



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

RECORD WARMTH FIRST HALF WITH STRONG WINDS THEN SNOW, COLD, SNOW, STRONG WINDS THE LAST HALF

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Harbesen DE	73
Jug Bay Wetlands	73

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	-6
Bear 2 SW	1
Finksburg	1

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	36.2
Baltimore 2 SE	35.8

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	24.8
Hanover 2 S	28.6

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

South Bowie	4.71
Oraville	4.33

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Harbesen DE	2.01
Hagerstown 1E	2.49

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	35.0
Owings Mills	28.7

MINIMUM SNOWFALL

Harbesen DE	14.0
duPont Circle NE DC	14.2

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Baltimore in Carroll and, Washington Counties.

In less than two weeks 1.5 to over 2.0 FEET of snow had fallen. **John Zyla of Ridge** noted in his report "16.3" of snow, almost as much as total snowfall for the last Three Winters, 96-97, 97-98, 98-99, which saw 18.7".

The first month of the year and last year of the century began on a foggy note. Unseasonable warm temperatures followed. NWS stations at Wilmington, DE observed record max temperatures on the 2nd & 3rd, while Washington (DCA) and Baltimore set records max's on the 3rd & 4th. Seventy degree readings were observed as far north as Baltimore. **Tim Preuss of Harbesen, DE** observed readings of 71, 72 & 73. To go along with these unseasonable maximums, minimums on the third were in the mid to upper 50's across the region. **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 SSE** observed a 58 minimum on the third. Temperatures cooled but remained above normal through the 13th.

Storm systems on the 11th & 13th brought high winds to the area. **Rob Rickell of Hanover PA** noted the following on the 11th: "A squall line moved through the Hanover PA area around 10 PM this morning. The disturbed weather was accompanied by 40-50 mph winds a brief heavy shower, that turned to sleet and large sloppy wet snowflakes before ending. The snowflakes were nearly the size of silver dollars for a few minutes. Some minor wind damage did occur throughout, especially numerous small limbs being downed." During the afternoon of the 13th, **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 SSE** reported a peak wind gust of 65 mph.

The prolong period of warm temperatures began to change on the 14th. This was the first day since Christmas that the maximum temperatures failed to rise above freezing at most stations. The afternoon of the 16th saw the last above normal maximum temperatures for the month. Readings across the area ranged upwards of 63 at **Bryans Roads 2 SSE** by **Marty Brumback**.

Light dry snow fell over the southern portions of Maryland on the 18th. Two days later, the 20th, a general snow fell over the entire two state area. Snowfall totals were in the 4" to 6" range. **Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW** reported 4.3" with considerable blowing and drifting snow. Visibility was as low as 1/8 mile at 5:30 AM.

The heaviest snowstorm in four years hit the area on the 25th. This storm was forecasted to be a minor one with the possibility of a stronger storm a couple of days later. Well, as we all know, that did not work out. Upwards of 20" of snow was reported east of the mountains. The heaviest snowfall reported by an ACON observer was 18.0" by **Mike Van Wie of Oraville, St Marys Co.** **Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW** reported drifts of upwards of 8 feet along some roadsides by open fields. Some V-blades were seen and many front end loaders were used to clear the drifts. Received the following e-mail from **Marty Brumback** at 10PM: "Took several measurements just awhile ago. With so much drifting it's a hard one to capture but I'm calling it 14" of snow with a liquid equiv. of 1.63 inches. Peak wind was 38 mph (Hanson). Still have winds gusting to 20 out of the WNW and W as the wrap around proceeds. Baro coming up nicely from a low of 29.32 to the current 29.59. 15 hours of continuous snow. All stopped for now. Just drove out to State Route 210 and it's in bad shape, but it's absolutely beautiful out there. Will go in late tomorrow if I go in at all."

Five days after a foot of snow that shutdown the US Government another storm hit the area. Warm air was drawn into this storm changing snow to sleet and freezing rain in the northeastern areas. Southeastern Maryland and Southern Delaware saw all or mostly rain. The heaviest fell northwest of

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JANUARY 2000

The comments below reflect few items concerning the big story of the month - the snow which was covered in the summary on page 1. If all observer comments concerning the snow were published it would triple the size of the report. Thanks for them all. It made the writing of the summary much easier. -Gary.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

3rd - 54 degree minimum temperature, 32 degrees above normal!

20th - First measurable snow of season, 5.2"

30th - 3" snowflakes just before changing to rain.

Tim Preuss of Harberson, DE

4th - 73 degrees, windy, PM rain.

30th - Rain after 2 PM, windy, fog after dark

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

2nd - 67 degrees, second highest max temp on record.

10th - Mid day showers heavy at times, windy

28th - Roads closed due to drifting snow

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

An unseasonably mild start was abruptly proceeding by the long awaited return of Old Man Winter.

21st - Variable clouds, windy and frigid; blowing snow

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

25th - Cloudy, very windy, heavy snow, 14", cold.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

11th & 13th - 57 MPH gust each day - station max.

25th - Near Blizzard - Heavy snow - high winds

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 N

Third (3rd) snowiest January and fourth (4th) snowiest month in 20 years of records. Average temp for the first 13 days was 42.3 and for the last 18 days 22.5, a difference of almost 20 degrees (19.8)

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

Only station to record zero or below zero temps (6)

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

11th - Late AM squall line passage, temp dropped almost 1 degrees in one hour.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4N

4th - 59 degree morning minimum temperature.

21st - Afternoon maximum temperature of 21 degrees.

Rich Giannola of Olney

6th - Robins in back yard!

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

3rd snowiest January in station records. As a result of the heavy snow of the 25th (11.5") "I had two glorious days off of work during the storm, as most roads were either impassable or very treacherous with the blowing and drifting snow keeping fresh snow on many roads for a couple of days."

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

13th - PM high winds, sunny, mild 60 then much colder.

16th - Much warmer, 62, then rapidly falling evening temperatures.

18th - Temps in the upper teens during most of the light snow event allowed for quick re-freezing of any melted precip creating the worst rush hour commute of the month despite less than 1" of snow.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

1st - Dense fog and heavy frost 0800 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

30th - AM flurries, afternoon freezing rain - power outages in the county - ice accumulations about 0.25".

John Zyla of Ridge

3rd - 62 degrees at midnight.

18th - Coldest temperature in 3 years (since 1/19/97).

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

4th snowiest January in over 100 years.

2nd - Record max of 68. Old record of 64 set in 1916.

3rd - Tied record max of 65 set in 1967.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

Below normal precipitation for the fourth consecutive month and for the eighth out of the past nine.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA

25th - Dry snow and winds made this 12.0" snowfall very difficult to measure.

OBSERVER NEWS

Clinton Bubb of Morganza, St. Marys County, Maryland - Clint answered my question concerning January's snows by saying that he just got out of the hospital on February 13th after a heart bypass operation. He is doing good and feels fine. Drop him a card and wish him a quick and full recovery.

Notice any differences in this months report? After eight years I combined the Temperature and Precipitation Summary pages to reduce wasted space and make the report easier to read. Stations are listed alphabetical by state, county and then by observer. Also to reduce the number of paper copies I must run and to speed up the report I am issuing it in ".PDF" format. To read it you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you do not have it, it can be downloaded from the Adobe site, www.adobe.com at no charge. A hard copy will still be available to ones who do not have a computer or do not wish to receive an electronic copy. We have received good comments concerning the ".PDF" format. Let us know what format you would like the report in. Gary.

Compiled by Gary Gallaher, MD/ACON DE Data Collector and Report Writer, from data received from dedicated observers.