



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

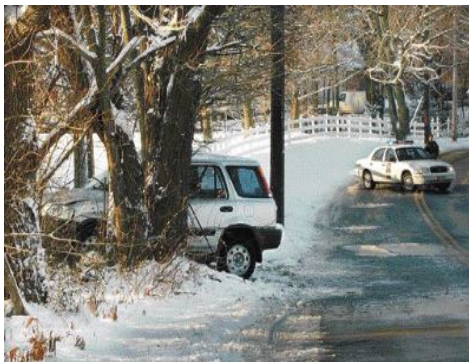
COLD, SNOWY FIRST HALF, MILD LAST WEEK

Temperatures averaged below average, snowfall above average, and precipitation near average. The first three weeks of December were consistently cold. Temperatures averaged 5 to 10 degrees below average. Temperatures from the 24th to the end of the month averaged around 5 degrees above average. East of Allegany County all of the snow fell during the first 15 days.

The month began on a chilly note. Light snow showers or flurries fell at many observing sites west of the Chesapeake Bay during the first three days of the month. The 2nd was windy and cold. Snow began late in the evening on the 3rd and quickly changed to sleet, freezing rain and then to all rain. The precipitation ended by dawn of the 4th.

The next storm began the afternoon of the 5th and ended by dawn of the 6th. Measurable snow fell east of Allegany County. Winds were light and the snow was quite fluffy. Snowfall amounts generally were in the 2 to 4 inch range. The heaviest amounts fell in St Marys County. **Floyd Abell of Hollywood** measured 6.2" and **John Zyla of Ridge** 4.8".

Rich Giannola of Olney 1S reported icy roads the morning of the 6th in Montgomery County. Below is a picture from the December 7th The Gazette from an article Rich Giannola provided.



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After the storm maximum temperatures remained in the low to mid 30's and minimum temperatures in the upper teens to mid 20's until the next storm occurred on the 9th. Snow began early on the 9th and changed to sleet, freezing rain and then to a cold rain before ending by mid morning. Southeast of Washington DC amounts were less than 2". East of Carroll County east through Northern Delaware saw 2 to 4 inches. The heaviest amounts of 4 to 6 inches fell from Carroll County west into the Maryland mountains. **Greg Latta of Frostburg** measured 6.7", and **Nate Mullins of LaVale** 6.0".

The coldest temperatures of the month moved into the region on the 13th and 14th. Most regions remained below freezing. Maximum temperatures ranged from near 20 in the Maryland mountains to the lower 30's in southeast Maryland. Minimum temperatures fell to the single digits from central Maryland westwards. **Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW** and **Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE** both reported 0 degrees.

The last storm with a wintry mix occurred on the 15th & 16th. Precipitation began as light snow. It quickly changed to sleet, freezing rain, and then to rain as temperatures rose to the 40's and 50's. 1 inch liquid precipitation amounts were common. The heaviest amounts fell in Anne Arundel County. **David Bryant of Annapolis 2 N** reported 1.84" and **Jug Bay Wetlands of Lothian** 1.69".

Seasonably cold temperatures followed through the 22nd.. Ahead of the Christmas day storm temperatures rose into the 50's on the 23rd and Christmas Eve. **Ray Muller of Westminster City**, **Herb Close of Manchester 1S** and **Jug Bay Wetlands of Lothian** all reported 61 degrees. The last trace of snow melted east of the mountains.

Colder temperatures and rain moved into the region on Christmas Day, the 25th. Freezing rain was reported in Frederick and Washington Counties.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	61
Manchester 1 S	61
Westminster City	61
Hollywood	61
Ridge	61

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Smithsburg 1.5 SW	0
Smithsburg 2 NE	0
Davis 3 SE WV	3

WARMEST AVG. TEMPERATURE

Annapolis 2 N	39.1
Hollywood	38.3

COLDEST AVG. TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	23.1
Eagle Rock	24.1
Frostburg	25.9

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	4.63
Hollywood	4.47
Annapolis 2 N	4.26

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hagerstown 1 E	1.91
Smithsburg 2 NE	2.04

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	35.7
Eagle Rock	25.9
Frostburg	16.4

Thunder was reported by **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**. Fog, dense in some places, was reported in Washington DC suburbs and Carroll County.

