



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

SCATTERED DAMAGING THUNDERSTORMS SUMMER HEAT ARRIVES

The first month of the Summer of 2002 continued this year's trend of scattered thunderstorms, above normal temperatures, and below normal precipitation. Most of this month's rain fell from thunderstorms, some of them severe.

TEMPERATURES

The following quote on **Joe Terry's** of **Forest Glen** monthly summary form sums up the month: "A mix of mild, comfortable days and hot days." The month's minimum temperature at 31 of the 35 ACON and non-ACON stations reporting did not fall below 50 degrees. The region's minimum temperature of 40 degrees occurred at Salisbury's Wicomico County Airport on the 9th.

Herb Close of **Manchester 1 S** set a station record for the warmest minimum temperature and for the most 90 degree days in June. **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE** reported his first three consecutive 90 degree days for June in 5 years. **Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE** reported tying his June maximum temperature. **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** tied his second warmest June.

PRECIPITATION

The drought this month intensified during the last half of the month. **Dan Hanson** of **Millersville 1 SE** and **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW** both reported the lack of rain, stressing plants. Rainfall this month varied across the region. There were no outstanding heavy monthly amounts. Only two stations reported over 4 inches: Wilmington NWS ASOS, DE and **Al Kreinik** of **Parkton 5 SW**.

Jeff Stoudt of **Laurel 2 E** made an interesting note: Thursday has been a stormy wet day the past three months. This month 73% of total rainfall fell on a Thursday. During the past three months 47% of the precipitation also fell on a Thursday.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

June 2002 had its share of damaging severe thunderstorms.

On the 5th lightning struck the dome of the Maryland State House in Annapolis. On the 6th another severe thunderstorm blew down the Wye Mills (Maryland) Oak, the largest white oak tree in the United States. Its height was higher than a 10 story building, its spread was 165 feet, and its trunk measured over 21 feet around. Due to decay over the years there was enough room inside the trunk for four men to set up a table and play cards. It was estimated to be over 450 years old. The State quickly removed the wood for future use. Also on the 6th a small tornado hit the Braddock Heights area of Frederick County.

Washington County was hit the hardest by severe weather. Each of the two ACON observers there reported severe weather at their station.

The first storm occurred on the 5th. It hit Hagerstown. After a hot day where the heat index peaked out at 100 a damaging storm hit between 5 and 5:45 PM. It brought severe frequent lightning, heavy rain and hail. Hail, which averaged 0.75" and as large as 1 1/2", fell for 10 minutes covering the ground to a depth of 1/2". Lots of tree, power line and structural damage was reported throughout the city.

Around 5:30 of the afternoon of the 27th a damaging severe storm hit **Jim Vaughn's** home at **Smithsburg 2 NE**. His anemometer recorded a wind gust of 81 MPH before it was ripped off the house. Some siding was blown off two sides of the house, and several small sections of shingles were blown off the roof along with a new solar powered weather station which he was going to turn on the next day. His basement and master bedroom received water damage. A 800 pound children play

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Smithsburg 2 NE	100
Baltimore 2 SE	99

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	46
Bear 2 SW DE	49

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	77.4
Ridge	76.2

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	67.2
Hanover 2 S	70.0

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Parkton 5 SW	4.04
Oxon Hill	3.86

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Millersville 1 SE	1.24
Hollywood	1.81

set was destroyed. The NWS determined that the storm damage which occurred in eastern Washington County was caused by a microburst. Rows of trees were knocked down in the same direction. Jim thinks that a F0 tornado may have been part of the storm due to what his wife said and from damage around his property. "I was looking out the window and all of a sudden the play set lifted straight up into the air, spun around, then broke into four pieces and hit the ground." It left a 30-40 feet wide damage path. Jim lost a 30 foot section of his 280 foot fence next to where his neighbor's 1200 pound fishing boat that was picked up and placed in another part of the yard facing the opposite direction.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JUNE 2002

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Numerous thunderstorms this month with the heavier ones passing to the north and east. Drought continued this month. Precipitation below normal for 18 out of the past 21 months.

13th—Much cooler, late afternoon and evening showers.

