



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

OCTOBER BEGAN ON A COLD NOTE AND ENDED AS INDIAN SUMMER MOVED INTO THE REGION

October 2003 was a typical 2003 month - i.e. below normal temperatures with above normal precipitation. October was much quieter than September but still left its marks in the record books.

Cold air which moved into the region at the end of September was reinforced on the 2nd. The result was frost at many ACON stations on the 3rd along with some freezing temperatures. Light rains fell on the 4th. Amounts generally ranged from a few hundredths of an inch to a quarter of an inch. The heaviest amounts fell in Washington County where **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** and **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** reported almost an half inch.

The next 10 days were "quiet" and the mildest of the month. Daytime temperatures were generally in the 70's and precipitation was absent. Dense fog was reported by many observers on some of these mornings.

The first of three storm systems which effected the region this month occurred on the 14th and 15th. This system will be remembered by its strong, damaging winds. Some trees were uprooted and branches downed. Power outages were reported by some observers. The NWS issued high wind advisories. Wind gusts of 50 mph or higher were reported by the following ACON Observers: **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** 59, **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 S** 55, **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 55, **Ralph Hartsock** of **Westminster 4 SSE** 53, **Gary Galaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** 53. Barometric pressures were in the 29.20's and 29.30's across the region, which is quite low for October. Rain, heavy at

times, fell from the afternoon of the 14th into the morning hours of the 15th. Amounts generally was in the 1.00" to 1.75" range. Drier air accompanied by strong, gusty northwest winds moved into the region on the 15th.

Cooler conditions moved into the region on the 16th and remained until the 25th. Light rains fell on the 17th, 18th, 21st, and 22nd.

Two ACON observers reported hail during the afternoon of the 22nd, **Marty Sharrow** of **Owings Mills** and **Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E**. See observer comments for more details.

The coldest temperatures of the month occurred on the mornings of the 24th and 25th. A hard freeze was reported by many observers outside of urban areas.

Two major storms effected the region the last week of the month. Without these storms October's precipitation would have been below normal. Many regions reported a month's worth from the 26th to the 29th.

The first storm, a slow moving frontal system, brought heavy rains on the 26th and 27th. The heaviest rains fell from southwest of Baltimore to northeast of Baltimore where **Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E** reported 3.59", **Lynn Albright** of **Fallston 2 NW** 3.16" and **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE** 3.13". Amounts of 2" or more fell in Central and Northeast Maryland and Northern Delaware.

The second storm was a coastal storm which occurred on the 28th and 29th. The heaviest rains fell in extreme southern Maryland and east of the Chesapeake Bay. Less than an inch fell west of Carroll County, Maryland. The heaviest rains observed by an

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	82
Smithsburg 2 NE	81
Baltimore 2 SE	80

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	21
Eagle Rock	23
Owings Mills	25

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	59.2
Baltimore 2 SE	58.5

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE	46.1
Frostburg	47.7
Eagle Rock	47.8

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Laurel 2 E	6.56
Olney 1 S	6.46
Fallston 2 NW	6.44

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Frostburg	2.37
LaVale	2.54
Eagle Rock	2.79

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	1.8
Eagle Rock	1.0

ACON observer was 1.66" by **John Zyla** of **Ridge** and 1.53" by **Dean Dey** of the **University of Delaware Research and Education Center** southwest of **Georgetown, DE**.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2003

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

3rd - Record minimum temperature. Second earliest freezing temperature in station history.

14th - 29.22", a new record minimum barometric pressure for October. Peak wind gust of 53 MPH set a new record for October.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

3rd - Early season frost with a temperature of 32 degrees.

12th - Dense AM fog.

14th - Rain 4 PM to 10 PM, with heavy downpours 5:30 to 7 and gusty winds.

15th - Strong WNW winds gusting to 40—50 MPH. Trees and branches blown down and power outages occurred knocking the weather station off line and causing some data to be lost.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

Cool and dry first week. Heavy rains and cool the last week.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

15th - Barometric pressure of 29.29" a new October record. A wind gust of 39 MPH ties the maximum speed for October.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

8th - Fog, visibility 100 feet at morning commute time.

14th - Very heavy evening showers.

22nd - A brief shower at 1650 EST was almost entirely hail, 3/16' to 3/8". Usually when I observe hail, it's mixed with predominantly heavy rain.

26th / 27th - A deluge of 3.59" within 24 hours, the third over 3" this year.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

27th - Occasional moderate / heavy rain during the day.

30th - Aurora Borealis visible in NW faint pink & blue / white shading from 6 to 7:30 PM.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

1st - Mostly cloudy, cool, breezy, sprinkles.

15th - Cloudy early AM light rain, then P.C., cool, very windy.

27th - Cloudy, cool, AM thunderstorm, rain.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

13th - Azure blue skies and delightful.

22nd - Instability showers, clouds and cooler. Hail at 1530.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

3rd - First freeze, sunny, cool.

15th - Overnight heavy rain - clearing - very windy 53 MPH.

23rd - Wet flakes.

24th - Cold early - sunny and chilly.

27th - Heavy rain, some flooding

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

27th to 29th - Very wet storms. 3.06" of rain.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

15th - Record low October barometric pressure of 29.26".

21st & 22nd - Thunder each day.

30th - Excellent view of aurora borealis from observation time until 7:15 PM. Red and pinkish most of the northern half of sky with some blue / white to NW.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

9th - Light fog this morning and partly cloudy day. Warm again, at least for this time of the year.

14th - Mostly cloudy day with night rain, thunder and heavy downpours at times.

21st - Warmer and partly sunny with some rain showers and strong thunder from 9:30 - 11 PM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

3rd -- Light frost, record minimum temperature.

8th - AM fog.

24th - Record minimum and frost.

30th - Record maximum

14th, 22nd, & 27th - Thunder each day.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

14th - Thunder

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

3rd - 30 degrees - earliest sub freezing temperature in station history. Old record was set on 10/4/96 when it was 31.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

3rd - First frost - early this year.

8th - Very dense AM fog (visibility less than 1/16 mile). Did not dissipate until very late AM.

15th - Power out for ~ 30 minutes from strong wind gusts. Tree uprooted several blocks east of here blocking the entire road.

Washington Gas Light at Rockville

14th & 27th - Thunder each day.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

10th - Overcast, dense fog early morning.

14th - Overcast, rain evening, wind advisory, severe thunderstorm warning, thunderstorm 2230 hours.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

3rd - Light frost

31st - Aurora borealis in NNE sky 1934 to 1945.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

14th - Late day and evening rain, heavy at times.

25th - Frosty morning.

John Zyla of Ridge

24th - First frost of the season

31st - Coldest average temperature, coldest minimum temperature, and lowest maximum temperature all station records for the month of October (9 years)

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

3rd - Moderate frost and freeze, first of the season.

8th & 12th - Dense fog overnight and through late morning.

15th - Strong west winds overnight gusting to 45 mph. High winds all day long from WNW with numerous gusts past 50 mph. Numerous power outages and tree damage reported.

31st - Nice sunny warm Indian Summer day.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

2nd & 3rd - Record low daily maximum temperature set each day.

15th - Wind gust of 55 MPH set an October record.