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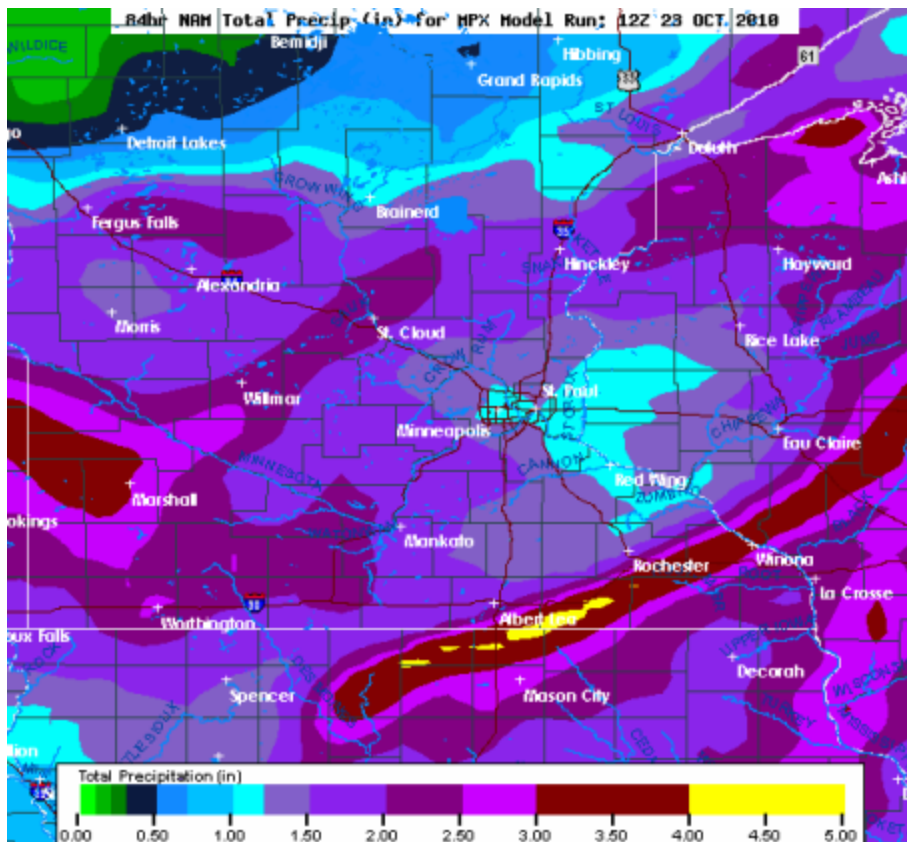
More 60s, 1-2" Rain, Touch of November Next Week

By Paul Douglas

October 23, 2010



Not Bad For the 4th Week of October. I was at the Gophers-Penn State game at TCF Stadium yesterday - the sun came out for about a half hour and it got HOT in the stands. Temperatures were in the mid 60s, but it felt like 80 out there when the sun was out. Pretty amazing. Yep, I was the dork checking Doppler on my cell phone. There were a few light showers/spinkles, but the heaviest/steadiest rains stayed north/east of the metro as a surge of dry air became tangled up in the storm's circulation.



Potential Soaking. The latest NAM model spins up a very intense storm over Minnesota Tuesday/Wednesday, prolonging moderate to heavy rain - whipping up midweek winds as high as 25-40 mph. Many towns are forecast to pick up 1-2" rain by Wednesday night, with a band of 3-4"+ near the Iowa border, near Austin and Albert Lea. We're due - and it's coming.



Arctic Report Card: Region Continues To Warm At An Unprecedented Rate. NOAA just released a summary of summer conditions in the Arctic region: the third lowest amount of summer ice since satellite records began in 1979 (only surpassed by 2007 and 2008, 22% below the long-term average. A few highlights of the [report](#):

- Greenland is experiencing record-setting high temperatures, ice melt and glacier area loss.
- Summer sea ice continues to decline — the 2009-2010 summer sea ice cover extent was the third lowest since satellite monitoring began in 1979, and sea ice thickness continues to thin. The 2010 minimum is the third lowest recorded since 1979, surpassed only by 2008 and the record low of 2007; and
- Arctic snow cover duration was at a record minimum since record-keeping began in 1966.



How Did Humans React To Climate Change 6,000 Years Ago? Yes, it's warmed up significant in the past. What's different this time? This is the first time both hemispheres are warming (not just the Northern Hemisphere), and for the first time the warming can't be traced to an "astronomical trigger", a change or wobble in the Earth's orbit around the sun. The warming 4,000 to 6,000 years ago during the "Holocene" was substantial, but according to University of Buffalo anthropologist Ezra Zubrow, "This was a slower change, about one-third the rate we face today. In the Holocene period, it took a thousand years for the earth to warm as much as it has over the past 300 years -- roughly the time spanned since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution." The complete article is [here](#).

* The first measurable rain in 27 days fell Saturday. That's the 8th longest dry spell in the Twin Cities since 1871. For St. Cloud the 27 day mini-drought was the 8th longest dry patch since 1941.

* If the official Twin Cities temperature (MSP International Airport) reaches 32 F. Thursday or Friday morning (very possible) we will tie a record for the 10th latest 32 F. on record.

* Latest models print out 1-2" of rain between Sunday and Wednesday (mixing with wet snow central and northern MN Tuesday night into Wednesday).

