



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

# THUNDERSHOWERS BRING ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL TO MANY AREAS

July 2003 temperatures averaged slightly below normal. Readings of 95 degrees or higher were infrequent. Frequent showers and scattered thundershowers/storms contributed to the higher humidity. The heaviest precipitation fell in Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Prince Georges Counties eastward into Wicomico County Maryland and Sussex county Delaware. The driest region was New Castle County Delaware and scattered areas westward along the Mason-Dixon line where some observers reported less than three (3) inches.

The remnants of one tropical system affected the region this month. **Tropical storm Bill** made landfall in southeastern Louisiana late on June 30th. It weakened and moved northeast through central Alabama, the Appalachian mountains of Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia and was absorbed by a frontal system over west-central Virginia and then moved off the Atlantic coast. Rains from showers and thunderstorms were the heaviest east of I-95 from Baltimore southwards into Virginia where most stations observed an inch. The lightest rains fell in Washington County where only a few hundreds of an inch fell.

July began on a stormy note around the metropolitan Washington D. C. Around midnight on June 30th thundershowers moved southeast out of Montgomery County through Washington and dissipated in Prince Georges County after midnight on the 1st. The storm dumped over an inch of rain in some areas. The remnants of Tropical Storm Bill brought steady and sometimes heavy rains on the 2nd and 3rd. **Bill Hudelson of South Bowie** recorded the heaviest, 2.41". Other amounts of over 1 1/2" were reported by **Jug Bay Wetlands (2.13")**, **John Zyla of Ridge (1.77")**, **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill (1.67")**, and **Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE (1.58")**.

The hottest temperatures of the month followed in wake of the remnants of Bill. Maximum temperatures in the upper 80's to lower to mid 90's were common from the 4th through the 9th along with scattered thundershowers. The warmest day of the month at many stations was the 5th. Stations in Garrett County, and portions of Allegany, and Carroll Counties did not reach 90 during the month of July

Showers were common during the first two weeks of the month. **Dave Bryant of St. Margarets** reported at least a "T" on each of the first 14 days. **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock** reported rain on 13 of the first 14 days.

Due to the high dew points minimum temperatures below 60 degrees were not a common occurrence in the eastern portion of the region. The highest monthly minimum temperature of 67 was reported by **Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE** and **John Zyla of Ridge**.

There were some brief periods of lower humidity this month. The lower dew points of the 12th, 13th, and 20th allowed for good radiational cooling which produced the coolest temperatures of the month at many ACON locations. The low humidity of the 12th did not prevent heavy evening thundershowers from moving through the region. The heaviest rains were reported by **Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE (1.35")**, **Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE (1.19")**, and **Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E (0.91")**.

Heavy thunderstorms returned on the evenings of the 22nd and 23rd. Over 1 inch fell at many ACON locations in Frederick, Carroll, Montgomery, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, and Harford Counties. The heaviest two day totals reported were: 2.99" by **Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW**, 2.34" by **Bobby**

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY

#### ACON OBSERVERS

##### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Fallston 1 NW	96
Oxon Hill	96
5 Stations	95

##### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	50
Frostburg	51
LaVale	53

##### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	79.3
Ridge	78.3
3 Stations	77.1

##### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Frostburg	68.2
Eagle Rock	68.3
LaVale	71.8

##### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Forest Glen	8.48
Bethesda	8.06
Laurel 2 E	7.58

##### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Wilmington 4 NNE DE	2.55
Bear 2 SW DE	2.73
LaVale	3.05

Miller of **Millers 4 NE**, 2.34" by **Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E**, and 2.09" by **Tony Scafile** of **Bethesda**.

### MEMBER NEWS

**Kevin Shaw** came down with a leg infection which generated a bacterial problem in his blood around August 22nd. As of the September 9th he is still undergoing treatment for this condition. Lets all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JULY 2003

## Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

July record set for the most days with measurable precipitation (17 days - old record 16 days set in 2000) even with the monthly total 35% below normal! A "T" or more fell on 19 days tying the record set in 1967.

