



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

## WINTER FINALLY ARRIVES ON THE 15th

By looking at the average temperature you would never know that a dramatic change in the weather occurred mid-month. Overall temperatures and precipitation averaged slightly above normal. Snowfall was above normal but there were no major storms this month. Snowfall totals were fairly uniform. The only stations which reported more than 10 inches were located in Northern Delaware, and portions of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties in Maryland.

January began on a very warm note. Temperatures in the 60's covered all of the region except for St Marys County where **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood** and **John Zyla** of **Ridge** each recorded 70 degrees and Western Maryland where temperatures were in the mid to upper 50's. Record maximum temperatures for New Years Day were set by all three Baltimore - Washington metropolitan area NWS sites. **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E**, whose records go back over a hundred years, also set a record maximum temperature. Minimum temperatures remained above freezing until the 10th at many stations.

The warmth brought with it damp, cloudy conditions. Rain fell on at least 8 of the first 13 days. The wettest day was the 5th. Northern regions of Delaware and Maryland recorded over a half an inch of rainfall while amounts in the Western Maryland mountains were over an inch.

A strong cold front moved across the region early on the 14th bringing an end to the warmth which the region enjoyed for the since December 29th. Unseasonably warm air was drawn up ahead of the front. 60 degree plus temperatures covered the region on the 13th and early morning hours of the 14th. Temperatures rose to 70 degrees as far north as northern Delaware. Rains of 1" to over 2" resulted in widespread flooding of low spots

and flood-prone places in the DC metro area. A wind gust of 59 MPH was reported by Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE. Rain-fall amounts of over 2 inches fell in portions of Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, and Montgomery counties and Baltimore City. **Rob Cohen** of **Potomac 4 N** measured 2.30", while **Lynn Albright** of **Fallston 2 NW 2.27"** and **Rich Giannola** of **Olney 1 S 2.17"**. **Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE** and **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW** each recorded 2.12". Kevin's amount was a January station record maximum for the month of January.

Washington National NWS observed its first sub freezing temperature for January on the 15th. This broke the record for the latest sub freezing temperature set in 1890 for the month of January.

The only sub zero temperatures on the month occurred at **Eagle Rock** on the 18th, 24th, 25th, and 28th, **Frostburg** on the 28th and 29th, and at **Fallston** on the 24th.

**Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** observed his first measurable snow of season on the 16th. This was nine days shy of the record latest snowfall set on Jan 25th 1901.

Snow fell on eight of the last sixteen days across most of the region. Amounts of over an inch fell on the 19th, 22nd, and 30th. Northern Delaware first 1 inch of the season fell on the 19th. The snow, which fell briefly and heavily around noon, iced Northern Delaware's highways before the highway department salted the roads. **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW** observed 12 accidents on a 14 mile stretch of I-95 between Newark and Wilmington between 1 and 2 PM.

The heaviest snowstorm of the month occurred on the 22nd. Amounts were generally in the 3 to 5 inch range. Northern Delaware received the heaviest amounts. **Jim Canavan** of **Wilmington 4**

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY

#### ACON OBSERVERS

##### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hollywood	75
Jug Bay Wetlands	73
Ridge	73

##### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	-6
Eagle Rock	-6
Frostburg	-1
Fallston 2 NW	-1

##### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Hollywood	37.4
Ridge	37.2

##### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	27.3
Frostburg	27.5
Eagle Rock	27.6

##### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	5.69
Eagle Rock	5.60
Frostburg	4.87

##### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Smithsburg 1.5 SW	3.30
Hagerstown 1 E	3.30
UofD Georgetown DE	3.32

##### MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	24.0
Wilmington 4 NNE DE	12.5
Fallston 2 NW	12.3

**NNE** measured 10" on the 22nd & 23rd.

The last snow occurred on the 29th and 30th. Amounts were the heaviest in the eastern portion of the region where 1 to 3 inches fell. Many observers reported that the snow was mixed with or changed to sleet and freezing rain. Mostly rain fell along the coast.

