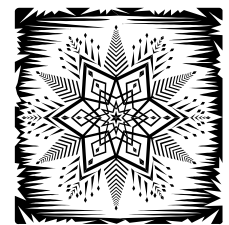


ACON MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER



VOLUME 1996

ISSUE DECEMBER

EXTRAORDINARILY WET AND CLOUDY

December's precipitation followed the format of many of the other months this year, that is above to much above normal. Most of the precipitaion fell during the first 20 days of the month. Very little snowfall was observed at most stations. The month began as a storm system moved northeastward thur the Ohio River Valley. It brought over one inch of rain to all but one of our reporting stations. The heaviest rain was observed by Paul Schlosser of Kingsville, Hartford Co. 2.76" of rain fell into his gauge northeast of Baltimore. With two days of reprieve, another system brought four (4) days of rain to the area. Amounts at all station sere again over one (1) inch. Gary Gallaher of Bear, Delaware measured 2.04". Again the area received another two days of which no rain fell before the next wet period. The highlight of this wet period was heavy rain moving from the west to east with a very slow moving storm off the east coast. The heaviest rain fell in the eastern portion of the two state area. Thirteen reporting stations reported over two (2) inches of rain on the 13th. Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills, northwest of Baltimore reported 3.03", the most to fall on that date. Gary Gallaher of Bear Delaware, south of Newark, 3.78" fell on the 13th and 14th. That amount exceeded his stations 3.70" normal December precipitation. The next prolong period of rain began on the 16th and lasted to the 19th. This time rainfall amounts across the area were in the 1/4" to 1/2" range. A strong cold front moved thur the two state area on the 19th turning the rain to snow. Amounts were generally one (1) inch or less. Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg, east of Hagerstown reported the most with 4.5". The only other snowfall ocured on the 5th & 6th. Measureable snow fell in North Central and Western Maryland. Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg reported 8.1", Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock 4", Herb Close of Manchester 3.3", Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 2.6" and Bobby Miller 2".

Temperatures this month did not follow the pattern that most of 1996 put into the record books. After a very cold November, December's temperatures averaged well above normal. Tempertures the first half of the month showed small variations with the maximums being in the 40's and 50's and the lows in the 30's and 40's over a large portion of the two state region. A strong cold front brought the coldest temperatures of the brief winter season on the 19th. The cold air hung around till the 22nd. During this

period, maximum tempertures at many stations remained near or below freezing on the 21st. The morning of the 21st generally brought the coldest minimums of the month. Afterward the temperatures rebounded to well above normal reading for the balance of the month except for Christmas day.

Herb Close of Manchester held his annual ACON MD/DE Group gathering on saturday, December 14th. This year the weather did not cut down the attendance as it did last year when it was held on the eve of the January Blizzard. We had roughly a dozen and a half observers come from the following four states: Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. We spent the afternoon and evening watching weather related videos, exchanging data, eating good food, and of course good conversation. Kevin helped Herb set up an E-Mail account on this new computer.

MONTHLY EXTREMES

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

- 68 Capitol Hill
- 67 Hollywood, California, Ridge, and Jug Bay Wetlands

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

- 0 Eagle Rock
- 6 Millers 4 NE

WARMEST AVGERAGE TEMP

- 44.1 Capitol Hill
- 43.0 National AP NWS
- 42.9 Ridge & Balitmore 2SE

COLDEST AVERAGE TEMP

- 36.1 Eagle Rock
- 37.6 Parkton 5SW, Owings Mills

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

- 8.80" Bear 6WSW, DE
- 8.37" Kingsville 1S

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

- 4.78" Eagle Rock
- 5.20" National AP NWS

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

- 12.6" Smithsburg
- 6.4" Manchester 1S

Next month I plan on enclosing the 1996 Annual Summary for our group. For those of you who did not forward me your 1996 annual data and a list of notable weather events, please enclose it with your January report. Also include extra 23 cent postage stamp.

