

## February 2015 Glen Allen

February was the coldest February on record with the monthly mean temperature of 30.7°F, a negative 10°F departure making it the coldest month ever at the Glen Allen station and even 1.9°F colder than the coldest January mean. There were 6 days that the maximum temperature was 32°F or less; the previous record was only 1 day for February. February had 15 days that the minimum temperature was 20°F or lower; the previous record was only 6 days for February. The -1.2°F minimum on the 20<sup>th</sup> was the all-time station record lowest temperature. On February 20<sup>th</sup> the dew point fell to -14.6°F which was also an all-time station record for Glen Allen. The highest temperature this month was an impressive 72°F recorded on February 8<sup>th</sup> for such a cold month. The maximum temperature of only 21.1°F on the 16<sup>th</sup> was another all-time station record. The 20<sup>th</sup> was also the coldest day at this station for any month with a daily mean of 10.9°F; the previous record was 14.5°F on January 7, 2014. The average maximum, minimum and mean were all-time station records. The average mean for February was even -2.7°F lower than the lowest January mean. Glen Allen set 51 new six year daily records for the month of February

The precipitation for February was 3.55 inches which was a departure of +1.04 inches. Only two other Februaries have had more precipitation.

The snowfall for February was 11.2 inches which was 6.3 inches above the average and the most snow in February since 2010 with 16.1 inches.

The maximum wind for the month was 36 mph on the 14<sup>th</sup> ahead of a strong Arctic cold front.

A new record barometric pressure of 30.87 inches on February 28<sup>th</sup> set a new all-time high pressure record for the Glen Allen station. The average pressure for February was a new record high and it was the windiest February on record with also the lowest average relative humidity. Many of these records can be contributed to the many February Arctic fronts affecting Glen Allen.

Glen Allen, Virginia - Winter Season Dec, Jan, Feb									
Winter Season	TEMP °F	Glen Allen 6 Yr. AVE.	TEMP Dep.	Precip. Inches	Glen Allen 6 Yr. AVE.	Precip. Dep.	SNOW Inches	Glen Allen 6 Yr. AVE.	SNOW Dep.
DEC	42.2	41.6	0.7	3.07	4.51	-1.44	T	5.2	-5.2
JAN	35.5	36.9	-1.4	3.10	3.14	-0.03	2.0	5.2	-3.2
FEB	30.7	40.8	-10.0	3.55	2.51	1.04	11.2	4.9	6.3
SUM	108.5	119.3	-10.8	9.72	10.15	-0.43	13.2	15.2	3.1
AVE.	36.2	39.8	-3.6	3.24	3.38	-0.14	4.40	5.07	-0.67

## The Richmond International Airport

The Airport set nine new daily records for February. Four were record low daily means (coldest days) for the date on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Three records were set for record low maximums on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The other two were for record low minimums for the date on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Airport had a 67° temperature range for the month from the maximum of 71° on the eighth to a minimum of 4°F on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The following records were established for the 118 year period. The average maximum was 41.6°F; only five years have had a lower average maximum temperature and the record was 37.6°F set in 1934. The lowest maximum for the month was 21°F on the 20<sup>th</sup>; only five years have recorded lower maximum temperatures in February. The average minimum temperature was 20.9°F and only three years in the past 118 years had a lower minimum average. The highest minimum temperature for the month was 36°; only four years were lower and the current record was 31°F in 1978. The lowest minimum temperature recorded was 4°F and only

10 Februarys have had a lower minimum temperature. The mean for the month was 32.0°F making it the fifth coldest February in history. It was also the coldest February since 1979 when the mean temperature was 28.6°F. The coldest February was in 1934 with a mean average of 28.2°F. The lowest daily mean was 12.5° on the 20<sup>th</sup> and only six years have had a colder February day.

The Airport recorded 3.77 inches of precipitation for the month a departure of 1.01 inches making it the 38<sup>th</sup> wettest February in the past 118 years.

Measurable snowfall at the Richmond International Airport this past February was 12.2 inches making it the ninth snowiest February in Richmond records and the most snow in February since 1989. The 6.2 inches of snow that fell on the 16<sup>th</sup> was the 13<sup>th</sup> largest daily snow recorded in Richmond for February.

RICHMOND INT. AIRPORT WINTER SEASON Dec, Jan, Feb									
Winter Season Months	Mean Temp. °F	30 - YR Ave. °F	Temp. Dep. °F	Total Prec. Inches	30 - YR Ave. Inches	Prec. Dep. Inches	Total Snow Inches	30 - YR Ave. Inches	Snow Dep. Inches
DEC	43.9	41.0	2.9	3.49	3.26	0.23	0.0	2.1	-2.1
JAN	37.3	37.9	-0.6	3.49	3.04	0.45	0.3	3.9	-3.6
FEB	32.0	40.9	-8.9	3.77	2.76	1.01	12.2	3.4	8.8
SUM AVE	113.2	119.8	-6.6	10.75	9.06	1.69	12.5	9.4	3.1
	37.7	39.9	-2.2	3.58	3.02	0.56	4.2	3.1	1.0

### Comments on Winter Season

From the two winter season charts it can be seen that overall the winter was much below average primarily because of the month of February. The Airport received more precipitation than Glen Allen as the Airport is somewhat closer to the coastal storms. The following also accounts for the larger snowfall total at the Airport as compared to Glen Allen. It is also interesting to note that February's mean temperature was more than 5° colder than January 2015. February, being the fifth coldest in 118 years, skewed the results of the winter season to be much colder than average.