

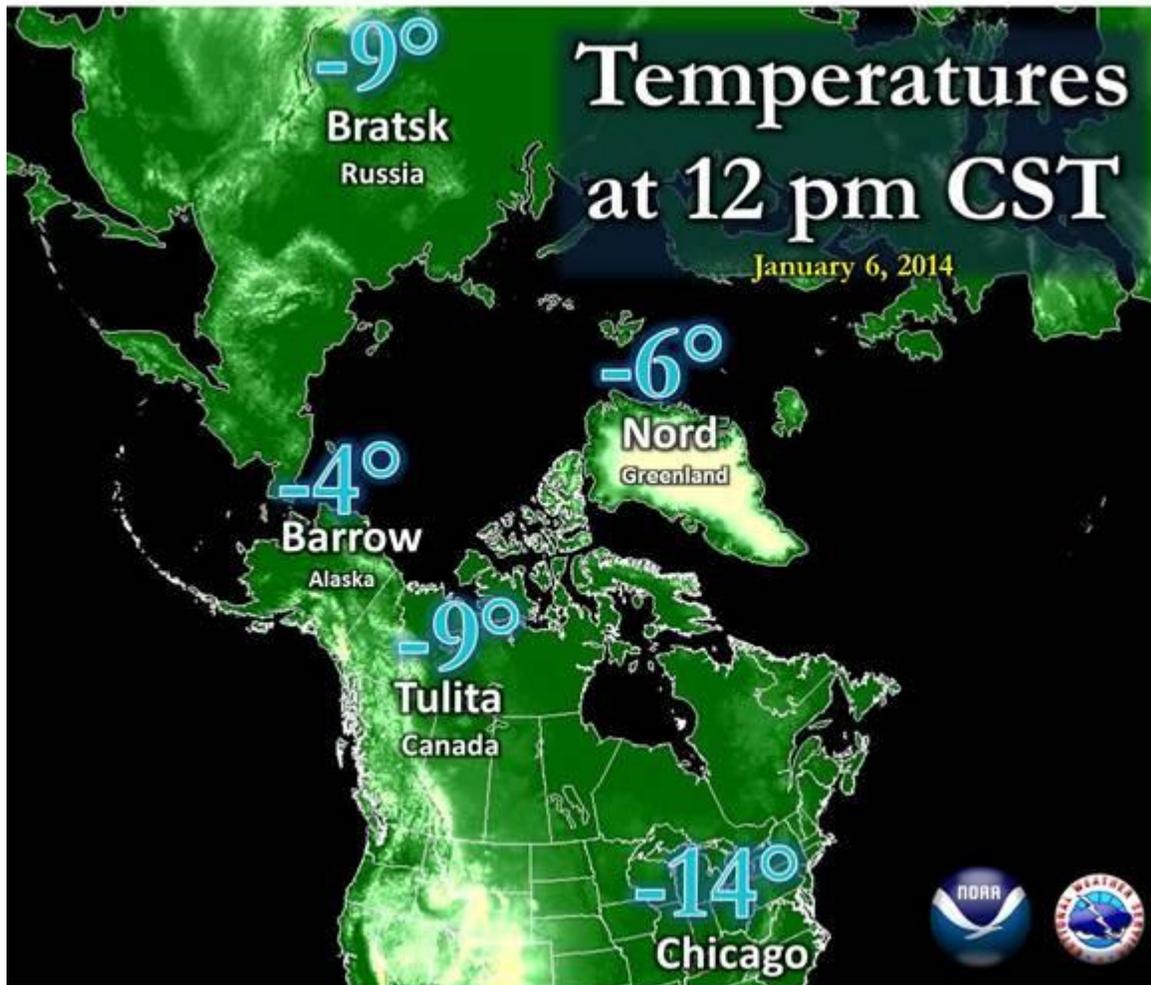


A truly impressive and meteorological gee-whiz photo here sent to us by an NWS fan! The arctic air over breaks in the ice of Lake Michigan have created pockets of quickly rising steam as can be seen in this photo. Quite rare for off the Chicago shore, but picturesque!

Also of note, see those lake effect clouds just a mere few miles off the Illinois shore? To have those type of clouds form within a few miles of the IL shore with an offshore west wind is very uncommon. But the magnitude of this cold air is leading to immediate instability over the lake, and that induces the sudden cloud development.

