



MOBILE MADNESS

–by Stephanie Bowen

The Smart Phone Generation has arrived. Everywhere we go, people are using their smart phones for everything: Facebook, Twitter, Google, News, Games, and the list goes on. Now you can view your favorite Oklahoma weather website on your smart phone, too. The Oklahoma Mesonet has both a Mesonet mobile website, m.mesonet.org, and an iPhone app.

The iPhone app was released January 27 and had 2,367 downloads in 23 days. The iPhone app can be found by searching for “Mesonet” in the App Store on your iPhone. If you have an Android, Windows, or Blackberry phone, you can view the Mesonet mobile website through your phone’s web browser.

“The current mobile site was developed in about two weeks,” said Nathan Bain, Manager of Software Development for the Oklahoma Mesonet. “New updates include using your phone’s GPS to locate the closest Mesonet site to you on the local weather page. Also, there is a new help link on the bottom of the page which shows you how to add the mobile Mesonet website on your home screen.”

The iPhone app and the mobile website provide the same data to you in very similar formats, as you can see in side-by-side comparisons in the “Mesonet in Pictures” section on pages 2-3. The iPhone app does allow users to zoom in to see smaller surrounding towns on radar, as well as provides radar loop playback. The Mesonet is working to add these options to the mobile website in the future.

“The advantage of our mobile website is we can immediately update the mobile website whenever we have a new site or product,” Bain said. “Whereas with the app, we have to submit an update and get it approved before it will display in the app. We can get updates to our mobile site users a whole lot faster than via the iPhone app.” ■

M.MESONET.ORG

- ▶ *Android use increasing*
- ▶ *25% Android users/50% iPhone/iPad users on average during early February*
- ▶ *34% Android users/44% iPhone/iPad users on average for the month of February*

IPHONE APP

- ▶ *2,798 app downloads from 1/27-2/29*
- ▶ *82 downloads per day - February average*
- ▶ *158 downloads on 2/12 (snow storm day)*



Download
Mesonet iPhone app

MESONET IN PICTURES

NOTE: The side-by-side comparisons below were taken on different days and reflect varying data.

Current Conditions & Forecast

- The photo on the left shows the iPhone display of current conditions and the forecast. You can scroll through the week's forecast by swiping your finger across the screen. The mobile Mesonet site pictured on the right has a similar appearance, but instead you scroll down to view the week's forecast.

Norman ⓘ

Observed at 9:05

26°
Feels Like **12°F**

Dewpoint: **3°F**
Wind: **NW at 21 mph**
24-hr rainfall: **0.00 inches**

TOMORROW: High **51°** Mostly Sunny
TOMORROW NIGHT: Low **29°** Mostly Clear

Local Maps Radar Advisories More

Mesonet

Back Local Weather - Norman

Change Site: Norman

36°F
Dewpoint: **29°F**
24-hr Rainfall: **0.00 in.**
Wind: **Calm**
Last observed at: 2:15 pm CST

FORECAST AT A GLANCE

Today: Mostly Cloudy High **39°F** Wind SE at 1 mph

Tonight: Mostly Cloudy Low **30°F** Wind SE at 2 mph

Maps

- You can view our list of maps on the iPhone app, shown left, by tapping on the Maps icon at the bottom of the screen. When you visit our mobile Mesonet site, you will be directed to the maps page first, shown here on the right.

Maps

- Current Conditions >
- Air Temperature >
- Rainfall >
- Wind >
- Dewpoint & Humidity >
- Soil Temperature >
- Soil Moisture >
- Pressure >