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JANUARY 2005

## **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE**

6th - Dense evening fog  
27th - 19 degree daytime maximum.

## **Greg Latta of Frostburg**

6th - Fog visibility less than 1/2 mile.

## **Nate Mullins of LaVale**

6th - Low clouds/fog below mountain tops. Occasional light rain .20" fell. Some partial clearing late with light north winds.

## **Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E**

12th - Dense fog and drizzle and a shower.  
30th - FZ rain till dawn then snow into afternoon.

## **Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW**

14th - Rain, moderate to heavy at times. Shelter in water.  
19th - Blowing snow.  
22nd - Heavy snow, visibility 1/10th mile.

## **Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills**

14th - Heavy early day rain. Thunder @ 0330.  
15th - Lots of high clouds (overcast) and colder.  
24th - Frigid start, inc clouds, snow shower late.

## **Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE**

13th - AM dense fog.

## **Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW**

Five days with 6 degree temperatures.

## **Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE**

2nd - Cloudy and colder.  
6th - Cold with drizzle.  
19th - Snow, moderate to heavy briefly.  
27th - Maximum temperature at 7PM 1/26.

## **Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE**

First two weeks temperature averaged 12.7 degrees above normal. The rest of the month the temperature averaged 8.9 degrees below average.

22nd - Heavy snow reduced visibility to zero to 1/16th mile between 1:05PM to 1:20PM. 2.8" of snow fell in one hour and 4.0" fell in two hours.

## **Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N**

7th - Cloudy with an evening period of sleet which changed to rain.

13th - Warm day with very dense fog this morning.

## **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**

30th & 31st - Snow depth 9", greatest on the month.

## **Lynn Albright of Fallston 2 NW**

30th - Sleet and freezing rain ended by 2 PM.

## **Rich Giannola of JHU/APL**

13th - Morning FG/-DZ. FG dissipating by noon, reforming in late afternoon.

17th - SN in early morning. Virga at 5:15PM

## **Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N**

14th - 64 degrees at 3:00am.  
27th - Afternoon maximum temperature 26 degrees.

## **Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S**

22nd - +snow late afternoon.

## **Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW**

14th - 2.12" - new January monthly record. Old record 1.70" set on 1/2/1979.

## **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**

13th - Temperature and dew point 64 @ midnight.  
29th - Snow changed to a mix of sleet & freezing rain.

## **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill**

SN in early morning. Virga at 5:15PM  
14th - +SHRA 0430-0530 otherwise -RA 0000-1000. Wide-spread flooding of low spots and flood-prone places in DC metro area.

## **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**

5th - Rain before dawn then fog and drizzle.  
10th - Thunder before dawn.  
29th & 30th - Light snow and freezing rain.

## **John Zyla of Ridge**

15th to 25th - 11 consecutive days minimum temperature below freezing.

## **Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW**

13th - AM haze, warmer overnight, windy, very warm PM, rain late.

23rd - Very cold, very windy, partly sunny.

## **Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E**

1st - Record high. Old record 64 set in 1985  
10th - First sub freezing temp this month - unheard of!  
16th - First measurable snow of season. We were closing in on the record for the latest into the season with no snow which was Jan 25th 1901 but this snowfall stopped the record cold.

22nd - Snow and cold today. Snow fell 7:30am thru 3:30pm. Snow was briefly heavy at times and wind gusts to 25 mph reduced visibility greatly.

## **Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE**

13th - Record max maximum and minimum temps for date.  
16th - First measurable snow of season - new record.

## **Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA**

14th - Big rain overnight Thunder at 0700

## **Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV**

Despite a substantial snow cover for the last two weeks, total snowfall for the winter so far continues to be below normal. As of the end of January, the deficit has grown to 24 inches. Last year at this time, 119 inches had fallen, compared to only 54 inches so far this season. Total normal snowfall is 144 inches.

3rd - Mild with rain and dense fog all day. Sixth dreary day in a row without sun.

9th - The first sunny day of 2005! Pleasant temps and no wind.

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.