METEOROLOGY
Mike Carmody, Principal Investigator, United States Antarctic Program

Palmer Station is Station 89061 in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Worldwide Network. Automated surface synoptic observations are made 8 times each day and emailed to the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration (NOAA) for entry into the Global Telecommunication System (GTS).

The Palmer Automatic Weather Station (PAWS) is a collection of sensors, computers, and software that records the meteorological data and generates synoptic reports. PAWS began recording data in September of 2015. It was a replacement for the Palmer Meteorological Observing System (PalMOS) that was taken down in November 2017. The PAWS sensors and data acquisition hardware are located on a ridge in the backyard at -64.774130° -64.047440° at an elevation of 38.3 meters above sea level using the World Geodetic System-84. In addition to the synoptic and METAR reporting, PAWS also archives the current conditions at one-minute intervals and displays both raw data and graphs of the sensor data on our local intranet.

The Research Associate acts as Chief Weather Observer on station, measuring, compiling and distributing all meteorological data. Snow accumulation is physically observed by taking an average of five accumulation stakes found near the PAWS system. All weather data is archived locally and forwarded once per month to the University of Wisconsin on the first day of each month for archiving and further distribution.

The local weather station (PAWS) operated well throughout the month. All three remote AWS sites require maintenance so their functionality this season were sporadic at best. The average wind speed for the month was noticeably higher than average. November was a month of high accumulation and quick melt. This was the wettest November on record. One minute weather data is archived on the AMRC website: http://amrc.ssec.wisc.edu/data/ftp/pub/palmer/.

Palmer Monthly Met summary for November, 2022

Temperature
Average: .7 °C / 33.2 °F
Maximum: 5.6 °C / 42.08 °F on 17 Nov 21:10
Minimum: -3.5 °C / 25.7 °F on 5 Nov 07:51
Air Pressure
Average: 974.3 mb
Maximum: 992.9 mb on 5 Nov 08:05
Minimum: 939.6 mb on 30 Nov 10:34
Wind
Average: 19.4 knots / 22.3 mph
Peak (5 Sec Gust): 59 knots / 68 mph on 24 Nov 17:47 from NE (35 deg)
Prevailing Direction for Month: NNE
Surface
Total Rainfall: 199.4 mm / 7.85 in
Total Snowfall: 38 cm / 14.8 in
Greatest Depth at Snow Stake: 162.8 cm / 63.5 in
WMO Sea Ice Observation: 1-5 bergs, bergy bits, growlers, and brash ice
Average Sea Surface Temperature: -.43 °C / 31.2 °F