

Excerpts from Joe Bastardi ACCU post:

A rant warning is being issued for NOAA temperature antics during this cold spell. With record lows falling like they are, you can be darn sure if it was a heat wave, they would be all over this. I don't know if NOAA or the AMS is picking up on this, but sacred cow low temps from the time of Dr Hansen inspired "coming ice age" (it was his model that started a lot of the furor, and at this time, 1977, Gray was warning about the cyclical warming and hurricanes coming) from years like 1977 and 1982 are being taken out in Illinois and Iowa, and we fell only a few degrees short further east. The charade at Rochelle, Illinois, where they claim it was an errant reading, and got corrected, got blown to pieces this morning when it did the same thing again... dropped to minus 36 after sunrise and the wind went to light southwest. Amazingly sloppy work, since there is no way they could have gone to a lab to recreate 38 below against five thermometers and then bring in the thermometer in question. And if they had a backup thermometer, how do we know its credible, and why isn't it being used if it is. How quick they were to try to discredit this Illinois state record, yet Anthony Watts is making a living exposing the sloppy non-verifications and acceptance of the warm readings with blatantly lousy methodology.

Underscoring this is that studying most of the low temps in outlying areas, we find that lows are occurring at 7 or 8 am local time, precisely when the same kind of drop occurred at the place in question. Around and after sunrise, when the boundary layer can be disturbed enough to mix locally colder readings (we are talking areas that may only be yards away, as I mentioned in my mapping of low temps on the PSU golf course) At best the quick repudiation, and then the weather proceeding to do the exact same thing the next day, only one degree higher, after they claimed they have fixed the error, points strongly to the idea that there was an error, but not with the thermometer.

A classic example of how the NOAA data base can be corrupted can be seen around NYC this morning. Suppose we used the same idea that led to the rapid rise of Asian temperatures when the Soviet Union shut down rural weather stations when they fell, in the NYC data base. Eliminate all the rural readings, and just keep the cities. At 08z this morning, when FOK hit minus 13 in perfect conditions for such an event (nothing yet from Upton, I bet if this had happened around Boston their office would be on it), the mean temp of all stations within 75 miles of NYC was 6.1. Here, look at this:

46 temps: high 16 at 8z in JFK; low minus 13 at 8z in FOK; mean 6.1.

But if we just used only the urban stations, it's 15.1. Imagine, when you look at low temps and the tremendous variations, how much is added to the temperature by eliminating the cold readings in rural areas.

Sort of like what happens to a debate when you eliminate or demonize anyone with a different opinion.

Wake up Upton... You had an extreme event last night... The way to make sure... and to the Illinois people too, recreate the temp with five thermometers and then bring in the thermometer in question to actually verify. Not write it off because you don't like it (I wonder if those guys that looked at the Rochelle temps took instrumentation and understand that the thermometer read that way when it was supposed to, right after sunrise. That it did it again, southwest wind, right after sunrise this morning, after they proclaimed they had "fixed it," shows that they did not do the proper test, they really couldn't do the test that fast. I doubt they have the lab there to recreate it

Again, in a period of hours, cold is denied... yet with the warm weather, all we hear about is how hot it is.

However, I do think this can be termed a "great outbreak" perhaps not in the category of a Michael Jordan, but perhaps a Dr J. While Dr. J was great, Jordan was arguably the greatest, so we aren't talking that this is a top one or two, but perhaps 10 or 20. 2 State records should be rewritten here (Illinois and Maine). The -15 this morning at Westhampton Beach on Long Island is the coldest I have seen on Long Island by a degree. All-time records of long standing bastions of brrr such as Bismarck, North Dakota, Waterloo, Iowa, Moline, Illinois were challenged or broken. Elkins has been with a couple of their all time record this morning, and may still take it below that with any kind of sunrise mischief.

FRIDAY 7:00 PM

ALL TIME RECORD LOWS IN THE MID MISS VALLEY

Waterloo Iowa and Moline Illinois set their all time record lows this morning, quite an accomplishment at both stations where records extend back to the 1800s

FRIDAY 5 PM: THE RIGHT WAY TO DO THINGS.

Check this out in Maine, where temps hit 50 below

A low temperature of -50F was reported at Big Black River. This exceeds the current statewide record low temperature of -48f set on January 19th, 1925 at Van Buren. This report is considered unofficial until a review of the equipment and data by the state climate extremes committee as to the validity of this report. If the committee ascertains that this is indeed a valid report...a separate public information statement will be issued at that time."

Notice how this is going to take a while, not a snap idea like out in Illinois. I wonder, with the antics of the temps this morning out there (more than one station close to the state record) what their excuse will be now

Even Aurora in the western suburbs of Chicago was near -30.