



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

INDIAN SUMMER GIVES WAY TO TWO MONTGOMERY COUNTY TORNADOES

November 2003 was a warm and wet month. Maximum temperatures exceeded October's. Indian Summer which began on October 30th did not break until November 5th. According to a review of observations this month **Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E** noted that the weekends were rain free except for the 16th when upwards of a few hundreds of an inch fell while Wednesdays was the wettest day.

November began on an unusual warm note. Temperatures were in the 70's and 80's at many locations the first five days of the month. **Gary Galaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** reported that this was the first time in 37 years that he has observed 5 consecutive days of =>70 degrees in November.

The warm spell was broken on the afternoon of the 5th when a frontal system moved through the region. Some observers noted a very dark sky in advance of the storms. The worst storms hit Montgomery County. A severe thunderstorm, which produced two tornadoes in Eastern Loudoun County Virginia, crossed the Potomac and entered Montgomery County Maryland just after 3 PM. A F0 tornado crossed the Potomac River south of Whites Ferry and dissipated southwest of Poolesville. Its path was estimated to be 4 miles long with a width of 75 yards. A second tornado touched down 2 miles west of Poolesville and traveled 10 miles to Germantown. This tornado's maximum rating was F1 (with winds 70 to 90 MPH) and its path was 75 to 100 yards wide. The two tornadoes knocked down trees, and utility poles and damaged buildings and left 8,700 people without power. Damage amounted to more than 2 million dollars. Hundreds of rush hour commuters were stranded

on stalled MARC trains. **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW** was one of those commuters. Thanks to **Rich Giannola** of **Olney 1 S** who sent me a newspaper article and the NWS Public Information Statement on the tornado. Rainfall amounts from the frontal passage varied from 2.69" at University of Del **Education and Research Center in Georgetown DE** to 0.37" at **University of DE Pearson Hall in Newark DE**.

Temperatures fell daily beginning on the 6th until the maximum temperature bottomed out in the 40's on the 9th. This was some 30 degrees colder than a week earlier. The next morning saw minimum temperatures in the upper teens to middle 20's across much of the region. The coldest reading, 12 degrees, was recorded by **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock**. **John Zyla** of **Ridge** was the only ACON observer whose temperature failed to fall to freezing.

A deep storm system moved northeast west of the region on the 12th. It brought heavy rains in excess of 1" west of Carroll County but it will be remembered by the high damaging winds the entire region received on the 13th. Many observers reported that the winds were stronger than Hurricane Isabel's. The strongest gust reported was the 72 MPH observed by **Ralph Hartsock** of **Westminster 4 SSE**. Two other observers reported wind gusts exceeding 60 MPH - **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 63 MPH and **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** 61 MPH.

Joe Terry of **Forest Glen** reported the temperature dropped 20 degrees in 45 minutes on the 24th with the passage of a cold front.

Thanksgiving (the 27th) saw in-

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	85
Wash Gas Light Rockville	84
4 Stations	83

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	12
Davis 3 SE WV	17
Parkton	18

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	54.0
Baltimore 2 SE	53.5
Hollywood	53.1

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE	42.4
Eagle Rock	43.8
Frostburg	44.1

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Potomac 4 N	6.90
Davis 3 SE WV	6.69
Eagle Rock	5.89

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Wilmington 4 NNE DE	3.48
U of D Newark DE	3.60
Bear 2 SW DE	3.67

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	10.8
Eagle Rock	7.0
LaVale	2.0

creasing clouds with seasonal temperatures and light winds. A cold front brought windy and colder conditions on the 29th.

Snowfall was limited to a "Trace" at scattered locations east of Allegany County. Allegany County received upwards of 2" while heavier amounts fell in Garrett County.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2003

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

1st to 5th - 70 degrees each day. First time in station history with 5 consecutive days with temps =>70 degrees in Nov.

10th - 19 degrees. Earliest in fall with a sub 20 degree temp.

