



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

FINALLY NEAR NORMAL SOAKING RAINS !! BUT THE DROUGHT CONTINUES

The month's highlight was the beneficial soaking rains that finally fell. The rains fell on the heel of one of the driest Februarys on record. Depending upon the location, this was the wettest month out of the past seven (7) to ten (10). Although the rains were good for farmers, it did little to relieve the long term drought which is at extreme levels in the northern portions, and getting worse. Stream flows remain at record or near record low rates.

March, which is one of the windiest months of the year, lived up to its reputation this year. It was windier than normal as a result of frequent frontal passages.

PRECIPITATION

The rains this month were well distributed throughout the month. Generally there were six (6) rainy periods; 2nd & 3rd, 9th & 10th, 12th & 13th, 16th through the 20th, 26th, and the 31st. The heaviest rains fell on the 31st across southern St. Marys county east across the Chesapeake Bay into Wicomico County Maryland and Sussex County Delaware. **John Zyla** of **Ridge** recorded 1.54". That was the greatest daily rainfall reported by an ACON observer.

The overall regions heaviest rains fell on the 2nd and the 20th. The rainfall of the 2nd generally ranged from 2/3rds of an inch to a little over an inch. An inch fell in a band from north of Baltimore south between US route 29 and the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay into central St Marys County.

The rainfall of the 20th ranged from 2/3rds of an inch to an inch and a quarter. This time amounts of an inch or more fell from northern Delaware west across northern Maryland. Washington County, the driest county last year, saw the heaviest rains. **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E** recorded 1.37", and **Jim Vaughn** of nearby **Smithsburg 2 NE** recorded 1.22".

Thundershowers / thunderstorms occurred on the 9th, 10th, 17th, and 26th across portions of the region. None were severe. Pea size hail was reported by **Lynn Albright** of **Fallston 2 NW** on the 10th.

SNOWFALL

Snow was almost non-existent this month. Measurable amounts fell at only three locations. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** reported 8.0" while **Robert Rickell** of **Hanover 2 S** and **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** each reported 0.1".

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures continued their streak of being above normal again this month.

The month began on a cold note. The cold spell, which moved into the region at the end of February, brought temperatures in the teens on the morning of the 1st. The cold air returned for the 4th and 5th after a brief warm-up.

The temperatures on the morning of the 5th were the coldest of the season at many stations (see observer notes on page 2). **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** recorded a zero degree reading. Readings in the single digits were scattered across Baltimore, Carroll, and Montgomery Counties.

A preview of spring occurred mid month. Temperatures rose into the 70's with a trio of 80's. **Marty Brumback** of **Bryans Road 2 ESE**, and **Jug Bay Wetlands** of **Lothian** each recorded 81 degrees.

The second full day of spring brought with it some of the coldest maximum temperatures of the month. Temperatures on the 22nd failed to rise above the low to mid 30's at many stations. This cold snap was short lived. The balance of the month was more seasonable.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands 81
Bryans Head 2 ESE 81

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock 0
Parkton 5 SW 8
Westminster 4 SSE 8

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge 48.7
Bryans Head 2 ESE 47.9

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock 37.1
Hanover 2 S 41.2

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Wilmington 4 NNE 5.61
Fallston 2 NW 5.19

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock 3.08
Parkton 5 SW 3.55

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock 8.0
Smithsburg 2 NE 0.1
Hanover 2 S PA 0.1

Floyd Abell

Floyd, a weather icon in his hometown of Hollywood and St. Marys County, took seriously ill suddenly on April 12. After spending over a week in the hospital he has returned home. He will continue his long recovery at home. Floyd is a longtime member of ACON and other weather organizations. Please drop him a card and or a note, but no phone calls please at this time. Floyd will surely appreciate it. If you need his address contact Kevin Shaw or Marty Brumback.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MARCH 2002

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

This was the wettest month since May 2001. Precipitation was only 0.07" below the normal. March temperatures were again above normal. It was a windy month due to frequent frontal passages.

20th—First daily rainfall of 1" since November 25, 2001.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

March made a valiant attempt to avoid a rain deficit, but fell just a little short thus continuing the streak of dry months to seven (7).

5th—15 degrees was the coldest of the winter season.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

5th—8 degrees, the coldest of the winter.

15th—First maximum temperature of 70 for the year.

17th—Rain mixed with snow and sleet 1:05-1:25 PM.

9th, 10th, & 26th—Thunder

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

1st—Sunshine and much milder afternoon.

17th—Overcast with AM sleet; then afternoon light rain and colder.

22nd—Sunshine, windy, and unseasonably cold

23rd—Damaging AM freeze (19 degrees)

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

17th—Sleet.

22nd—Sunny, very windy, and cold.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 S

Wettest month since September 2001.

5th—10 degrees tied January 1st for the coldest temperature of the winter.

9th, 10th & 26th—Thunderstorms

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

10th—Lightning, high winds, peak gust 48 MPH.

17th—Cloudy, colder with sleet, snow, & rain.

22nd—Brutally cold, windy, snow showers—20's all day.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Precipitation 0.63" above normal. Wettest month since September.

5th—PM maximum temperature 29 degrees. Minimum temperature of 9 degrees the coldest of the winter season.

9th, 10th, & 26th—Thunder.

Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW

10th—Pea size hail.

26th—Dense evening fog. High temperature reached at midnight.

Rich Giannola of Laurel JHU/APL

10th, 21st, & 22nd—Wind gusted to 44 mph, 46 mph, and 43 mph.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

9th—AM fog burning off by 9:30 AM.

21st—Becoming windy at 7:30 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

4th—Windy, temps in the low 30's most of the day.

5th—Coldest temperature of the season of 14 degrees.

17th, 26th, & 31st—Thunder.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

March 2002 was a bit less rigorous than the past few Marchs, but when put in perspective with recent months, a return to wetter and slightly cooler conditions was more the rule rather than the exception in March 2002. Precipitation was above normal for the first month (by 0.01") since last summer.

4th—32 degrees daily high was the second freezing maximum temperature of the winter season.

5th—9 degrees tied the coldest temperature of the winter.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

2nd—First 1"+ calendar day rainfall since September 2001.

5th—Tied coldest temperature of the winter (15 degrees).

15th—Warmest day of the winter (78 degrees).

16th—Maximum temperature for the day occurred at 9 AM.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

9th—Dense morning fog.

10th—Thunderstorm 0230 hours.

18th—Moderate noon fog.

26th—Fog, dense during the evening. T'storm 1830 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Wettest month since August 2001.

26th—Mid and late afternoon thunderstorm.

John Zyla of Ridge

31st—Thunderstorm during the evening brought 1.23" of rain in a few hours bringing the daily total to 1.54" making it the highest in eight (8) months.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

First month with above normal rainfall since last June helped a lot with the drought.

2nd—Some sleet fell today around mid day with no accumulation.

4th—Windy and cold overnight. NW winds to 32 MPH. Also a few snow flurries.

10th—Strong winds continued all night and all day with many gusts 40+ mph peaking at 50 mph several times today.

15th—Very warm today with a high of 78 degrees.

20th—Rain all night mixed with sleet at times. Rain all morning was moderate to heavy at times ended by 2 PM with 1.37" for the day.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

With a wet ending for the month, March came 0.01" short of tying the 24 year average while extending the below normal precipitation streak to 12 months. Snowfall tied for the second least to fall in March.

20th—First daily rainfall of over 1 inch since June 22, 2001 (114 days) and the second in the previous 240 days.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 1 S, PA

17th—Snow, ice pellets, rain and fog today.

26th—Thunder.