

BOSTON & BEYOND. NOW.

METRODESK[< Back to front page](#)Text size [-](#) [+](#)

Stuck elsewhere in storm, Mass. residents forced to bide their time

Posted by Roy Greene December 27, 2010 05:50 PM

[E-mail](#) | [Print](#) | [Comments \(4\)](#)

By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Tom O'Keefe found himself stranded today in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., digging out his car from a foot of snow with no boots, just soggy canvas Converse sneakers.

Tara Mardigan won't return home from Virginia until at least Thursday, but she is spending extra time with her two young nephews as they experience snow for the first time. James Wooten was stuck, though comfortably watching Western movies with family, in New York City.

And Michael Winskowicz spent five hours at a bar in South Station on Sunday before finding a friend to spend the night with in Boston.

The four were among the many Bay Staters exiled from home because of the major winter storm that traveled up the East Coast this past weekend. Travelers from Massachusetts and elsewhere have been forced to wait it out at the homes of friends and relatives, in plane, train and bus terminals, and in roadside lodgings.

They greeted their fate with a mixture of frustration, acceptance, and good humor.

O'Keefe was visiting relatives and planned on returning to Boston either Sunday night or this morning. But O'Keefe, who founded and runs the popular BostonTweet account on Twitter, was able to follow the storm's real-time impact on Boston even though he is about 200 miles west of the city.

He's been gathering streaming weather-related updates, links and photos through his web of social media connections and relaying that information on to his 23,000-plus Twitter followers throughout the blizzard.

"I think that last night a lot of people [around Boston] were in their homes anyway, so what I was hearing probably wasn't that different," O'Keefe, a New York native who has lived in Boston for 20 years, said by phone. "There's so much information coming through. It's really fun."

He hopes to return to Boston on Tuesday.

On The Beat

Reporter [Liz Kowalczyk](#) is covering [Paul Levy's announcement](#) that he is resigning as chief executive of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.



TALK TO US
breakingnews@globe.com | [Twitter](#) | 617-929-3100

Recent stories from the MetroDesk

- [Nor'easter batters coastal communities](#)
- [Stuck elsewhere in storm, Mass. residents forced to bide their time](#)
- [Storm bids region goodbye; leaves behind power outages, coastline damage](#)
- [Boston lifts parking ban](#)
- [The Big Story](#)

Mardigan, 37, a Fenway resident, had planned to fly back to Boston today from her sister's home in Newport News, Va., but the storm dropped a foot of snow there and another foot-and-a-half in Boston.

When she received word that her flight to Logan Airport had been cancelled, she called the airline to rebook.

"You would wait 10 minutes listening to horrible music and then it would disconnect, and you could feel the frustration building," she said.

Mardigan now has a flight booked to leave Virginia on Thursday morning. She said it was the earliest she could buy a ticket from the same airport she originally planned to fly from and without having to spend additional money. A senior nutritionist at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Mardigan did have to use two vacation days she had planned to save for summertime.

"At first you're like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm going to miss work, I'm going to have to use vacation time,' and all of that. You think of things that are negative. But, then you realize there's nothing you can do about it, and you shoulders drop and you're just like 'OK, let's go make some hot cocoa and play in the snow,'" she said by phone today.

And the extra time spent with her nephews, 3-year-old Bryce and 6-year-old Trent, in their first time seeing significant snowfall has been "incredible," she said.

When Wooten traveled from his Back Bay home to Brooklyn, N.Y., on Friday, the plan was that he'd return to the Hub today to work at his office in downtown Boston. Then, he watched the forecast for both cities worsen as the weekend progressed.

"Once I saw the expected snowfall, I decided that I wouldn't leave until Monday night or Tuesday," said the 31-year-old who works in advertising.

Wooten said around two feet of snow fell in Brooklyn. In between checking e-mail and making phone calls for work, he and family members passed the time there watching movies.

"It's nice to have the extra day with family, so I'm enjoying it, but I do need to get back tomorrow for work," he said.

He has a ticket for a bus ride back to Boston Tuesday morning. He said he is planning to get to the bus station in New York between two to three hours early.

"I expect it to be crazy tomorrow morning, but right now I'm not even worrying about it," Wooten said.

The New York native said he has been stranded once before. He waited for four hours at Back Bay station during winter weather last February before making his way to New York City to visit family.

"That wasn't nearly as pleasant," he said.

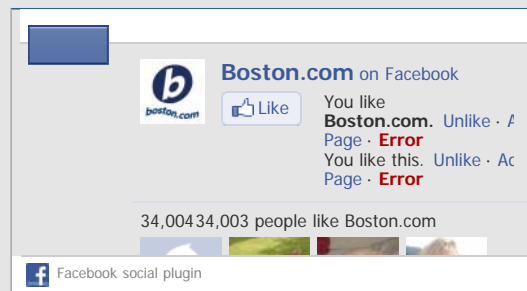
When the 22-year-old Winskowicz arrived at South Station around noon Sunday it was already a madhouse.

"I've never seen South Station like that before," he said. "I didn't anticipate it would be that busy."

Winskowicz had spent the weekend with family in Danvers and planned take a buy a bus ticket for a ride to his home in Amherst. But when he arrived at the station, the remaining departing buses and trains were either sold out or cancelled.

Making the most of the his first time being stranded due to weather, he relaxed at a bar inside the station.