LOCATION	MAX TEMP	MIN TEMP	PCPN	SNOW FALL	SNOW DEPTH
ALEXANDRIA MN	: 51 /	46 /	0.45/	M/	M
ST CLOUD MN	: 52 /	45 /	0.15/	M/	M
MINNEAPOLIS MN	: 65 /	52 /	0.01/	M/	M
REDWOOD FALLS MN	: 66 /	51 /	0.07/	M/	M
DULUTH MN	: 48 /	39 /	T /	M/	M
INTERNATIONAL FALLS MN	: 49 /	36 /	0.00/	M/	M
HIBBING MN	: 48 /	31 /	0.00/	M/	M
GRAND MARAIS MN	: 49 /	40 /	0.00/	M/	M
ROCHESTER MN	: 65 /	52 /	0.09/	M/	M

Better Than Advertised. A surge of dry air tangled up in the storm circulation coaxed some (unexpected) sunshine out of our midday sky, enough for 65 in the Twin Cities and Rochester. Thicker clouds kept temperatures cooler north/west, only 48 at Duluth, 52 at St. Cloud and 51 up in Alexandria (where nearly half an inch of rain fell).

Paul's Star Tribune Outlook for the Twin Cities and all of Minnesota:

Today: Periods of light rain, unseasonably mild. Winds: E/NE 8-13. High: 62

Sunday night: Light rain, patchy fog possible. Low: 55

Monday: Still feels like September. Unseasonably mild with clouds, a few showers/T-storms possible late. High: 68

Tuesday: An intense storm develops directly over Minnesota. Heavier rain, becoming windy. High: 55

Wednesday: Blustery and raw with light rain and sprinkles (mixing with wet snow north). Winds gust to 35 mph. High: 49

Thursday: Feels like late October. Winds ease with slow clearing - first frost possible late Thursday night. High: 47

Friday: Partly sunny, becoming windy again by afternoon. High: 48

Saturday: Probably the nicer day of the weekend. Mix of clouds and sun, dry. High: 54

Halloween: Any sun quickly gives way to clouds - drizzle by afternoon, light rain possible late. Looks soggy for Trick or Treating. High: 57 (Trick or Treat temperatures falling through the low 50s into the upper 40s).

Weather Psychology

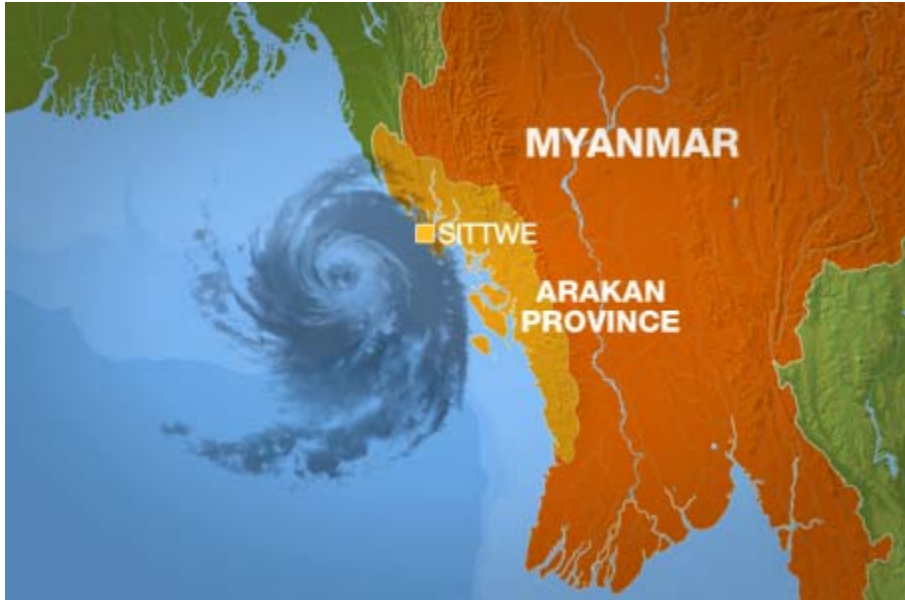
"Paul, I wish I could have a job where I get paid to be right half the time!" That gets funnier every time I hear it. Yes, Saturday was nicer than predicted. The sun came out for 25 minutes at TCF Stadium; people were peeling off jackets & ponchos (the crowd cheered for me to keep my shirt ON).

It's generally acceptable if the weather turns out better than predicted. Most Minnesotans are OK with that. But if it's the other way around; you predict sun and it pours? Not a pretty sight, especially on a weekend. As a result meteorologists (as a profession) tend to err on the side of pessimism for the weekend outlook, at least that's been my experience.

What a month, the sunniest, driest and 5th warmest October on record, to date. Looks like the 10th latest frost on record; 1st chance of 32 F. Thursday.

Light rain today eases up Monday (70 possible), then heavy rain Tuesday as an intense storm spins up directly overhead. Over 1" of rain may fall by Tuesday, ending as flurries up north Wednesday as winds gust to 35 mph. Friday frost gives way to Saturday sun, a

little drizzle possible for Halloween. Snow? The first chance of any real accumulation comes on Election Day. Great timing!



Cyclone Giri Batters Myanmar. The country formerly known as Burma just suffered a direct hit from a major cyclone (same phenomena as a hurricane). Winds over 140 mph were reported just offshore before the storm struck - 1 death has been blamed on the cyclone, which flattened homes and affected thousands of coastal inhabitants. The story is [here](#).



Sleepless In Seattle. Check out [this](#) YouTube clip of Seattle. 24 hours of weather and city-scapes condensed into 60 dazzling seconds. Very nice.



Russians Take Another Look At Global Warming. From [this](#) article in Voice of America News: "Russia, the world's largest producer of oil and gas, has always taken a skeptical view of climate change. In the wake of last summer's fires, public opinion is shifting. In the past, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has joked that global warming would mean that Russians would buy fewer fur coats and enjoy longer growing seasons. But after the fires, he and many Russians are taking a more open-minded view of the impact of humans on their climate."

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