



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

QUIET MONTH VERY FEW DAYS WITH PRECIPITATION

February 2004 was a dry month with little snowfall east of the mountains. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal over a majority of the region. NWS ASOS National Airport, Washington, saw its temperature average exactly normal.

The storm track this month was south of the region. Heavy snows fell in the Carolinas. This resulted in many dry frontal passages and limited the cloud cover at night both of which contributed to above average number of days where the minimum temperature fell to 32 degrees or below. There were three ACON observers who saw their minimum temperature drop to or below freezing every day: **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg**, **Lynn Albright** of **Fallston 2 NW**, and **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE, WV**. **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW, DE** tied his station record of 28 days with the minimum temperature of 32 or below for the month of February.

The month began where January left off, that is cold! Temperatures fell below zero from Frostburg westward into West Virginia. This was the only sub zero temperatures of the month.

A low pressure system moved in from the Ohio Valley on the 3rd and brought with it the second heaviest precipitation event of the month. Snow fell in Western Maryland, a mixture of snow, sleet, and freezing rain in Central Maryland and rain elsewhere. A little sleet and / or freezing rain was reported at the onset of this event as far east as the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

The heaviest snows fell in Allegany County. 10.0" of snow was reported by **Nate Mullins** of **LaVale** and 7.6" by **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg**. Three to four inches fell west of Allegany County. Eastwards two to three inches fell in Washington County before it changed to rain.

Liquid amounts for the event ranged from around 1/2" to over an inch. The heaviest amounts fell in Washington County. **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** reported 1.23", **Greg Keefer** of

Hagerstown 1 E 1.15" and **Mac Hutto** of **Smithsburg 1.5 SE** 1.01".

Sunny, breezy conditions moved into the region on the 4th. A low pressure system formed along the Central Gulf Coast on the 5th and moved northeastwards to the St Lawrence Valley. Between the storm and its associated cold front the heaviest rains of the month fell. Two plus inches of rain was common west of the Chesapeake Bay into West Virginia.

With cold air in place the precipitation began as sleet and or freezing rain the evening of the 5th and the pre-dawn hours of the 6th in Maryland. **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE** reported 3/8" of glaze and **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** reported glaze 0.3" thick.

The heaviest liquid amounts reported by ACON observers were: 3.38" by **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE, WV** on the 6th & 7th, 2.49" by **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** on the 6th & 7th, 2.48" by **Manuel Farfan** of **Frederick 4 N** on the 5th & 6th, and 2.22" by **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** on the 5th & 6th. Two ACON Observers reported a station record daily precipitation for the month of February: **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** 2.05" and **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE**, 1.95" which broke the old record of 1.94" set on 2/12/1985.

Wrap-around moisture dumped heavy snows on the Canaan Valley of West Virginia just south of the southwestern tip of Garrett County Maryland on the 8th. **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE, WV** observed 9.7".

The extreme northern portion of a southern storm brought 2 to 3 inches of snow to Southern Delaware and the lower Maryland Eastern Shore on the 17th and a half inch or less to St Mary's County.

The last event was a light one. On the 24th light snow and / or rain fell in the northern portions with rain elsewhere. The heaviest snow fell in Washington County where amounts were in the 1 to 3 inch range.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Forest Glen	69
Six ACON Stations	68

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	-8
Eagle Rock	-6
Frostburg	-2

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	38.8
Baltimore 2 SE	38.4
Hollywood	38.0

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE, WV	23.6
Eagle Rock	25.1
Frostburg	26.2

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE, WV	4.61
Smithsburg 2 NE	3.70
Owings Mills	3.58

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Jug Bay Wetlands	1.67
Ridge	1.80
UofD Res Ctr Georgetown DE	1.98

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	18.0
Eagle Rock	15.5
LaVale	12.0

The snow cover was slow to melt. With the early months rain and sub freezing nighttime temperatures the snow became hard as ice. Most of the cover melted by the end of the first week in Delaware and eastern Maryland, mid month in Central Maryland and the end of the month in Maryland's mountains.

