



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

## MARYLAND'S JANUARY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 83 TIED AT HOLLYWOOD

January 2002 went into the record books as being quite warm along with below normal precipitation and snowfall. Very little winter type weather occurred this month. **Richard Giannola** of **Olney 1 S** noted that he saw robins on three days (5th, 20th, and the 30th).

### TEMPERATURE

January began with seasonally cold temperatures and ended with temperatures more 'spring-like'. Below zero temperatures were not observed this month. Another unusual note for the month was that there were only four observers (**Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock**, **Ralph Hartsock** of **Westminster 4 SSE**, **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW**, and **Robert Rickell** of **Hanover 2 S PA**) who reported minimum temperatures in the single digits. Along the same note there were very few days where the temperatures failed to rise to freezing. Typically stations saw only 1 or 2 days.

Many observers reported their second or third warmest January on record. The highlight of the month was the warm temperatures the last week of the month. Temperatures rose into the 70's at all locations except for portions of Baltimore, Carroll counties and Western Maryland. Many stations set all-time January records (see observer note for more details).

The most notable temperatures were the 80 plus readings observed by **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood (83)**, **Marty Brumback** of **Bryans Road 2 ESE (81)**, and **John Zyla** of **Ridge (80)**. **Floyd Abell** also reported that his 83 and **John Zyla's** 80 both exceeded the previous St. Marys County January temperature record of 78 degrees which was set at Leonardtown on 1/25/1950. The 83 degrees at **Hollywood** tied the Maryland State January maximum temperature that was set on 1/25/1950 at Westernport located in southwestern Allegany County. Thanks to the Maryland State Climate Office who assisted with the verification of this record.

### PRECIPITATION

Precipitation again this month was below normal. Precipitation averaged close to the 2 inch mark, making it around an inch below normal. Reservoirs and stream flow remain at low levels.

There were four major events this month. The first and heaviest occurred on the 6th. Liquid amounts were generally in the 2/3rds of an inch to an inch range. The heaviest fell in St Marys County, Southern Delaware, and Northern New Castle County Delaware. The following ACON observers reported over an inch of rain: **Mike Van Wie** of **Orville (1.22")**, **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood (1.13")**, **John Zyla** of **Ridge (1.11")**, **Jim Canavan** of **Wilmington 4 NNE (1.07")**, and **U of D Research Center** at **Georgetown DE (1.02")**. Snow and sleet mixed with the rain at times west of the Bay. The heaviest snow, 3.5", was measured by **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E**. The storm ended as snow west and northwest of Baltimore.

Two other precipitation events affected the majority of the region. They were on the 11th, 19th, and 24th. Each generally brought 1/3rd to 1/2" melted.

Light freezing rain fell during the morning rush hour of the 9th from the northern and western suburbs of DC north into Pennsylvania and west into Carroll County. The freezing rain began around 7 AM. One of the biggest problems were road closures due to both road conditions and accidents. In Carroll County one man who was directing traffic was hit and killed. Traffic was snarled for hours. Hundreds of accidents reported. This whole situation was caused by 0.01" of rain falling on cold surfaces.

### SNOWFALL

East of the mountains two snowstorms occurred this month. The first storm occurred on the 3rd and af-

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY

#### ACON OBSERVERS

##### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hollywood	83
Bryans Road 2 ESE	81
Ridge	80

##### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	0
Hanover 2 S PA	7

##### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	42.8
Baltimore 2 SE	42.2

##### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	31.3
Hanover 2 S	35.4
Wilmington 4 NNE DE	36.4

##### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	3.17
Wilmington 4 NNE	2.87
Fallston 2 NW	2.87

##### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Bethesda	1.63
Forest Glen	1.66
Bryans Road 2 ESE	1.73
Glenmont	1.73

##### MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	15.0
Hanover 2 S PA	8.5
Manchester 1 SW	8.1
Hollywood	8.1

##### MINIMUM SNOWFALL

Millersville 2 SE	2.5
Potomac 4 N	2.7

ected areas southeast of DC into southern Delaware. Six (6") fell in St. Marys County.

The second storm occurred on the 19th. It was a "gentle" storm without much wind. The snow became mixed with ice crystals and sleet. Snowfall amounts were generally in the 2 1/2" to 4" range except 1" - 2" in St Marys County where it changed to rain.

