

Reading a Barometer

There is more than one way to read a barometer when it drops below 30. As I had stated in the Core Academy, when the barometer drops below 30 there is going to be some kind of change in the weather--meaning there could be increasing clouds, wind, colder temperatures, or precipitation or a combination of any one of these.

Watching the barometer further will help with predicting what the intensity of a storm will be--if the barometer stays in the 29.90's we usually won't get much for than wind and clouds and a few raindrops. But if it begins to drop more, there is more of a chance of stronger winds, heavier clouds, and more precipitation. The thing to watch is if the barometer keeps dropping. When it stays in the 29.90's it usually means that there is a storm but it isn't directly coming our way. It is moving in our direction but it is heading more to the north of us or the south of us.

We would only get the residual effects of the storm when somewhere else is getting a more direct hit. We would get the wind, the clouds, colder weather and maybe a sprinkle or two, that is about it.

Where the storm is directly heading our way the barometer will drop in the 29.90's but then will continue to drop more until it may reach 29.70's, 29.60's, or 29.50's. When it drops to this level there is usually a full-scale storm of strong winds, rain/snow, and colder weather. When it drops this low the storm is not far off. It will be here in the next 24 hours.

So, if the brunt of a storm is heading our way, and the barometer is 29.90, it is still a couple days away, but the barometer will still be dropping.

If the brunt of the storm is not heading our way, and the barometer is at 29.90 we may see clouds, colder temperatures, and a raindrop or two, but that is about it and then the barometer will begin to rise again when the Low Pressure has moved out of our vicinity.