

ACON MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER

# DRY WITH PERIOD OF EXTREME HEAT AND COOL

**J**uly 1997 will go down in the record books as being a month with up and down temperatures and one of dry-

ness. The first 11 days saw maximum temperatures rise into the 90's for a couple of days twice and then return to the comfortable 80's. The humidity remained at comfortable levels for early July. An extreme heat wave began on the 11th and did not break until the 20th. During that period daytime temperatures were in the mid to upper 90's across the area east of the mountains. Some stations broke the 100 degree mark. A cool front passed and became stationary south of the bringing with it very cool maximum temperatures on the 23rd and 24th. Many areas saw maximum temperatures in the 60's under cloudy skies. By the 26th temperatures were back in the 90's and then dropped back to the 80's for the last three days of the month. The morning of the 31st saw temperatures in the low to mid 50's outside metropolitan areas. The combination of heat and dryness resulted in humidity levels lower than Julys standards.

**P**recipitation across much of Maryland and Delaware was well below normal. The driest area

was north and west of Washington DC. Over an inch of rain was reported by only one of the seven stations reporting from Montgomery County. St. Marys County in Southern Maryland was the exception. Tropical Storm Danny which moved across southeast Virginia in conjunction with a stationary front dumped over 4 1/2" of rain at Ridge on the 23rd & 24th. During the same period Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland received 2 3/4" of much needed rain. During the period of the extreme heat wave (11th -20th) no rain fell at Millersville 1SE, Baltimore 4SW, Millers 4NE, Balt. 2SE, Germantown 1.5SW, and Bear 6WSW, DE. The most rain to fall during that period (with the exception of Eagle Rock which failed to reach 90) was 0.28 at Hollywood. Crops were severely stressed and yards browned as a result of the dry conditions and heat

## MONTHLY EXTREMES ACON OBSERVERS

### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES

BALTIMORE 2 SE	103
CAPITOL HILL	102
WHAYLESVILLE	101
BEAR 6 WSW DE	100
HAGERSTOWN 1 E	100

### MINIMUM TEMPERATURES

PARKTON 5 SW	47
EAGLE ROCK	48
SMITHSBURG	50

### WARMEST AVERAGE TEMP.

BALTIMORE 2 SE	83.3
CAPITOL HILL	82.7
RIDGE	79.6

### COOLEST AVERAGE TEMP.

EAGLE ROCK	69.3
PARKTON 5 SW	73.5
MILLERS 4 NE	74.1

### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

HOLLYWOOD	7.64
RIDGE	6.49

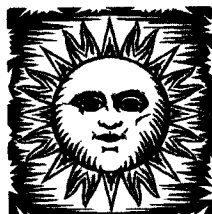
### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

MONT. COLLEGE	0.36
WASH GAS LIGHT	0.36
DAWSONVILLE	0.53
GAITHERSBURG 2WNW	0.63
GERMANTOWN 1.5 W	0.63

**DON'T FORGET THE SNOWSTORM CONFERENCE AT THE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN WEATHER SEPT. 12-13, 1997 IN HAVERHILL, NH**

**FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING OUR GROUP CONTACT:**

**KEVIN SHAW  
MD/DE ACON COORDINATOR**



JULY 1997

## DEATH OF W. JOSEPH MOYER, RETIRED MARYLAND STATE CLIMATOLOGIST

W. Joseph (Joe) Moyer (1914 - 1997) passed away on August 4, 1997 after a long illness. Joe was the State Climatologist for Maryland for many years. Kevin Shaw and Floyd Abell attended the Mass of Christian Burial in Catonsville, Maryland.

Joe will be remembered for his dedication and friendship to the weather observers. He attended ACON meetings at Penn State, Mt. Washington, and Rutgers in the late 80's. The last Maryland / Delaware ACON gathering he attended was in December 1994. The following quote is from Kevin Shaw: "I learned a lot from Joe; one of the things I learned was getting observers linked up, which he helped me do with many, including Bob Leffler, Dave Leshner, Jeff Taylor, Bobby Miller, and oh so many more!" "I kind of took up on that later, but in a much smaller way, and not nearly as well as Joe did." Herb Close said "Joe was a wonderful man!"

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to the Lilly Area Ambulance Association, PO Box 6, Lilly, PA 15938.

## OBSERVER MONTHLY COMMENTS

### Dan Hansen of Baltimore 4 SW

July continued the very dry conditions which started in early June. A lack of thunderstorm activity and prevailing WNW wind pattern led to a sunny and warm flow all month. As in June, most of the month's rainfall fell within a week's period leaving the ground to bake for the remainder of the month. Despite the 8-day string of temperatures well into the 90s during mid-month, the month overall averaged near the mean. Lack of rainfall helped to keep the humidity in check with only a handful of days when dew points rose above 70F. A cool spell at month's end even saw dew points fall into the 40s which is rare for July.

### Herb Close of Manchester 1 S

Driest July on record. Driest year to date. All-time record heat wave (7-days) 90+ set in July 1991 tied. Three days max. of 97 second highest all-time temperature.

### Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

17th - Extremely bright full moon.

Vegetables in garden are 1/2 normal size due to lack of rain. Some trees dropping leaves 6 weeks early.

### Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Driest July on record (0.63"). Old record 0.86" set in 1993. This was the fifth driest month ever here. Warmest average maximum temperature since July 1988 (90.5).

### Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

Temperatures averaged close to normal. Second driest July on record and the third time that only one day with precip. => 0.50".

### Gary Gallaher of Bear 6 WSW DE

15th - 100 degrees. First triple digit July reading since 1983 (station not in operation 1987-90)

24th - 65 lowest July max. temp since 7/4/78

28th - Thunderstorm with heavy swirling wind-blown rain reduced visibility to 1/16 mile.

49 day streak with less than 1" of precipitation, the third longest in station history and the longest since October-December 1965, ended on the 22nd.

### Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg

7th & 9th - Thunderstorm with 1/4" hail.

### Floyd Abell of Hollywood

2nd - Heavy AM rain 2.76"

### John Zyla of Ridge

23rd - 3.76" of precipitation, highest daily rain.

### Greg Keefe of Hagerstown 1 E

7th - surprised intense early morning thunderstorm. 1.15" fell from 12:50 AM to 1:05 AM. Also some wicked frequent lightning. Storms developed overhead and continued to develop in the area intense lightning and showers continued till 2 AM.

18th - 100 tied 1986 daily record.