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JANUARY 2002

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

Second warmest January in station history. Warmest January is 1998. Tied 1993 for warmest minimum temperature for the month of 18 degrees. One snowfall event of the month and the winter season on the 19th. Precipitation again below normal.

**6th**—Sleet fell around 5:30 PM making it the first frozen precipitation of the season.

**19th**—Saturday's snowstorm brought 4" of snow. Light winds allowed the snow to lay on everything. The moisture content was higher than normal. The snow on the ground lasted until the evening of the 22nd. Today was the only day where the temperature failed to reach freezing so far this winter.

**29th**—Record daily warmth of 71 degrees. This was the fourth warmest January temperature.

## **Dan Hanson of Millersville 2 SE**

Third warmest January. Precipitation was significantly below normal for the fifth consecutive month.

**29th**—74 degrees broke the monthly January record of 70 degrees set in 1997.

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

January had above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Water levels of wells continue to be worrisome.

**9th**—Fine freezing rain @ 7:30 AM. The glaze created havoc with the morning commute. Only 0.01" fell.

**19th**—Snow mixed with ice crystals and sleet after 4 PM.

**27th**—Temperature reaches 70 degrees and the humidity fell to 14%.

## **Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills**

January debuted as a lion with cold temperatures and departed as a lamb with very mild temperatures. Snowfall was in short supply.

**6th**—Overcast with rain changing to ice and snow.

**9th**—AM freezing rain and sleet.

**29th**—Mostly sunny, breezy and unseasonably warm.

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

A warmer than normal month with little snow. Sleet fell on the 7th, 9th and 19th.

## **Herb Close of Manchester 1 S**

Third warmest January in 13 years of records. January record is 39.8 set in 1990.

**6th**—1/16th to 1/8th inch of glaze from freezing rain along with 0.4" of sleet and 1.4" of snow and rain. Liquid total of 0.66".

**10th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th**—Daily record maximum temps.

**29th**—70 degrees set a daily and a January record maximum temperature. Old January maximum temperature was 66 set in 1995, and tied in 1998, and 2000. At 11 PM the temperature was still 62 degrees.

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

Below normal precipitation again!

**9th**—Early sleet and freezing rain. Liquid total 0.01".

**19th**—Snow, light to moderate with some sleet.

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

Third warmest January.

**6th**—First measurable snowfall of the season. This set a record as the latest first snowfall of the season.

**27th, 28th, & 29th**—Record daily warmth. 69 degrees on the 29th set an all-time maximum January temperature.

## **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE**

**3rd**—0.5" of snow fell.

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

**5th**—Robins seen flying at 3:30 PM.

**9th**—FZRA— mostly from 7:00—7:45 AM. More from 8:30—9:00 AM.

**12th**—Sundog at 4:10 PM.

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

**9th**—Light glaze 6 to 8 AM, very icy.

**25th to 30th**—Record daily maximum temperatures each day. 73 degrees on the 29th set an all-time January record.

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

Third warmest January behind 1990 & 1998.

**29th**—71 degrees set an all time record for the month. The old monthly record was 70 set 1/14/95. It also broke the daily record of 56 set in 1989.

**31st**—Heavy fog.

## **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**

**19th**—First measurable snow of the season. 3.2" fell. Pavements were only slush covered.

## **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**

**3rd**—Morning snow, heavy at times. Total of 6" fell.

**29th**—77 degrees new January maximum temperature.

**30th**—83 degrees set a new station maximum January temperature.

## **John Zyla of Ridge**

**3rd**—Snow from 2 AM to Noon. 6.1" fell.

**30th**—80 degrees. This set a January station record.

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

January averaged out much warmer than normal with 38.3 making it into the top ten warmest January list coming in as the 9th warmest. Recent and warmer January's were 1998 with 39.5 and 1990 with 39.6. The all time warmest was in 1932 with an incredible 42.9 average.

**10th**—PC breezy and warm today with a high of 61. Close to the record of 65 set in 1930.

**29th**—Record high of 72 under mostly cloudy skies. It broke the old record for the date of 63 set in 1914.

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

Monthly precipitation has been less than 2" for five of the last six months. This was the third warmest January on record behind 1990 (39.0) and 1998 (38.7).

**29th**—70 degrees, the third warmest temperature in January behind the 71 of 1/14/95 & 1/4/97.

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

**9th**—Freezing rain and ice pellets.