



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

FINAL MONTH OF THE WINTER 2004-05: WARMER, DRIER THAN NORMAL, BUT SNOWFALL ABOVE NORMAL EAST OF THE MOUNTAINS

February followed the trend of the previous month - warmer temperatures during the first half and snow during the last half. As with January, snowfall was below normal in the Maryland mountains and above normal in the central and northeastern portions of the two state region. The month began and ended with snow on the ground. Also the groundhog saw his shadow on the 2nd.

February began on a quiet note with cold mornings and seasonal mild afternoons. The first snow of the month fell on the 3rd. **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen** in Montgomery County remarked in his summary that this was "an unexpected snow accumulation". 2 or more inches fell in portions of Baltimore, Montgomery, and Carroll Counties. The heaviest amounts fell in Carroll County. **Ralph Hartsock** of **Westminster 4 SSE** and **Greg Klein** of **Westminster 5 SSE** both measured 4.0".

Above normal maximum temperatures in the 50's and 60's were common from the 4th to the 9th. It melted the snow cover in all but extreme western Maryland. Temperatures reached the 60 degree mark at many stations on the 8th and 9th. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** in Garrett County recorded 60 degrees on the 8th. **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E** tied his stations daily record maximum temperature of 63 on the 9th. Light rains totaling less than a quarter of an inch fell on the 10th. This event was followed by colder, windy conditions.

These colder temperatures were short lived. A mixture of snow, sleet, and rain which fell on the 14th was followed by the warmest tempera-

tures of the month at more than half of the stations. **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood** reported 69 degrees while **Jug Bay Wetlands** and **Forest Glen** each observed 67 degrees.

Colder temperatures returned to the region on the afternoon of the 16th and lasted through the end of the month. **Dave Bryant** of **St. Margarets** reported a 1 hour temperature drop of 11 degrees.

Three precipitation events occurred during the last 10 days. The first one which occurred on the 20th and 21st was mainly a rain event. Snow, which changed to sleet and then rain/ sleet, fell in Northern Delaware. **Jim Canavan** of **Wilmington 4 NNE** measured 2.0".

The next two events were snow events. 4 to 7 inches fell during the first event which occurred on the 24th and 25th. This event lasted for nearly 24 hours. Lighter amounts fell in Southern portions of Delaware and Maryland. **Eagle Rock** recorded the heaviest amount of 8 inches. During the daylight hours the snow melted on most paved surfaces due to the warm ground, temperatures around freezing and the higher late winter sun angle.

The last snow event, which began on the 28th ended early on the 1st of March, was a wet snow sticking to everything. Snowfall amounts observed on February 28th were in the 3 to 5 inch range. Less than an inch fell in Southern portions of Delaware and Maryland. **Nate Mullins*** of **LaVale** measured the heaviest amount of 7.5" while **Dave Bryant** of **St. Margarets** measured 7.0". As with the storm of the 24th and 25th snow melted on paved surfaces during daylight hours.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hollywood	69
Jug Bay Wetlands	67
Forest Glen	67
Ridge	67

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Fallston 2 NW	6
Davis 3 SE WV	6
Bear 2 SW DE	8
Frostburg	8
Eagle Rock	8

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Hollywood	39.9
Forest Glen	39.6
Ridge	35.9

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	27.5
Davis 3 SE WV	27.8
Frostburg	30.4

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	4.07
Wilmington 4 NNE DE	2.96
Hollywood	2.69
Bear 2 SW DE	2.63

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Washington Gas Light	1.58
Jug Bay Wetlands	1.63
Olney 1 S	1.64

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	30.1
Eagle Rock	18.5
Westminster 5 SSE	16.5
Owings Mills	16.4

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2005

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

1st & 2nd - Heavy morning frost, bright sun, little wind, and low humidity.

7th - Heavy morning frost, then sunny and mild.

18th - Windy, variable clouds, snow showers / flurries 9 to 11 AM.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

Glaze occurred some time between 7AM the previous day and 7 AM on the following days: 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

1st - Sunny and mild high 47 after a cold start of 19.

