

Report – Gaithersburg Maryland for Saturday, December 19, 2009

What a day! A historic snow day! Beautiful snow continued all day, finally quitting this evening at about 11 PM. Final storm total of 20.4", 19.3" falling on the observation day on Saturday. Had some occasional blowing and drifting snow which I personally observed off of the storage shed in the backyard and some on surrounding structures. We were under a winter storm warning all day, and briefly this afternoon we were officially under a blizzard warning, though we didn't stay under that long as the winds didn't develop as strong as expected. Temperatures weren't really the story on Saturday, but it did turn out to be the coldest day of the season so far, and my first sub-freezing maximum temperature of the season.

My old December record daily snowfall was a meager 7.4" of snow on 12/5/02. So Saturday's storm total smashes that record. And my old monthly record of 15.8" set back in 2003 goes bye-bye also. My long-term average December snowfall over my 31 years of record is 3.4, however, with this big snowstorm (and possibly more snow to add between now and the end of the month) giving me a monthly total of 24.7", my average Dec snowfall is now 6.7 since 2000 which will also raise my 31 year average to at least 4.1".

RS data for Saturday - High temp 26.4°, low temp 23.4°, obs temp tonight 25.7°.
Lake Region rain gauge melted liquid equivalent total for snow through midnight: 1.51"
(determined through core sample off of my snowboard)
New snow total through midnight EST: 19.3" Snow on ground: 18" (some settling/blowing/drifting)

VP2 data as follows:

No precipitation data available from the VP2

High temp 26.2° recorded at 2042

Low temp 22.9° recorded at 1511

Obs temp tonight 25.6°

Relative humidity ranged from a max of 94% (1635) to a low of 90% (0000)

Dew point ranged from 25° to 21°.

Peak Wind Gust 19 MPH from the NW (0927)

Pressure ranged from 29.95"(0000) to 29.66"(1346)

At obs tonight the temp was 25.7° on the RS, temp of 25.6° on the VP2, 90% rel hum, Cloudy, 23° dew point, pressure 29.73" and rising, winds 3 MPH from the NW. Currently (4:31 AM EST) the temp is 25.4° on the VP2, 25.3° on the RS, rel hum 90%, dew pt 23°. Barometer rising at 29.82".
Cloudy. Winds are from the NW at 2 MPH. Temperatures should stay around 25° the rest of the night. Cloudy conditions should persist for most of the morning hours, but we should see some sun by sometime in the afternoon. Temps should remain below freezing. Temps up in the 30s by Monday so some melting should start then, but no warmer than the 30s with lows in the 20s.

Kevin the very definitely snowywalrus of Gaithersburg Maryland signing off for the evening.