



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

# MONTH BEGAN QUITE WARM AND ENDED COLD ICE STORM IN WESTERN MARYLAND

The major highlight of the month was the record breaking cold maximum temperature of the 30th. Another monthly highlight was the above normal precipitation which put a dent into the drought. The rains were beneficial to streams and reservoirs. As a result of the rains Delaware cancelled drought restrictions that were in place north of the C&D canal since August 4th. Wintry weather was confined to Western Maryland where a damaging ice storm hit on the 29th & 30th.

### TEMPERATURE

October began with summer like temperatures and humidity. 80's was the norm for the first five (5) days. A few 90 degree readings were observed. **Jug Bay Wetlands** of **Lothian** observed 92 degrees. **John Zyla** of **Ridge** recorded his first 90 degree reading for the month of October in his eight (8) years of observing. The following ACON observers recorded at least one day where the temperature failed to fall below 70 degrees: **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE**, **Rich Giannola** of **JHU/APL** and **Olney 1 S**, **Rob Cohen** of **Potomac 4 N**, **Tony Scalfide** of **Bethesda**, **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen**, **Bill Hudelson** of **South Bowie**, and **John Zyla** of **Ridge**. A few ACON observers reported the following record temperatures: maximum for October and high minimum for October.

The October "heat" broke on the 6th. From the 8th through the end of the month the maximum temperatures declined from the 60's to the 40's by months end while the minimum temperatures declined from the 50's into the 30's.

As noted in the monthly summary above, the most notable weather event this month was the low maximum temperature of the 30th. Almost every ACON station recorded a maximum temperature below 40 degrees. Many observers, too many to list here but see the Observer Comment Section, observed their lowest October maximum tempera-

ture in their station history. **Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE**, the "Climate Historian" for the region noted that this was the first time that an official first order weather station in the Washington - Baltimore region did not hit 40 degrees in October. **BWI** and **Dulles** both recorded 39 while **Washington National** had 41. All three temperatures were a record for their current site.

### PRECIPITATION

Beginning the 9th four major precipitation events occurred this month (9th-10th, 16th, 25th-26th and 29th-30th). Each event brought over 1" to many, but not all, ACON stations. The heaviest daily amounts fell either on the 11th or 16th at many ACON Stations. The heaviest one day rain of 3.13" fell at **Lynn Albright's Fallston 2 NW** station on the 11th. Other daily amounts of over 2 inches were reported by the following ACON observers: **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** 2.11" on the 11th, **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE** 2.36" on the 11th, **Lynn Albright** of **Fallston 2 NW** 2.08" on the 16th, **Rich Giannola** of **JHU/APL** 2.26" on the 16th, and **Bill Hudelson** of **South Bowie** 2.13" on the 16th.

A severe ice storm hit Garrett County in Western Maryland on the 29th and 30th. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** reported the following: Very bad sleet storm Tuesday PM, and Wednesday. Roads closed due to trees down. Ice was 1.75" thick on phone lines. The ice broke electric and telephone lines and poles. Big trees were uprooted and tops broken out. You can't walk up my driveway because of all of the down trees. Press reports reported that power was out to 12,000 customers and schools were closed for three (3) days.

Sleet was also reported by **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E**, **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE**, and **Robert Rickell** of **Hanover 2 S PA**.

### Lynn Albright

Lynn is getting better each day and if she feels up to it she would like to attend Herb's Party. Lynn says "Tell the gang hi".

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY

#### ACON OBSERVERS

##### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	92
Ridge	90

##### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Parkton 5 SW	28
Fallston 2 NW	29

##### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	60.6
Baltimore 2 SE	59.1
Hollywood	59.1

##### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	49.2
Westminster 5 SSE	51.6
Hanover 2 S PA	51.6

##### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Fallston 2 NW	8.66
Millersville 1 SE	8.03

##### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	4.96
Smithsburg 2 NE	5.42

##### SNOW / SLEET

Smithsburg 2 NE	0.3
Eagle Rock	0.3

### WEATHER PARTY

#### SATURDAY, DEC 7, 2002

**Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 S Maryland** is holding his annual **Weather Party** from **3 PM to 1 AM** at his home. If you need directions contact **Herb** or **Kevin Shaw**.

