Billy Tindall	TX-VC-2	6 years
Morris Maretick	TX-VC-3	6 years
David Tewes	TX-VC-4	6 years
Brent Baylor	TX-VC-6	6 years

BEE COUNTY

Austin Brown	TX-BEE-10	5 years
Lester Brock	TX-BEE-12	4 years

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Observer Spotlight

GOLIAD COUNTY

Linda McCormick	TX-GD-3	6 years
Kathy Toerck	TX-GD-4	6 years
Robert Head	TX-GD-6	6 years
David Andrews	TX-GD-8	6 years
Leon Dohmann	TX-GD-12	5 years
Roy Ward	TX-GD-15	4 years
Stan Fields	TX-GD-16	4 years

Glenn Fabisack	TX-NU-58
Larry Jordan	TX-NU-59
Darryl Smith	TX-NU-60
George Gardiner	TX-NU-61
Thomas Fisher	TX-CLH-15
Garrell Long	TX-CLH-14
Roger Smith	TX-VC-40
Barb Henry	TX-VC-39
Trey Meynig	TX-VC-38
Mitcheal Maraggia	TX-VC-37
James Soderholtz	TX-VC-36
Dick Martin	TX-VC-35
David Buchanan Jr	TX-VC-34

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OBSERVERS

Margaret Rutherford	TX-GD-26
Otto Bluntzer	TX-GD-25
Norma Saldivar	TX-WB-46
Jim Fulgham	TX-WB-47
Enrique Fuentes III	TX-WB-48
Eric Wicks II	TX-WB-49
Gino Lutz	TX-WB-50
Terry Hanzake	TX-JW-11
Edward Jones	TX-SP-20
Harry Gordon	TX-NU-56
Pam Miller	TX-NU-57



CoCoRaHS Webinar Schedule

Would you like to learn about the weather from the experts and talk to them? CoCoRaHS has started a new series about the weather titled "CoCoRaHS Weather Talk". The series consists of monthly web seminars (webinars) featuring engaging experts for the world of meteorology, climatology and related fields. These webinars are about 60 minutes in length and allow audience members to ask questions to the experts.

Past webinars are archived on the CoCoRaHS home page and can be viewed at anytime, Past topics include hurricane analysis; wind and wildfires; cloud identification and flash floods. All webinars are free and all that is required is registration through the CoCoRaHS home page.

Upcoming Webinars:

Thursday 14 November 2013 @ 12pm CT

A Review of significant weather events occurring in 2013
Presented by Greg Carbin, NOAA/NWS/Storm Prediction Center, Norman, Oklahoma

Thursday 5 December 2013 @12pm CT

Climate Change and Health

Presented By: Ben Beard, Chief Bacteria Diseases Branch, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, NCEZID Centers for Disease Control-Fort Collins, Colorado

Thursday 16 January 2014 @12pm CT

Quantifying the Hydrologic Cycle: How do we solve this Problem at the National Weather Service's River Forecast Centers

Presented by Greg Story, NOAA/NWS/West Gulf River Forecast Center, Fort Worth, Texas

February 2014 (date to be announced)

What's Climatology all about?

Presented by Ryan Boyles, North Carolina State Climatologist.





National Weather Service
426 Pinson Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78406

Public Phone Line: (361) 289-0959 ext.1
Recorded Forecasts: (361) 289-1861
E-mail: christina.barron@noaa.gov
juan.alanis@noaa.gov

National Weather Service Mission Statement:

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.

Brief National Weather Service History:

The National Weather Service has its beginnings in the early history of the United States. Weather has always been important to the citizenry of this country, and this was especially true during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The beginning of the National Weather Service we know today started on February 9th, 1870, when President Ulysses S. Grant signed a joint resolution of Congress authorizing the Secretary of War to establish a national weather service.

ON THE WEB!

<http://www.weather.gov/corpuschristi>

Stay connected...Be involved

CoCoRaHS on Social Media

National Facebook Page:
Www.facebook.com/CoCoRaHS

Regional Facebook Page
Www.facebook.com/cocorahsstx?
ref=stream&hc_location=timeline

On Twitter:
Texas CoCoRaHS
https://twitter.com/Texas_CoCoRaHS

National CoCoRaHS
<https://twitter.com/CoCoRaHS>



AMS/NWA Local Chapter Membership

Are you a weather enthusiast and interested in meeting and chatting with other weather enthusiasts as well as with local TV and weather service meteorologists? If so, then become a member of the South Central Texas Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and National Weather Association (NWA). Annual dues are \$25 (\$15 for students) with meetings held three times a year, in September, January and May. You do not have to be a member of the national AMS or NWA to join. For more information log onto <http://sctxamsnwa.org>

