Record Spring Snowstorm and Antarctica Hype Again

By Joseph D'Aleo

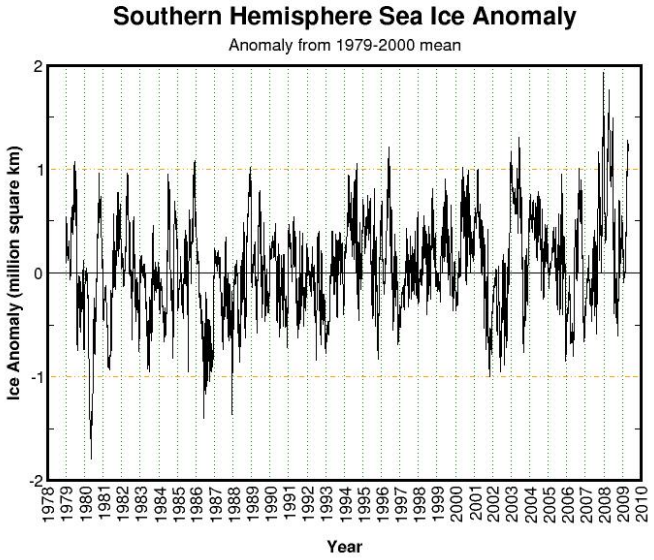
All-time Record Snowfalls Two and Three Day Snowfalls Great Falls, Montana.

Storm total snowfall at the Great Falls airport for the three day period of April 27...28...29 measured 25.4 inches. This is an all time three day snowfall record which surpasses the previous record of 18.1 inches set November 26...27...28 in 2005. Snowfall at the Great Falls airport for the two day period of April 28...29 measured 24.2 inches. This is also an all time snowfall record which surpasses the previous record of 17.3 inches set April 19...20 in 1973.

The all time one day snowfall record at the Great Falls airport is 16.5 inches set on April 20 in 1973. The 16.1 inches recorded yesterday...April 29th...is the second highest one day snowfall total recorded since climatic records began at Great Falls in 1886.

Antarctica Again

The AP is again is playing up the cracks in the Wilkins ice Sheet in The story Antarctic Ice Sheet Falling Apart. . The AP reports scientists warn massive ice chunks are crumbling away from a shelf in the western Antarctic Peninsula, researchers said Wednesday, warning that 1,300 square miles of ice - an area larger than Rhode Island - was in danger of breaking off in coming weeks. While that seems large it is just 0.048% of the Antarctic ice sheet and will quickly refreeze in the rapidly growing ice shield that will more than double its size during the long southern winter. Also not reported is the fact that the current ice sheet remains well above normal for the time of year in the 30 year record (1,250,000 square km above the normal about 21.7%).



Temperatures in April were very cold for early fall with temperatures as low as -104F at Vostok and -90F at the Amundsen Scot AFB at the South Pole.

See some recent coverage of this hype on Watts Up With That and Icecap:

