



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

## ROLLERCOASTER TEMPERATURES LITTLE PRECIPITATION

October 2001 went into the record book as a beautiful month unless you were a farmer. It had more bright sunny days than any month in many a year which made it a good month for outdoor activities such painting, winterization projects, leaf raking and of course the more enjoyable activity of leaf viewing.

### TEMPERATURE

October picked up where September left off, that is with cool temperatures. The first five (5) days were described by **Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E** as "great fall weather with sunny warm days and chilly mornings". Each day was milder than the previous.

A cold front which moved through the region on the 6th brought continued sunny conditions but much colder temperatures. A very early autumn first freeze occurred on the morning of the 8th at most non urban stations. The temperature fell to even lower readings, some to record levels at some longtime stations (example Hagerstown 1 E and Wilmington NWS), on the morning of the 9th. The coldest reported (not including Western Maryland Garrett County where **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock** observed 22 degrees) was 25 degrees. This was observed by **Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW**, **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW**, and **Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E**. The following observers reported their stations earliest freezing temperatures: **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW**, **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**, both on the 8th, and on the 9th **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**.

The temperatures quickly rebounded to the mid to upper 70's at many stations from the 11th to the 14th. A few 80's were observed. **Jug Bay Wetlands of Lothian** reported 81 while **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock** reported 78.

Another front dropped temperatures on the 14th and 17th. Minimums fell to the low to mid 30's with a couple of upper 20's on the morning of the 19th.

The last extended warm period occurred from the 20th to 25th. 80 degree plus temperatures were common on the 24th. The warmest was 86 which was observed by **Jug Bay Wetlands of Lothian**. This was also the warmest day of the month at many ACON locations.

The old saying "what goes up comes down" was true with the temperature. Temperatures again fell below freezing at most locations. Many ACON observers set or tied their monthly minimum temperatures on the morning of the 29th. **John Zyla of Ridge** reported his earliest first frost in seven (7) years on the 29th.

### PRECIPITATION

Not much can be said about the precipitation this month. The only observer to record any measurable snow was **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock** which is located in Western Maryland's Garrett County. Measurable snow fell on six (6) days. All amounts were less than 3/4". **Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE** and **Rob Rickell of Hanover 1 S, PA** each saw some wet snow flakes mixed with rain on the 27th. **Kevin Shaw** reported seeing some wet snow in Middletown, MD, a few miles west of Frederick.

This October generally saw less than 1" of precipitation at most locations. The region average was nearly four (4) times last years average of 0.22". No measurable rain fell during the last 15 days of the month east of the mountains.

The wettest period of the month was the 14th to the 17th except for stations east and south of Washington, D. C. when it was the 6th. Measurable precipitation also fell on the 1st. **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW** measured 0.89" on the 14th, the heaviest daily amount at any ACON station this month.

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY

#### ACON OBSERVERS

##### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	86
Hollywood	85

##### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	22
Millersville 1 SE	24
Hanover 1 S, PA	24

##### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	60.9
Ridge	60.5

##### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	50.7
Hanover 2 S, PA	53.2

##### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	1.38
Ridge	1.25

##### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

South Bowie	0.32
Millersville 1 SE	0.43

##### MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	1.4
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**ACON WEATHER PARTY  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER  
8, 2001**

**AT THE HOME OF HERB  
CLOSE,  
MANCHESTER 1 S, MD**

**If you have not yet notified Herb  
please do it ASAP so he can final-  
ize the details.**

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2001

## **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE**

Third driest October on record behind 0.14" in 2000 and 0.17" in 1963. Yards showing moisture stress by months end. Month was dominated by almost weekly cold fronts which dropped the temperatures into the 20's & 30's which were followed by periods of warm temperatures and sunny days. Many cool mornings with heavy dew, along with patchy ground fog. The first partial killing frost occurred on the 8th and was followed by a heavy killing frost on the 9th. Very sunny month with only 3 cloudy days and an index of 0.58 (out of a max of 2 for a 100% cloudy month) - the lowest index for at least the past 10 years.

