



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

COLDEST JANUARY SINCE 1994 * HEAVY NEW YEARS DAY RAINS * FREQUENT LIGHT SNOWS

The below normal temperature trend which began in October continued this month. January 2003 was the first January with below normal temperatures since 1996 and the coldest since 1994. It was also the first time that December and January temperatures both averaged below normal since 1996. Precipitation this month was below normal for the first time since September and driest since February 2002. Snowfall this month was generally slightly below normal. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** recorded the greatest snowfall in the region. By months end 48" of snow was on the ground at **Eagle Rock**. Measurable snows fell on 22 of the 31 days somewhere in the region. Only three other observers reported over 10" of snow, **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg** (21.2"), **Greg Klein** of **Westminster 5 SSE** (10.6") and **Rob Rickell** of **Hanover 2 S PA** (10.2")

The first 10 days of January were the most active of the month. Temperatures averaged above normal while precipitation was also above normal except for the lower Delmarva Peninsula where they were below normal. New Years Day saw rainfall amounts of over an inch west of the Chesapeake Bay. Stream, road, and basement flooding was reported in Western Maryland. **Manuel Farfan** of **Frederick 4N** reported 2.21", and **Bill Hudelson** of **South Bowie** reported 2.09". The 5th saw a Clipper, much stronger than a typical Clipper, move across the region bringing the heaviest snows of the month. Snowfall amounts were generally in the 2 to 4 inch range. The heaviest amounts were reported by **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW**, 5.5", while **Manuel Farfan** of **Frederick 4N** and **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW** each reported 5.0".

New Years Day was the warmest in Western Maryland and on the Lower Delmarva Peninsula while the 9th was the warmest for the balance of the region. **LaVale** and **Westminster 5 SSE** were the only stations where temperatures failed to hit 50 this month. The lowest barometric readings of the month (around 29.15") occurred on the 9th even though little or no rain fell.

Cold air moved into the region on the 10th and remained till months end. Maximum temperatures were generally in the 20's and 30's, with a few teens in colder locations. The minimum temperatures were in the single digits and the teens through the 28th.

Sub zero temperatures were reported at the following locations on the 18th, the coldest day of the month at all stations except for stations located in Garrett and Allegany Counties: **Parkton 5 SSW** (-3), **Westminster 5 SSE** (-2), **Millers 4 NE** (-1), **Eagle Rock** (-6), **Fallston 2 NW** (-1), **Hagerstown 1E** (-2), **Salisbury** (-1), and **Hanover 2S** (-3). Sub zero temperatures also occurred at **Eagle Rock** and **Frostburg** on several other days between the 19th and 28th.

The 23rd was a windy and bitterly cold day. Maximum temperatures were in the teens to the lower 20's except for Garrett and Allegany Counties where they failed to reach the teens.

The persistent flow of dry arctic air the last three weeks of January dramatically changed the above normal precipitation pattern which we had since October. Liquid amounts of around 1/4" were common which mainly came from frequent light snow events. The only rains which fell occurred at months end. **John Zyla** of **Ridge** in St. Marys County reported that snow fell on 16 days which is the most in 33 years at **Ridge**.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Oxon Hill	64
Forest Glen	63
UofD Res Ctr Georgetown	63

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	-10
Frostburg	-3
Parkton 5 SSW	-3
Hanover 2 S	-3

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	32.0
Hollywood	31.6

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	17.5
Frostburg	20.2

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Eagle Rock	3.86
Frederick 4 N	3.67

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

UofD Res Ctr Georgetown	0.95
Harbeson, DE	1.13

MAXIMUM SNOW

Eagle Rock	61.4
Frostburg	21.2

MINIMUM SNOW

UofD Res Ctr Georgetown	2.4
Harbeson, DE	2.4

*This has been a very exciting month for our group! Lets all welcome four new members: Three of them are located in Western Maryland counties where we are lacking members - **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg**, **Nate Mullins** of **LaVale**, and **Manuel Farfan** of **Frederick 4N**. Also joining us is **David Roth** of **Montgomery Village**. Welcome all! We look forward to your data each month.*

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JANUARY 2003

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Coldest January since 1994. Almost all of the months precipitation fell during the first 5 days. This January ranks as the 5th driest out of 36.

