



Southern



New England

September 2015

August became a month that could have been called “Rainy Days On Tuesdays”. On the 4th, a line of thunderstorms woke some us out of bed in the predawn hours in western areas. On the 11th, a steady flow of rain came in from Long Island Sound and affected the Cape and southeastern MA. In the late afternoon and early evening of the 18th, Franklin MA (MA-NF-3) reported 2.55” in 2 hours, Berlin MA (MA-WR-28) reported 1.25” in 40 minutes, and Cumberland Hill RI (RI-PR-35) reported 2.10” in 1hr40m. Thanks for the Significant Weather Reports! On the 25th, around our 7AM observation time, showers streamed from Berkshire County MA to our station in Shelburne MA (MA-FR-11) that reported 3.42”. Also on the 25th, a few isolated cells formed in north central CT and north central MA in the late afternoon, followed by a line of thunderstorms that formed and moved east in the early evening hours before the dry air finally pushed through.

In our collaborative fashion, we measure and map it all.

Now for those sun drenched and boring times when there is no precipitation to report.

Monthly Zeros

7AM comes and goes. You get busy starting your day. Another day with no precipitation. And you move on with the remainder of your day without sending a Daily Report. It has happened to many of us for one reason or another.

There is a way to fill in those missing reports. When you login to your CoCoRaHS account, on the left side, click on the link for "[Monthly Zeros](#)".



A monthly calendar appears. You can scroll back in time to see previous months. Your missing daily reports appear with a small box. Click on the small box to have a zero for that day. Click on the submit button.

Zeros are important. Zeros are the most common report we make in Southern New England. It may be obvious to you that no precipitation occurred at your station, but it may not be obvious to all of us. The more complete your station data is, the more valuable it becomes.

Be a hero. Report your zeros!

Summary and Detail for August 2015

Our Berkshire County MA stations all reported over 4" with some reporting over 6". Many other stations did not get more than 3", making August a dry month for most of the area.

From the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Sites for August.

Location	Station ID	August 2015 Precip	August departure from normal	June-July-August Precip	June-July-August departure from normal
Pittsfield MA	PSF	2.97"	-1.02"	16.10"	3.46"
Bridgeport CT	BDR	1.89"	-2.07"	9.29"	-1.74"
Hartford CT	BDL	2.08"	-1.85"	11.84"	-0.62"
Worcester MA	ORH	3.21"	-0.50"	12.42"	0.29"
Providence RI	PVD	2.78"	-0.82"	10.47"	-0.06"
Boston MA	BOS	2.19"	-1.16"	9.29"	-1.17"

From your reports for August 2015

Observers 152
 Daily Reports 3503
 Comments 420
 Multi-Day Reports 79
 Highest Daily Report 3.42" from Shelburne MA (MA-FR-11) reported on August 26

Of the 152 stations reporting, 43 stations submitted reports for all 31 days. Another 14 stations had completed their monthly reports with Multi-Day Accumulation. Thank you all for that consideration.

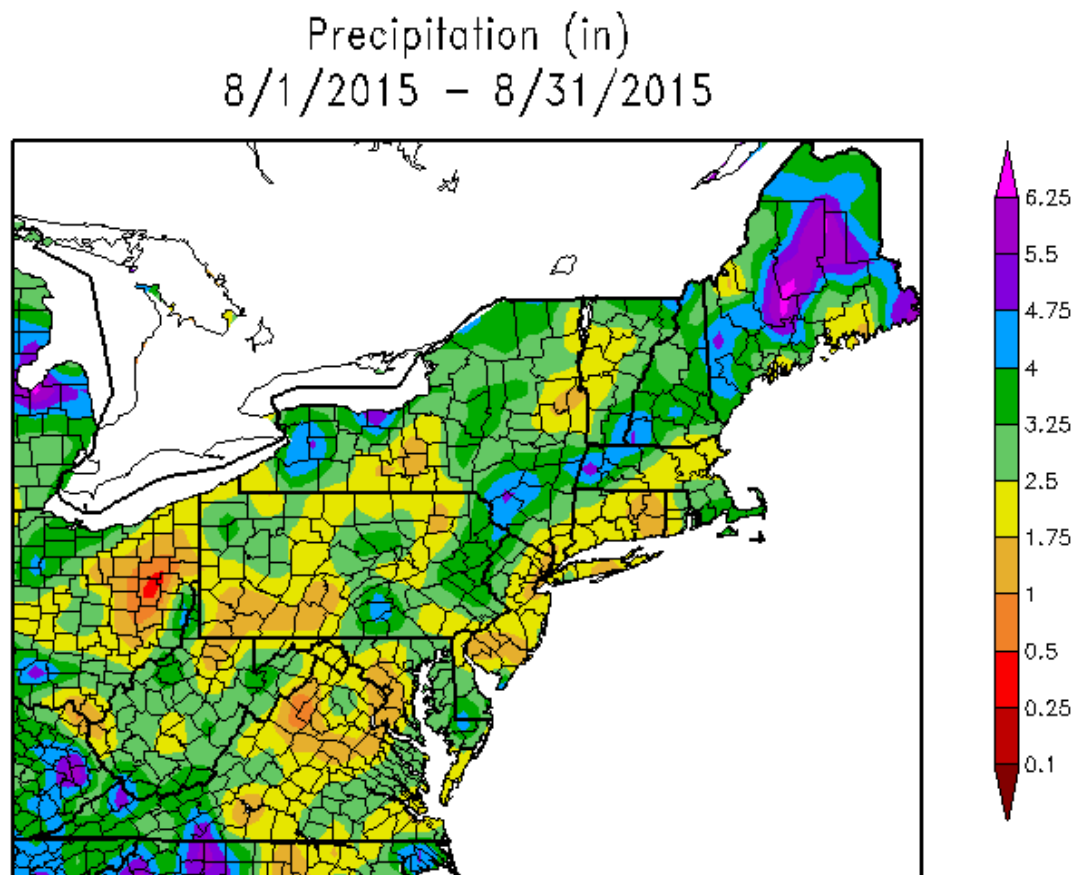
An effort was made not to include stations that appeared on last month's newsletter. With the use of counties, this table starts in the Berkshire Hills, wraps through CT, central MA, and RI, and to the east and the Cape.