Local Maps Radar Advisories More

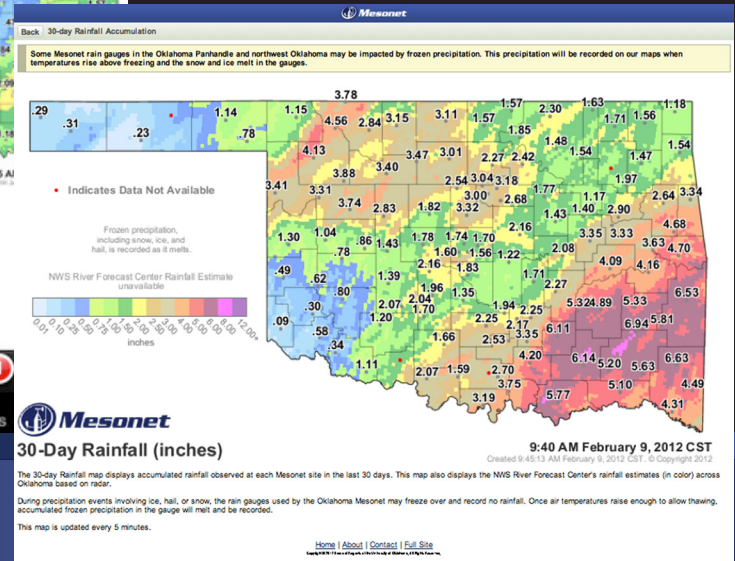
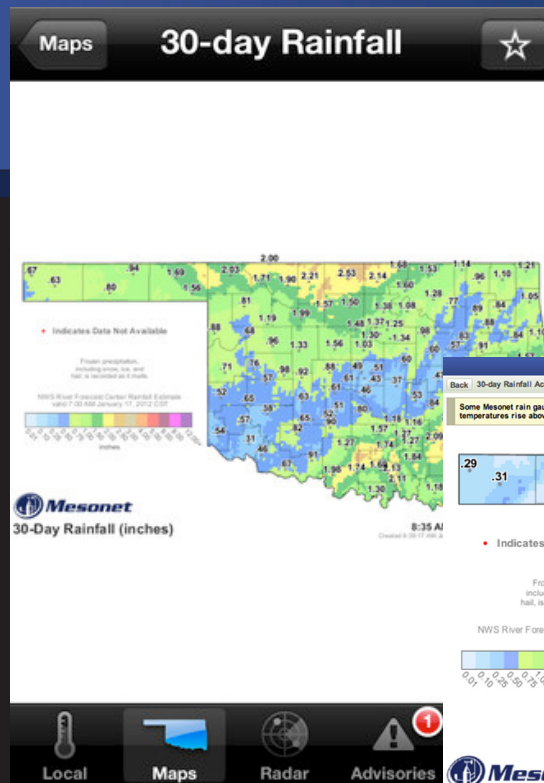
Mesonet

- Weather
- Local Weather >
- Current Conditions >
- Air Temperature >
- Rainfall >
- Wind >
- Dewpoint & Humidity >
- Soil Temperature >
- Soil Moisture >
- Pressure >
- Station Meteograms >
- Radar >