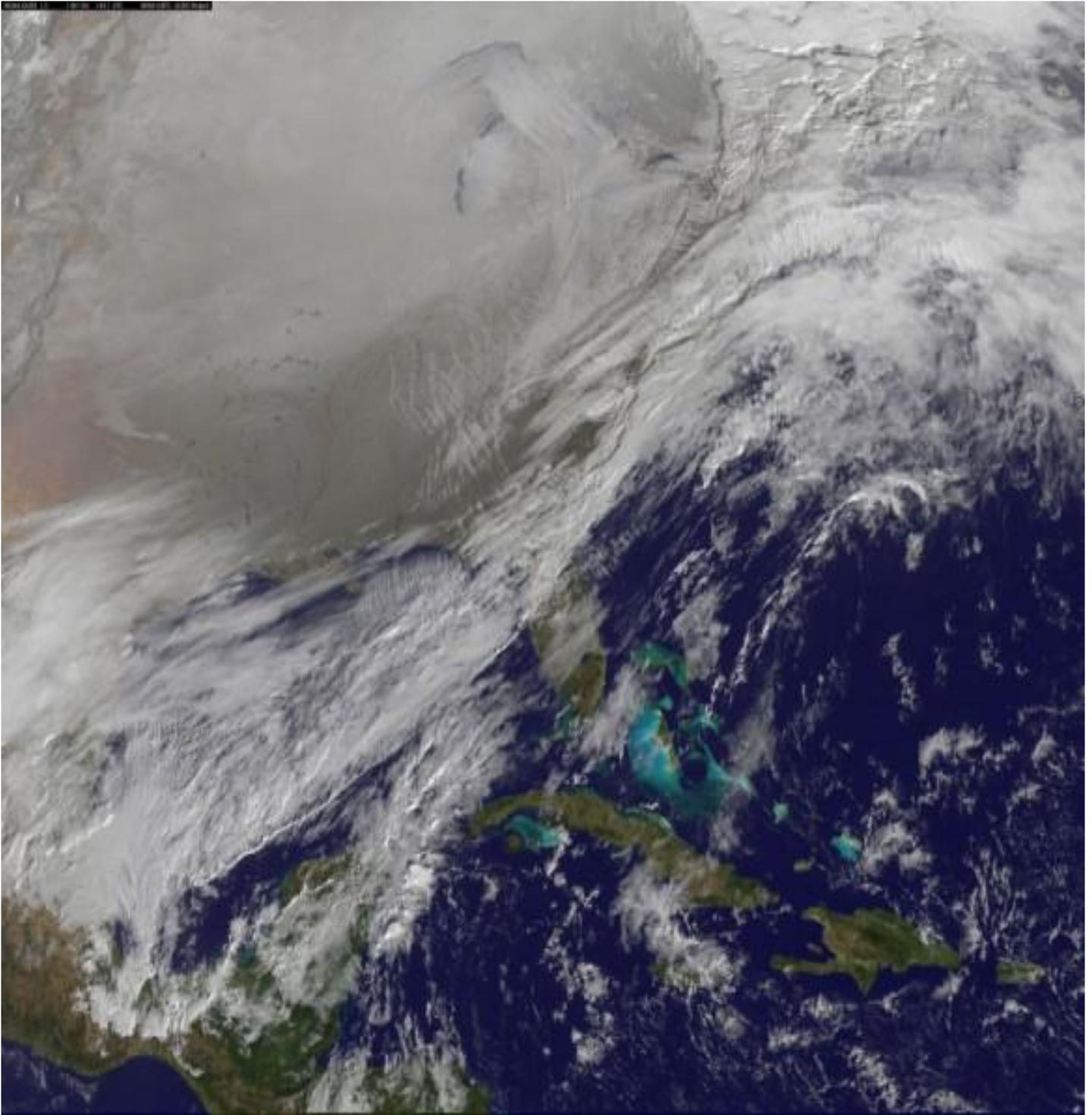
After another foot of snow, over the weekend. Chicago already has our average snowfall for the entire winter at around 34 inches so far...

Today (Jan 6, 2014) was the coldest noon temperature since Jan 18, 1994. Noon temps at Chicago of -14°F were the 7th coldest noon temps since 1930.



Here's something new at -13F during the daytime with -30 to -50 degree wind chills: I was shoveling drifted snow outside for a little over an hour with all my coldest snowboarding gear on, except my goggles. I actually also wore my jeans under my snowboarding pants and was quite warm, but my eyelashes kept freezing together at the corners of my eyes! I actually had to use my hand to open my eyes fully a couple of times! Should have gone with the goggles too, I guess. Never had that happen before, haha! This happened because I was wearing a facemask which directed my warm breath up across my face, which condensed and immediately froze on my eyelashes!

I just got word that I have no work tomorrow either since IIT has closed the building. Beky is off tomorrow too as schools are closed. To warmer days :)



*This image was captured by NOAA's GOES-East satellite on January 6, 2014 at 1601 UTC/11:01 a.m. EST. A frontal system that brought rain to the coast is draped from north to south along the U.S. East Coast. Behind the front lies the clearer skies bitter cold air associated with the Polar Vortex.*

If you live in the north and eastern part of the US, you're probably experiencing some frigid weather. You're probably also hearing people talk about something called a "polar vortex."

Just what is a polar vortex and why is it making the temperatures so cold?

This image was captured by NOAA's GOES-East satellite on Jan. 6, 2014, at 11:01 a.m. EST (1601 UTC). A frontal system that brought rain and snow to the US East coast is seen draped from north to south, and behind the front lies the clearer skies bitter cold air associated with the polar vortex. Also visible in the image is snow on the ground in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa and Missouri. The clouds over Texas are associated with a low pressure system centered over western Oklahoma that is part of the cold front connected to the movement of the polar vortex.

NASA explains that the polar vortex is a "whirling and persistent large area of low pressure, found typically over both North and South poles."

Read more: <http://www.universetoday.com/107814/satellite-image-of-the-polar-vortex-over-the-us/#ixzz2piP6dWdk>