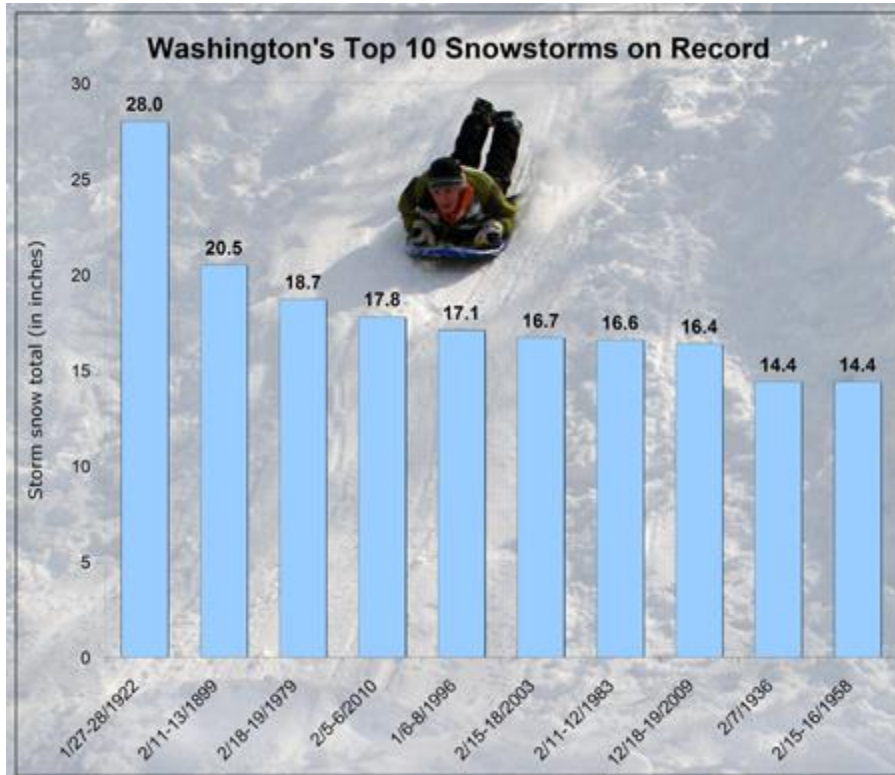


Posted at 9:45 AM ET, 12/30/2010

Washington's greatest snowstorms

By Kevin Ambrose



The top 10 snowstorms for Washington, D.C., since records began in 1871. Last winter provided two of the top 10 snowstorms.

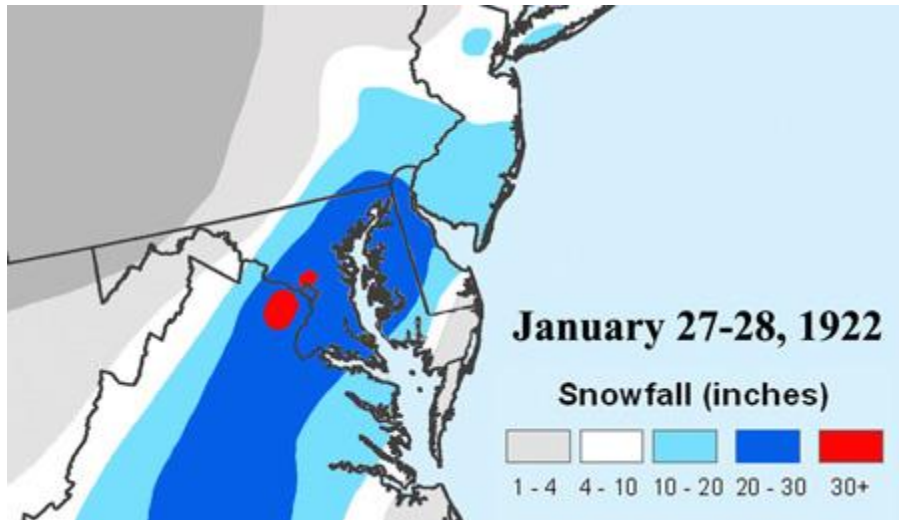
For a time last week, it appeared that we had a small chance to add another entry into Washington's list of all-time great snowstorms. Some models indicated [the storm that lashed coastal areas Sunday](#) (12/26/10) would track closer to the coast and even stall, dumping copious amounts of snow across the entire Washington area.

