



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

SLOW SNOW MELT INCREASING TEMPERATURES RECORD HEAT SUB-NORMAL PRECIPITATION

February 2000 was a fairly quiet month weather wise. January's left over snowcover, which was slow to melt, was not enough to prevent the temperatures from averaging above normal again. **Gary Gallaher** reported that this was the thirteenth consecutive winter month with above normal average temperatures at his **Bear 2 SW DE** station. Temperature wise the 25th was the warmest day of the month at all reporting stations. The maximum temperature was at record to near record mark levels at some of the ACON stations. Temperatures rose to 80 or above at the following stations north and east of Washington DC: **Glenmont 1 NNE (Stan Rossen)**, 82; **Jug Bay (Jug Bay Wetlands)**, 81; **Forest Glen (Joe Terry)**, 81; **Potomac 4 N (Rob Cohen)** and **Olney (Rich Giannola)**, both 80. **Stan Rossen's** 82 marked the first 80 degree mark he observed in meteorological winter (1977-2000) **Rob Cohen's** was an all time winter station record. **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW** 79 degrees also set a winter station record (1979 to 2000). **Floyd Abell of Hollywood** 78 set a record for the date. **Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1E** 79 set a station record which was three degrees off the February and winter record of 82 set on 2/24/1985.

This warm weather was short lived. Thundershowers accompanied a back door cold front in the afternoon and evening hours of the 25th. Temperatures on the 26th were 20 to 30 plus degrees lower as result of clouds and easterly winds.

The coldest temperatures occurred generally from the 1st to the 3rd at many stations. Only four ACON sta-

tions (**Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW**, **Rich Giannola of Olney**, **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW**, and **Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S PA**) observed single digit temperatures. The coldest temp (+5) was at Dulles NWS (IAD).

Snowfall returned to its below normal amounts which has been typical during the past three winter seasons. A storm which moves south of the are on the 12th brought light snows to areas south of Washington DC. ACON stations in Sussex County DE and St. Mary's County Maryland saw their only measurable snow of the month. The heaviest amount of 2.2" was observed by **John Zyla of Ridge 1 N**. The other major snow event of the month occurred on the 18th. This was a wintry mix event which started early snow except in the southeast sections. After a couple inches of snow fell the snow changed to freezing rain and rain. Liquid amounts were in the 1" to 1.5" range and generally lesser amounts in the southeastern sections.

The second and last major precipitation event occurred on the 27th-28th. Thundershowers were observed in many areas. Precipitation amounts varied quite a bit, but were generally less than an inch. **Rich Giannola of Olney** observed the greatest with 1.51", while **Tim Preuss of Harbesen DE** observed the least with 0.12".

Hail this month was observed by Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills on the 25th (1/4" size)

The **Winter of 1999-2000** saw temperatures average above normal. Temperatures failed to fall below zero east of the mountains. Each month saw a period of well above normal temperatures. The only cold snap oc-

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Glenmont 1 NNE	82
Jug Bay Wetlands	81
Forest Glen	81

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hanover 2 S PA	6
Parkton 5 SW	7
Olney	7

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	42.8
Bryans Head 2 ESE	42.4

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	33.7
Hanover 2 S	34.8

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	5.35
Smithsburg 3 NE	3.19

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Harbesen DE	1.29
Hollywood	1.32

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	15.5
Hanover 2 S	5.1

MINIMUM SNOWFALL

Bryans Head 2 ESE	0.0
Millersville 1 SE	0.3

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT

ACON CONTACT:

KEVIN SHAW

ACON MD/DE COORDINATOR

21 GOODPORT LANE

GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878

curred from mid January to early February Snowfall totals were close to normal. January brought the heaviest snows in four years. All, except a few dustings, snow occurred between the middle of January to the middle of February. Precipitation for the winter season averaged slightly below normal.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2000

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Snow of the ground for 32 consecutive days, measurable for 23 consecutive days, the longest streak in many a year.

18th - Morning snow with visibility less than 1/4 mile turned to a cold rain mid-day after the snow accumulated to 3 inches.

25th - Early year thundershower after record maximum temperature of 75 for the date and the second warmest February temperature.

Tim Preuss of Harberson, DE

12th - Snow till 6 PM then clear and cold.

16th - Gorgeous day, 62 degrees and sunny.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

2nd - Drifting snow, plows still clearing roads from January snows. 12" still remain on the ground.

18th - Light to moderate snow 7-9:45 AM; Heavy snow with very large flakes; 10 AM, mix some rain, mostly sleet; 11 AM freezing rain and sleet, rain later afternoon and very late at night.

27th - Thunder and lightning with heavy rain 10:15 - 11:20 PM.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

A taste of almost every season: Wintry cold with snow and ice; Summer like thundershowers with hail and Spring and Fall cool / mild temperatures.

25th - Thundershower with hail 1545-1600 hours

27th - Thundershower

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

A cold first half then a mild last half of the month with below normal precipitation.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

1st - Snow squall 10:15 - 10:30 AM light dusting. 15" of snow on the ground, the most for the month.

13th - Light freezing rain / drizzle, very icy.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 N

25th - 75 - Second warmest February temp on record.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

16th - Snow Pellet shower 4 AM, warm afternoon.

18th - Snow changing to sleet, freezing rain, then rain.

19th - Overnight soaking rain and fog.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

18th - Today's max of 82 marks the first time it has reached 80 in February or in Meteorological winter. The world record for both was 79 on 2/24/85.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

25th - Truncated rainbow (20 deg arc) at 4:50 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4N

4th - Snow showers 7 AM to 1 PM, drizzle 7 PM.

19th - Thunder just after midnight.

25th - All time winter max temp of 80.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

February 2000 continued this winters pattern of above normal temps. Precipitation was only about 75% of normal. The decent snow pack at the beginning of the month (8") slowly diminished under the ever-stronger February sun and warming temps.

25th - 79 degree max, a February record breaking the previous record of 78 set on 2/24/85.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

7th - Sunny but with predawn and evening overcast. Warmest in 3 weeks.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

17th - Lunar halo 2100 hours.

18th - Light snow 0400-0700 then sleet (0.25") and rain till 1100, then rain -ending 1700 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

12th - Light snow, moderate at times during the afternoon.

18th Brief early morning freezing rain and sleet, then periods of rain.

25th - 78 degrees, a station record high temp for date.

Marlene Walchli of California

1st Ice on trees starting to melt and fall 1230 hours

10th - Increasing CI overcast AM, gray with Virga 1700 hours.

John Zyla of Ridge

Snow on ground for 30 straight days, Jan 18-Feb 16. (Station record).

26th - Foggy all day as result of a back door cold front

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

1st - Some heavier snow squalls this evening with white-out conditions 10-10:30 PM. Snow cover today 13", the maximum for the month.

9th - Cold AM 15 deg. Rapid warming to 51 max.

24th - A beautiful warm day with a high of 74.

25th - Record high temp of 79, old record 76 in 1930.

26th - Cloudy and much colder as result of a back door cold front.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

18th & 19th - 1.46" of precip the most 24 hour precip since Hurricane Floyd on 9/15-16/99 when 2.52" fell.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA

13th - Some spotty light freezing drizzle began falling intermittently around 3 PM. A steadier freezing rain overspread the Hanover area by 6 PM.

18th - Snow and sleet temporarily ended around 3 PM after 3.8" fell. Freezing rain fell after 8 PM as temps varied between 31 and 32.

19th - At 5 AM with a temp of 34, the ice is gone from trees and many objects, however a few inches of somewhat crusty sloppy snow remain on the ground.