

Atlantic Coast Observers Network MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER

NUMEROUS SEVERE STORMS



Severe storms were common across the two state area this month. These storms caused much damage. The first severe storm of the month was first observed in Washington and northern Carroll County shortly before midnight on May 31. It continued to move east and south across the remainder of the two states and was out of the area before sunrise. This storm dropped hail at Smithsburg (1/2"), and at Westminster 4 SSE. Millers 4 NE reported a 43 MPH wind gust and near zero visibility. Parkton 5 SW reported a 43 MPH wind gust just before a very close lightning strike damaged Al Kreinik's Heathkit Weather Unit. Baltimore 4 SW reported a peak wind gust of 54 MPH and Bear 2 SW, DE observed a gust of 53 MPH.



A F4 tornado occurred in the Frostburg area in Garrett County on the 2nd.

The following was taken from Greg Keefer's (Hagerstown 1E) summary: A powerful storm and tornado ripped through Hagerstown 6-7 PM on the 16th doing most of its damage to the west side of the city as the storm and tornado moved from south to north. At this station 1.26" of rain fell, most of it in 20 minutes and winds only clocked up to 33 MPH, but were 69 MPH at the Washington County Airport. A lot of severe lightning. No damage at all in this end of town from winds. The NWS inspected the area and confirmed that three (3) separate F-1 tornadoes hit this area. I personally saw a rotating funnel cloud a few miles to the SW at 6:15 PM but it became wrapped in rain as it moved north, then the sky turned an eerie blackish green. There was tremendous amount of tree and power line damage. Large trees were uprooted and blown over and also some moderate structural damage. The Valley Mall had some damage to its roof and walls. The damage path was at least 3 miles long and 1/4 mile wide.



Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE reported golf ball size hail in eastern Carroll County on the 16th. Another thunderstorm on the 26th brought hail as large as tennis balls caused \$2500 damage to Ralph Hartsock's wife's car.

A thunderstorm with hail as large as 7/8" diameter with vivid lightning and a heavy rain shower moved through Millers 4NE during the afternoon of the 26th.

EXTREME REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Millersville 1 SE 98

Whaleysville 97

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock 40

Parkton 5 SW 42

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE 74.7

Ridge 74.6

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock 64.5

Thurmont, Middle Mt. 67.8

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hollywood 7.80

Eagle Rock 7.45

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Baltimore 2 SE 2.87

Also on the evening of the 26th a severe thunderstorm moved through St. Marys County. Hollywood received over an inch of rain along with 46 MPH winds. Clinton Bubb of Morganza, took a lightning strike which destroyed his weather station and computer. Strong winds blew trees down on his property.



A good soaking rain and thunderstorms dumped 2.5 to 3 inches of much needed rain on northern DE from the 11th to the 13th.

TEMPERATURES

After six months of above normal temperatures, below normal temperatures were common across the area. The first half of the month saw maximum temperature constantly in the 70's with a few 60's and 80's. The coolest minimum temps were observed from the 7th to the 9th.

The last two weeks saw above normal temps. The warmest day was the 26th. Temperatures in the mid 90's were common. Middle Mt. and Eagle Rock were the only reporting stations that did not reach 90 degrees.

84 degree average daily temp on the 26th at Glenmont 1 NNE set a all-time max daily average temp for the month of June.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JUNE 1998

Dan Hanson of Baltimore 4 SW and Millersville 1 SE

1st - A wind gust of 54 MPH was measured on the deck during a powerful thunderstorm at Baltimore 4 SW. Each station had 19 days with measurable precipitation.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

13th - Heavy thunderstorm mid to late afternoon. Pea size hail to small marble size hail damages some plants with large leaves. Temp dropped from 76 to 65 in minutes.

30th - Very rapidly moving thundershower with vivid lightning and dark skies at 6:45 PM

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

A warm and summer like month with an abundance of thunderstorm activity.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE

1st - Early AM severe thunderstorms. Sunny, cooler and less humid day.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

1st - Violent outbreak just after midnight with hail. Damaging winds

19th - 1998 precipitation total now equal to all of 1997.

26th - Very hot and humid. Hail as large as tennis balls caused \$2500 damage to Ralph's wife's car.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 ENE

1998 precipitation of 31.39" almost equals 1997 total of 31.80". Cool first half, second half more intense storms.

16th - Thunderstorms after observation with 30-50 MPH winds that knocked down limbs. At 7:07PM a June record peak wind gust of 56 MPH from the SSW was observed.

26th - 1st 90 degree maximum at 2:15PM was short lived. One hour later it was 73 degrees.

30th - Rapid moving thunderstorm in evening just after observation brought 40 MPH NNW wind gust and 0.41" of rain at 7 PM

Robert Rickell of Union Mills 1 SE

Thunderstorms with damaging winds occurred on the 1st, 13th, 26th and the 30th.

Glenmont 1 NNE

12 thunderstorm days sets a June record.

Jack Thomas of Middle Mt, Thurmont

15th - Drizzle all day.

22nd - Fog with 0.5 mile visibility

23rd - Fog with 0.25 mile visibility.

30th - Thunder morning, noon, and night.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

June '98 was pretty close to normal on both precipitation and temperature, but did have a few highlights and records to note. The wet pattern of 1998 continued to predominate through the month though lesser daily amounts started falling which when coupled with the typically hotter temperatures of the first month of summer caused a definite drying out of lawns and gardens by month's end. Much like May 98 the month had a much cooler and wetter first half and warmer and drier second half. 20 days of measurable precipitation smashed the old June record and tied December 1996 for the most ever for any month.

15th - Low barometer reading of 29.39"

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

13th - The combination of dense early AM fog and a thunderstorm (0.13") created quite an eerie setting around sunrise. The main event, however, was the strong late afternoon thunderstorm which produced the highest wind gust of the month (32 MPH) and very heavy rain (0.35" in five minutes) No damage or power outages in the immediate area.

23rd - Multiple evening thunderstorms. Lightning was not very frequent but some discharges were close. Very intense rainfall; rates were briefly as high as 6" per hour.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 6 WSW

1st - Strong thunderstorm at AM brought a 53 MPH wind gust which knocked power out for 17 hours here.

Third consecutive month with an average barometric pressure of below 30.00" with this month 29.87 the lowest.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

6 month precip. of 38.48" sets a station record.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

26th - Heat index peaked at 111 degrees.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg

1/2" hail on the 1st and 1/4" hail on the 16th.