Station	Location	Precip	County & State
MA-BE-4	Becket 5.6 SSW	6.11"	Berkshire MA
CT-LT-9	New Hartford Center 3.2 SW	3.66"	Litchfield CT
CT-HR-5	Enfield 1.5 SE	2.26"	Hartford CT
CT-HR-22	East Hartford 1.3 E	2.26"	Hartford CT
CT-MD-2	Portland 0.9 S	1.76"	Middlesex CT
MA-WR-1	Milford 2.3 NNW	2.51"	Worcester MA
RI-WS-25	Rockville 0.4 E	1.84"	Washington RI
RI-KN-2	East Greenwich 2.3 ESE	2.77"	Kent RI
RI-NW-5	Little Compton 1.7 NW	4.08"	Newport RI
RI-NW-4	Middletown 1.1 SW	2.73"	Newport RI
MA-BR-8	Dighton 1.1 WSW	2.74"	Bristol MA
MA-BR-14	Dartmouth 2.5 SSW	2.48"	Bristol MA
MA-MD-47	West Townsend 0.5 W	1.18"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-54	Belmont 0.3 SE	1.97"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-7	Winchester 0.7 SE	2.02"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-51	Maynard 0.7 ESE	2.19"	Middlesex MA
MA-ES-8	Marblehead 0.8 SW	0.98"	Essex MA
MA-ES-2	Beverly 2.8 NW	2.46"	Essex MA
MA-NF-16	Bellingham 4.7 S	1.64"	Norfolk MA
MA-SF-4	Brighton 0.5 W	2.10"	Suffolk MA
MA-BA-17	East Falmouth 1.2 WNW	3.77"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-36	Harwich 2.6 ENE	3.65"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-8	Falmouth 1.8 WSW	3.71"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-27	Wellfleet 0.7 NW	2.02"	Barnstable MA

But wait! There's more! Another find, at publication time. The High Plains Regional Climate Center ([HPRCC](#)) has temperature and precipitation data, including station data from *your* CoCoRaHS reports.

From within the HPRCC website, charts are available from the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) that links all of the Regional Climate Centers. The best available chart for our area was this one for the Northeast.

See the purple dot over Berkshire County MA? It's apparent this chart gathers some of the CoCoRaHS database. There is value to what you report, including the all of the zeros! Thanks to all.



