



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

MANY DAYS OF RAIN BUT NOT MUCH IN THE RAIN GAUGE

MONTH OF EXTREMES HEAT

The first extreme of the month was the early season heat. The month began with seasonal warm temperatures. By the 5th temperatures rose into the mid to upper 80's. The first heat wave (3 or more days of 90 degree or higher temperatures) began on the 6th over Central and Southern Maryland including Washington DC. The balance of the area east of the mountains, except for a few isolated spots, hit 90 on the 7th. This heat wave lasted through the 10th. Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1E broke or tied record maximum temperatures on the 6th, 7th, and 8th. Records for the Hagerstown area go back a hundred years.

Nighttime temperatures failed to fall below 70 degrees at many scattered areas outside of the city heat islands of Baltimore and Washington.

The heat was interrupted briefly on the 11th with refreshing cooler temperatures and much lower humidity. It returned on the 12th and this time lasted only two days.

THUNDERSTORM WINDS

Another extreme for the month was the thunderstorms winds. A severe thunderstorm which broke the heat on the 13th. **Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NNE** reported a May record peak wind gust of 64 MPH during the early evening hours. He lost power for 25 hours. Herb Close reported that his uncle's farm was badly damaged from that same squall line. He lives a few miles NNW of Bobby Miller in Southern Pennsylvania. **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW** reported a station record peak gust of 68 MPH. NWS Sterling reported that a 118 MPH gust at Andrews AFB the evening of the 13th.

Numerous reports of hail was observed this month. See Observers Comments for details. The hail that

Joe Terry saw around 10:30 AM on the 10th was the first time he has seen hail during any morning hours. This occurred at his place of employment.

EASTERLY WIND FLOW

The last extreme for the month was the persistent easterly wind flow which brought with it clouds, damp conditions, and periods of much below normal maximum temperatures. These conditions were briefly interrupted the 24th through the 26th. The coolest maximum temperatures of the month was observed on the 20th, 21st, & 22nd. **Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE** recorded the regions minimum maximum of 52 degrees on the 20th. Memorial Day Weekend (27th-29th) was a washout at the beaches this year due clouds, and a persistent on shore, and rain. Rain fell at many stations on all but three (3) days from the 17th through the end of the month. Little good soaking rain fell. The rain that fell stayed in the soil for a while due to the lack of sunshine and warm drying winds. ACON observers **Jug Bay Wetlands, Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock, John Zyla of Ridge, and Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE** were the only observers to observe over an inch of rain during a calendar day.

ACON NEWS

Herb Close, of Manchester 1 S, held his yearly weather gathering this year on May 13th. As normal we all had a great time. Turnout was a little lower than normal, but a good time was had by all. This year the weather was more active than normal. The

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EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Gaithersburg 2 WNW	96
duPont Circle NW DC	96
Balltimore 2 SE	95
Jug Bay Wetlands	95

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Bear 2 SW, DE	33
Millersville 1 SE	36
Parkton 5 SW	36
Gaithersburg 2 WNW	36
Hagerstown 1 E	36

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

dupont Circle NW DC	70.7
Baltimore 2 SE	69.6

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	60.5
Hanover 1 S	62.0

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hagerstown 1 E	4.86
Smithsburg 3 NE	4.66
Eaggle Rock	4.55

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hollywood	2.20
Morganza	2.36
Olney	2.44
Forest Glen	2.44

early arriving ones were treated to a strong squall line which pass through shortly before 7 PM. This was the same line that brought damage to areas not too far north of Manchester - see Thunderstorm Winds in this report. As the squall line approached from the northwest a large arc cloud was observed. Out came the cameras. The arc cloud was too long large for one picture.

Dr. Daniel Leathers, Delaware State Climatologist, also reported seeing one at his home in Chester County, Pennsylvania a very short distance north of the Maryland State Line.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MAY 2000

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

10th - Pea size hail from a 6 PM thunderstorm.

13th - 68 MPH wind gust a few minutes past 8PM with the onset of a thunderstorm. This is the highest wind gust since wind equipment was installed in Nov 90.

Bryan Papa of duPont Circle NW DC

1st-15th - Average temps 85.5 / 63.3

16th-31st - Average temps 74.9 / 60.0

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

28th - Spotty showers all day, heavy at times during afternoon. Heavier late evening.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

10th - Late day severe storms.

26th - Sunshine and refreshingly drier.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

14th - Sunny, breezy, mild low humidity.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

5th - Very heavy thunderstorm cell right over SW Manchester around 3-4 PM.

10th - Marble size hail

13th - Big squall line of severe thunderstorms hit 6:55-7:15 PM.

24th - Hail.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Spring precip: 13.64", avg. max 65.0, avg. min 43.7, avg. temperature 54.4 degrees.

10th - with 54 MPH gust from Thunderstorm

13th - 64 MPH gust (new May record) from WSW @ 7:01 PM. Power was out for 25 hours. Hail 1/8 to 1/4" diameter.

24th - Hail up to 1/8" diameter.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

16th - Light frost. Sunny & cool Increasing clouds late.

Rich Giannola of Olney

24th - Lightning SE at 10 PM. Wind suddenly picked up at 10:25 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4N

10th - Mammatus clouds to east following storm 6 PM.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

1st - 13th - Average temps 86.8 / 53.9 for avg. of 70.4.

14th - 31st - Average temps 70.1 / 52.8 for avg. of 61.4.

4th - Trees cut down in vicinity of shelter.

10th - Hail 5 PM

24th - Dense fog overnight, becoming partly cloudy, much warmer, evening thunderstorm.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

6th - First 90 degree day of year.

20th - Overcast, much cooler, damp with drizzle.

Washington Gas Light of Rockville

13th - Double rainbow, Mammatus clouds

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

10th - Severe thunderstorm watch and warning.

13th - Severe thunderstorm watch and warning.

20th - Overcast, occasional light rain, drizzle, light fog.

28th - Overcast, periods of drizzle, steady rain 1800 - 2300 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

10th - Hail.

Marlene Walchli of California

29th - Rain 0600-1300, cloudy until 1630. Partly sunny PM.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

6th - Record maximum tied of 90 set in 1986

7th - Record maximum of 92. Old record 89 in 1959.

8th - Record maximum of 91. Old record 90 in 1936.

13th - Hail pea to marble size. Intense thunderstorm 5:50 - 6:15 PM with strong winds up to 43 MPH, frequent lightning with brief but extremely heavy rains. 0.66" fell in just 20 minutes. Some minor wind damage reported.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

Precipitation was above normal for the past three months for the first time since April - June 1998.

91 degrees on the 6th thru 9th - the first four consecutive days with the same temperature on record.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA

10th, 13th, 24th - Hail reported each day.

SOME OBSERVERS NORMAL DATA IS MISSING THIS MONTH: RAY MULLER - TEMPERTURE; MARTY BRUMBACK - TEMP & PRECIPITATION; BRIAN PAPA - PRECIPITATION; STAN ROSSEN - TEMPERA-TURE AND PRECIPITATION. THEIR DATA IS MISSED AND WE ALL HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE SUBMITTING COMPLETE DATA SOON.