



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

FAIRLY QUIET JANUARY WITH SLIGHTLY BELOW NORMAL PRECIPITATION, SNOWFALL AND SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL TEMPS

January 2001 was a fairly 'quiet' month as Januarys go. Temperatures rebounded to slightly above normal from the much below normal observed in December. Precipitation, including snow, was below normal. This month did not see any of the typical winter Northeasters which move up the coast bringing rain and or snow accompanied by strong winds.

TEMPERATURE

The much below normal temperatures of December eased the first third of the month. The balance of the month saw maximum temperatures generally in the 30's and 40's.

There were no extreme temperatures this month. Most observers reported that their monthly minimums were in the 10 to 15 degree range. Single digit lows occurred in the only northern portions of Baltimore, Carroll, Washington Counties, and of course Garrett County Maryland along with southern York County Pennsylvania where **Rob Rickell** of **Hanover 1 S** observed the coldest of +1. Stations outside the region of Baltimore City, Southern Delaware, Washington DC and the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay east and southeast of Washington received a good fresh snowcover on the 21st. This fresh snow along with cloudless skies, calm winds and high pressure allowed for the minimum temperatures to fall to monthly lows on the mornings of the 22nd and 23rd.

On the other end of the thermometer the storm system moving through the mid-west and its associated warm front brought temperatures in the low to mid 60's southeast of Washington D. C. and southern Delaware briefly on the 30th.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation this month was slightly below normal. Amounts across

the area were very uniform. Almost all of the stations precipitation were between 2 1/2" and 3" range.

Precipitation the first half of the month was light. Less than a half an inch fell during the first 18 days.

Three notable precipitation events occurred this month. The first one was a general snowfall event occurred on Friday the 5th. Light snow fell during the daylight morning and early afternoon hours. Amounts were generally in the 1 1/2 to 2 inch range.

The second one and most note worthy of the month occurred from the 18th to the 21st. Two thirds of the month total fell during this period. Two storms moved through the area. The first one brought with it a cold, raw, steady rain. Many stations observed over 1 inch of liquid precipitation on Friday the 19th. Lighter amounts of close to an inch fell in Central and Western Maryland. The second storm began as rain on the afternoon and evening of the 20th. The rain changed to snow over the region by the late evening hours of the 20th and ended around dawn of Sunday the 21st. Snowfall amounts varied considerably. St Marys County saw only 0.1 to 0.2". Amounts increased as the further north and west you went. Elevation also played an important role. The Washington D.C. area saw 1.5" to upwards of 6" as reported by **Rich Giannola** of **Olney**. In Northern Delaware **Jim Canavan** of **Wilmington 4 NNE** reported 4.5". **Marty Sharrow** of **Owings Mills**, northwest of Baltimore, report 8". The heaviest amounts fell in southern York County, Pennsylvania. **Rob Rickell** of **Hanover 1 S** measured 10.0". In northern Carroll County **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE** measured 9.5". This was the last measurable snow to fall east of the mountains except for a some light snow in northern Delaware on the 27th.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hollywood	66
Ridge	66

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hanover 1 S, PA	1
Parkton 5 SW , Eagle Rock and Hagerstown 1 E	4

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	37.0
Baltimore 2 SE	36.2

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	26.0
Hanover 2 S, PA	27.5

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	3.88
Laurel JHU/APL	3.37

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Bryans Road	1.50
Baltimore 2 SE	2.40

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL.

Eagle Rock	32.8
Hanover 1 S, PA	13.3

The last notable precipitation event occurred on the 30th. The storm brought with it maximum temperatures mostly in the 50's but a few 60's in the southeastern portion of the two state region. Amounts were generally in the 1/3" to 3/4" range. Most of the heavier amounts fell in Washington, Carroll Baltimore Counties. The heaviest amount was measured by **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E**.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JANUARY 2001

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Almost all of the snow fell during two events. 1.85" of the 3.02" precipitation fell from two storms between the 18th and the 21st. Maximum temperatures mainly in the 30's and 40's except for one day in the 20's and three in the 50's. This January had the lowest January average wind speed since wind equipment was installed 11 years ago.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

30th - Rain @ 4 AM, moderate @ times, drizzle @ 10 AM, clear by 2 PM - snow melts.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

Seasonal cold month without any significant storms.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

5th - Cloudy, light snow in late AM and PM.

30th - Mostly sunny, mild.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

Snowcover - Everyday had at least a trace of snow on the ground.

15th - Heavy fog, visibility zero.

20th / 21st - Major snowstorm 8.5" fell. Morning of 20th started with light freezing rain and then glaze then light sleet. Mid-day light snow, moderate - heavy snow began 6 PM on 20th and ended ~ 5 AM on the 21st. Near zero visibility blowing and drifting snow.

27th - Very windy. A few snow showers with no accumulation.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

5th - Two bands of snow.

21st - Overnight AM snow. AM sunny and cold.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

21st - Heavy snow. Visibility down to 1/16th mile.

30th - Some moderate to heavy rain before sunrise. Clearing in afternoon. Evening fog patches off ice from frozen ground.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL, Laurel

15th - AM fog lifting by early afternoon.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

8th - Light rain changing to snow in afternoon. Icy roads.

18th - Light wet snow morning. Light rain afternoon.

Rich Giannola of Olney

7th - Lunar halo at 9:45 PM.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

29th - Sleet began at 11:02 AM but melted on contact as it changed to light rain 2 minutes later. The shower tapered and was over by 11:14 AM.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

January was just a "ho-hum" month, with a little bit of snow. The only record set was the 55 degrees max. on the 11th.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

As with previous few months, January was not particularly wet. Fairly consistent temperatures, no extremes. Only two small snow events.

11th - Very dry late AM, RH only 17%. Curious 15 degree rise in dew point between noon and 1500 as temperature warmed to the highest level of the month (so far).

16th - With a rapid increase in wind came a 7 degree rise in temperature and a 98% to 67% drop in RH in only 30 minutes, predawn (0600-0630)

20th / 21st - A steady afternoon rain (20th) with occasional IP-, changed to S- by 2100. The snow to liquid ratio increased dramatically after midnight.

30th - 10 degree temperature rise in one hour during evening.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

1st - Solar halo 9 AM.

7th - Heavy frost.

14th - Very heavy frost.

16th - Dense fog during night. Clear early morning light frost.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

13th - Heavy morning frost

15th - AM fog and drizzle

27th - Variable clouds - windy - brief rain & snow shower

John Zyla of Ridge

19th - Heard Thunder at 8:20 PM!

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

1st - A mostly cloudy rather cold and breezy day to start of the New Year.

19th - Only day without any snow (T or more) on the ground at obs this month.

27th - A few flurries overnight and this morning. Became very windy today with WNW winds gusting up to 43 MPH.

30th - Rain began 3 AM was moderate to heavy at times also fog overnight and this morning. Some clearing and much warmer this afternoon with a high of 54.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Precipitation has been below normal for the last four consecutive months. Precipitation 12.18" below normal since July 1, 1998.

30th - The 62 consecutive day streak of minimum temperatures of 32 or below ended today one day shy of the record of 63 days.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 1 S

Snowcover - Everyday had at least a trace of snow on the ground.

22nd & 23rd - Clear, no wind, and +1 degree low each day.