Temperatures rose into the 50's on the 28th and 60's on the 29th east of the mountains.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2004

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

No measurable snow for the first February since 1998. 28 days with the minimum temperature 32 or below tied the record set in 1963 and tied in 1967, 1969, & 1978 (all non-leap years).

Nate Mullins of LaVale

3rd - Snow began after midnight and was heavy at times overnight and through the morning. Snow tapered off during the early afternoon hours. 10.0" fell making it the heaviest in a single day so far this season. The snow depth on the ground reached 23", also the highest of the season.

5th & 6th - Heavy snow began about 5 PM. 1/2" fell in 30 minutes before quickly changing to freezing rain. About 0.8" of glaze. By 7 AM of the 6th the glaze was 1.5" thick.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

1st week cool, damp with rain, freezing rain, and a melting left over snow cover (down from 4.7" on the 1st to 1.0" on the 7th) from January.

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

For the period from the 8th - 29th only one day had measurable precipitation - 0.09" on the 24th.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

Only four days with measurable precipitation, none on Saturdays or Sundays.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

Winter 2003-04 Stats. Avg max 39.4 (-2.0), Avg min 22.0 (-0.7), Avg temp 30.7 (-1.4), Precip 9.93", (-0.43), Snowfall 30.7"

6th - Very early sleet and freezing rain becoming heavy rain later AM. Considerable amount of standing water in fields and roads.

17th - End of continuous snow cover and / or patches of snow which has been on the ground since January 15th.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

21st - Cloudy, AM sprinkles, then mild, partly cloudy.

24th - Cloudy, cold occasional light rain.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

3rd - Wintry mix to steady rain and chilly.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

The snow that fell in January settled and compacted to a hard snow cover that was as hard as ice, therefore it melted very slowly. 1" or more was on the ground for 22 days and a Trace or more for 29 days.

6th - 2.05" of rain set a daily record for the month of February.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

Not much action (weather-wise) this month.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Winter 2003-04 Stats. Avg max 38.6 (-2.2), Avg min 23.1 (-2.1), Avg temp 30.9 (-2.2), Precip 10.06", (-0.02), Snowfall 34.7" (+10.2)

6th - Sleet followed by moderate freezing rain, 3/8" glaze), then rain heavy at times. Liquid total of 1.95" fell which broke the February record of 1.94" set on 2/12/85

26th - End of continuous snow cover and / or patches of snow which has been on the ground since January 15th.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

28th - Warm with mostly sunny skies.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

29th - Snow on ground: 24" woodlands, 0-4" fields.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

9th - Partial solar halo 1:30 PM

20th - Many contrails today.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

21st - Very windy.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Temperatures were a bit above normal and precipitation a bit below normal.

29th - Record high of 66 set today broke the old record by 15 degrees (Leap year)

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

5th & 6th - Precipitation event began as sleet on the evening of the 5th, changed to freezing rain early on the 6th, then to rain just before dawn. Moderate glaze during AM on all surfaces.

19th - Sunny and much warmer. Quite a difference from 25 years ago this date - Presidents day Storm 2/19/79.

20th - First day to remain above freezing since January 5.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

Three days of freezing rain.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

20th - Warm front just to the north at obs time. 56 degrees here and 36 degrees at BWI.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

3rd - Rain to mid afternoon. Evening black ice.

17th - Afternoon and evening light snow.

John Zyla of Ridge

Noticeable this month was the low numbers for snow and rain.

Mac Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

1st - Light snow from 6 AM to 3 PM, total 1.0"

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

1st & 2nd - Very cold morning, 3 degrees each morning.

15th - Breezy and colder today. Temperature fell into the teens this evening.

29th - Partly cloudy and nice high of 61.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Winter 2003-04 Stats. Avg max 39.0 (-1.7), Avg min 21.7 (-0.3), Avg temp 30.4 (-1.0), Precip 11.15", (+2.03), Snowfall 42.1" (+16.2)

This past winter was my 4th coldest and 4th snowiest.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

6th - Freezing rain during predawn hours left a glaze up to 1/2" thick. Power out 6:10 AM to 8:30 AM.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

Snow cover decreased from 23" on the 1st to 8" on the 29th.

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.