



ATLANTIC COAST OBSERVER NETWORK, MD / DE / DC CHAPTER WITH DATA FROM NEARBY AREAS

SURPRISE SNOWFALL ON THE 9TH AFTER THE PASSAGE OF A STRONG COLD FRONT ON THE 8th

April 2000 will be mostly remembered by the events of Saturday the 8th and Sunday the 9th. During the afternoon hours of the 8th a strong cold front moved west to east across the two state region. Ahead of it strong southerly winds, gusting into the 40 plus MPH range, ushered in warm air which pushed the temperatures well into the 70's. It made for an excellent early April day to do outside chores. The front passed through Greg Keefer's station at Hagerstown 1E in Central Maryland around 2 PM and by 6 PM it had passed Gary Gallaher's station at Bear 2 SW, in Delaware.

The cold front ushered in much colder temperatures. Below are some of the reported temperature drops reported by ACON Observers:

Floyd Abell of Hollywood: 46 degrees 3 PM -6:30 AM)

John Zyla of Ridge: 45 degrees (4 PM to 5 AM)

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1SE: 44 degrees 4 PM to 5 AM.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL: 21 degrees in 45 minutes (3:30-4:15 PM)

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4N: 30 degrees 3-4 PM

Joe Terry of Forest Glen: 8 degrees in 5 minutes & 22 degrees in 1 hour following FROPA at 1340 hours.

Following the cold front a cold rain set in which continued into the nighttime hours. It began to change to snow by midnight in Central Maryland and before dawn in the eastern areas. The wind-driven wet snow, whose large flakes cut visibility to less than 1/4 mile, stuck to everything, making the landscape totally white. As the temperatures reached freezing the flakes became small and what that laid on top of the wet snow drifted. The heaviest amounts of wet snow occurred along the Mason-Dixon line from Carroll

County Maryland east to New Castle County, Delaware. By the time it ended after 8 AM on the 9th **Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE, DE** reported 3.5", the heaviest reported.

Temperatures this month averaged close to normal which was in contrast to the much above normal temperatures of March. **Rich Giannola of JHU/APU** reported that April's average maximum temperature was only 3.1 degrees greater than March's. At his station in **Olney** the increase was 5.1 degrees, the lowest March to April increase in 14 years of records.

Precipitation wise this month was a fairly good month. The heaviest amounts generally fell from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. The only station to report sub-normal precipitation was **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**, whose total was only 2.39". Jim Vaughn, who had above normal precipitation for the first time in a year for two consecutive months, still reports a deficient of 10.11" since July 1, 1998.

There were no reports of excessive heavy precipitation. Roughly half of the stations did not have a daily total of over one inch. Many of the daily amounts were less than a quarter of an inch. The frequency of precipitation cut down on the amount of sunshine. **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE** reported only 2 clear days.

The following observer reported hail this month: **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW**, around 3 PM on the 21st.

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EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Baltimore 2 SE	84
Jug Bay Wetlands	82
Forest Glen	82
Hagerstown 1E	82

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	18
Millersville 1 SE	26

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	56.3
Ridge	55.7

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	46.2
Millersville 1 SE	49.9

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hanover 1 S	5.49
Potomac 4 N	5.28

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	2.39
Morganza	3.20

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	4.0
Wilmington 4 NNE	3.5

ACON NEWS

First: **Floyd Abell's** (of Hollywood) daily weather report can now be heard on the Internet in his own voice at www.apolloservices.org/Floyd/Floyd.htm He can still be heard over his phone weather line at 301-373-3171.

Second: Monthly MD/DE ACON reports can now be found on the Internet complements of **Rich Giannola**. His has a weather page on the server at John Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab where he has placed it. Back copies will be placed on the server when available.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR APRIL 2000

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE

9th - 3.5" of wet snow by 8 AM

14th - Frost

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

9th - Temperature fell 45 degrees from yesterday's maximum to 31 at sunrise. Rain changed to wet snow cutting visibility to less than 1/4 mile. Total of 2.3" of snow fell by the time it ended around 8 AM. This is the first time in station history that snow has fallen the day after the temperature was 70 or above.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

5th - Light snow 5:30 AM and a few flakes @ 10:30 AM. Just visible on grass.

13th & 14th - Light frost in low areas.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

9th - The heavy wet snow this morning provided a wintry scene across much of Northern Maryland.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

16th - Cloudy AM with drizzle, Partly cloudy warm PM

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

5th - Scattered snow showers, Almost 1/4" fell.

17th - Light to moderate rain, occasionally heavy with some early morning thundershowers.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 N

9th - 2.6" of wet snow but not a daily record. 2.8" fell on this date in 1982.

25th - 30th - Dry final week. Only 0.01" fell.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

26th - Frost early morning / late afternoon showers

Ray Muller of Finksburg

9th - First measurable snow since February.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

All of this month's snow fell on 5th (2"), 9th, and 10th, (1" each).

Rich Giannola of Laurel JHU/APL

Average maximum temperature for April 2000 was only 3.1 degrees greater than that for March 2000.

8th - Strong cold FROPA in afternoon. Temperature dropped 12 degrees in 15 minutes between 3:45 - 4:00 PM (68 to 56) and 21 degrees in 45 minutes between 3:30 - 4:15 PM (72 to 51 degrees.)

24th - Solar halo at 4:00 PM.

Rich Giannola of Olney

April 2000 was the snowiest April in 10 years (April 1990 also had 2" of snow). March to April 2000 average maximum temperature increase of 5.1 degrees was the lowest March to April increase in 14 years of records.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4N

8th - 30 degree temperature drop 3-4 PM.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

April was a bit cooler and wetter than normal, giving us hope that if there is a drought this summer, that it won't be as bad as last year, and won't start so early in the spring either. This was the wettest month this year. 70% of the rain fell on the 8th, 17th and 18th.

9th - 2nd heaviest April snowfall (1.4") in station history. Record is 2.1" which was set on April 9, 1982.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

6th - Sunny and quite warm 79 degrees

30th - Sunny. gorgeous! Very low relative humidity.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

1st - Mostly clear. Light AM frost.

12th - Lunar halo 2200 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

8th - Heavy evening rain and a big temperature drop (79 degrees at 3 PM to 40 degrees at midnight)

9th - Light snow 3:00 - 6:30 AM. 33 degrees at 6:30 AM. 46 degree temperature drop in about 15 hours. Wind chill low on the 9th was 5 degrees.

Marlene Walchli of California

17th - No sun. Thunder-sprinkle 0400, rain 1600-1730 followed by mist off/on.

30th - Super Day! Sunshine, blue skies and a light breeze.

John Zyla of Ridge

8th - 9th - Greatest 24 hour temperature change in station history - 79.2 at 4PM 4/8 to 34.2 at 5 AM 4/9 (45 degrees)

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

1st - Frosty start with a freeze but much warmer sunny with a high of 71 degrees.

5th - Snow squall this morning at 4 AM was briefly intense and whitened the ground.

13th - Moderate frost and a hard freeze 27 degree low.

21st - Showers / thundestorms AM & PM. Reports of pea to quarter size hail in the north end of town and northward. None at this station.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

Precipitation above normal the past two months for the first time since March / April 1999.

9th - 1.7" snowfall greatest April 24 hour snowfall since April 9, 1996.

21st - Two thunderstorms, 7 AM and 2 PM.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA

13th - Hard morning freeze 27 degrees