## **Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW**

**9th** - Heavy frost especially near the pond. Flowers on deck damaged.

**14th** - Moderate rain late evening.

## **Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills**

**4th** - Patchy AM ground fog then sunshine and warm.

**5th** - Same as yesterday but "no" humidity.

**27th** - AM sunshine, afternoon overcast, windy, sprinkles.

## **Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE**

A very dry month.

## **Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW**

**4th** - Warm, low humidity.

**7th** - Cold, windy, NW 15-20 gusts 20-30 mph.

**8th** - First light frost and freeze of season.

## **Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE**

**16th** - Windy, cool with late showers.

**21st to 24th** - Sunny and warm.

## **Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE**

Second driest in 21 years of record. Only 2000 was drier.

**9th** - Heavy frost. Earliest killing freeze.

**24th** - Record maximum temperature of 81 degrees.

**25th** - Windy and dry. Minimum relative humidity of 20%.

## **Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N**

Station record minimum temperatures ties on the 9th (30) and set on the 8th (31) and 29th (28). Record maximum temperatures tied on the 13th (78) and set on the 23rd (78), 24th (82), and 25th (74).

## **Rich Giannola of JHU/APL of Laurel**

Second consecutive October with under 1" of rain.

**16th** - Cold FROPA in late afternoon. Temperature drops 14 degrees in 30 minutes (5:00-5:30 PM) from 63 to 49 deg.

## **Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S**

**14th-15th** Rain began ~7:30 AM on the 14th and ending early AM on the 15th.

## **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW**

October was a rather ho-hum month in most of the major categories but if you dig down deep into the more "subtle" statistics you could find some rather out of the ordinary records broken. One was that I did not record any days with special weather types (i.e. fog, haze, thunder, distant lightning, freezing rain, sleet, hail, etc.). In the 90's the closest that I came was in February 1997 which saw only 1 day and that was fog. This was the third driest October with rain falling only on 3 days.

Record maximum temperatures set on the 23rd (77), 24th (81). Record minimum temperatures set on the 8th (27), 9th (25), and the 29th (25).

**8th** - 27 degrees set a record for the earliest day of a sub 30 degree temperature in the autumn.

**16th** - Daily rainfall record set. Old record was 0.09" set in 1984.

## **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**

**9th** - Heavy frost and first freeze of the season. Never saw a minimum temperature this low so early in the season.

**26th** - Despite FROPA around 0930, the temperature remained warm through late afternoon. RH reached as low as 16%.

## **Bill Hudelson of South Bowie**

**9th** - Heavy frost

**23rd** - Dense fog at 0800 hours.

## **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**

Second driest October in station history (21 years). Daily record low temperatures set on the 8th (32) and 9th (31). Daily record maximum temperature set on the 24th (85).

**6th** - AM showers, heavy at times.

**8th** - 32 degrees, earliest freezing temperature in Autumn. Old record date was the 13th.

## **John Zyla of Ridge**

No thunderstorms this month. Only 4 days with measurable precipitation

## **Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E**

This was the 5th driest October on record with 0.68" of rain. Last October was also dry with only 0.45" for the 3rd driest ever. The all time driest was 1963 with only 0.24" of rain.

**1st to 5th** - Great fall weather with sunny warm days and chilly mornings.

**8th** - Tied record low minimum of 27 set in 1953.

**9th** - Record low minimum of 25 broke old record of 28 set in 1963. Very hard freeze and heavy frost.

**13th** - Beautiful sunny, breezy Indian Summer day.

**24th** - Record maximum temperature of 83. Broke old record of 77 set in 1963.

## **Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE**

Record low maximum temperatures were set on the 7th (56), 8th (53), 18th (55), 27th (55), and tied on the 28th (48). Record low minimum were set on the 8th (28), and the 28th (29).

Record high minimum temperatures were set on the 12th (51), 13th (56), and the 25th (53).

Record high maximum temperatures were set on the 23rd (73), 24th (81).

Only two days with measurable rain ties April 1985 for the fewest days with measurable rainfall.

This was the second driest October and the sixth (6th) driest of any month in 24 years.

## **Rob Rickell of Hanover 1 S, PA**

**27th** - Sprinkles during late afternoon were mixed with a few wet snow flakes.

**29th** - Coldest morning of the season here in Hanover, PA as the temp dipped to 24 degrees. However, afternoon temps moderated quickly under bright sunshine with the high reaching 58 today!