MESONET IN PICTURES

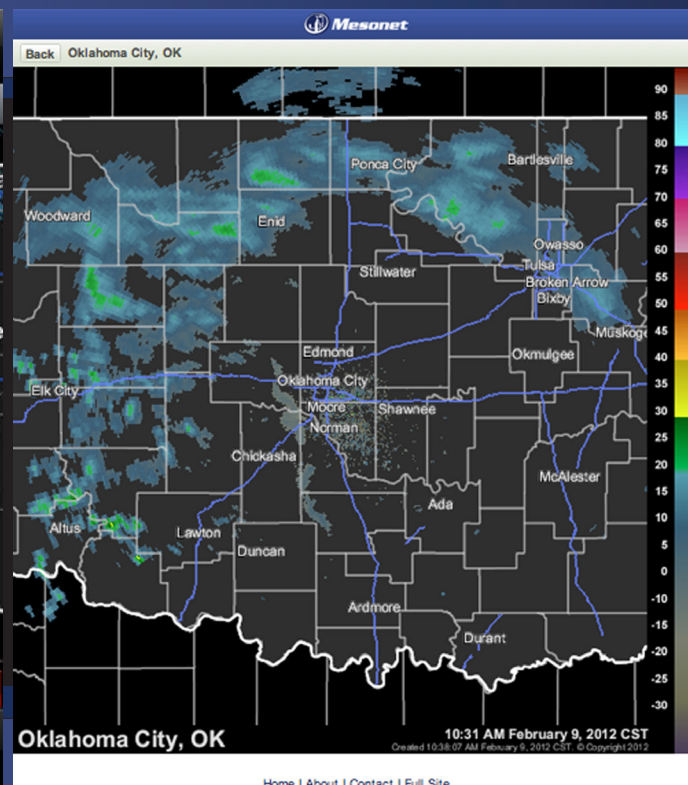
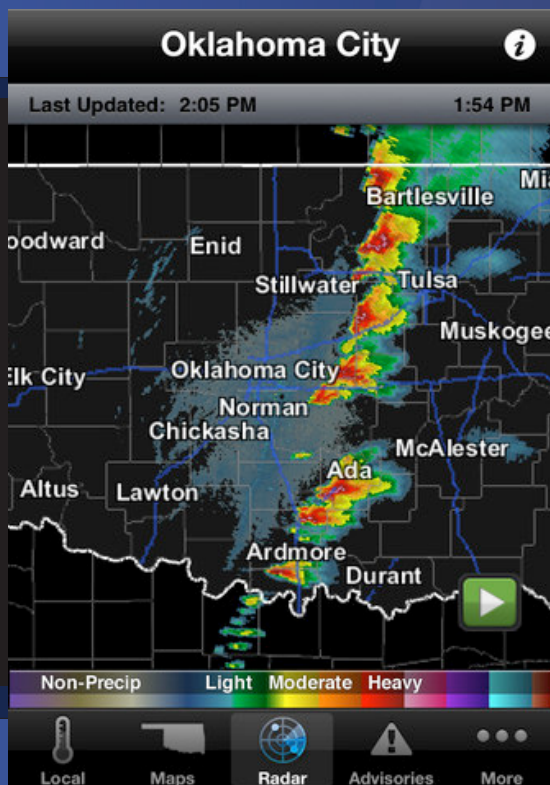
Rainfall

- The iPhone maps (left) and mobile Mesonet site maps (right) look similar. Both allow you to zoom in further on your phone to view a site's data better.



Radar

- The iPhone app (left) allows you to playback radar loop and zoom into surrounding towns. Although the mobile Mesonet site (right) does not have this capability yet, they both provide the same radar data.



Go mobile.

The Mesonet app brings a host of Oklahoma weather information right to your phone, including forecasts, radar, and severe weather advisories. Get fast access to the same info that the experts use! Search "mesonet" in the Apple App Store.

Have an Android or Blackberry? Try out our new mobile website at m.mesonet.org. Click on the Help section to learn how to set the mobile site on your home screen.





Warm February Closes Our Eleventh Warmest Winter in Oklahoma

By Gary McManus, Associate State Climatologist

WINTER AND FEBRUARY WRAP-UP

Golf clubs replaced parkas as the outdoor accessory of choice this winter, and Oklahoma's kids can only dream of missed school days filled with sledding and snowball fights. The mildness of this winter – the 11th warmest on record at nearly 3 degrees above normal – stands in stark contrast to the cold, snowy experiences of the previous two years. The winter of 2009-10 was the state's seventh coldest on record at more than 4 degrees below normal. Statewide average records date back to 1895. Oklahoma City and Tulsa both recorded approximately 23 inches of snow that cool season. The snow was plentiful last winter as well. Tulsa measured the highest seasonal snowfall total in its history with 26.1 inches, and the small town of Spavinaw broke the all-time state record for 24-hour snowfall with 27 inches. Tulsa has recorded a paltry 1.7 inches of snow so far this cool season and Oklahoma City reported a similar total of 1.8 inches. The all-time state record minimum temperature also fell last year with a reading of minus 31 degrees at Nowata on Feb. 10. Across the 120-station Oklahoma Mesonet weather network, 266 below-zero temperatures were recorded last winter compared to just four such readings this winter. This winter ranked as the ninth warmest in Oklahoma City dating back to 1891. Tulsa's average winter temperature tied for the sixth warmest dating back to 1905.