Connect with Boston.com »



Boston.com on Facebook

You like Boston.com. Unlike · / Page · **Error**








You like this. Unlike · Ac Page · **Error**

34,00434,003 people like Boston.com

Facebook social plugin

Follow us on @BostonUpdate, other Twitter accounts

Features

-  **Inside Scoop**
The story behind the story
-  **Lives**
Dispatches from the death beat
-  **Teddy's Take**
The photo of the day
-  **The Quad**
What's up at area colleges
-  **Viewpoints**
Quote them on it
-  **Political Circuit**
Political news from Beacon Hill and beyond
-  **Summer in the City**
Urban tales of how locals escape

Editor's Choice

-  **A simple act elevates all**
A 17-year-old's simple act of kindness has helped a boy with cerebral palsy and his family.
-  **O'Brien resigns amid scandal**
John O'Brien resigns as probation commissioner as controversy and scandal swirl around his department.

MORE

- [This tradition takes the fruitcake](#)
- [Remembering those who shined](#)

“In the bar, nobody looked happy,” he recalled. But, once the Patriots game started and the team built a hefty lead over the Bills, the mood lightened.

“It was pretty fun. I ended up meeting a lot of people and making some friends,” said Winskowicz, who was picked up after the game and stayed at a friend’s house Sunday night. He planned to get a ride from a friend to Amherst this evening.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.



You like Stuck elsewhere in



PREVIOUS STORY



Storm bids region goodbye: leaves behind power outages, coastline damage



FRONT PAGE

NEXT STORY



Nor'easter batters coastal communities



READER COMMENTS »

[View reader comments \(4\) »](#) [Comment on this story »](#)

Ads by Google [what's this?](#)

[Local Weather Forecast](#)

Get Extended Forecasts, Radar Maps & More - Download WeatherBlink!
www.WeatherBlink.com

[Boston Restaurant Coupons](#)

Save 50-90% On Top-Rated Boston Restaurants. Tasty Deals Every Day!
Dealfind.com/BostonRestaurants

[Lose 12lbs in 4 Days](#)

Erase Pounds of Stomach Fat Every Day by Using This 1 Weird Old Tip
dailyweatherreports.com/

- [The other welfare](#)
- [A big experiment in big science](#)

From Today's Globe

- [Beloved elm tree imperiled, solution is found to save it](#)
- [Despite a bruising year, Menino is upbeat](#)
- [Cinelli a suspect in November Stoneham robbery](#)
- [YVONNE ABRAHAM From horror to hope](#)

[MORE METRO STORIES »](#)

MORE BLOGS »

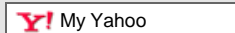


[Overweight men with prostate cancer have a higher risk of dying](#) Men who are overweight when they have locally advanced prostate...



[Cape Wind is awarded minor, but necessary, federal permit](#) Cape Wind was granted a long-awaited permit today from the...

Get Updates



- [Learn about RSS](#)

Archives

Select a month

LOCAL RESOURCES

- [Boston crime blog](#)
- [Brookline crime blog](#)
- [Mass. DOT traffic cameras](#)
- [Mass. DOT road conditions](#)
- [MBTA service alerts](#)
- [National Weather Service at Taunton](#)
- [Massachusetts sex offenders](#)
- [Boston Public Schools blog](#)
- [Massachusetts abandoned property](#)
- [Search for MCAS results](#)

LOCAL BLOGS »

BOSTON AREA
[Universal Hub](#)

A collection of writing from hundreds of Boston-area bloggers.

[The Chinatown Blog](#)

Stories and events related to Boston's Chinatown and the Asian American community in Massachusetts

[CommonWealth Magazine](#)

Politics, ideas, and civic life in Massachusetts

[Red Mass Group](#)

News and commentary about Massachusetts and beyond

[Blue Mass Group](#)

Politics in Massachusetts and around the nation

[Boston 1775](#)

History, analysis, and unabashed gossip about the start of the American Revolution.

COLLEGE NEWSPAPER SITES

[The Berkeley Beacon](#)

The weekly student newspaper at Emerson College

[The Daily Collegian](#)

The student newspaper of UMass-Amherst.

[The Daily Free Press](#)

The independent student newspaper at Boston University

[The Harvard Crimson](#)

The nation's oldest continuously published daily college newspaper.

[The Heights](#)

The independent student newspaper of Boston College

[The Huntington News](#)

The independent student newspaper of Northeastern University

[The Suffolk Journal](#)

Suffolk University's student-run newspaper

[The Tech](#)

MIT's oldest and largest newspaper

[The Tufts Daily](#)

The independent student newspaper of Tufts University

INSIDE BOSTON.COM

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS



The Michalka sisters struck a pose before the show

TOP 50 SCARIEST MOVIES



Amityville Horror, Pet Semetary, The Shining, and more

YOUR FAVORITE PATRIOTS?



Tell us which team was most beloved, from 1974 to today

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW



The show's CEOs, celebrities, and backstage scenes

PLUS...

- [Blogs](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Lottery](#)
- [Caption contest](#)
- [Today in history](#)

[Home](#) | [Today's Globe](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [A&E](#) | [Things to Do](#) | [Travel](#) | [Cars](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Local Search](#)

[CONTACT BOSTON.COM](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Work here](#) | [Updated Privacy Policy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS feeds](#) | [Sitemap](#)

[CONTACT THE BOSTON GLOBE](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#) | [Advertise](#) | [The Boston Globe Extras](#) | [The Boston Globe Gallery](#) | © 2011 NY Times Co.