



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

QUITE HUMID WITH NUMEROUS THUNDER- STORMS, SOME SEVERE

August 2003 will be most remembered by its numerous thunderstorms. Some of these storms brought heavy rains and damaging winds. A side effect of these storms was the high humidity.

Precipitation this month averaged close to normal to above normal despite the unusual high number of days that precipitation occurred. Counting all stations (including NWS) in this report there were 672 observation days where measurable rain fell. 1" or more fell on 38 observation days.

The high humidity was a major reason that the 2003's average minimum temperature of 67.6 was higher than 2002's 67.0. **Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E** comment summed the temperatures this month: "A persistence of low heat and a lack of both extreme heat and cool."

August began on a wet note. Measurable rain fell on every one of the first 19 days at some station throughout the two state region. Most daily amounts from the scattered showers and thunderstorms were less than 0.50". There were isolated heavy downpours. Over an inch fell on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 16th, and the 17th. **Jim Canavan** of **Wilmington 4 NNE** reported the heaviest daily amount of 3.07" on the afternoon of the 11th. Flash flooding occurred in Northwest Wilmington and its nearby Western Suburbs. Also on the 11th **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** observed 2.57". 2.18" fell at the **University of Delaware Research and Education Center** southwest of **Georgetown DE** on the 16th. Other daily amounts of nearly two inches were reported by the following **ACON Observers**: **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** 1.93" on the 11th, **John Zyla** of **Ridge** 1.92" on the 16th, **Dave Bryant** of **St. Margarets** 1.91" on

the 9th, and **Lynn Albright** of **Fallston 2 NW** 1.90" on the 16th.

90 degree temperatures during the first half of the month were almost non-existent. The maximum temperatures were generally in the 80's while the minimum temperatures were in the 60's and 70's. Temperatures in the lower 90's occurred on the 14th, 15th, and 16th. Dew points were very high. **Manuel Farfan** of **Frederick 4 N** and **Greg Keefe** of **Hagerstown 1 E** both reported dew points in the mid 70's and a heat index of 101 degrees on the 14th. 90 degree temperatures returned on the 21st and lasted for two days. The warmest day of the month was the 22nd.

A cold front accompanied by showers and thundershowers on the 23rd replaced a hot, humid air mass with cool dry Canadian air. Maximum temperatures on the 24th were in the 70's to lower 80's after a morning where the minimum temperatures fell to the low to mid 50's.

This cool pleasant air mass was short lived. Late in the afternoon of the 26th severe thunderstorms moved through the region causing many power outages. **Dan Hanson's** station at **Millersville 1 SE** was damaged by a power surge. 1/2" hail was reported by **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE**. **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen** reported a very impressive rapidly moving arc cloud at the leading edge of the storm.

Strong thunderstorms moved through on the 27th brought more power outages. **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen** reported that the sky was the darkest he has seen in years.

90 degree temperatures made their final appearance this month on the 26th in southern Maryland and then spread

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	95
Baltimore 2 SE	95
Fallston 2 NW	95
Mont. Village 1 SW	95
Ridge	95
Smithsburg 2 NE	95

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	48
Frostburg	49

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	80.1
Ridge	78.5

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Frostburg	69.1
Eagle Rock	70.0

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Wilmington 4 NNE DE	8.76
UofD Res Ctr G'town DE	8.42
South Bowie	8.50

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Baltimore 2 SE	2.89
Olney 1 S	3.06

northwards into Central and Eastern Maryland and Delaware by the 28th. A cold front accompanied by showers and thunderstorms, some with brief heavy rains, moved across the region the afternoon of the 30th. It brought an end to the very muggy conditions and ushered in much cooler temperatures. Maximum temperatures on the 31st were in the mid to upper 70's.

HERB CLOSE OF MANCHESTER 1 SW MARYLAND IS HOLDING HIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2003 BEGINNING AT 2PM. RSVP TO HERB BEFORE THANKSGIVING. ALL ACON MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR AUGUST 2003

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE

11th - 3.07" rain.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Humid month with numerous thundershowers. Average minimum temperatures tied for August's 2nd warmest in 37 years.

Summer 2003: Was the 3rd wettest of 35 summers. Measurable precipitation fell on a record number of days (49) breaking the old record of 45 days set in 2000. Temperature rose to 90 or above on 14 days, average is 22 days. Avg Max 82.8 (-1.5), Avg Min 64.7 (+0.8), Avg Temp 73.8 (-0.4), Precip 16.77 (+5.47)

Greg Latta of Frostburg

28th - Hail reported during the previous 24 hours ending at obs time (7 AM).

