

Patrick Bowman
February 18, 2019 ·

[Link to Original Facebook Post]

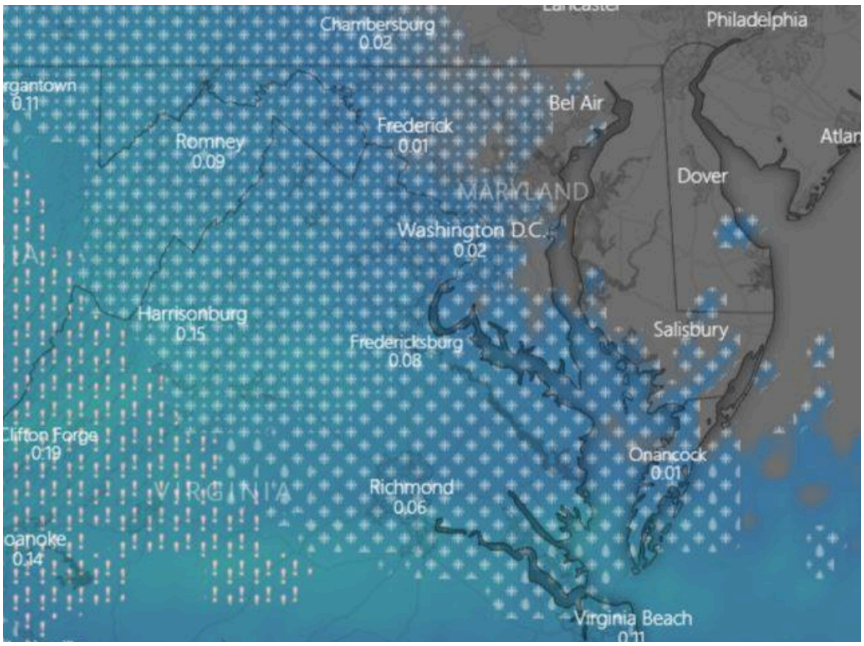
So it's gonna snow this week, and there will be cancellations, and likely delays following cancellations. If you're looking for a nice snowfall where the kids can go out and sled and have snowball fights, you're going to be on a timetable because the front half of this is going to fall as snow, but the back part is going to be a wintry mix tailing into rain. There's a good chance though, that a lot of us will see sloppy, heavy snow that's not great for playing outdoors.

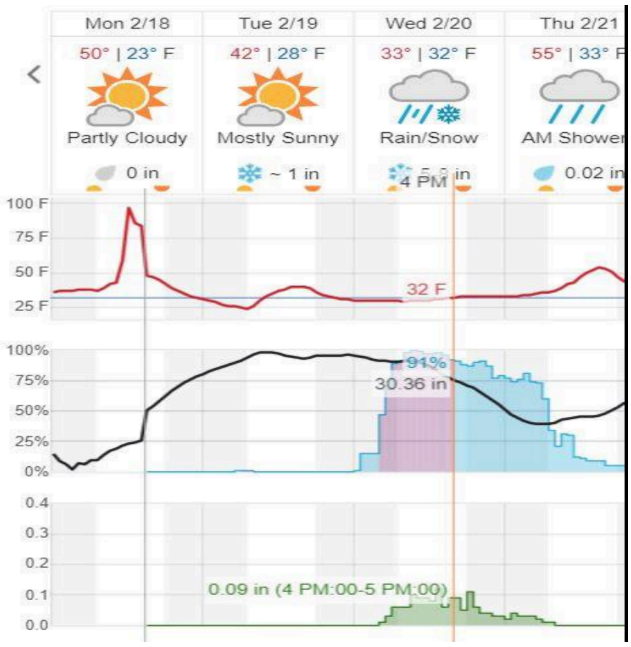
So, Tuesday after lunch clouds start building in, and an hour or two before sunrise Wednesday we'll start to see snowflakes. Temperatures should be below freezing for a solid 8 hours before the first flakes fall so it should start to stick right away. Snow and below-freezing temperatures should last until some time between 3:00-5:00. If you're a teacher, student, or parent, you know what that means...barring a MAJOR change in the next 36 hours, NOBODY north of Fredericksburg is going to school Wednesday. The first picture is an 8:00 AM projection. Snow down to where you see exclamation points SW of Harrisonburg towards Roanoke. The areas under exclamation points are getting a wintry mix.