Generated 9/2/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

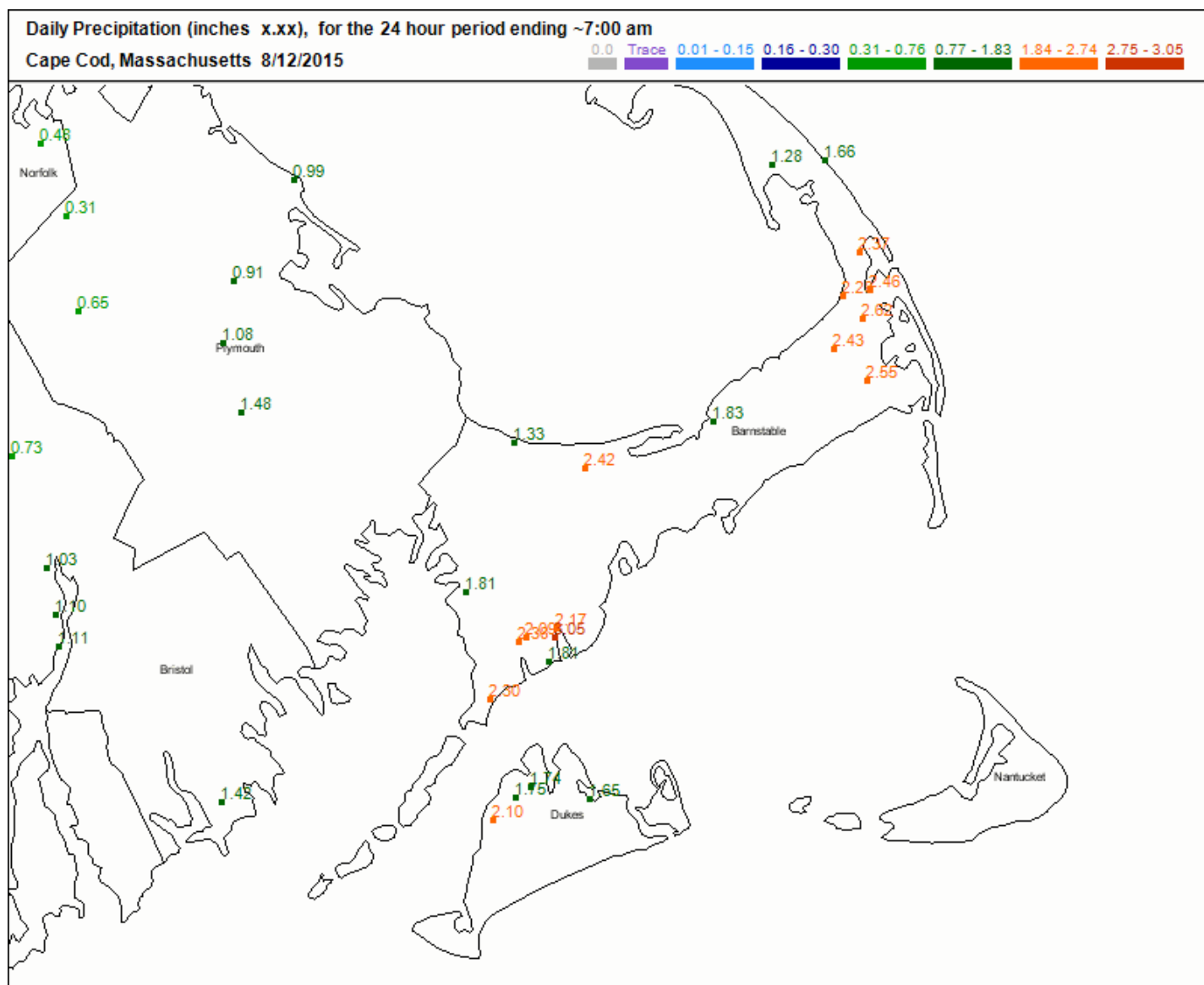
Regional Climate Centers

A few items occurred during August that stood out and want to give recognition and thanks for the efforts made.

**** - Significant Weather Reports. Last month's newsletter topic. This month's events. 4 Significant Weather Reports.

**** - From the "Rainy Day On Tuesday" event of August 11, where there appeared this river of rain that lined up from Long Island Sound to across Cape Cod.

This one map captures the essence of CoCoRaHS. No other network captures the variability of precipitation better than ours does.



**** - Safety first, waiting until 8 AM before making the Daily Observation. Making comments to provide clarity to the report. Providing a start and stop time to precipitation. Accurately reporting to 2 decimal places, without rounding or mistakenly entering 5.10". Great report and comment!

8/4/2015	MA-PL-15	Abington 1.2 NNE	0.51	Severe thunderstorms passed through the area from roughly 06:15 AM to 7:30 AM. I waited until 8 AM before venturing out to the rain gauge!
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**** - The "H" in CoCoRaHS stands for Hail. Thank you for entering a Hail Report, from that line of thunderstorms that crossed from west to east in the morning of Tuesday August 4.

8/4/2015	MA-MD-51	Maynard 0.7 ESE	3/8"	1/2" Grape	--	MA	Middlesex	
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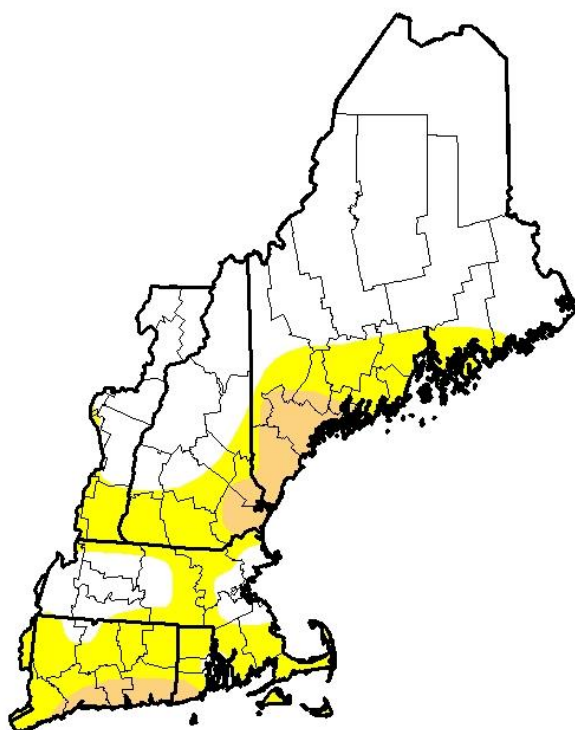
Drought Information