But, as we all know now, the storm developed farther east and north such that Washington missed out on most of the snow. New Jersey, southeastern New York, and eastern New England hit the snow jackpot, with 18"+ accumulations of snow common and some locations exceeding 24".

Well, to make snow lovers feel a little bit better about being so close to a major blizzard, I've compiled a few snowfall plots of past storms that show direct hits to our area. The snowfall plots show the snow accumulation across the entire Washington area, not just at the official recording stations. This is useful to understand the scope of the storms and to see who received the

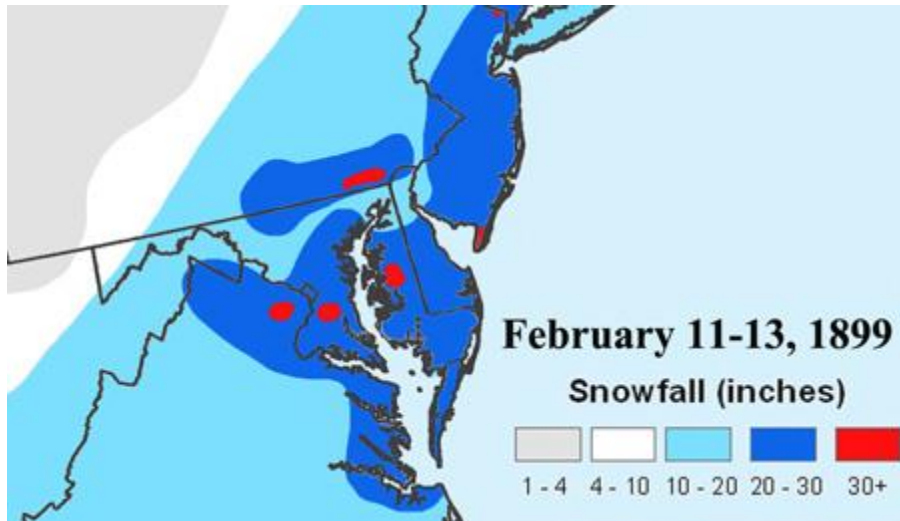
snowfall bulls-eye. The latest storm may have missed us, but we can remember last winter, and past storms, when we had our turn.

Read below to see snowfall plots for a few of Washington's top snowstorms, including the [Knickerbocker Snowstorm](#), [Snowmageddon](#), [Snowpocalypse](#), [Snoverkill](#), and the [Blizzard of 1996](#).

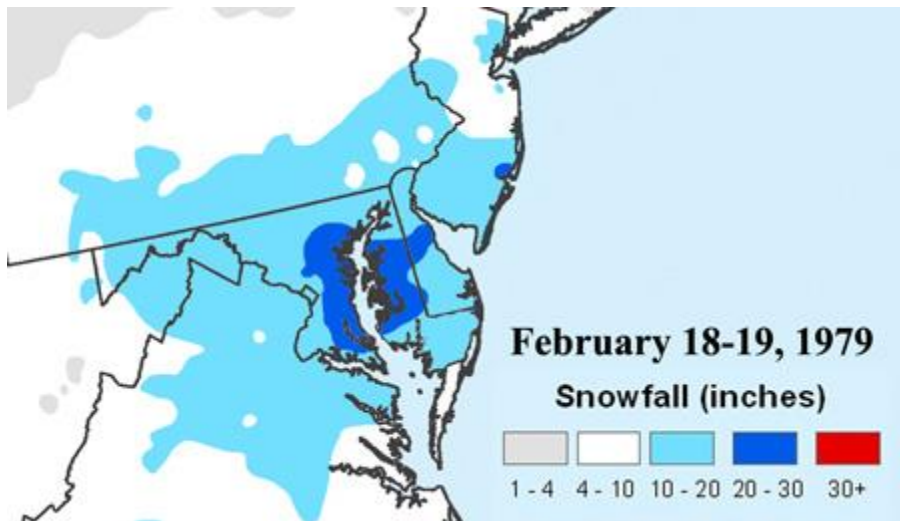


#1 Snowstorm for Washington - The Knickerbocker Snowstorm. Washington recorded 28" of snow.

