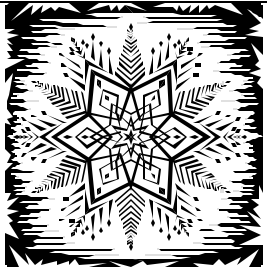
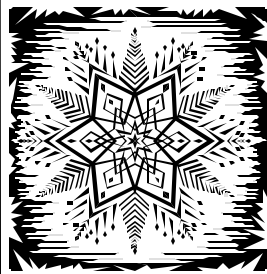


# SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH WITH ABOVE NORMAL TEMPS AND BELOW NORMAL SNOWFALL



ACON MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER



**T**his winter so far has been not given the two state area many problems.

Again for the second consecutive month the temperatures were above normal, but closer to normal than December. Precipitation was close to normal to below normal. Snowfall was scarce over the area east of the mountains. Over most of the area all of the measureable snowfall occurred from the 9th to 11th.

The month turned spring like after a seasonal cold New Years Day. Very warm winter temperatures were observed from the 3rd to 5th. 17 out of 34 reporting stations observed temperatures 70 or above. Peter Gajary of Capitol Hill recorded 76 and Jug Bay Wetlands had 75. Also 17 stations recorded at least one day with a minimum temperature of 50 or more, well above the normal maximum temperature. On the 4th, a much above normal 52 minimum temperature was recorded across the entire state of Maryland; from Whaleysville on the Eastern Shore, to Potomac, Germantown and Owing Mills, west of the Washington-Baltimore metro area to Hagerstown in Central Maryland to Eagle Rock in far western Garret Country.

The months only cold snap blew in on thursday afternoon, the 16th. It did not move out of the area till monday afternoon the 20th. During that

period the stiff winds brought wind chills well below zero. The 18th saw the coldest maximum

temperatures across the area.. Maximum temperatures were generally in the mid teens to upper teens except in the mid 20's in St Marys County. Eagle Rock, in western Maryland, was the only station to remain below zero (-2 on the 18th). During that time, the minimum temperatures were generally just above zero. Only four stations fell below zero: Eagle Rock -13; Parkton, Gaithersburg, and Gernantown all with -1.

This month precipitation was close to normal to below normal. Nine stations recorded over one inch (1") in a day this month, quite a contrast from 1996. The wettest period was 24th and 25th in central Maryland. For the western, southern, and Eastern Shore portions of Maryland and Delaware the wettest period was the 27-28th. Snowfall across the two state region was sparse. Except for the mountains, all of the measureable snowfall was dropped by two storms from the 9th to 11th. Monthly snowfall totals were generally in the 3 to 5 inch range. Lighter amounts fell east of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and Delaware.

**Monthly Extremes**  
**Maximum Temperature**

- Capitol Hill 76
- Jug Bay Wetlands 75
- Dulles NWS 74
- Hollywood 74

**Minimum Temperature**

- Eagle Rock -13
- Parkton 5SW -1
- Gaithersburg 2WNW -1
- Germantown 1.5W -1

**Warmest Avg Temp**

- Capitol Hill 38.2
- Custom House 38.2
- Nat Airport NWS 37.0
- Baltimore 2SE 36.7

**Coldest Avg Temp**

- Eagle Rock 25.3
- Manchester 1S 29.5
- Owing Mills 30.3

**Maximum Precipitation**

- Kingsville 1S 3.39
- Baltimore 2SE 3.15

**Minimum Precipitation**

- Whaleysville 1.47"
- Manchester 1SW 1.81"
- Wilmington NWS 1.83"

**Maximum Snowfall**

- Eagle Rock 17.8
- Germantown 1.5W 7.5

**Minimum Snowfall**

- Whaleysville "T"
- Parkton 5SW 1.9

DATA DUE BY THE  
15TH OF THE  
FOLLOWING MONTH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
OUR GROUP CONTACT:

KEVIN SHAW,  
MD/DE ACON COORIDINATOR

## Observer Monthly Highlights

### Dan Hanson of Baltimore 4 SW & Millersville 1 SE

January 1997 was a very disappointing month for snow lovers. Hardly enough snow fell to whiten the ground, I guess making up for the 3 feet of snow that fell last January. New Year's Day was cold, however, temps quickly rose well above average. Highs reached the 60's on the 3rd, 4th, & 5th. Millersville hit 70 on the 5th to set a new maximum station record for the month. Cold weather returned by 7th. The entire month's accumulating snow fell on the 9th - 11th with a whopping 4.4" (Baltimore 4SW) and 4.5" Millersville 1 SE). Gusty winds blew the fluffy snow around leaving open areas bare. Very cold weather prevailed on the 17th-19th with afternoon temps in the teens and overnight readings approaching zero. Average temps and occasional rainy periods finished out the month.

### Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

A relatively quiet and uneventful month comparatively speaking.

### Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation to start the year. Record warmth the 3rd - 5th, but mid month cold.

### Bob Mills of Frederick

Record maximum temperatures on the 3rd, 4th & 5th

### Rob Cohen of Potomac 4N

Record maximum temperature for the month of January of 72 set on the 4th.

### Fred Hetzel of Olney 2 SE

Snow cover on the ground from the 9th till the 22nd. Depth varied from 4" to a "T".

### Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

Maximum temperature of 72 on the 4th sets a record for the month of January. (Records date back to 1977). On the next day, the 5th, the maximum temperature also reached the 70's. The only other time that the temperature has reached 70 in January was in 1995. That year also saw two consecutive days with temperatures in the 70's. From the 3rd to the 6th, the temperatures remained above 40 degrees. This broke the January record of 3 days.

### Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Milder and drier than normal month. The temperature fell below zero on the morning of the 19th.

### Gary Gallaher of Bear 6 WSW DE

January 1997 continued where December 1996 left off. For the second consecutive month and only the 4th month out of the past 15, the temperatures averaged above normal. Precipitation wise it was drier than normal. No excessive amounts of precipitation fell. It was the first month since May 1996 to not have a day with at least one inch of precipitation. Snowfall was sparse. Only two days (9th & 11th) saw measureable snow. Strong winds blew in very cold arctic air from the 16th to the 19th.

### William Hudelson of South Bowie

11th - Heavy snow. 3" fell today.

### Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW

Selected daily remarks from data form:

- 1st- Cloudy, gray day. No sun, good visibility.
- 4th- Thin fog 0700. Mostly sunny day. Sprinkles 2100.
- 9th- snow 0500, to sleet/snow 0900, to sleet 0915, to rain 1000-1845.
- 11th- Crystal clear sunshine. Brief snow 0200-0330.
- 12th- Ice on creek. 3/10 cirrus 0700. Clear, unlimited visibility PM
- 19th- Crystal clear, unlimited visibility.
- 23rd- Ground fog 0700. Mostly cloudy day. Sun after 0815 off/on.

### Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1E

Selected daily remarks from data form:

- 3rd- Record high for day of 65, old record of 58 in 1930
- 4th- Record high for day of 73, old record of 68 in 1993
- 5th- Record high for day of 70, old record of 65 in 1950
- 6th- Windy today and colder West winds up to 37 MPH
- 9th- Snow began at 6:30AM and produced 3.5" before changing to sleet and freezing rain by mid afternoon. Fog and some freezing drizzle this evening.
- 16th- Light snow began 1:30AM turned to sleet, rain then some freezing rain. Just a very light coating of snow and ice. Rapidly falling temperatures, snow showers, and very strong winds late this evening. Wind chills to -30 or lower.
- 18th- Very cold windy low of 7 F high only 15 F NW gusts up to 38 MPH wind chills averaging -18 to -35.
- 19th- Very cold morning low of 2 F. Slightly warmer and not as windy this afternoon, high of 25.
- 23rd- Mild and windy NW winds up to 36 MPH.
- 27th- Few periods of some light snow this afternoon. Sleet began around 6PM, just a coating before changing to rain.
- 31st- Few light sprinkles around 7PM.