13th - 53 MPH wind gust set a November record. Old record was 51 MPH set on 11/11/95.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

2nd & 3rd - Ample sunshine both days.

12th - Persistent dense fog all day.

13th - Some heavy cloud cover at times with numerous snow squalls throughout the day. Snow melted in between squalls and never reached more than about 0.5" on the ground but a total of about 1" fell.

29th - Light snow and gusty winds over night.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

First week very mild - more like May.

5th - 5:30 PM sky very black as storm approached. Torrential rain for 10 minutes.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

13th - The peak gust of 55 MPH ties the second highest measured wind at station since 1983. The daily mean wind speed of 11.4 MPH was the fifth highest since 1989.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

5th - Late afternoon thunderstorm and evening showers, some heavy.

19th - Rain with embedded heavy showers PM.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

Fall 2003:

Avg Max 66.0 (+1.3), Avg Min 45.3 (+2.1), Avg Temp 55.7 (+1.7), Precip 18.53 (+6.88)

5th - Overcast, AM fog. Very dark in NW @ 4 PM.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

21st - Sunny and very mild.

29th - Sunny, very windy, cool.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

5th - Cloudy, humid, afternoon showers and storms.

9th - Azure blue skies and cold. Killing freeze.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

5th - Showers, fog, drizzle early - PM showers and thunder-showers.

13th - Very windy and colder with flurries. Lost power.

14th - Windy early - much calmer in PM.

24th - Late PM rain - moderate sleet late.

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

10th - Very cold early November morning of 21 degrees.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Fall 2003:

Avg Max 65.8 (+1.4), Avg Min 47.0 (+1.1), Avg Temp 56.4 (+1.3), Precip 18.38 (+7.19) New record - Old 18.37 in 1987.

4th - 82 degrees set a new November maximum temperature record. Old record 80 set on 11/2/82.

13th - 58 mph wind gust set a new November record. Old record was 57 mph on 11/26/97.

24th - Rain changed to snow after 8 PM, and mixed with sleet 9 PM.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

10th - Heavy frost.

13th - Very windy, with snow flurries starting at noon. Cold with temperatures going down throughout the day.

24th - Some sleet mixed with rain after 8 PM and a coating of ice pellets around 9 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th - Record max temp each day.

2nd, 21st, 22nd - Tied record max temp each day.

10th - Record min temperature.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

4th - AM ground fog.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

A mild, wet month, mostly due to an early month warm spell. The wet month was not due to persistent, numerous damp days, but rather a few with significant rains. Unfortunately no snow fell.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

3rd & 4th - Warmest in memory so late in the season, even had to turn on AC.

13th - Extremely windy day. Highest wind gusts since station inception. Dew point plummeted from 60 to 30 between midnight and 0800. Power out for 3 hours (9th time this year)

19th - 7th 2"+ calendar day precipitation for the year.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

10th - Heavy frost 0800. Lunar halo 2200.

19th - Overcast, rain 1330 - 2330. Severe thunderstorm, tornado, and flash flood watches.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

5th - Evening thunderstorm.

22nd & 23rd - AM fog then fair each day.

John Zyla of Ridge

24th - Temperature dropped 19 degrees in 52 minutes (63 to 44 from 9:00 to 9:52 PM). Peak wind gust of 52 MPH the highest since 10/8/96 - Tropical Storm Josephine

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

3rd - Record high of 80 breaking the old record of 78 set in 1990.

4th - Another rare 80 degree November day, but not a record.

13th - High winds began around 2 AM from the west with many gusts past 40 MPH and a peak gust of 60 MPH at 6:18 AM. High winds continued all day with many gusts of 50 MPH and several gusts to 60 MPH peaking at 61 MPH. It's rare for this location to see 60 MPH winds but this has happened 3 times since September. Tree and power line damage reported and some slight structural damage in the area.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Tied 1985 for the warmest November.

3rd, 4th, 5th, 12th - A daily record max temp each day.

19th - 66 MPH wind gust set a new November record.

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.