

Tahoe Weather Geek

Forecast summaries for Tahoe residents and Sierra-bound travelers

For weather updates, Tahoe cams and our adventure sports blog, go to www.tahoeloco.com

March 11, 2010

A ridge of high pressure will briefly bring a spell of calm and mild weather to Tahoe today as the region sits between two storm systems, one that brought about 6 to 8 inches of fresh dry powder to the area Wednesday and another with the potential to deliver even more on Friday.

The next low-pressure trough is moving down the coast now and should cross into the Sierra by Friday morning. This system is tapping into a decent plume of Pacific moisture and could dump more than a foot of snow at the higher elevations around Tahoe. Snow levels will be tricky to pinpoint. Although the warm air advection ahead of the trough will want to push snow levels up toward 7,000 feet, the pool of cold air still present around the region will act against that effect. So we could see snow levels begin low initially, rise toward 7,000 feet and then plunge again Friday night as the cold core of the storm moves through.

All of that will limit the amount of snow we see around the Lake, where the storm might bring snow, then rain, then snow again. Look for 4 to 8 inches there by Saturday morning. But up above 7,000 feet, where all of the precip might fall as snow, 12 to 18 inches are possible.

Snow should be tapering to showers Friday night as this fast-moving system starts to leave the region. By Saturday morning scattered snow showers should be the rule, with clearing possible during the day. Sunday and Monday look fair as another, stronger ridge of high pressure begins to build. That feature should dominate the early part of next week as mild weather foreshadows the arrival of spring.

Stay tuned to www.tahoeloco.com for updates as this storm arrives.

MONTHLY WEATHER ALMANAC FOR MARCH TO DATE

TRUCKEE

High: 46 on March 1
Low: 9 on March 4
Average temp: 30.9
Departure from norm: -0.7
Precipitation: .50 inches
Normal precip for the entire month: 4.43
Percent of normal for the month: 11%
Total snowfall: 2.7 inches

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

High: 50 on March 1
Low: 4 on March 4
Average temp: 28.2
Departure from norm: -6.2
Precipitation: .50 inches
Normal precip for the month: 4.06 inches
Percent of normal for the entire month: 12%
Total snowfall: 6 inches

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