



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

FOUR DROWN WHEN A SQUALL ROLLS ACROSS BALTIMORE'S INNER HARBOR

For the twenty three people riding across Baltimore's Northwest Harbor on the Lady D, a water taxi, the memories of the afternoon of March 6th will live with the survivors forever. They boarded the Sea-port Taxi Lady D at Fort McHenry and had just begun their trip to Fells Point as rain began to fall. The Lady D received a call from another captain warning of a micro-burst of wind out of the harbor. Before the Lady D could return to shore the storm became severe and overturned the water taxi off shore of the Naval Reserve center next to Fort McHenry. Despite the heroic help from Naval Reservists four passengers would drown in the cold water. The winds and currents carried the overturned Lady D into the Patapsco River to near the Key (I-695) bridge where it was recovered.

Other than the events of March 6th, March was another quiet month. Temperatures averaged above normal while precipitation was below normal. Some ACON observers reported that 2004 was one of their driest Marches. (See Observers Comments page). The National Weather Service reported their driest March since 1987 at National Airport and since 1995 at BWI and Dulles. Contrary to the wet 2003, the NWS reported that the January—March period was the 6th driest at National Airport in Washington. For the second consecutive month snowfall was a non-event east of the mountains.

March began on a mild, damp note. Temperatures were generally in the 60's with some 70's east of the mountains while minimums remained above freezing the first seven (7) days of the month. The 5th was the warmest day in the southeastern portion of the region where temperatures were in the 75 to 78 degree range. Heavy rains fell on the 6th as a strong cold front moved across the region. Some ob-

servers reported thunder. Rainfall amounts were in excess of an inch over all regions except the southeast and portions of the western mountains.

Colder air followed the precipitation event of the 6th & 7th. A trace of snow was reported by some observers on the 8th and 10th. Heavy snow fell in the mountains. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** reported 10" on the 8th and 9th while **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE WV** (south of the extreme southwestern tip of Maryland) reported 14.8" from the 8th to the 10th. Further east in **Frostburg**, **Greg Latta** reported 4.6" on the 8th & 9th. All other amounts were minimal.

A cold, damp period set in on March 16th and lasted through the 23rd. Several impulses brought mostly rain to the region. Snow fell in the northern, northeastern, and mountain regions mainly during nighttime and the early morning when the sun angle was very low. **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** had 1" of snow on the ground sometime during the four day period of the 16th through the 19th.

Cold, dry air moved into the region on the 22nd. The morning of the 23rd saw the coldest temperatures by far for the month. Generally temperatures fell into the upper teens to lower 20's. Single digit temperatures were limited to the mountains where **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** recorded 8 and **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE WV** recorded 9. The NWS reported 14 degrees at Salisbury on the Lower Eastern Shore. The dry air permitted temperatures to rise fast and by the 26th 70's were common east of the mountains. On the 26th **Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE**, **Tony Scafide** of **Bethesda**, and **Brian Smith** of **Oxon Hill** were the first ACON observers to record 80 this year.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

<u>MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE</u>	
Glenmont 1 NNE	80
Bethesda	80
Oxon Hill	80
<u>MINIMUM TEMPERATURE</u>	
Eagle Rock	8
Davis 3 SE WV	9
Frostburg	13
<u>WARMEST AVG. TEMP.</u>	
Ridge	48.1
Hollywood	48.0
Sterling 4 N VA	48.0
<u>COLDEST AVG. TEMP.</u>	
Davis 3 SE, WV	36.4
Eagle Rock	38.0
Frostburg	39.2
<u>MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION</u>	
Davis 3 SE, WV	7.53
Eagle Rock	5.27
Wilmington 4 NNE	3.80
<u>MINIMUM PRECIPITATION</u>	
Smithburg 1.5 SW	1.81
Montgomery Village 1 SW	2.03
UofD Res Ctr Georgetown DE	2.06
<u>MAXIMUM SNOWFALL</u>	
Davis 3 SE WV	29.6
Eagle Rock	18.0
LaVale	13.6

DON'T FORGET:
PLEASE FORWARD ME YOUR DATA BY THE 15TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH, TIME PERMITTING. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MY PORTION OF THE REPORT COMPLETE AROUND THE FIRST OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH.
Thanks, Gary Gallaher, Data Manager and Report Writer.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MARCH 2004

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE

6th - Thundershower

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

16th - Snow burst at beginning of precipitation event left 0.8". This was the first measurable snow since January 30.