Nate Mullins of LaVale

5th - Some strong thunderstorms between 5-7 PM. Intense lightning and quick heavy downpours. The brunt of the storms were to the east with minor street flooding reported in the Cumberland area.

26th & 27th - Strong, severe storms in area. Damaging winds reported in the Frostburg area on the 26th and hail reported in the southwestern portion of LaVale on the 27th.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

Very humid month. The mid-day dew point averaged 73.3 degrees during the first three weeks and 71.0 the last week.

Summer 2003: Nine (9) 90 degree days. Last year 47 days.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

August brought several intense storms. The severe storm that hit on the 26th did a number on the station including damaging both the Heathkit ID-5001 and the PC logging the data. The heaviest winds were just a few miles south of the station in Crofton and Bowie. A gust of 39 MPH was recorded before the lethal power surge hit.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

Temperatures: A persistence of low heat. A lack of both extreme heat and cool. **Precipitation:** Still a large number of days with some rain like recent months, but generally "nickel and dime" amounts. No calendar day nor floating 24 hour amount reached or exceeded an inch.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

10 days of thunder, no severe storms but some with brief heavy rains.

28th - Clear morning gives excellent view of Mars.

Summer 2003: Avg Max 82.2 (+0.3), Avg Min 62.7 (+2.2), Avg Temp 72.5 (+1.2), Precip 15.59 (+3.72)

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

17 days of rain this month but the total was below normal.

22nd - Hot, humid with strong PM thunderstorms.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

21st - Hazy sunshine, hot, and humid.

24th - Sunny, breezy, and beautiful.

31st - Much cooler and drier; AM clouds & PM sun.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

Mild and wet with above normal temperatures and Precip.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

1st - Showers, very humid.

12th - PM thunderstorms - 2 hits back to back.

26th - Afternoon severe line of storms - lots of damage.

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

After 10 months of below normal temperatures August averaged above normal. The month featured frequent thunderstorms with tropical downpours.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Record 13 days with thunder for August but only a few had heavy rain. Tied August 1992 record of 9 days with precipitation in the 0.01" to 0.09" range.

Summer 2003: Avg Max 81.3 (-0.5), Avg Min 63.4 (+1.3), Avg Temp 72.4 (+0.4), Precip 16.69 (+5.79)

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

14th - Hot and humid with mostly sunny conditions all day long. Heat index reached 101.6F. Dew point reach 77.6F.

16th - Very strong thunder between 11PM & 12 AM. One thunder came so close to my house and was so loud that my ADT alarm was triggered!

21st - Hazy, hot, and humid. Very uncomfortable.

24th - Nice day and dry. Cold morning low of 53.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL OF Laurel

26th - Severe T'storm. Temps dropped from 84 to 65 in between 4:30-4:45 PM. PWG 50 MPH NNW at 4:47 PM.

27th - T'storm with peak wind gust of 40 mph from NW at 6:52 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

26th - Severe storm 4:30 - 5:30 PM - power out for 15 minutes - minor tree damage in neighborhood.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

26th - TSRA+ with gusty winds began ~4:30 PM. Lost power at 4:40 PM. RA ended at 5:45 PM. Power restored 7:25 PM. Many small branches and leaves down.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

26th - Thunderstorm with damaging winds. Power out for nearly 24 hours.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

17th - Moderate early AM T'storm. Power out 1AM-5AM.

26th - Moderate late afternoon T'storm. Power out for ~5 hours. Very impressive, rapidly moving arc cloud at the leading edge of the storm.

27th - Strong T'storm (sky was the darkest I've seen in years). Minor tree damage. Power out for 10 hours.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

16th - T'storm 1530 with 0.95" in 25 minutes, gust W22, frequent lightning. T'storms again at 1620 & 2345.

26th - T'storm with heavy rain and frequent lightning, power out for 4 hours.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

27th - Lots of lightning but not that much rain.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

16th - AM t-shower (.09"), PM t'shower (1.23")

John Zyla of Ridge

30th - Hit 95 degrees for the first time this year.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

1st - Heavy overnight downpours 1:30-3:00AM 1.09" fell.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Second greatest August rainfall behind 7.59" in 1994.

16th - 1/8" hail.

26th - 1/2" hail.

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.