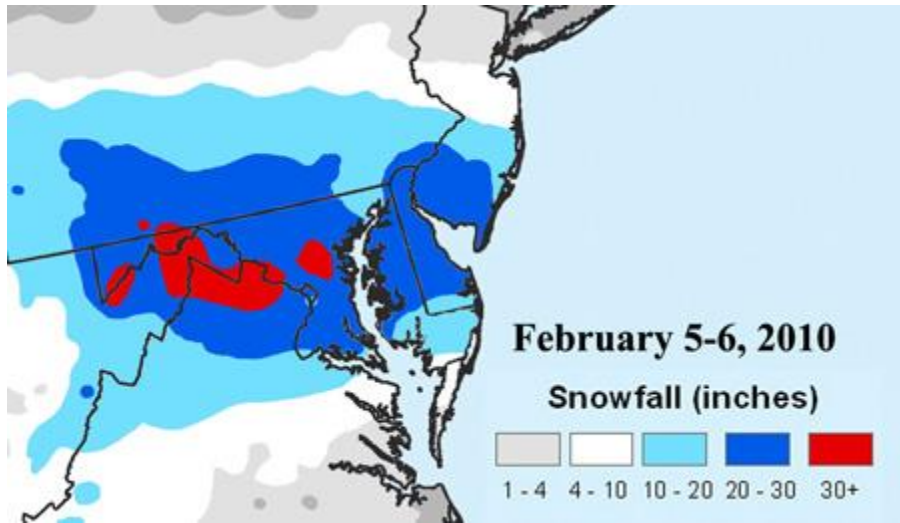
I created these snowfall plots with Adobe Photoshop based on the color codes and style of the [NESIS](#) maps from NOAA. They include the top 5 snowstorms for Washington plus the top 3 snowstorms for last season. The source of the snowfall data was from NOAA, the book "Northeast Snowstorms" by Kocin and Uccellini, and various Capital Weather Gang posts and reports from last winter. The maps are not perfect, but they are a fair estimation of the snowfall across our area. The snowfall plots were created for the [Snowmageddon book](#) that I wrote with CWG forecaster and photographer, Ian Livingston.



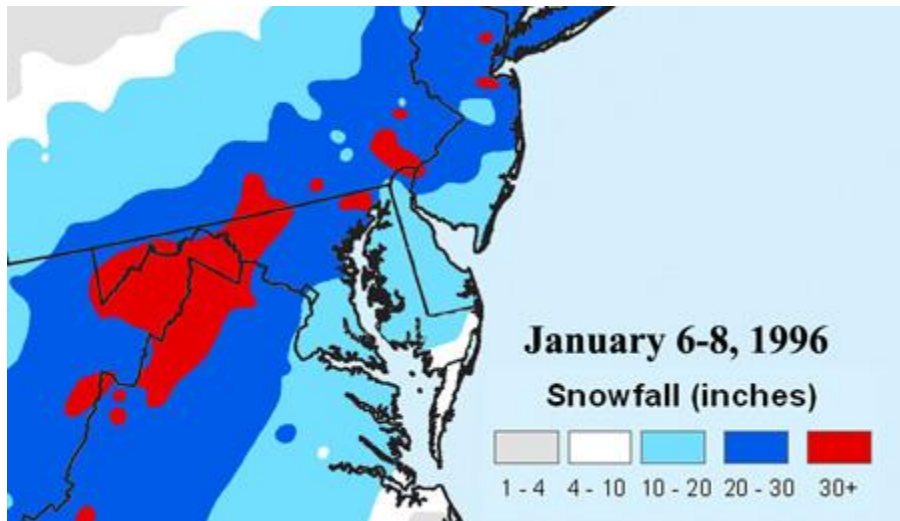
#2 Snowstorm for Washington - The Blizzard of 1899. Washington recorded 20.5" of snow.



