

Report - Saturday January 30, 2010 from Gaithersburg Maryland

Significant cold continued on Saturday, aided considerably by clouds and SNOW!!! Beautiful powdery snow fell from about 9 AM for about 12-13 hours till 9 or 10 PM Sat evening. Interesting way I speculated on when the snow started, since I was asleep when it started. I looked at my VP2 data, specifically the dew point, and noticed a sharp rise in the dew point temperatures around 9 to 10 AM, from about 5° up into the low teens. My rain collector doesn't collect snowfall, nor does it at this stage melt it down. So I can't use that data to figure out when snow started to fall on Saturday. The air temperatures were about 20 when the snow started, and then dropped most of the day into the mid-upper teens. Hence the snow stayed dry and powdery, relatively speaking. The winter weather advisory we were placed under early Saturday morning was changed to a Winter Storm Warning in the middle of Saturday afternoon, more or less after 4 inches had accumulated and it was still snowing, hence they increased the predicted snowfall for my county to 4-6 inches. Sunny and cold on Sunday. Road melt should commence once the sun comes out. With temps still supposed to stay below freezing all day, the roadway is probably going to be the only place where melting will take place.

RS data for Friday: High temp 20.7° - Low temp 15.6° -
Obs temp 17.4°
Snow on ground: 6"
January total snow up through Saturday: 7.9"
New snow/sleet : 5.8"
Precipitation for Saturday: 0.33"
2010 Year and January month to date precipitation total: 1.97"
VP2 data as follows:
High temp 20.5° recorded at 0000
Low temp 16.2° recorded at 1707
Obs temp tonight 17.8°
Rel hum ranged from a max of 92% (1356) to a low of 49% (0042)
Dew point ranged from 16° to 4°.
Peak Wind Gust 13 MPH from the NW (1454)
Pressure ranged from 30.36"(0014) to 30.03"(2201)

At obs tonight the temp was 17.4° on the RS, temp of 17.8° on the VP2, 69% rel hum, thinning overcast, 9° dew point, pressure 30.04" and steady, wind 3 MPH from the N.

Currently (3:37 AM EST) the temp is 15.2° on the VP2, 14.2° on the RS, rel hum 70%, dew pt 7°. Barometer rising at 30.07". Thin cloud cover, moon visible. Winds Calm.

Radar showing snow retreating out to sea in the lower eastern shore of Maryland. Clear to the west and north.

Remember I have my VP2 station online now on weather underground, <http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=KMDGAITH11>

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