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P.O. Box 3323,
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HTTPS://ERAUSA.ORG/

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**(Cover Photo) B-Types approach Williamsburg Bridge Plaza on July 5, 1963.** Photographer unknown

# BULLETIN

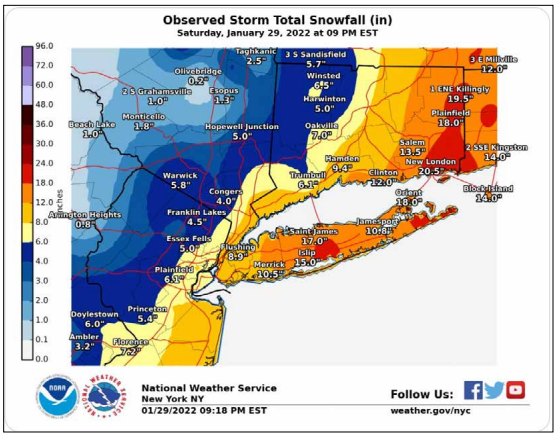
Volume 65, Number 2 | February 2022

## The Blizzard of January 28-29, 2022

*By Todd Glickman*

A powerful winter storm blanketed much of the northeastern US with snow on January 28-29, 2022. This "nor'easter," was a classic textbook weather system. Upper level energy, a trough in the jet stream, dived southeastward and interacted with developing low pressure off the North Carolina coast. The result was explosive cyclogenesis – defined as a surface low pressure center that deepens at the rate of 24 millibars over 24 hours (approximately .71" of mercury over 24 hours). In recent years, the media has latched on to the terms "bomb cyclone" and "bombogenesis." It's interesting to note that this author's meteorology advisor at MIT,

**One of the R-190 snow removal vehicles, ST304 (RPM Tech, 2013), is working its way northbound through Broad Channel station after the snow had stopped falling on Saturday afternoon.** Marc Hermann/MTA photo




Professor Frederic Sanders, coined those terms (in a way) during the 1970s. During our weather forecasting class, where I was Prof. Sanders' teaching assistant, he'd look at the maps in this kind of situation and say, "It's bombing out!" Then one of his graduate students, John Gyakum, remarked it was "bombogenesis." Decades later, this was twisted into "bomb cyclone" by the media. But your author still prefers "explosive cyclogenesis."

The computer simulations of the atmosphere, of which there are many operated by both government and private sector organizations, were consistent a number of days in advance that a major storm would develop. The subtleties, exactly where the low would track, how fast it would move, and how much cold air and moisture would be in place, would determine when and where how much snow would fall. Sometimes, the computer simulations can't pick up the small details that result in missed forecasts, such as more/less snow, or snow changing to ice/rain. *(continued on page 2)*

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