



NORTHEASTERN STORM BUSTER



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Northeastern StormBuster is a quarterly publication of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Albany, New York, serving the weather spotter, emergency manager, cooperative observer, ham radio, scientific and academic communities, and weather enthusiasts, all of whom have a special interest or expertise in the fields of meteorology, hydrology and/or climatology. Original content contained herein may be reproduced only when the National Weather Service Forecast Office at Albany, and any applicable authorship, is credited as the source.

FALL 2016: ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES; BELOW NORMAL PRECIPITATION

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The Fall of 2016 wound up being a little above normal. The beginning of the season, in particular, was above normal at Albany (Table 1); however, by the end of the season, it was only slightly above normal. Thus, there were no seasonal temperature records to speak of. In fact, the season as a whole was quite ordinary, with no new seasonal records established. Only a small handful of daily or monthly records were established during the season. As far as daily records go...for September, only a high minimum temperature record was established, on the 18th (Table 3a). The only other record was a placement of the season at no. 5 on the Top Ten Warmest Mean Maximum Septembers list. September precipitation was a little over an inch shy of normal, but not impressive enough to result in any new records.

While October was a degree and a half closer to normal than September was in Albany, this month, too, had two temperature records (Table 3b), a daily high on the 18th, and, at the other end of the spectrum, a daily low maximum on the 27th. More impressive during the month was the snowfall that occurred on the 27th. The only measureable snowfall for the month fell on that day...1.7". This barely nudged past the very young 5-year-old record of 1.6". The only daily maximum wind speed record for the season occurred in October. Usually, there are at least a few wind records for any given season because the length of record is only 30 years, making these records easier to break than the others. The 41 mph gust that achieved this result occurred on the 23rd. While October precipitation was a little more generous than the previous month, it was still about three-quarters of an inch below normal (Table 1). One day surpassed an inch total...the 22nd (Tables 1 and 2b).

When it comes to records, November was the least fruitful month, but it was closest to normal of the three fall months for temperature. However, November did have the most precipitation, 3.10", and the only record of any kind for the month was for daily precipitation when exactly half of the monthly total fell on the 15th (Tables 1 and 3c.) It was the only daily precipitation record for the season, and the only other day during which an inch or more of precipitation fell. November snowfall was less than half of October's, and was more than 2 inches below normal. The 20th was the only date responsible for the month's scant measureable total of 0.6". The 21st was notable for being a very windy day; the 19.2 mph average speed missed cracking Albany's 200 Windiest Dates list by just 0.1 mph. The last cracks of thunder heard for the season at Albany International Airport occurred quite late...on November 15th and 20th (Table 4b). And while the season's peak gust of 42 mph was recorded in November, October was a slightly windier month, overall

(Tables 4a-c). Compared to September, both October and November were noticeably cloudier, which is fairly typical of the region. There was plenty of dense fog this past season, with a total of 14 days where the visibility at Albany International Airport was reduced to a quarter mile or less at some point during the calendar day.

THE STATS				
	SEP	OCT	NOV	SEASON
Average High Temperature/Departure from Normal	77.6°/+5.4°	61.8°/+2.0	50.6°/+2.7°	63.3°/+3.3°
Average Low Temperature/Departure from Normal	54.6°/+3.0°	43.0°/+3.4°	32.2°/+0.7°	43.3°/+2.4°
Mean Temperature/ Departure From Normal	66.1°/+4.2°	52.4°/+2.7°	41.4°/+1.7°	53.3°/+2.8°
High Daily Mean Temperature/Date	78.0°/9 th	70.5°/18 th	56.0°/2 nd	
Low Daily Mean Temperature /Date	52.5°/25 th & 26 th	33.0°/27 th	31.5°/21 st	
Highest Temperature reading/Date	89°/8 th	84°/18 th	64°/2 nd & 19 th	
Lowest Temperature reading/Date	37°/26 th	28°/15 th	20°/28 th	
Lowest Maximum Temperature reading/Date	64°/30 th	36°/27 th	34°/21 st	
Highest Minimum Temperature reading/Date	69°/9 th	59°/17 th	51°/3 rd	
Total Precipitation/Departure from Normal	2.18"/-1.12"	2.90"/-0.78"	3.10"/-0.19"	8.18"/-2.09"
Total Snowfall/Departure from Normal	0.0"/-	1.7"/+1.7"	0.6/-2.2"	2.3"/-0.5"
Maximum Precipitation/Date	0.64"/18 th	1.21"/22 nd	1.55"/15 th	
Maximum Snowfall/Date	0.0"/-	1.7"/27 th	0.6/20 th	