Minimum temperatures on the 26th failed to fall below freezing for the first time this month at many locations. The last week of December was mild with maximum temperatures in the 40's and 50's and minimums in the 30's and 40's.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2005

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Minimum temperatures failed to rise above freezing until the 26th.

5th - Very fluffy snow.

24th - Warm day, 57 degrees, light winds, peak wind gust only 9.5 MPH from the SW.

25th - Christmas began of a frosty note but rain moved in mid-day.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

9th - Snow heavy at times continued overnight and tapered off by 8 AM. Storm total 8.0".

25th - Sleet began ~ 7 AM then a cold daytime rain.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

3rd - Evening wintry mix.

4th - Rain till daybreak.

9th - Snow > sleet > freezing rain till 8 AM.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

16th - Rain moderate at times.

22nd - Well defined contrails.

29th - Light rain, drizzle & showers all day.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

14th - Lots of clouds and bitter cold.

15th - Wintry mix to rain.

29th - Fog, then overcast, mild with a period of rain.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

31st - Cloudy, AM very light showers.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

2nd - Windy, colder, flurries.

24th - 1st night above freezing this month.

31st - Light rain, wet flakes & PM sun.

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

9th - 4 3/4" of snow on a SW wind veering to the SE.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

1st - Light snow 9—10 PM.

9th - Early burst of heavy snow.

23rd & 24th - Very mild

25th - Heavy fog @ obs (6PM) visibility zero.

Ray Muller of Westminster City

2nd - Light snow shower.

19th - Cold frontal passage.

17th - Halo

24th - Max temp @ 2:15 PM, well above normal.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

1st - Hard frost and freeze this morning.

4th - Overnight sleet changed to freezing rain ended @ 5AM.

15th - Snow started around 8:30 AM with 1.3" accumulating instantly on the roads.

26th - Partly cloudy and very windy.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

At least 3" of snow on the ground from the 2nd to 31st.

4th - Fog and glaze.

12th & 13th - 10" snow cover - Max for the month.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

29th - 29.38" barometric pressure, minimum for the month.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

11th - Brief snow shower @ 3PM

15th - Sleet 9-10 AM > light snow 10:30-1 PM > freezing rain to sleet

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

16th - Rain ended in the early morning. Was followed by rapid clearing. Side roads very icy in the morning.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

December was colder and snowier than normal. Dates of sleet: 3rd, 9th, & 15th. Dates of freezing rain: 3rd, 4th, 9th, & 15th. Trace or more snow on the ground from the 5th to the 24th.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Significant amount of snow and ice for December but all in the first half.

15th - Third event of the month with snow changing to ZR.

5th—24th - 20 consecutive days with at least a Trace of snow on the ground.

25th - Very dense evening fog.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

6th - Snow depth at 0700 hours 5", max for the month.

16th - Bright halo 2302-2400 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

15th - AM flurries, afternoon and evening rain. Windy at night.

25th - Rain started late morning, evening thunderstorm.

John Zyla of Ridge

5th - Snow began at 11:22AM, but accumulation began at 4:30PM.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

1" or more snow cover from the 8th to 26th.

4th - Cloudy, colder, PM snow, sleet, freezing rain, breezy.

14th - 0 degrees. Lowest temp since 1/25/05. Cold all day.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

9th - Snow overnight moderate at times with some sleet mixed in at times ending around 7AM. Some blowing and drifting snow with NW winds gusting to 37 MPH.

15th - Moderate to heavy ice accumulation on trees & wires.

25th - Periods of some freezing rain overnight. Cloudy with periods of cold rain moderate at times.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

December was the 5th coldest. Coldest 23.5 in 1989. A Trace or more snow on the ground each day this month.

8th - 11 deg broke the old daily record min of 14 set in 1977.

26th - 0.02" Precip - first measurable precipitation for this date which previously was the last non leap day without measurable precipitation in 29 years of weather observing.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

2nd - Gusty winds falling temps by 4 PM.

9th - Snow, sleet, freezing rain, rain.

16th - Mild day today.

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.