27th—AM minimum 77 degrees.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

June was warm and very dry. There were 11 days of 90 or higher. Only 1.24" (about 30% of average) of rain fell during the month.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

Thursdays have been bad for outings in western Anne Arundel County! Of the June total of 2.67", 1.94" or nearly 73% fell on Thursdays. During the last three months 5.08" or 47% of the 10.80" fell on Thursdays. Also, the greatest daily amounts of each month fell on Thursdays.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

6th—1 PM thunderstorm with 56 MPH wind gust, very dark, temp dropped 10 degrees in several minutes.

28th—Shower at 3:45 PM becoming very dark in NW a thunder and light rain @ 3:55 PM.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

30th—Sunny, hot, low humidity.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 S

Six (6) 90 degree days this month broke the June record of five (5) set in 1991 and tied in 1997 & 1999. Another record broken was for the warmest minimum temperature. The min of 54 this month broke the old record of 53 set in 1989.

24th—94 degrees ties the June maximum temperature set in 1991 and tied in 1994, 1995, 1997, & 1999.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

6th—Severe storm and tornado warning here.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

12 month precipitation 27.77", which is 15.56" below normal making it the lowest on record.

20th—Record high June barometric pressure reading of 30.50" at 10:54 AM. Zero visibility fog at 6 AM.

24th to 26th—3 days in a row with maximum temperature 90 degrees or higher, the first time in June since June 24-26 1977.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL of Laurel

20th—AM fog lifting by 9 AM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

13th—1.3" of rain fell between noon and 1 PM.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

6th—1/2" hail 1502-1504 hours.

26th—25th anniversary of taking temperature observations. 97 degrees tied the June maximum temp set on 6/8/84 and tied on 6/22/88. 84.5 degrees daily aver-

age temp broke the June record of 84.0 set on 6/26/98.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

After a bit of a reprieve the past few months, back to the usual, heat and lack of rain. No real cool spells, plenty of heat though. Significant rain only fell on 3 days (Mid-month— 13th to 15th) when 2.78" fell, or 90% of the total monthly amount.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

6th—Heavy thunderstorm 1500-1530 hours with marble sized hail.

18th—Early evening TRW+ (0.70") followed by frequent lightning / thunder through 1 AM on the 19th. Most of the activity was just south, about 6 hours of near continuous rain.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

This month rain to the north, west, and south of DC but little to the east.

5th, 6th & 27th—Severe thunderstorm watch and warning each day but no severe storms here. Frequent lightning on the 5th.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

4th—Halo at 0742

26th—Rainbow at 2032

27th—AM low 74 degrees

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

6th—Fair, then gusty late day storm.

Mike Van Wie of Oraville

Not too bad in terms of rain considering the situation.

John Zyla of Ridge

My rainfall from Sept 01 to June 02 is 22.97", leaving a deficit of 14.18".

Greg Keefe of Hagerstown 1 E

5th—Severe thunderstorm between 5 and 5:45 PM with severe frequent lightning, large continuous hail for 10 minutes averaging 0.75" in diameter up to 1.5" in diameter covering the ground. High winds up to 64 MPH, heavy rain 0.65" in 15 minutes. Lots of tree, power line and structural damage reported throughout the city.

13th—Thunderstorm with very heavy downpours noon to 1:30 PM dropping an inch of rain.

27th— Severe thunderstorms in the area 5 to 6 PM just passing to the south and east. Only 0.01" here with winds of 45 MPH. Skies were very stormy and ominous looking with a lot of thunder and lightning. Severe damage reported east of town and in Smithsburg.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

15th consecutive month with below average precipitation. Tied 1987 for the second warmest June.

5th—1/8" hail in thunderstorm.

6th—1/8" hail in thunderstorm. First back to back days with hail since June 19 & 20, 1996.

27th—Possible F0 tornado. 3/4" hail observed. Wind gusts of 81 MPH recorded before anemometer is ripped from the house. Moderate damage to the house and yard. Neighbor lost a boat. Neighbor 1 mile away lost roof and a car was overturned.

Compiled by Gary Gallaher, MD/DE ACON Data Collector and Report Writer, from data received from dedicated observers. Without your observations each month this report will not be possible.