Table 1

NORMALS, OBSERVED DAYS & DATES				
NORMALS & OBS. DAYS	SEP	OCT	NOV	SEASON
NORMALS				
High	72.2°	59.8°	47.9°	60.0°
Low	51.6°	39.6°	31.5°	40.9°
Mean	61.9°	49.7°	39.7°	50.5°
Precipitation	3.30"	3.68"	3.29"	10.27"
Snow	0"	0"	2.8"	2.8"
OBS TEMP. DAYS				
High 90° or above	0	0	0	0/91
Low 70° or above	0	0	0	0/91
High 32° or below	0	0	0	0/91
Low 32° or below	0	3	19	22/91
Low 0° or below	0	0	0	0/91
OBS. PRECIP DAYS				
Days T+	11	20	13	44/91/48%
Days 0.01"+	9	11	10	30/91/33%
Days 0.10"+	6	4	6	16/91/18%
Days 0.25"+	3	3	2	8/91/9%
Days 0.50"+	2	3	2	7/91/8%
Days 1.00"+	0	1	1	2/91/2%

Table 2a

NOTABLE TEMP, PRECIP & SNOW DATES	SEP	OCT	NOV
First Freeze/End of Growing Season	-	15 th	-
First Snowfall (Trace or more)	1.7"/27 th	-	-
1.00"+ date	-	1.21"/22 nd	1.55"/15 th

Table 2b

ELEMENT		SEPTEMBER	
Daily High Minimum Temperature Value/Date Previous Record/Year		67°/18 th	66°/1891
Top 10 Warmest Mean Maximum Septembers Value/Rank Remarks		77.6°/#5	-

Table 3a

ELEMENT	OCTOBER	
Daily Maximum Temperature Value/Date Previous Record/Year	84°/18 th	82°/1968
Daily Low Maximum Temperature Value/Date Previous Record/Year	36°/27 th	39°/1957
Daily Snowfall/Date Previous Record/Year	1.7"/27 th	1.6"/2011
Daily Maximum Wind Speed Value/Direction/Date Previous Record/Direction/Year	41 mph/W/23 rd	35 mph/S/2007

Table 3b

ELEMENT	NOVEMBER	
Daily Precipitation/Date Previous Record/Year	1.55"/15 th	1.48"/2007

Table 3c

ELEMENT	FALL	
None	-	-

Table 3d

**MISCELLANEOUS
SEPTEMBER**

Average Wind Speed/Departure from Normal	5.3 mph/-5.2 mph
Peak Wind/Direction/Date	40 mph/WNW/11 th
Windiest Day Average Value/Date	12.4 mph/11 th
Calmmest Day Average Value/Date	1.5 mph/12 th
# Clear Days	7
# Partly Cloudy Days	19
# Cloudy Days	4
Dense Fog Dates (code 2)	5 th , 16 th , 26 th , 27 th & 28 th
Thunder Dates (code 3)	8 th , 18 th & 19 th
Sleet Dates (code 4)	None
Hail Dates (code 5)	None
Freezing Rain Dates (code 6)	None

Table 4a

OCTOBER

Average Wind Speed/Departure from Normal	7.0 mph/-0.2 mph
Peak Wind/Direction/Date	41 mph/WNW/23 rd
Windiest Day Average Value/Date	15.5 mph/23 rd
Calmmest Day Average Value/Date	0.9 mph/6 th
# Clear Days	4
# Partly Cloudy Days	15
# Cloudy Days	12
Dense Fog Dates (code 2)	5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 15 th , 25 th & 26 th
Thunder Dates (code 3)	20 th
Sleet Dates (code 4)	27 th
Hail Dates (code 5)	None
Freezing Rain Dates (code 6)	None

Table 4b

NOVEMBER

Average Wind Speed/Departure from Normal	6.7 mph/-1.6 mph
Peak Wind/Direction/Date	42 mph/WNW/20 th
Windiest Day Average Value/Date	19.2 mph/21 st
Calmmest Day Average Value/Date	1.1 mph/8 th
# Clear Days	4
# Partly Cloudy Days	16
# Cloudy Days	10
Dense Fog Dates (code 2)	19 th , 29 th & 30 th
Thunder Dates (code 3)	15 th & 20 th
Sleet Dates (code 4)	20 th & 24 th
Hail Dates (code 5)	None
Freezing Rain Dates (code 6)	None

Table 4c

For more climate data and records, please visit our climate page at:
www.weather.gov/albany/Climate.

WEATHER WORD FIND

by Tom Wasula

Each word will be found in any one of 8 directions (vertical, horizontal or diagonals/forwards or backwards)

The solution to this puzzle will be provided in the spring issue.