## Greg Latta of Frostburg

13th -- Hail during the previous 24 hours ending at obs time (7AM)

## Nate Mullins of LaVale

12th -- Thunderstorm with brief heavy rain and gusty winds about 4:20 PM .16" fell in 15 minutes. Hail was reported in the extreme western portion of the county.

## Dave Bryant of St Margarets

A "T" or more precipitation fell on the first 14 days.

## Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

Normal temperatures and slightly above precipitation was the story. There were 10 days of 90 degree or higher temperatures which is less than the 20 year average of 14 days.

## Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

1st -- Predawn thundershower.

22nd -- Intense evening thunderstorm 1.40" in 20 minutes around 2100 EST.

## Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

2nd -- Thunder, heavy rain 1:35 PM Visibility 1/4 mile.

7th -- Lightning and thunder, power on and off, heavy rain.

15th -- Dense fog Visibility 1/8 mile.

27th -- Lenticular cloud 1 PM.

## Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

22nd -- Partly cloudy, hot, a brief light shower, then late PM thunderstorms.

26th -- Partly cloudy, hot, moderate humidity.

## Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

15th - Dense AM fog.

29th - Partly sunny and somewhat less humid.

## Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

Temperatures averaged about normal and precipitation averaged slightly above normal. Nearly 3" of the months total fell in a 27 hour period from the evening of the 22nd to the evening of the 23rd.

## Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

4th -- Sunny, hot - late thunderstorms.

24th -- Sunny & nice for July.

## Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

Tenth month in a row with below normal temperatures.

## Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

A pleasant month with no temperature extremes and excellent growing conditions. Record 4 days with 1" or more precipitation set for July.

18th -- Thunder with vivid lightning north at 9:30 PM.

22nd -- Thunder with heavy rain 6:15-6:30 PM.

23rd -- More moderate to heavy rain with thunder SW moving NE 8-9 PM.

## Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

6th -- Partly sunny: hot, humid with a strong thunderstorm

between 8 PM - 10 PM. Heat index today 101.6 F.

18th -- Warm, sunny, DRY, and a little breezy but very comfortable.

31st -- Humid with cloudy conditions most of the day and spotty sprinkles this evening.

## Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW

6th - Mile long micro burst several miles from station caused only tree damage.

## Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

1st -- TSRA in early AM hours. Frequent thunder and lightning.

12th -- Rainbow 8:35 PM.

## Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

Stand wettest July behind 7.21" which fell in 1992.

12th -- Hail less than 1/4" 1904-1905 EST.

## Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

A rather average month, temperature wise. Precipitation was fairly frequent, especially during the first part of the month through the 11th, then tailed off as far as frequency of measurable rainfall days goes.

## Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Wettest month since September 1999.

6th -- Strong thunderstorm with damaging winds from downburst. Five minutes of 3/8" hail and 0.48" of rain in 5 minutes occurred around 1840. Many trees damaged or uprooted. Two neighbors cars were crushed by large tree limbs. Little lightning however.

12th -- Deep blue skies and low humidity and still a heavy evening thunderstorm.

22nd -- Evening thunderstorm dumped 1.53" in one hour.

## Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

2nd -- Overcast, rain began 1230, heavy during evening.

6th -- Scattered clouds, hazy, hot, broken overcast evening, thunderstorms passing to the north 1915 & 2130.

## Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

1st - Series of +TSRA that came roaring SE thru Montgomery County dissipated in western PG county.

## Floyd Abell of Hollywood

11th - Fair, breezy at times

## John Zyla of Ridge

9 thunderstorm days but 4.06" precipitation this month was below normal.

## Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

4th -- Hot and humid high 90 just before intense thunderstorms moved in 3 PM - 4 PM and quickly dropped 1.01" of rain and wind gusts to 35 MPH also some intense lightning and thunder.

23rd -- A very intense but short n duration downpour began right after midnight 0.25" fell. Intense thunderstorm with heavy downpours and intense lightning mainly between 5 PM - 6 PM.

## Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Precipitation below normal for the third month this year.

21st - Wind gust of 61 ties monthly high gust for July set 7/9/2002.