

Report from Gaithersburg Maryland for Sunday, February 8, 2010

Monday, February 8, 2010 at 4:18am

The big snowstorm this weekend knocked my electric power out for about 43 hours from 9 PM Friday till about 4:40 PM Sunday. I could not do one of these reports on either Friday or Saturday night unfortunately. All I could do is stare at a blank, non-energized monitor and computer and shiver. Sunday morning, one of our coldest mornings of the winter, was also the coldest inside the house temperature I have had. It was at least in the upper 40s, possibly mid 40s. Temp now has risen to 67.8° (3:43 AM Monday). Some 200,000 people were without power in my home county of Montgomery at the height of the storm. My house is totally electric, so we really couldn't do much at all, and a very limited menu. Plus with a heart condition, I didn't want to a lot of shoveling, so we were totally snowbound. During Friday evening, my anemometer cups froze, so I could not get any wind speed data. The clear, dry sunny day on Sunday freed up the cups on Sunday afternoon, so now I do have wind data. I witnessed several instances of blowing and drifting snow, a sighting of beauty for sure! The low temp of 7.5° on the VP2 and 6.4° on the RS is the lowest reading of temperature for this station for the year 2010 (so far). Another cold night again on Sunday night, but it appears that we will reach that low temp early on Saturday morning. Monday sunny and fairly seasonable in temps, and then on Tuesday it gets interesting again because another storm is brewing in the Gulf of Mexico. Winter Storm Watches have been posted for our area, and it is possible we may get 5 inches or more of snow and/or mixed precipitation. Should be a late morning Tue through Wed noon, Some chance for mixed types of precipitation, we will be very close to the 32° dividing line. Sunny and seasonable to finish out the week on Thursday-Friday.

RS data for Thursday: High temp 30.4° - Low temp 6.4° -
Obs temp 20.3°

Snow on ground: 26"
February total monthly snow: 30.3"
New snow/sleet : 0 (13.1" Fri, 12.7" Sat)
Precipitation for Sunday: 0 (1.33" on Fri, 0.80" on Sat)
2010 Year precipitation total: 4.40"
February month precipitation total: 2.43"

VP2 data as follows:

High temp 30.8° recorded at 1551
Low temp 7.5 ° recorded at 0639
Obs temp tonight 20.7°
Rel hum ranged from a max of 100% (0705) to a low of 68% (1505)
Dew point ranged from 22° to 5°.
Peak Wind Gust 13 MPH from the N (2153)
Pressure ranged from 30.09"(2347) to 29.91"(0100)

At obs tonight the temp was 20.3° on the RS, temp of 20.7° on the VP2, 78% rel hum, clear, 15° dew point, pressure 30.08" and rising. Wind 1 MPH from the west.

Currently (4:15 AM EST) the temp is 15.9° on the VP2, 15.4° on the RS, rel hum 88%, dew pt 13°. Barometer steady at 30.10". Clear. Winds 4 MPH from the W.

Radar clear in immediate area. Closest light and scattered echoes to my N in New York State (inconsequential) plus light impulses in far western Tennessee and Kentucky which will be important to our area as our next snowstorm takes place and poised to give us a visit starting sometime on Tuesday afternoon. 5 inches or more is the current thinking for forecasted snowfall amounts.

Blizzard of 2010 - Gaithersburg Maryland report

Sunday, February 7, 2010 at 10:49pm

What a storm here in the Mid-Atlantic this weekend. Had 25.8" of snow at my station. The heavy, wet snow pulled down tree branches onto power lines, and 200,000 were out of power at the height of the storm, including me. You really learn the hard way when your home is totally electric, and the inside temperature drops into the 40s (this morning, when it hit a low temp of 7.5° outside). Fortunately power was restored around 4:40 PM EST Sunday, after being out of power for about 43 hours. Got to learn about alternatives to be more ready for such adverse conditions. Of course, this also meant that I was unable to check or post to FACEBOOK. And with my health conditions as they are, I really shouldn't shovel a lot of snow so we were snowbound, unable to escape. This afternoon neighborhood kids were hired to clear the snow from our sidewalk and cars and the pavement in front of our cars out to the plowed community street. The kids (3 of them) quit just before the superbowl, having done quite a bit but not finishing. Since I won't be going to work tomorrow and the kids will be off school, the kids will come back and finish the job.

I took some pictures, and hope to download them to the appropriate spot a FACEBOOK album page off of my profile. There were the usual observer challenges to collect the snowfall and other meteorological parameter data, esp. with the power off/observing with a flashlight.

More later, just wanted to post here on Winter Weather about our spectacular winter weather event penned locally as the "Blizzard of 2010".