WINTER

Y T K T A Z C W R L C F D Q I D S V S L
D G E F R L H E F A M R O T S W O N S L
N Z E E I G T V L K Q T I C E F O C T I
I A L P L S V I U E D V R T J W U T Q H
W U P Q A S R L R E U R R B F B Z Y X C
R E P E H R Z Z R F O A A L Z E R Q G D
R E R M A J E C I F Q J A O S F H B Z N
Q O T Y T I X Z E E B K L D B C P B B I
N H Q K T D O L S C E L M R X W W F Y W
B L I Z Z A R D Y T B T A F U F O P X I
U M N X B S A A A H E C N C R N X N U J
E U W H J P P W O M U T R F K Q N S S L
G X H R P Z Z A Q W H K V M H I E N P K
Q D H J B Z H O Z B C M L G W L C Z N T
U G A O Y N H M Z A E H O M L P R E L C

BLACKICE
FLURRIES
LAKEEFFECT
SLEET
SNOWSTORM

BLIZZARD
ICE
NOREASTER
SNOWBOARD
WINDCHILL

CLIPPER
ICEJAM
RULER
SNOWFLAKE
WINDY

**Fall Issue
Solution**

S + W + + + + + + + + + + + + + R +
+ U + O I C E C R Y S T A L S + + O + +
+ + N + B N O I T C E L F E R S Y + + +
+ + + P + N + + A N O R O C T G + + + +
+ + + + I + I T + + + S + E B + + + + +
+ + + + + L T A + + W + L I + + + S + +
+ + + + + E L + R O + P V + + + + G + +
+ + + + R + + A D + O + + + + + O + +
+ + + I + + + A R R + + + + + + D + +
+ + N + + + H + D S R + + + + + N + +
+ G + + + S + R + + E + + + + + U + +
+ + + + + E + + + F + + + + + S + +
+ + S + + T + + + + R + + + + + + + +
P + + O A + + + + + A G L O R I E S + +
+ I + W L + + + + + C + + + + + C + + +
+ + N + + A + + + + T + + + + + L + + +
+ + + K + + H + + + I + + + + + I + + +
+ + + + S + + + + + O + + + + + P + + +
+ + + + + K + + + + N + + + + + S + + +
+ + + + + Y + + + + + + + + + E + + +

From the Editor's Desk

This will be the last Northeastern StormBuster issued for winter. The magazine will now become a semiannual publication, issued twice a year in spring and fall. Each issue, beginning with the fall issue, will now include a review of the past 6 months of climate data, which will now be included in its own segment within the Departments section. This particular issue includes just the climate review and the puzzle section. Enjoy...we'll see you again in the spring!

WCM Words

Steve DiRienzo

Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Albany

Winter came early this year with our first snow here in Albany on October 27th. We've already had almost as much snow this fall and early winter as we had the entire winter last year. As of December 30, 2016, Albany International Airport has had 14.3" of snow. For the entire winter if 2015-2016, the airport recorded only 16.9".

So far this winter, much of the snow has come in smaller events with 1 to 3 inches at a time. This has led to a large number of days with slippery travel conditions.

According to the Department of Transportation, each year 24 percent of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy, slushy or icy pavement, and 15 percent happen during snowfall or sleet. Over 1,300 people are killed and more than 116,800 people are injured in vehicle crashes on snowy, slushy or icy pavement annually.

What's more, fast-changing weather conditions can be particularly dangerous. Just last year alone, white-out conditions created by quickly developing snow squalls caused over 140 accidents and 3 fatalities in Indiana, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire.

Some simple things you can do to help protect yourself when traveling during the winter:

- 1) Make sure to check the [hourly conditions](#) at your local NWS office. Just because it's sunny and clear when you depart doesn't mean it will stay that way for the duration of your trip.
- 2) Be sure to check the [current road conditions](#) and updated alerts or advisories for the roads and highways you will be traveling on.
- 3) Wherever you are, you can get the local weather forecast from the National Weather Service with one click on your phone by visiting [mobile.weather.gov](#).
- 4) Make sure Mother Nature doesn't catch you off guard by having some basic winter weather tools and extra warm clothes packed in your car at all times. Check out some of the items you should consider bringing along with this [list](#) provided by ready.gov.

Winter storms can bring snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the entire United States, and major cities as far south as Atlanta and Dallas have been paralyzed by snow and ice. If you're planning on traveling during the winter, please stay up-to-date with the latest forecasts along your travel route. Alter travel plans if necessary, and slow down when encountering snow-, ice- or slush-covered roads.

Here at the National Weather Service, we strive to be the source of unbiased, reliable and consistent weather information. We're here to answer your weather and water questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have concerns, please call us. If you have comments on Northeastern StormBuster, or any of the operations of the National Weather Service, please let me know at Stephen.Dirienzo@noaa.gov.