Timing wise, look at the second picture. One of the reasons I love WeatherUnderground is because it takes a lot of technical info you can find on sites where you can pull model information and maps and other weather geek stuff and put it into simple graphical representation like this. The red line is the temperature and the blue/grey horizontal line is the freezing point. White vertical segments are daytime, shaded segments are night. The black line is barometric pressure. The pink and blue are chances of snow and rain respectively and the % likelyhood of precipitation (in this example, there's a 91% chance of snow at 4:00 PM). The really telling part I wanted to show you here is the green at the bottom. That is the hourly rate of liquid precipitation. From about 9:00 AM through 7:00 PM, the rate hangs near 0.1 inch per hour. If we were hanging around 28 degrees and this were light, fluffy snow falling, that would be about an inch per hour. We AREN'T going to be there or getting that, but we should see some fairly quick accumulations (again, assuming these projections hold). Regardless, that amounts to what would be about an inch of liquid precip falling in a 10-12 hour period. That's pretty significant.

As temperatures sneak toward and above the freezing point, we'll change to a wintry mix, and if there's still anything falling after sunrise Thursday, it should be/change to rain as temperatures should rise pretty quickly to the lower 50's.

I'm not going to try to say how much snow is going to fall where. A degree or two difference could mean the difference between 3" and 8". I think 4-5" across Northern Virginia is a good blanket statement. If we get colder or warmer or things shift, I'll let you know if I see any big changes.


Chambersburg
0.02
Philadelphia
Bel Air
Frederick
0.01
Romney
0.09
Dover
MARYLAND
Washington D.C.
0.02
Harrisonburg
0.15
Salisbury
Fredericksburg
0.08
Onancock
0.01
Richmond
0.06
VIRGINIA
Virginia Beach
0.11


Mon 2/18
Tue 2/19
Wed 2/20
Thu 2/21
50° | 23° F
42° | 28° F
33° | 32° F
55° | 33° F
Partly Cloudy
Mostly Sunny
Rain/Snow
AM Shower
0 in
~ 1 in
0.02 in
4 PM
100 F
75 F
50 F
25 F
32 F
100%
75%
50%
25%
0%
91%
30.36 in
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
0.09 in (4 PM:00-5 PM:00)

Jackye Burns Toth and others 28 Comments

Like Comment

Most relevant

Beth Vanover
Thursday predictions?
Like Reply 3y

↳ Meredith Campbell replied · 2 Replies

Jamey Chianetta
Patrick, you should share this to the neighbor page. You're always so thorough.
Like Reply 3y

Patrick Bowman
I'm hesitant, especially with two professional meteorologists in the neighborhood. It's a little different when it's just my friends. ¯_(ツ)_/¯
3
Like Reply 3y

Jamey Chianetta
Patrick Bowman fair enough, but neither of them do it! Just know I'm always glad I follow you! Sure others are too! 🙂
Like Reply 3y Edited

Write a reply...

Wendy Deabenderfer Roy
❄️
Like Reply 3y

Nicole Geesey
YYYYYaaaaaasssssss!!!!!
Like Reply 3y

Donny Spatzer
Thanks Patrick!! I wait for your forecast rather than the weatherman on tv.
3
Like Reply 3y

Paula Casey Seeley
Donny Spatzer ditto! I love your forecasts **Patrick**! So through and understandable!!

Donna Strohmeyer Zwirner
Pat - What's your prediction on airport closures? We are scheduled to arrive on a flight at 9 PM... Thinking we may not make it!?

Like Reply 3y

Patrick Bowman
9:00 Wednesday night? From where? That is bad news there. BWI looks as though it's going to get mostly snow, maybe as much as a foot. Dulles and National will get less, but it's going to ice after the snow. If make contingency plans, but I can't sa... **See more**

Like Reply 3y

Donna Strohmeyer Zwirner
Patrick Bowman - Charleston, SC to DCA.....arriving just after 9 PM. We are thinking we may be spending another night in Charleston, which wouldn't be a bad thing!

Like Reply 3y

Patrick Bowman
Caps are in LA and the game didn't start until 10:30, so I should be up when midnight models come through. Some early info indicates they may come in a little colder...we'll see.

Like Reply 3y

Donna Strohmeyer Zwirner
So.....my 7:35 PM flight was "on-time" until about 2:00 this afternoon - then the delays started. I got about 6 alerts and delay was an 11:01 PM departure.....which then got pushed earlier to 10:32.....and then CANCELLED. Thaankfully, we had opted t... **See more**

Like Reply 3y

Patrick Bowman
Good call on the nice dinner! Hope you can get back home soon!

Like Reply 3y

Write a reply...

Rayanne Gonzales
skims, counts number of times the word 'snow' appears. Smiles Thanks, **Patrick**!

Like Reply 3y

Mary Ellen Bowman
TLDR

Like Reply 3y Edited

Patrick Bowman
Condensed version: You're working from home tomorrow and Thursday.