#### NEW MEMBER

**Greg Klein** of **Westminster 5 SSE** joins us this month. He discovered us via **Rick Giannola's JHU/APL** weather WEB page which posts the ACON reports. He is a neighbor of **Ralph Hartsock**. Welcome **Greg!**

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2002

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

**1st** -- Dense fog after sunrise.

**3rd** -- Hazy, hot, humid. Turned a/c on.

**24th** -- Damp, raw, cold. Light rain late.

**29th** -- Cold, raw rain with falling temperatures.

**30th** -- 39 degree maximum temperature broke the previous record low maximum temperature of 40 set on 10/19/72.

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

**2nd** -- Light AM fog.

**4th** -- Heavy fog 6 to 7 AM

**16th** -- Constant rain, heavy at times till 3:30 PM.

**22nd** -- Heavy patches of fog at observation.

**30th** -- All time low max temp of 37 degrees for October.

## **Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills**

**2nd** -- AM fog then sunshine and unseasonably warm.

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

Above normal precipitation. Three days with over 1".

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

Wettest month since June 2001 when 7.43" fell.

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

A real drought denting month.

**11th** -- Soaking all day rain of 1.91".

**15th** -- First frost of season.

**16th** -- Another all day soaking rain, 1.49".

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

Wettest October on record (since 1981). Wettest month since September 1999. 15.60" has fallen since August 23 which is 6.90" above normal.

**10th - 14th** -- An interesting record here - 5 consecutive days with the same maximum temperature, 62 degrees. The max temp on the 8th was 62 while it was 61 degrees on the 9th.

**15th** -- Heavy frost.

**22nd** -- First freeze of the season. Also heavy frost.

**30th** -- Record crushing low maximum temperature of 36 for October (since 1982). Old was 43 set on 10/31/93.

## **Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW**

**11th** -- 3.13" of rain - the greatest daily amount of the year to date.

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

**10th - 11th** -- RA and SHRA during day on 10th, stopping by mid afternoon = 0.61". SHRA began late in afternoon. RA most of the day on the 11th, stopping in late afternoon, 1.15" more. More SHRA late afternoon into early evening = 0.02" more.

**29th** -- Cold, rainy day.

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

**2nd** -- Record maximum temperature.

**3rd** -- Tied all-time October maximum temperature of 84.

**5th** -- Tied all-time October maximum temperature of 84.

**22nd** -- Light frost on car tops.

**30th** -- Record low October maximum temperature of 39. Old was 40 set on October 10, 1979.

## **Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE**

**4th** -- Tied October's high minimum temperature of 69 degrees set on 10/04/86.

**5th** -- AM minimum temperature 70 degrees

**30th** -- Record low October maximum temperature of 40 degrees. Old record was 46 degrees set on 10/21/77 and tied on 10/10/79, & 10/31/93.

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

**30th** -- Coldest maximum temp for the month of October of 39 degrees. Old record was 45 set on 10/31/93.

## **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**

Very warm start followed by unabated chill the rest of the month. No more temperatures 70 degrees or above after the 12th. Four (4) maximum temperatures in the 40's. Extremely wet (wettest since September 1999). Four (4) major rain events. Each rain event with >1" total.

**30th** -- Unusual cold for October—more like December. Only 3 degree temperature range. Continuous rain / drizzle all day.

## **Bill Hudelson of South Bowie**

**18th** -- Light frost in area at 0800 hours.

## **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**

Wettest October since 1995.

**30th** -- 45 degrees, the coldest October maximum temperature on record in station history.

## **John Zyla of Ridge**

Wettest October in station history (8 years) 7.27".

**5th** -- 90 degrees, the first time I hit 90 in October

**18th** -- Earliest frost on record.

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

**18th** -- Moderate frost and light freeze 31.4 degrees.

**23rd** -- Dense overnight and morning fog.

**30th** -- Some sleet and snow mixed with the rain during the late evening.

**31st** -- Drizzle overnight with some sleet and snow mixed in with the rain, 0.01". Nearby higher elevations did get freezing rain and some snow and ice accumulations.

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

Third consecutive month with above normal precipitation. This was the wettest October since 6.78" fell in 1996. Monthly snowfall of 0.3" is a October record. Old record was 0.2" set in 1979.

**3rd** -- Record October maximum temperature of 88 degrees. Old record was 87 which was set on several occasions.

**3rd** -- Record October high minimum temperature of 65 degrees. Old record was 63 which was set on several occasions.

**30th** -- Maximum of 35 is the lowest October maximum on record surpassing 41 degrees set on 10/31/93.

## **Robert Rickell of Hanover 1 S**

**2nd—3rd** -- Warm and humid.

**8th** -- Scattered light frost.

**15th** -- Moderate frost.

**22nd** -- First freeze of season.

**29th—31st** -- Trace of Ice pellets (sleet) each day.

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.