At 2 degrees above normal across the state, February's warmth was not quite as striking as the previous two winter months, but it still managed to rank as the 33rd warmest February on record. The statewide average precipitation total of 1.78 inches was virtually normal and ranked as the 42nd wettest February on record. Much of the state was actually a bit on the dry side, but the fourth wettest February on record for north central Oklahoma helped boost the statewide average. This winter was the second wettest on record for north central Oklahoma with an average total of 6.84 inches, a surplus of 3.39 inches. Statewide, this winter was the 30th wettest with an average of 6.08 inches, 0.85 inches above normal.

The abundant moisture over the last several months helped alleviate drought conditions that have existed since October 2010. The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor report, released March 1, reveals 66 percent of the state remains in some level of drought, as opposed to 93 percent at the end of November 2011. The most severe drought conditions remain in the panhandle and southwestern Oklahoma, where agricultural producers have expressed concerns of another dismal year if rains fail to materialize soon. Much of southeastern and east central Oklahoma is completely free of drought, thanks to beneficial rains over the last several months. On the opposite side of the state, parts of the Oklahoma panhandle have received less than 10 inches of rain in the 17 months since the start of October 2010.

11th WARMEST

winter (Dec/Jan/Feb) since records began in 1895

3°F above normal

average temperature across the state for winter 2012

1.78" RAINFALL

statewide average precipitation for February

30th WETTEST

winter since records began in 1895

CALENDAR

MARCH

- ▶ 1st-2nd: National Severe Weather Workshop, Norman
- ▶ 2nd: Mesonet Training, Cotton Electric Cooperative, Walters
- ▶ 6th: EarthStorm Fieldtrip, Cooper Middle School, OKC
- ▶ 7-8th: OK-First Assistant's Class, Norman
- ▶ 9th: Mesonet Steering Committee Meeting, Stillwater
- ▶ 12-15th: OK-First Certification Class, Norman
- ▶ 14th: New Agent Tour, OSU Cooperative Extension, Norman
- ▶ 16th: OK-Fire workshop, Norman
- ▶ 19th: OK-First Re-certification Class, Stillwater
- ▶ 27-28: OK-First Assistant's Class, Guymon
- ▶ 28th: EarthStorm Classroom Visit, Sacred Heart Catholic School
- ▶ 30th: Application Deadline for Oklahoma Mesonet Weather Camp

APRIL

- ▶ 3rd: OK-First Re-certification Class, Weatherford
- ▶ 3rd: Mesonet presentation, OSU Pecan Management Course, Perkins
- ▶ 5th: Mesonet presentation, OSU Grape Management Course, Perkins
- ▶ 5th: EarthStorm Fieldtrip, Cooper Middle School, OKC
- ▶ 11th: EarthStorm Fieldtrip, Enid High School
- ▶ 19th: Eastern Oklahoma Ag Trade Show, Poteau
- ▶ 19th: EarthStorm ScienceFest, OKC Zoo

CONTACTS

Accessing recent (within the past 7 days)
Mesonet data

Contact: [Mesonet Operator](#)

Instrumentation, telecommunications, or
other technical specifications

Contact: [Chris Fiebrich](#)

Mesonet agricultural data and products

Contact: [Al Sutherland](#)

Mesonet meteorological data

Contact: [OCS Data Requests](#)

K-12 educational outreach

Contact: [Andrea Melvin](#)

OK-First

Contact: [James Hocker](#)

OK-FIRE

Contact: [J.D. Carlson](#)

Not sure?

Contact: 405-325-2541 or [Chris Fiebrich](#).

FORECAST FOR MARCH

[Click here to view the original maps from the Climate Prediction Center.](#)