19th - AM rush hour snow left slush on roads and 1.5" of snow on my snow board. This was the third snow event in the last four days. 1" of snow has been on the ground at some time during the past four days.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

Second driest March since 1992.

1st - 64 degrees-mild start to the month - warmest since Nov.

16th - Heavy snow began around 6 AM and continued through mid day, mixed with rain, snow, sleet mid afternoon.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

16th - Most winter-like day of March. AM ice pellets, drizzle, heavy on/off showers - some mixed with snow. Afternoon temperature 35 degrees.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

17th - Drizzle / snizzle (snow drizzle) late.

27th - Morning showers

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

5th - AM fog.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

26th - Partly cloudy, warm. 76 degrees

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

13th - Azure blue skies and chilly.

30th - Overcast, raw with evening drizzle and fog.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

6th - Heavy rain, showers, brief late thunderstorm.

16th - Early heavy snow then sleet & freezing rain.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

6th - Moderate to heavy showers.

23rd - Hard freeze.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

18th - Some snow showers overnight, then mostly cloudy and warmer. Rain late at night mixing with some sleet at times.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

10th - 10" of snow on the ground.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

17th - Afternoon flurries

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

Record maximum temperatures set on the following days: 1st 70; 2nd 72; 5th 76; 6th 72, while record minimum temperature of 21 set on the 23rd.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

5th - First crocus bloomed!

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

March was a warm and relatively dry month, but with the wet days spread out a lot more than in February (even through the actual total amount was less than February) it seemed like March was the wetter month.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

16th - Much colder with pre dawn ice pellets.

24th & 25th - Unusual early evening event 2 days in a row. Sudden S to E wind shift accompanied by a temp drop and sharp humidity rise. Dew point rose 8 degrees in 15 minutes. Possibly a bay breeze.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

6th - Double rainbow at 1600 hours.

18th - Dense fog at 0100, solar halo at 1645.

19th - Rain during night, thunderstorm at 0010.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

1st - 0959 halo and perihelia

2nd - -SHRA 0400-0730. AM low 54

21st - AM low 50, daytime max 51

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

7th - Variable clouds--evening showers (thunder)

18th - Flurries before dawn, mostly cloudy day.

John Zyla of Ridge

March 2004 was the driest March in 10 years of records.

19th - Very loud thunder and bright lightning 12:30 - 1:30 AM

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

12th - Sunny and very windy 47 MPH

23rd - Very cold overnight, sunny, warmer, and windy.

31st - Rain early, then cloudy, then light rain late.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

7th - Strong cold front with rain and gusty winds late this afternoon...strong NW winds to 38 mph.

19th - Some light snow and flurries this morning but no accumulation.

21st - Colder and windy today with snow showers. Strong NW winds gusting to 47 MPH.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Record temperatures set on the following days: 6th 66 max high; 23rd 21 min low; 26th 78 max high; & 27th 57 max low.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

22nd - Windy, chilly, refreshing day.

27th - 70 degrees. Cooler weather is coming.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

9th - 10" of snow on the ground max for the month.

TAKE ANY PICTURES OF CURRENT WEATHER??

IF SO WHY NOT FORWARD THEM TO ME. PRINTS ARE WELCOME—I WILL RETURN THEM IF YOU WISH. ELECTRONIC FILES ARE ALSO WELCOME.

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.