

MILD FINISH TO WINTER 98-99

Atlantic Coast Observers Network
MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER

Temperatures this last month of winter were again above normal, much to the despair of "Winter Lovers". This completes a winter with every month seeing above normal temperatures. According to the Baltimore NWS summary, "one has to go back to the winter of 1995-96 to find a month that was colder than average and back five years to February 1994 to find a frigid winter month."

Temperatures this month averaged two (2) to four (4) degrees above average across the area. Believe it or not it was three (3) to five (5) degrees cooler than last year!

The warmest part of the month was its middle. On the 12th record temperatures broke the 70 degree mark at all but two of our reporting ACON Stations, **Jack Thomas** on top of Middle Mountain north of Thurmont and **Paul Schlosser** east of Baltimore. After a brief cool-down (described below) the temperature bounced back into the 60's on the 16th at many stations.

SPRING THEN WINTER
ALL IN ONE DAY

If there is any one day which will stand out this month, it will be the 12th. Gusty southwest winds pushed the temperature rapidly to the 70 degree. A strong cold front accompanied by thunderstorms in many areas moved through the area from west to east during the mid to late afternoon hours. With the frontal passage came winds up to 46 MPH and a rapid drop in temperatures. Reported temperature dropped reported were 17 degrees in 15 minutes at **Millers 4 NE**, 24 degrees in 20 minutes at **Parkton 5 SW**, 28 degrees in 2 hours at **Bear 2 SW, DE**, and 33 degrees in 3 hours at **Laurel JHU/APL**. Rain turned to sleet and snow 4 hours after the frontal passage at many locations. Sleet or snow was reported at many locations from **Hagerstown** east to **Bear DE** and south to **Bowie**. **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW** reported his first day with 70 degree temperature and snow in station history.

NEW OBSERVER THIS MONTH

Brian Papa, a long time member, moved back into the area and on Feb 15 began observations. He lives a few blocks north of duPont Circle in NW Washington. Brian is the only observer inside of Washington, DC.

EXTREMES REPORTED
BY ACON OBSERVERS**MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE**

Bryans Head 2 SE	74
6 ACON Stations	73

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	0
Thurmont Middle Mt.	9
Westminster 4 SSE	9
Smithsburg 3 NE	9

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	42.3
Baltimore 2 SE	41.6
Bryans Road 2 SE	40.4

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	32.3
Thurmont Middle Mt.	33.2
Westminster 4 SSE	35.6

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Kingsville 1 S	3.58
Bear 2 SW DE	3.52
Potomac 4 N	3.35

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

South Bowie	2.19
Jug Bay Wetlands	2.28
Baltimore 2 SE	2.42

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	10.4
JHU/APL	3.0
Ridge	1.4

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE
SNOW?

Snowfall across the two state area this month was minimal. The average of reporting stations, including 10.4" at **Eagle Rock**, was 1.0", 0.8" less than this past December. Most of the snow fell during the last week of the month in very small amounts.

PRECIPITATION LESS

Precipitation this month was generally normal to slightly below normal. Rainfall events were generally on the light side. The 2nd, 18th & 28th were the only ones which produced 1/2"+ at many stations. Last years drought is not over.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 1999

Jug Bay Sanctuary

12th - Rain began 4:30PM, sleet at 8:15PM

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

12th - FROPA brings gusty winds and very rapidly moving clouds from SSW. Temp drops from 73 to 49 in 20 minutes.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

Once again, another uneventful month. Temperatures were relatively mild and there was very little wintry precipitation.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

Mild February with very little snow.

12th - Record daily maximum temp of 70 which was the 2nd warmest in stations 10 year history.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

12th - PM showers, sharply colder by 5PM sleet/snow.

23rd - Bitter cold AM, 9 degrees. Snow south.

24th - Early light snow, partly cloudy, snow on coast. Reservoirs still low. Need more rain.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 ENE

12th - Earliest 70 degree day for month in station history.

Jack Thomas of Middle Mt, Thurmont

1st - Light coating of ice

Paul Schlosser of Kingsville 1 S

12th - Wild frontal passage, thunderstorm during evening. Rain turned to sleet 90 minutes later. Very strong winds to 50 MPH.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

12th - Strong cold frontal passage in afternoon. Temp fall: 16 degrees in 15 minutes (72 deg to 56 deg 3:30-3:45PM); 25 degrees in 1 hour (72 deg to 47 deg 3:30PM-4:30PM); 33 degrees in 3 hours (72 deg to 39 degrees).

Rich Giannola of Olney

6th - First crocus blooming, earliest in 9 years of records.

11th - Sky filled with contrails all day long. Quite a sight.

18th - First Robin.

23rd - Sundog at 7:30AM

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Small, but frequent precipitation events, first half warm with 2 thunderstorms; second half colder but very little snow.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

February continued this winters pattern of above normal temperatures. However, in comparing this Feb with other in the '90's, it was actually the coolest since 1996. Precipitation was a bit below normal.

11th - Record daily maximum temperature of 64

12th - Record daily maximum temperature of 72

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW

Fairly quiet winter month. Precipitation was spread fairly evenly during the month.

12th - Record daily maximum temperature of 71.

12th - First day in station history with a 70+ degree day with snow. Rain changed to sleet by 9PM.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

4th - Thunderstorm at 1550 hours.

12th - 1630 hours brief rain and gusty winds, rain again 1720 - 1900 hours. Thunderstorm 1750 - 1810 hours and sleet at 2010 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

12th - Record max temp - sudden temp drop from 70 at 5:30PM to 45 degrees at 6:30PM.

Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW

15th & 16th - Steam fog on low creek at 0700

John Zyla of Ridge

4th - Two (2) thunderstorms 11AM & 5:30PM. Pea size hail at 5PM.

Kenny Boggs of Whaleyville

24th - Snow all day. Total 1".

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

4th - Mild day high 57 with some light rain showers. Some very strong winds this afternoon as a cold front came through. One brief but powerful gust was clocked at 50 MPH at 3:14PM also some very ominous looking skies.

12th - Record warmth of 72. Old record was 64 set in 1984. Strong SW winds gusting to 32 MPH. Very dark skies rain and colder this afternoon changing to some sleet and snow between 4-5PM NW winds gusting to 35MPH.

The winter of 1998-99 average temperature was 36.6. It tied 1956-57 for the 6th warmest winter on record. The warmest winter ever was the 1931-32 with an average of 40.2F.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

Monthly low snowfall surpassing 3.7" in 2/98

Seven of last eight months precip below average.