3rd - Colder with light snow showers through the day.

11th - Windy and blustery with a dusting of snow overnight.

Dave Bryant of St Margarets

16th - Temperature fell from 62 to 51 in one hour.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

14th - Rain / sleet / snow till dawn then rain.

28th - Wet snow from midmorning on and ended before dawn on 1 March - storm total 5.0", water equivalent 0.58".

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

3rd - Frozen roads made for very tricky travel.

21st - Some snow, then sleet, changing to freezing rain in AM.

28th - Blowing snow & poor visibility. Snow plows required.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

5th - Azure blue skies, sunshine, and mild.

15th - Partly sunny, and noticeable milder.

18th - Heavy predawn snow squall.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

8th - Variable clouds, sunny, mild.

17th - Variable clouds, windy, cold, snow flurries.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

3rd - Afternoon heavy wet snow ending at night.

10th - Early showers, windy and colder.

14th - Snow early, then rain, late fog and warmer.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Winter 2004-05:

Avg Max 42.2 (+1.4) Avg Min 25.7 (+0.5), Avg temp 34.0 (+0.9) Precip 10.42" (+0.37")

Sleet on the 14th, 20th, and 21st. Glaze on the 21st.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

1st - Cold morning with a hard freeze, mostly sunny day.

3rd - Snow started around 11:20 AM. It became heavy at times and never stopped until 7 PM. Snow didn't initially stick but this changed after 2:30 PM with temperatures below freezing.

21st - Dense morning fog. Sleet overnight.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

9" of snow on the 1st and 28th (also on 3 other days) was the maximum depth in February.

4th - Glaze and fog.

9th - Glaze

Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW

2nd - Groundhog saw his shadow.

10th - No snow on the ground for the first time this month.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

14th - Pre-dawn SN changing to SN/IP/RA mix ~ 7:15 AM. All rain by ~ 7:45 AM.

17th - Afternoon virga.

18th - Morning virga

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

7th - Record maximum temperature of 59.

21st - Brief sleet, then rain.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

16th - Light rain early afternoon, clearing and colder later in afternoon.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

8th - 63 degrees set a station daily record.

24th & 28th - Daily snowfall record set each day (4.2" & 5.1")

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

3rd - Unexpected snow accumulation. Two periods of snow-fall, mid afternoon (1.2") and early evening (0.7")

24th - Fairly steady light snow but very persistent - nearly 24 hours of snow. No accumulation on roads till late afternoon.

28th - Very wet snow clung to everything but no accumulation on roads until just after sunset.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

9th - Full bright halo 1154 hours.

13th - Halo 1131 to 1138 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

15th - Early patchy fog, then fair.

21st - Heavy evening showers.

24th - Snowy day, evening freezing drizzle.

John Zyla of Ridge

21st - Thunderstorm 7 PM to around 9:30 PM with 0.62" of rain.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

5th - Cold AM, much warmer PM, mostly sunny, breezy.

9th - Light rain overnight, very warm (tied record), evening showers.

24th - Snow starting at dawn, heaviest in PM.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

3rd - Snow flurries during the morning. Steadier snow in the afternoon with 1.0" accumulation.

7th - Some morning fog and haze.

9th - Record high maximum temperature of 63 tied.

14th - Overnight rain changed to snow, then to mostly sleet by 6AM and back to all rain by 9AM.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Winter 2004-2005:

Avg max temp 43.5 (+2.8), Avg min temp 25.9 (+3.9), Avg Temp 34.7 (+3.4), Precip 8.48", (-0.73), Snow 14.7" (-11.8). There was a period of 30 days without 0.25" of rain falling in one day in January to February.

8th - Max temperature of 63 set a new daily record. 43 minimum temperature set a new maximum minimum daily temperature.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

12th - Somewhat breezy, still too mild.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

21st - Snow cover disappeared overnight under attack of warm rain and rising temps. Pea-soup fog prevailed most of the day with a few periods of light drizzle. After holding in the low 40s all day, the temp slowly fell to freezing at midnight.