JANUARY DATA DUE BY FEBRUARY 15

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR GROUP CONTACT:

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December 1996 Observer Monthly Highlights

Marty Brumback of Odenton, MD

The only snow of the month fell on the 19th when a whopping 0.2" inundated the Odenton area.

Dan Hanson of Baltimore 4SW

December 1996 started out very wet with nearly all of the 7" of rain for the month falling between the 1st and 13th. Minor river flooding was observed in the local area when nearly 3" of rain occurred on the 13th. Mean temperatures for the month were several degrees above average, being only a few tenths cooler than November. Mean daily low temperature were actually above November's. Only one brief cold snap occurred on the 20th and 21st. Only a little snow occurred on the 8th and 19th with only 1/2" total for the month. The last third of the month was rather boring as fair and mild weather prevailed.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

A warmer and wetter than normal month.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5SW

13th- Heavy rain caused flooding near instrument shelter and snowstick. Local pond close to overflowing.

Herb Close of Manchester 1S

Heavy wet snow late on the 5th and early on the 6th. Very wet snow /rain mix began 8 - 9PM. It began to stick at 11PM. By 11:45PM 1" was on the ground, 11:57PM 1.25", 12:05AM 1.75", 12:10AM 2.0", 12:16PM 2.4", 12:30AM 2.75" and by 2:43AM 3.3" of snow fell. From 11:45PM to 12:15AM the wet snowflakes were 1/2 to 1" in diameter.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4NE

Thunder on the 1st was the first time it has occurred in December at this station (records since 1981).

Bob Mills of Frederick

Rainfall of 1.41" on the 1st and 2.13" on the 13th both set station daily records. The old records were: 1st 0.89" in 1977 and 13th 2.01" in 1983.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1NNE

The last month of 1996 was mild and wet. It was the 5th warmest on record here. The average minimum temperature was 0.3 degree warmer than November's.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2WNW

20 days with measureable precipitation set a record for the month.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 6WSW, DE

Wettest December on record with 8.80" and also the third wettest month in station history. Three periods of heavy rains brought urban and small stream flooding. Temperatures were above normal on 19 days. This month had 3 less days with minimum temperatures below 32 than last month. 18 cloudy days tied January 1996 for the most of the year.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood 2N

Rainy mild wind day on the 1st. Heavy predawn rain on the second. Afternoon and evening fair and dry. Annual rainfall record set on the 23rd with some pre-dawn showers.

Marlene Walchli of California 3NW

Steam fog observed on local creek at 0700 hours on the 3rd and 5th. Ice was on the creek on the 21st.

John Zyla of Ridge

5th: Strong thunderstorm. 24th: Temp dropped from 62 at 4:30PM to 39 at midnight.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1E

5th: Mixed rain and snow began around 2:40PM. Periods of rain and snow till around 8PM when it became all snow and was moderate to heavy at times through midnight with 2.6" on the ground. Snow was wet and heavy sticking to everything. 8th: Snow squall of strong intensity this evening 7:30-8:30PM with strong winds up to 25MPH and briefly moderate to heavy snow with some thunder and lightning. Just make the ground barely white. 13th: Steady cold rains, moderate at times.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg

2nd: Strong cold front with thunderstorm. 23rd: Freezing rain.

Kenny Boggs of Whaleyville

Warm and wet month. 20 cloudy days and 15 days with rain.

NWS National Airport, Washington DC

First month since June with above normal temperatures, the second break in the 13 month cold snap. The first half of the month was marked by small swings between cool and mild temperatures, the second half was a bit more drastic. This month was the 8th wettest December and the wettest since 1983. It was the cloudiest month in over three years.

Welcome, Bob Mills of Frederick!!!

Bob joined our group in December. He operates a station in Frederick, Maryland. Bob maintains a home page where you can take a look at his weather, <http://www.fred.net/bobmills> Log in some day to see what he has on his home page. His e-mail address is on Kevin's membership list.