



ACON MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER



# SPRING CONTINUES TO BE COOL, WINDY, AND DRY

**M**ay picked up where April left off. The cool and dry weather which dominated the month of April continued

into May. Frequent frontal passages brought along windy conditions and below normal temperatures. Only once did the two state area see "summer-type" temperatures. Temperatures rose into the 90's across most of the two state region. The warmest temperatures were seen from Baltimore- Washington and to the southeast. Other area were well into the 80's except the Western Maryland mountains.

Like April, most of the precipitation fell during the last week of the month. Otherwise it was dry. Heavy rains moved into the portions of the two state area on the 25th and 26th. The heaviest fell east of Washington at South Bowie - **Bill Hudelson** (3.62") and Millersville - **Dan Hanson** - (3.08"). The least amount fell at Baltimore 4SW (0.36") - **Dan Hanson**.

Thunderstorms which moved across the area on the 1st, dropped small hail at many locations.

May 25th saw a F2 tornado with winds of 125 - 135 MPH. It struck without warning just north of Fair Hill, (Cecil County) MD, which is located in extreme North-eastern Maryland. Four homes and a cemetery were damaged along its 1/2 mile long, 100 yards wide path. Damage was done to roofs, trees and a cemetery. A weak F0 was spawned in nearby Arlington, VA on the 25th causing some property damage

**David Ludlum**, the founder of Weatherwise and a weather historian, passed away on May 23rd at the age of 86 in Princeton, NJ

He assisted Roger Brickner in setting up the Weather Museum in Haverhill, NH. He donated many items to the Museum including a D-Day German Weather Map which he "liberated" from the Germans. Some of us met him at one of the Weather Museum annual meetings. Following is from the Associated Press:

"He turned a boyhood fascination with snow into a career as weather expert and historian."

"He pursued scholarly studies in American History during his college and postgraduate years, but never lost his interest in weather."

"Mr. Ludlum became an acknowledged expert in weather forecasting during World War II, when he received intensive training as a battlefield weather forecaster."

"His forecasting was considered a major factor in the successful Allied air and land attack on the German fortress at Monte Cassino, Italy. Three months after the February 1944 attack, Allied troops entered Rome.

## Monthly Extremes

### ACON Observers

#### Maximum Temperature

Baltimore 4SW 95

Baltimore 2 SE 95

Jug Bay 93

South Bowie 93

Ridge 93

#### Minimum Temperature

Smithsburg 25

Eagle Rock 30

Parkton 5SW 31

Gaithersburg 31

Germantown 1.5W 31

#### Warmest Avg Temp.

Baltimore 2SE 64.3

Ridge 64.0

#### Coldest Avg Temp.

Eagle Rock 53.1

Smithsburg 56.8

#### Maximum Precipitation

Eagle Rock 7.60"

Baltimore 2SE 6.78"

Millersville 1SE 3.81"

#### Minimum Precipitation

Baltimore 4SW 1.34"

Hollywood 1.42"

Frederick 1.44"

#### Maximum Snowfall

Eagle Rock 0.1"

**DATA DUE BY THE 15TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR GROUP CONTACT:**

**KEVIN SHAW  
MD/DE ACON COORDINATOR**

**DAN HANSON OF BALTIMORE 4SW**

May 1997 was a windy, cool, and dry month. A predominant NW flow kept cool and dry Canadian breezes blowing during the last four weeks. Several frosts occurred early in the month but temperatures remained barely above freezing. Only brief warm spells occurred with only five days reaching 80 degrees or higher. The highest temperature of the month occurred on the 19th when a strong down slope wind off the Appalachian Mountains rose thermometers well into the 90's. Temperatures quickly returned to below average for much of the remainder of the month. Wind gusts of 30 MPH on 16 days, over 40 MPH on 4 days and over 50 MPH on 2 days. The average monthly average monthly wind speed of 6.5 MPH is more typical of mid-winter conditions. Dry conditions prevailed during the month with Baltimore 4SW receiving only 1/3rd of its average rainfall. Areas in Central Maryland benefited from heavy thunderstorm rains on the 25th & 26th.

**MARTY SHARROW-OWINGS MILLS**

1st - 1/2" hail observed during a thunderstorm

**AL KREINIK OF PARKTON 5SW**

1st - Showers, gusty winds. Highest wind of the month.

3rd - Double rainbow after 7 PM shower

6th - Temp dropped from 70 to 54 in 20 minutes around noon.

**JOE MANFRE OF BALTIMORE 2SE**

A somewhat cooler and drier than normal May.

**BOBBY MILLER OF MILLERS 4NE**

3rd- Three separate evening with thunder. Very small hail fell from the first one at 5:35PM. Rainbow after the second one at obs time.

31st- Heavy fog before sunrise with some drizzle.

**ROB COHEN ON POTOMAC 4N**

1st - Hail 1/4 to 3/8" diameter 5 PM. Some leaves stripped from trees.

8th - Very light scattered frost.

25th- Heavy rains 8-11 PM.

**KEVIN SHAW GAITHERSBURG 2WNW**

Dry month - led to cool minimums in fact, 45.4 avg. minimum is the coolest average minimum on record easily surpassing 46.2 set in May 1994. Not having a 60 or greater minimum during May highly unusual.

**JEFF TAYLOR OF GERMANTOWN**

3rd - Thunder, hail and 3 rainbows.

8th - Frost, freeze.

**GARY GALLAHER-BEAR 6WSW DE**

1st - Thunderstorm with hail around 5:45 PM. The temperature dropped 20 degrees in a matter of a few minutes

Coolest May in 30 years. Also the second coolest May in station history dating back to 1963.

**BILL HUDELSON OF SOUTH BOWIE**

6th - Severe thunderstorm 1200-1230 with pea size hail.

25th - Flash flood watch, very heavy rain 0.75" between 2130 & 2145.

**MARLENE WALCHLI OF CALIFORNIA**

5th - Clear, blue sky AM, increasing CI form clouds PM

14th - Fog/low creek 0700. Clear AM, gray 1700. Sprinkle 1940.

23rd - Clear, unlimited visibility, dry!

**JOHN ZYLA OF RIDGE**

Rainfall of the 25th & 26th (2.23") the greatest 24 hour since Tropical Storm Josephine brought 3.01" on Oct. 8, 1996.

**GREG KEEFER OF HAGERSTOWN 1E**

19th - Light shower just after midnight, 0.01". Dense morning fog. Very HOT high of 92 F not a record though it was 97 one year ago today. SW wind up to 31 MPH. Some lightning to north this evening but no rain.

24th - Fine warm day 84 F

**JIM VAUGHN OF SMITHSBURG**

Second dry month in a row. Rainfall now 2.69" below normal which surpasses the previous record of 1.20" set in April 1995. (Records go back to 1987)

23rd - 25 degrees set a new monthly low record breaking the record of 32 set on May 8, 1997 which broke the previous record of 35 set on May 13, 1996.

**OBSERVER COMMENTS COMPILED**

**BY GARY GALLAHER FROM INFORMATION**

**SUPPLIED BY OBSERVERS.**