



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

FEBRUARY CONTINUES THIS WINTER'S "QUIETNESS" WITH ABOVE NORMAL TEMPS AND BELOW NORMAL PRECIP & SNOWFALL

The final month of the winter of 2000-2001 ended up on a mild, dry note and without any large major storms, either snow or rain. Temperatures across the region averaged 8.7 degrees warmer than December and 5.4 degrees warmer than January. Precipitation averaged 0.62" below December and 0.60" below January. Snowfall averaged 1" below January and 2" more than December.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures this February averaged above normal for the fifth consecutive February. This month saw the most variability of temperatures than any month this winter. Maximums of 60 or higher occurred on the 9th, 10th, 20th, 21st, and 27th at many stations while they failed to rise above freezing only on the 3rd and the 22nd. The maximum temperatures on the 22nd were the coldest of the season at many stations.

The 9th saw record maximum temperatures at all three National Weather Service Offices. Temperatures reached 70 for the first time this year at some locations in the Washington DC Metropolitan area, Anne Arundel and St Marys Counties. **Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE** with 72 and **Jug Bay Wetlands** with 71 were the only two stations with temperatures above 70 degrees.

Typical for this winter, minimum temperatures were not extreme this month. Generally they were in the mid teens and occurred the 18th or 19th and the 22nd or 23rd. **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**, in Western Maryland's mountains, was the only observer to record temperatures below 10 degrees. Her minimum was -2 on the 3rd. On the

other extreme overnight temperatures remained in the low 60's over much of the region on the night of the 9th-10th until a strong cold front moved through the area shortly before sunrise.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation this month, along with snowfall, was below normal. Generally precipitation fell during four (4) periods this month. The first one on the 5th. Liquid amounts of over 1 inch fell in Delaware. **Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE** reported 2.13". The rain changed to wet snow in most areas. Large wet flakes, some measuring 2" or more, were reported by many observers. Carroll County reported the heaviest snowfall. **Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW** reported 8.0", **Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE** 5.3" while across the Mason Dixon line **Robert Rickell of Hanover 1 S, PA** reported 5.5".

The second period was from the 12th to 17th. The heaviest amounts fell on the 16th. Amounts averaged in the half inch range. **Rich Giannola of JHU/APL** in **Laurel** reported the heaviest (0.99").

The third event was an all snow event on the 22nd. Very cold air followed 60 degree temperatures of the 20th. Temperatures were in the upper teens to mid 20's during the mid-day and afternoon storm. The heaviest fell in Delaware, Baltimore Area and southern St Marys County. **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE** reported 6.2", while **Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE, DE** and **John Zyla of Ridge** each reported 6.0".

The last event was three days later on the 25th. It was an all rain event which washed away the remaining snow

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Glenmont 1 NNE 72

Jug Bay Wetlands 71

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock -2

Manchester 1 SW 11

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge 41.1

Baltimore 2 SE 40.7

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock 31.1

Hanover 2 S, PA 33.6

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Wilmington 4 NNE 3.78

Eagle Rock 3.21

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hagerstown 1 E 1.11

Smithsburg 2 NE 1.18

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL.

Manchester 1 SW 11.0

Eagle Rock 10.7

MINIMUM SNOWFALL

Wash Gas Light Rockville 2.5

South Bowie 3.0

from the storm of the 22nd. Amounts were generally less than a quarter of an inch.

NOAA Weather Radio Voice

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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2001

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

February was warmer than normal while precipitation including snow, was slightly below normal.

22nd - The first significant snowfall (6.2") of the season. Heavy snow fell during the afternoon severely affecting traffic. Afternoon temperatures held near 20 making maximum of 23 the coldest maximum temperature of the winter.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

2nd - Some sleet and freezing rain for a short time.

5th - Snow and sleet 4:30 AM becomes heavy snow with occasional very large flakes during day. Visibility @ 1 PM is zero.

19th - Very heavy frost.

28th - Brief show shower early AM becoming windy and cool.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

3rd - Early clouds then sunny, windy, and cold.

5th - Overcast with rain / snow then snow.

11th - Clearing, very windy and cooler.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

Another month with below normal precipitation.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

5th - Major snowstorm. Heavy wet snow with very large flakes, some measured 1" x 2 1/4".

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

26 of the last 38 months with below average precipitation amounts.

5th - Mix rain and snow then heavy wet snow.

22nd - Snow, moderate at times and very cold.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Winter 2000-2001 Stats:

Avg. Max 39.4 (-2.4) Precipitation 8.42" (-1.25)

Avg. Min 22.9 (-3.1) Snowfall 26.5" (+1.7)

Avg. Temp 31.2 (-2.7)

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

14th - Some evening fog.

Rich Giannola of Olney

25th - RW's ~ 9 AM into early afternoon. Becoming warmer and windier in afternoon.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

22nd - Snow began around 10 AM. Bands of moderate snow alternated with periods of flurries that nearly stopped through much of the day. The snow was steadier between 2 & 5 PM. After 5 PM the snow changed to snow grains that continued into the evening. It fell at a decent rate and sometimes mixed with light snow until mid evening. The snow grains became very small and very light after 9 PM, but lingered past 11 PM.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

February continued January's pattern of above normal temperatures but unfortunately was much more above normal

than January with no really decent cold snaps. There were only two very short periods during two minor snow events that we had snow on the ground. The most on the ground was 4".

10th - Station record high of 67 broke the old record of 61 set in 1990. This was the warmest temperature of the winter.

22nd - 25 max set a daily record for lowest max. Old was 34 set in 1999.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

5th - Rain slowly changed to snow between 0700 and 0900. Once all snow, the flakes were very impressive; as large as I've ever seen, up to 2" across!

9th & 10th - Warm! Temps stayed in the low 60's all night into the 10th then a strong predawn cold front dropped temp 16 degrees in 2 hours.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

3rd - Lunar halo 2000 hours.

5th - Occasional rain began during night, mixed with sleet 0700, mixed with snow 0730, all snow 0900 melting on contact.

12th - Broken overcast. Freezing drizzle began 1830, sleet 1920-30 hours.

28th - Light snow early morning sticking on grass, bushes.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

22nd - Afternoon snow, heavy at times, evening freezing drizzle.

John Zyla of Ridge

22nd - Snow began around 11:15 AM and continued at about an inch an hour until 5:30 PM! Snowfall total was 6.0"

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

9th - A mostly cloudy warm day with a high of 63 F. that tied the record for this date set in 1960. Temperature remained warm this evening in the 60's.

10th - 63 F. breaks the old record of 62 in 1960. This was set this morning at 3:10 AM just before a strong cold front came through with strong winds gusting up to 49 mph and falling temperatures. Only a few sprinkles of rain overnight. Became sunny but winds continued all day up to 40 mph at times.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

New monthly low precipitation record with only 1.18" breaking the old record of 2.06" set in February 1997. This month was the 5th straight month with below average precipitation - 7.48" below average. Precipitation since July 1998 is 14.35" below average.

5th - Strange but true ...46 degrees with snow falling.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 1 S, PA

12th & 13th - Sleet and freezing rain

22nd - Snow. Travel conditions were extremely poor this afternoon and evening since temps have been holding mostly in the mid teens since this afternoon.