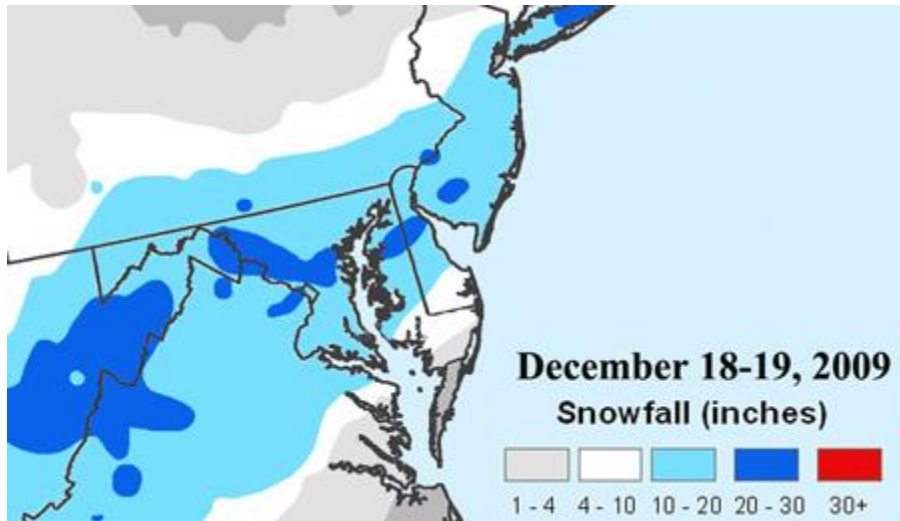
#3 Snowstorm for Washington - The Presidents' Day Snowstorm of 1979. Washington recorded 18.7" of snow.



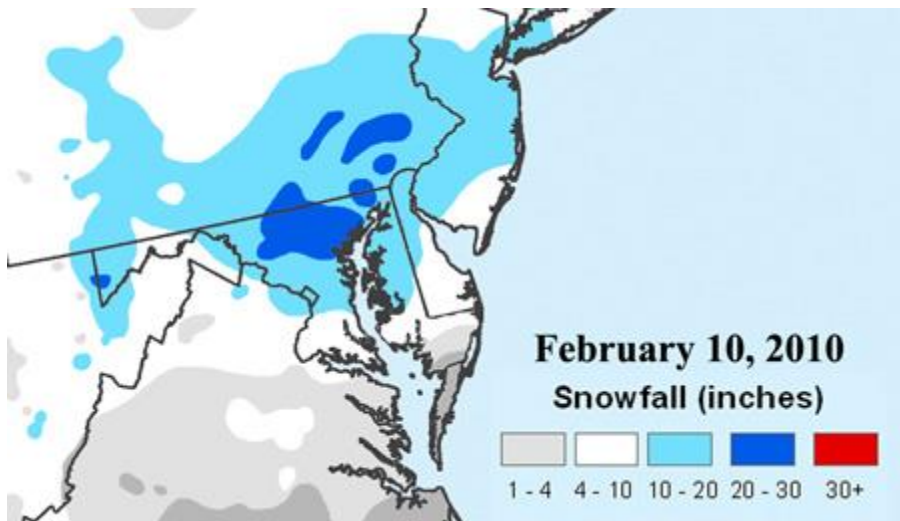
#4 Snowstorm for Washington - Snowmageddon, February 5-6, 2010. Washington recorded 17.8" of snow.



#5 Snowstorm for Washington - The Blizzard of 1996. Washington recorded 17.1" of snow.



#8 Snowstorm for Washington - Snowpocalypse, December 18-19, 2009. Washington recorded 16.4" of snow.



#25 Snowstorm for Washington - Snoverkill, February 9-10, 2010. Washington recorded 10.8" of snow.

By Kevin Ambrose | December 30, 2010; 9:45 AM ET

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