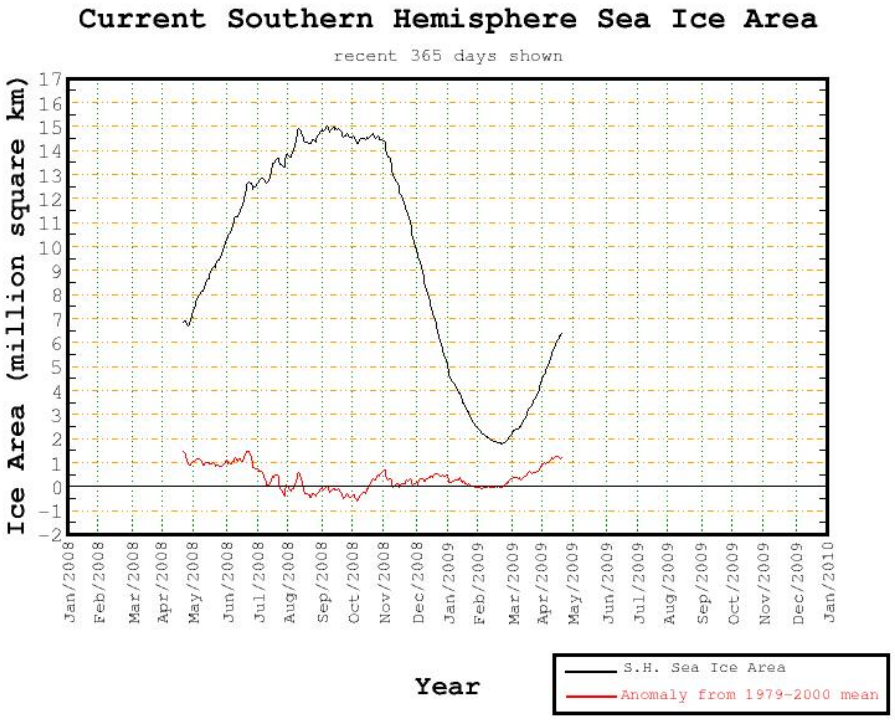
Sea Ice Claims on Thin Ice

Guest Post by Steven Goddard on Watts Up With That

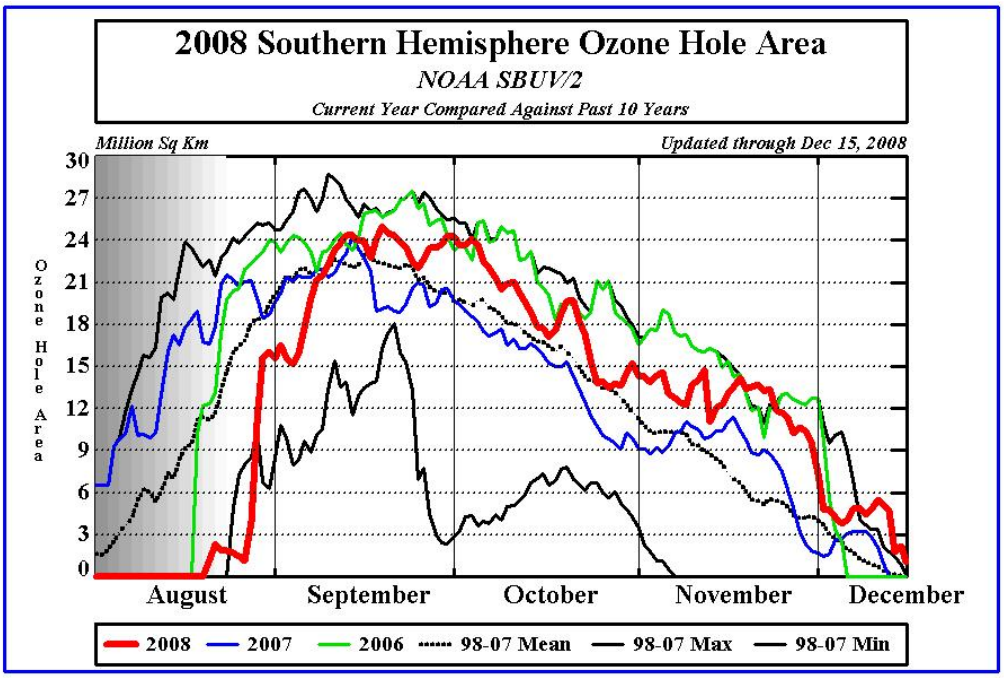
Last weeks' top Antarctic AGW story was: Antarctic ice melting faster than expected. due to CO2, of course.

This week the #1 story is: Antarctic ice spreading but the increase in size is due to "stratospheric ozone depletion" which is of course also caused by man-made gases.

So Antarctic ice is disappearing faster than expected due to man, and it is also expanding in size due to man. Meanwhile, the early autumn temperature in Vostok, Antarctica is a toasty -95F, a nice warm up from the -104F temperatures earlier this week.



Oh, and one minor problem with the ozone hole theory "The ozone hole occurs during the Antarctic spring, from September to early December" - but the positive ice anomaly occurred during the autumn and winter (March through July) as represented by the red line below. And while the ozone hole was present, ice was normal. So the ice excess probably has nothing to do with the ozone hole.



The AGW standard for broad acceptance of new theories seems to be “not completely implausible - if you avoid actually looking at the body of data or what you might have said last week.” Read more and comment here.

Apr 21, 2009

Revealed: Antarctic ice growing, not shrinking (Updated)

By Greg Roberts, The Australian

ICE is expanding in much of Antarctica, contrary to the widespread public belief that global warming is melting the continental ice cap. The results of ice-core drilling and sea ice monitoring indicate there is no large-scale melting of ice over most of Antarctica, although experts are concerned at ice losses on the continent’s western coast.

