

EL NIÑO'S WARMTH CONTINUES

February 1998 continued where January 1998 left off. Warm conditions were again the norm. With no intrusions of Arctic air during the month, the daily maximum temperatures remained above freezing at all reporting ACON stations and NWS stations across the two state area. This is very unusual for February and also any other winter month.

This month saw maximum temperatures mainly in the 40's and 50's while the minimum temperatures were in the 20's and 30's. A storm which formed over the Texas Panhandle on the 9th, moved northeast out of Texas on the 10th, continued to move northeast west of the Ohio River Valley till it reached eastern Quebec on the 13th. It brought with it warm temperatures in the 50's on the 11th and 12th and on the 15th temperatures in the teens, the coldest temperatures of the month. Temperatures reached the low 60's on the 26th & 27th along with some heavy fog on the night of the 28th in central Maryland.

EXTREME REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Ridge	65
Baltimore 2 SE	65

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Finksburg	15
Balt 4SW/Parkton 5SW/Union Mills 2SE/Gaithersburg 2 WNW	17

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	45.8
Forest Glen	43.0

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Union Mills 2 SE	38.4
Finksburg	38.6

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

California	9.31
Hollywood	8.87

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Bear 6 WSW DE	3.38
Wilmington 5 NNE	3.45

MAXIMUM SNOW

Smithsburg	3.7
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Wet Conditions Continue

The second severe northeaster in a week hit the Delaware and Maryland coast on the 4th and 5th. This storm proved to be stronger and slower moving than the one which hit on Jan 28th. Winds of 70+ MPH and three high tides brought with it severe beach erosion, flooding and some property damage. Dan Hanson reported that a channel was cut in the north end of Assateague Island creating a new island. Tidal flooding also occurred along the Western Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Another coastal storm moved up the coast on the 23rd. This was the weakest of the three, but in its wake it brought winds of 50MPH. A strong line of thunderstorms moved northeast west of the Washington / Baltimore area during the late evening hours of the 17th. It created a F1 tornado south of the Potomac in Fredericksburg

VA and a 59 MPH wind gust at Manchester 1S.

St Marys County saw its wettest February in history. Floyd Abell reviewed precipitation records back to 1861 and found 8.75" fell in 1872. This amount was exceeded by three of the four ACON stations in the county.

Monthly precipitation totals exceeded 6 inches in an area generally from Baltimore south to east of Washington and south-east to the Maryland Eastern Shore and southern Delaware.

As for snow — what snow!! Smithsburg, east of Hagerstown was the only station to observe over 1 inch.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Joe Terry - Forest Glen (Silver Spring)
James Canavan - Wilmington DE
Jack Thomas - Thurmont Jack will begin to submit data in March.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACON CONTACT:

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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 1998

Dan Hanson of Baltimore 4 SW and Millersville 1 SE

4th - I measured a wind gust of 72 mph at Ocean City during a visit to check out the storm.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

4th - Snow and sleet mixed with the rain at times

18th - Heavy AM fog 1/4 mile visibility

28th - Tulips well above ground. Crocus within 1 day of blooming, earliest yet!

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

17th - Thunderstorm with hail 2200 hrs.

February was unseasonably mild without much in the way of winter weather.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

17th - Thunderstorm outbreak 9-11 pm. Lots of lightning. Hail fell in some areas.

Only five (5) days max temp under 40.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 ENE

Second warmest February in 16 years. First with no maximum temp of 32 or below and the fewest days with minimum temp of 32 or below. Winter easily the warmest on record.

Ray Muller of Finksburg

4th - Ice pellets changed to rain.

17th - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain with winds to 34 MPH. Pressure fell to 29.50".

Peak 2 minute avg. wind this month was 27 MPH.

Robert Rickell of Union Mills 1 SE

4th - Ice pellets and freezing rain changed to rain

16th - Ice pellets and freezing rain

Thanks Rob for having a weather gathering party at your place on the 28th. A dozen and a half showed up for the afternoon and evening, including new members Jack Thomas and Joe Terry.

28th - Evening thunder followed by heavy fog.

Marty Brumback of Indian Head

Well above average temps and rainfall, with no measurable snow. Rare February TRW occurred on the 17th with frequent CC and CGLT. Strong coastal low caused a 45 mph peak wind on the 26th.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

Warmest February on record.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

4th - Precip began as a mix of sleet/snow/rain before dawn. The sleet continued for a while sticking to a number of surfaces. By 6 am the sleet was gone leaving a slushy mess that was gone by dawn.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Feb '98 continued this winter's pattern of warmth and wet. This was the second warmest in station history behind 1990. 16 days with min temps of 32 or below set a record for the fewest number ever in February. This month was also the second wettest in station history. 16 days with measurable precipitation tied 1996 for second place. Daily precipitation records were set on the following days: 4th with 1.78", 5th with 0.53", 17th with 1.14". The 1.78" on the 4th set an all-time monthly record. Snowfall continued to be pathetic, as only 0.2" fell, but not a record; a Trace was recorded in '90 & '91. This was the second consecutive Feb to not have a max 32 or below.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 6 WSW

4th & 5th - Severe northeaster. Three high tides caused severe erosion. Strong winds accompanied storms on the 4th, 5th, 23rd, 24th, & 25th.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

4th - 3.06" of heavy rain and 45 mph gusty winds.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

4th - 4.40" of heavy rain, strong winds, and flooding

6th - Periods of rain - snow mixed.

Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW

Temperature wise, February is only 0.1 degree

cooler than the monthly mean for January.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

February was the 3rd warmest on record. Record warmest is 41.9 set in 1976. It was also the second wettest ever. The record wettest is 5.20" set in 1984. This was also the second warmest winter in history with an average of 38.4 degrees. The record warmest is 40.2 degrees which was set in 1931-32. No measurable snow fell. This has happened only 6 other times - the last being 1976 before this year.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg

Wettest February and the least snowfall on record.

Gary Gallaher

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