5th -- Station was on the northern portion of the heaviest snow ban from the Clipper. 5.5" fell.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

1st -- A very wet New Years day with rains moderate to heavy at times. Some streams overflowed their banks and flooded roads and basements in the area.

23rd -- Very cold and blustery with flurries and light snow showers on and off, only a dusting. A very chilly low of 2 this morning, high only 12 - one of the coldest highs in years.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

Average temperature 15% below normal. Coldest since 1994 when the temperature averaged 27.7 degrees. Lots of dry snow. Precipitation again over 50% below normal.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

5.3" of snow does not sound like much but it was the snowiest January in 3 yrs. Coldest January since 1994.

18th -- 3 degrees—the coldest since 2 degrees was recorded on 1/1/1997.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

"Trace" of snow or more on the ground each day.

17th -- Blowing snow.

18th -- First sub zero temperature since 1/19/1997.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

1st -- Cloudy, cold, rain, and thunder.

29th -- Cloudy, cold, light snow, sleet, and rain.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

1st--Rainy, very heavy--Flooding PM lightning & thunder.

5th -- Light snow become heavy—Big surprise snow!

17th -- Snow ended quickly - clearing and frigid.

18th -- Brutally cold, sunny. 0 degrees low.

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

12 consecutive days temperatures =<32 degrees from the 14th to the 25th.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

"Trace" or more snow on the ground each day. Record 13 days with measurable snow broke the old record of 12 set in January 1982

3rd, 29th, 31st -- Glaze reported each day.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

10th -- Heavy winds today and dropping temperatures during the day.

15th -- Snow squall during the morning hours produced 0.1" of snow.

Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW

29th -- Snow, freezing rain, snow pellets.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

Snow cover increased from 3" on the 1st & 2nd to 48" on the 30th & 31st.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL OF Laurel

14 days with at least a "Trace" of snow fell this month.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

18th -- Coldest minimum since 1/19/1997.

23rd -- Snow squall 10:30-11:13 PM. 0.7"

31st -- Light freezing drizzle, sleet, rain 6-8 AM. Fog evening.

David Roth of Montgomery Village 1SW

9th -- Temperature rose 18.7 degrees from 32.9 at 0301 to 51.4 degrees at 0351.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Coldest January since 1994, but not many extreme cold records set. More persistent cold throughout the month, with frequent light snows that almost brought us up to normal monthly snowfall amounts. Precipitation for month just about normal.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

9th -- Tied lowest pressure since station inception (last 8 years). Pressure minimum 29.17" yet no precipitation and only some high clouds.

18th -- 7 degrees - lowest temperature in 6 years.

26th -- Brief mid afternoon sun and temp in the 40's was abruptly followed by a burst of snow which began accumulating almost immediately.

29th -- First rain in 26 days.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

29th -- Mostly overcast, freezing rain and ice pellets during the night, light rain during the day ending with a brief period of snow.

31st -- Overcast, for dense in evening, freezing rain and drizzle AM, light rain and drizzle PM.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

1st -- Single boom of thunder 1736 from solitary LTGCG.

26th -- 0.5" of snow fell. Winds blew most of the snow away.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Snowed a "Trace" or more on 13 days. This was the coldest January since 1994.

John Zyla of Ridge

16 snow days (at least a "Trace") is the most for any January in 33 years of Ridge snow records.

30th -- Smallest daily temperature change in station history of 1.4 degrees, 32.9 degrees to 31.5 degrees.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

9th -- Warm with strong WNW winds early this morning gusting to 44 mph. Temps rose to 52 overnight. Sunny breezy and warmer today, high of 56.

16th --Cloudy and cold today. Snow began fast and furious around 6:30 PM. The very powdery snow continued moderately throughout the evening with 2.1" by midnight.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

1st -- 1.88" of rain, second only to 1.90" for the month of January which fell on 1/7/1996.

3rd -- Snow, sleet, and freezing rain with 0.4" of glaze on everything.

Robert Rickell of Hanover 2 S PA

A "Trace" of snow or more was recorded here on the ground during each day this month, quite a change from last January.