

February 2010

February was much colder than average as the monthly mean temperature was 34.6 °F, a -4.5 °F departure, and was also wetter than average (when compared to Ashland, Virginia records). The average maximum temperature this year was -10.6 °F lower than last year's. February was the coldest month of the winter even colder than January. This year only one day was greater than or equal to 55 °F and last year there were 15 days that this occurred. There were 26 days the minimum temperature dropped below freezing. February had 16.1 inches of snow which was a departure of 11.1 inches when compared to Ashland's average February snowfall or 322 percent of normal. The total snowfall for the year is now 28.7 inches and the winter season 41.6 inches. The 3.93 inches of precipitation for February was a +0.93 inch departure when compared to the Ashland, VA average. The maximum precipitation recorded in a day was 1.72 inches on the 5th and 2.50 inches was recorded in a 24 hour period on the 5th and 6th.

The snowstorm on the 5th and 6th was the biggest news of the month and would have been much greater if it had been all snow. Rain started at 1840 and was heavy between 2100 and midnight. There was more precipitation in the form of rain than snow. The best estimate was a little over one inch of liquid was snow and at least 1.25 inches was in the form of rain. The maximum wind gust of 29 mph from the north occurred on the 6th at 0142 hours during the storm. See the time lapse video of the storm split in two parts-

The first time lapse includes the first part of the storm, snow to 1840 and stops just after the rain ended.

<http://www.glenallenweather.com/links/snows09-10/2-5-10.avi>

The second part of the storm is all snow from the storm's wrap-around effect. I should also add this was the most snow I have ever seen from the backside of a snowstorm.

<http://www.glenallenweather.com/links/snows09-10/2-6-10.avi>

It was a major storm here but was a historic storm in northwest Virginia, Northern VA and MD where all of the precipitation fell as snow!!

The maximum temperature for February was only 59 °F on the 21st and the lowest minimum was 13 °F recorded here on the 7th. This year at the Richmond International Airport the highest temperature for the winter season was only 69 °F on December 3rd 2009. The airport generally averages about four 70 °F days each winter and there has only been 11 years since the winter of 1925-26 that the temperature never reached 70 °F. The lowest barometric pressure of the month 29.40 inches was recorded on the 10th and the highest was only 30.44 inches on February 4th.

This February was much colder, much wetter, snowier, and cloudier but less windy than February 2009.