Antarctica has 90 per cent of the Earth’s ice and 80 per cent of its fresh water. Extensive melting of Antarctic ice sheets would be required to raise sea levels substantially, and ice is melting in parts of west Antarctica. The destabilisation of the Wilkins ice shelf

generated international headlines this month. However, the picture is very different in east Antarctica, which includes the territory claimed by Australia.

East Antarctica is four times the size of west Antarctica and parts of it are cooling. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research report prepared for last week's meeting of Antarctic Treaty nations in Washington noted the South Pole had shown "significant cooling in recent decades".

Australian Antarctic Division glaciology program head Ian Allison said sea ice losses in west Antarctica over the past 30 years had been more than offset by increases in the Ross Sea region, just one sector of east Antarctica. "Sea ice conditions have remained stable in Antarctica generally," Dr Allison said.

The melting of sea ice—fast ice and pack ice—does not cause sea levels to rise because the ice is in the water. Sea levels may rise with losses from freshwater ice sheets on the polar caps. In Antarctica, these losses are in the form of icebergs calved from ice shelves formed by glacial movements on the mainland.

Last week, federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett said experts predicted sea level rises of up to 6m from Antarctic melting by 2100, but the worst case scenario foreshadowed by the SCAR report was a 1.25m rise. Mr Garrett insisted global warming was causing ice losses throughout Antarctica. "I don't think there's any doubt it is contributing to what we've seen both on the Wilkins shelf and more generally in Antarctica," he said.

Dr Allison said there was not any evidence of significant change in the mass of ice shelves in east Antarctica nor any indication that its ice cap was melting. "The only significant calvings in Antarctica have been in the west," he said. And he cautioned that calvings of the magnitude seen recently in west Antarctica might not be unusual. "Ice shelves in general have episodic carvings and there can be large icebergs breaking off—I'm talking 100km or 200km long—every 10 or 20 or 50 years." Ice core drilling in the fast ice off Australia's Davis Station in East Antarctica by the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Co-Operative Research Centre shows that last year, the ice had a maximum thickness of 1.89m, its densest in 10 years. The average thickness of the ice at Davis since the 1950s is 1.67m.

A paper to be published soon by the British Antarctic Survey in the journal Geophysical Research Letters is expected to confirm that over the past 30 years, the area of sea ice around the continent has expanded. Read story here.

See also this story from the Australian where a Russian sea captain says "I see just more and more ice, not less ice."

RUSSIAN sea captain Dimitri Zinchenko has been steering ships through the pack ice of Antarctica for three decades and is waiting to see evidence of the global warming about which he has heard so much. Zinchenko's vessel, the Spirit of Enderby, was

commissioned in January last year to retrace the steps of the great Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, marking the century of his Nimrod expedition of 1907-09. Spirit of Enderby was blocked by a wall of pack ice at the entrance to the Ross Sea, about 400km short of Shackleton's base hut at Cape Royds. Zinchenko says it was the first time in 15 years that vessels were unable to penetrate the Ross Sea in January. The experience was consistent with his impression that pack ice is expanding, not contracting, as would be expected in a rapidly warming world. "I see just more and more ice, not less ice."

Rodney Russ, whose New Zealand company Heritage Expeditions has operated tourist expeditions to Antarctica for 20 years, agrees. He says ships regularly used to able to reach the US base of McMurdo in summer, but ice has prevented them from doing so for several years. "Vessels are usually stopped 8km to 14km short of the base. A few years ago, that was often open water," Russ says. "We have experienced quite severe ice conditions over the past decade. I have seen nothing in this region to suggest global warming is having an effect."

Finally see this detailed analysis that puts the Wilkins in perspective to the massive Antarctic ice sheet and this analysis by John McLean showing why the so called Wilkins collapse was another NSIDC, BAS and mainstream media con job.

UPDATE: Finally a New Scientists story "Why Antarctic ice is growing despite global warming " by Catherine Brahic reports CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals have given the South Pole respite from global warming. But only temporarily. According to John Turner of the British Antarctic Survey, the effect will last roughly another decade before Antarctic sea ice starts to decline as well. *(ICECAP translation: 10 more years of funding ought to get me nicely to retirement)* "By the end of the century we expect one third of Antarctic sea ice to disappear," says Turner. (H/T Marc Morano, ClimateDepot.com)