During last month's newsletter, the graphic below was the easiest item to include and was used to bring importance to our station reporting. Since last month, it appears that more dry areas are appearing.

What does it all mean? After some digging around, a surprise find was made on the CoCoRaHS [YouTube channel](#) with this 6 minute [video](#) that was posted this past June. Watch the [video](#) and learn how the colors on the drought map appear.

Your station data remain important in assessing drought conditions. Be a hero! Report your zeros! The more daily and multi-day reports that you make, the more complete your station data is, the more accurate this assessment becomes.

U.S. Drought Monitor New England Watershed



September 1, 2015

(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 2015)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	64.34	35.66	7.19	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 8/25/2015	68.24	31.76	5.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 6/2/2015	25.25	74.75	27.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 1/20/2014	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	44.42	55.58	8.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 9/2/2014	89.74	10.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

“There’s an app for that!”

A catchy slogan that we often say now with the proliferation of mobile devices. One of our fellow observers from South Carolina built an app for CoCoRaHS daily reporting and a little bit more.

The CoCoRaHS web site will remain. The app is a convenient tool to use, especially for your most common report – the zero! There are approximately 30 of our observing stations that use the app, and that is great to see.

The CoCoRaHS app is available for Apple and Android devices, through Apple store and Google Play store respectively. If you have a mobile device, you may find the app helpful in keeping your station data accurate and complete, and submitting that zero before the day gets busy.

The interface is simple and straightforward. Much like the web site, you need to enter your user name and password. From there, you let your fingers do the work.

The blue colored screen shots below are from the developer of the app. They are a little dated and there have been a few updates and modifications to the app since these screen shots were made. All for the better.



Reporting a zero for the day is as easy as pressing the Submit button. Reporting a trace for the day is as easy as pressing the check box for a trace followed by the submit button. Yes, there is a box for metric units because we now have stations from Canada reporting. The large text box is for reporting comments.

iPhone Screenshot

The image displays two screenshots of the CoCoRaHS mobile application on an iPhone. The left screenshot shows the login screen with the CoCoRaHS logo, a Username field containing 'sjwoodr', a Password field with masked characters, a 'Save Login Info' toggle switch, and 'Login' and 'Sign Up' buttons. The right screenshot shows the 'Precip Report' screen for station 'SC-CR-64' (Mount Pleasant 5.5 NNE). It includes fields for 'Observation Date' (2014-02-24), 'Observation Time' (07:00), and 'Rain/Melted Snow' (0.00). There is also a 'Trace Precip' toggle switch and a 'Submit' button. A 'More Details' link is visible next to the 'Trace Precip' toggle. The bottom of the screen features a 'Report' button and a 'History' button.

It is too early to talk about the option for snow fall and snow depth reporting. You may find a time with melted precip, snow fall, snow depth and snow water equivalent to report where using the website could be easier. It is September, and we won't dwell on that now.

Reporting measurable precipitation requires some caution. A recommendation is to backspace over all of the zeros that appear, and then

enter the precipitation amount. It is very easy to make a mistake here, so please check your precipitation amount before pressing the Submit button.

The best part of the CoCoRaHS app lies with the History feature. A scrollable list of your recent 90+ daily precipitation values from your station! You can immediately see your last report, and check its accuracy. You can see by the date sequence if you missed any days. You can perform some rough arithmetic as to how much precipitation you have received. All great stuff!

History can be accessed at any time after you login. On Android, History comes from the menu button that is different on every device. On Apple, History is has its own icon.

And when the weather comes up in conversation, you can have some of your station data at your fingertips.

Wrap up

So many changes coming in September. We lose daylight quickly throughout the month, the Equinox is on the 23rd, the edge should come off the summer humidity after Labor Day, and our area begins to see twinges of color changes in the foliage.

The Water Year comes to an end on September 30, so take the opportunity on this [link](#) to look over your station data for the past 12 months. Or after you login to your account use the [Monthly Zeros](#) option explained earlier. More about station data in next month's newsletter.

Thank you for all that you do for CoCoRaHS, whether in the past, present, and in the days to come.