



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

SUMMER WOULD NOT GIVE UP RECORD DRYNESS GRIPPED THE REGION

September will be remembered by its extreme lack of rainfall and for unseasonably warm temperatures. For some stations with long term records this was their driest September on record and one of their driest months ever. Washington (National Airport) broke their record of 0.14" which stood since 1884 with 0.11". September was also Washington's third driest month surpassed only by October 1963 when a "Trace" fell and April 1985 when 0.03" fell. **Greg Keefer**, ACON's observer from **Hagerstown 1 E** where records go back to the late 1890's, reported a record dry September. Details of individual ACON observers records follow on page 2.

As a result of the lack of cloud cover and precipitation, daytime maximum temperatures averaged quite a bit above normal. There were no real extreme hot periods. Maximum temperatures across most of the region east of Allegany County failed to fall below the 80 degree mark until the 24th at many stations.

Hurricane Ophelia moved northeast just off the Southeast coast from the 12th to 16th and then out into the Atlantic south of Cape Hatteras. Ophelia then continued to move northeast to off the Southeastern New England Coast as a tropical storm. Scattered showers fell on the 14th and 15th east of Carroll County. Most of these showers were light but a couple were quite heavy. Two heavy showers moved north along the Maryland / Delaware western border the afternoon of the 14th and morning of the 15th. **Dean Dey** of the **University of Delaware Townsend Farm** reported that 3.21 inches fell while **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** reported 2.85 inches fell. The only other ACON observer to report an amount

greater than half inch this month was **David Roth** of **Montgomery Village 1 SW**.

One big difference between August and September was its lack of the persistent humidity which hung around most of the summer. After the passage of Katrina's remnants less humid air slowly moved into the region. Minimum temperatures fell to the comfortable 50's and lower 60's. **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen** reported a relative humidity reading of 19% on the 8th.

This period of lower humidity lasted until tropical humid conditions were pulled northwards by Ophelia ahead of a cold front. Minimum temperatures from the 14th to 17th ranged from near 70 to the mid 70's across much of the eastern portion of the region. **John Zyla** of **Ridge** reported a minimum temperature of 76 on both the 14th and 15th. Maximum temperatures were within a few degrees of 90.

A strong cold front crossed the region on the 26th bringing an end to the warm, above normal temperatures. With it came the first of two "general" rainfall events of the month. Rainfall amounts on the 26th was generally two tenths of an inch or less. The heaviest amount of 0.22 inches was reported by **Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E**.

Another cold front moved through the region on the 29th bringing with it the second "general" rain event of the month. Rainfall amounts with this frontal passage were quite light. Amounts were generally less than a tenth of an inch. The heaviest amount of 0.20 inches was reported by **Nate Mullins** of **LaVale**.

After the passage of the cold

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	95
Baltimore 2 SE	94
Hollywood	94

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	33
Eagle Rock	34
Frostburg	36
Smithsburg 1.5 SW	36

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	77.0
Ridge	74.7
Annapolis 2 N	74.5

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	61.1
Eagle Rock	64.7
Frostburg	65.3

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

UofD Townsend DE	3.35
Bear 2 SW DE	3.09
Davis 3 SE WV	1.36
Montgomery Village 1 SW	1.02

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Westminster 5 SSE	0.06
Westminster 4 SSE	0.08
Laurel JHU/APL	0.11
Glenmont 1 NNE	0.16

front on the 29th seasonably cold air finally made it appearance. The first light frost of the season was reported in the Maryland mountains. Maximum temperatures on the last day of the month were generally in the upper 60's and lower 70's range.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2005

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Persistent warm maximum temperatures. The maximums failed to fall below 80 until the 23rd which is a record for September. The old record was the set in 1980 when the maximum temperature did not fall below 80 until the 16th. Two heavy showers moved north along the Maryland / Delaware border the afternoon of the 14th and morning of the 15th bringing 92% (2.85") of the months precipitation in 19 hours. Most of the region was very dry.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

No thunderstorms were observed this month.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

Warmest September. Previous warmest September was 1998 when the temperature averaged 67.1 degrees. September was the second driest month. The driest month here was November 1998 when 0.19" fell.

8th - Mountaintop fog early then sunny and warm.

30th - Clear with light frost this morning, first of the season.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

Very dry and warmer than normal sums it up. September was an extension of the August heat including some humid spells. Even this location, where months that brought less than an inch of rain have been very rare, only 0.22" fell, and that's from only one short measurable rainfall.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

Driest month since I began keeping weather records in 1966. The lack of rain killed all the weeds in my yard.

3rd - Sunny with fair weather cumulus, breezy and dry.

13th - Sunny, hot

23rd - Partly sunny, very warm

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

4th - Sunny, warm, low humidity

15th - Cloudy in AM with showers. PM partly cloudy, hot, humid.

29th - Sunny, mild, low humidity, a few light showers.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

Records set this month: 1.) Warmest average maximum, average minimum, and average temperature, 2.) Driest month ever, 3.) Most 80+ days with 22 days, - old record 21 days in 1998, 4.) Least number of days maximum temperature below 70 with 1, old record was 2 days in 2002, 5.) Hottest temperature for the month 93 degrees, old record 92 set in 1992 and tied twice in 1998. Records here date back 17 years. At my parents home (Finksburg 2 NW) it was the driest month on record. Records date back 26 years.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

Driest month since keeping daily records.

22nd - Partly cloudy and hot.

30th - Sunny, cold start.

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

Driest month in 12 years here.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Driest month on record.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

26th - Cloudy finally some rain, the first measurable rain this month. Grass "crackles" when stepping on it.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

30th - First frost

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

Driest September and second warmest on record.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

Driest month in 19 years of records.

29th - Light rain showers with FROPA mid-morning to early afternoon.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

Second driest month on record. Driest September. Previous record 0.62" set in 1977.

26th - First measurable rain in 28 days. Second longest period without measurable rain. Record is 33 days set 8/7-9/8/1995.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Driest September on record and driest month ever. Previous September record was 0.92" in 1998 and the previous driest month was October 2000 when 0.29" fell. Temperatures were significantly warmer than normal, equally on the max and min side, but no real outstanding record breaking periods of heat were in evidence this September.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Driest month since October 2002. 28 days consecutive days (August 29th to September 25th) without measurable rain. Unusually warm with 8 highs in the 90's, more like July or August. More normal weather during the last week.

8th - Very dry. Dew point as low as 39 degrees and relative humidity 19%. Unusual for early September.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

17th - Thundershower 1815-1900 hours.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Driest September on record.

14th - Mostly cloudy. Late evening showers.

17th - Thunder west of station.

John Zyla of Ridge

23 consecutive days without measurable precipitation, not a record though. Driest September in station history (10 years). Previous record was 0.73" in 1997.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

8th - Coolest AM temperature, 47 degrees, this month so far.

24th - Cloudy, much cooler, breezy

26th - First rain in 26 days.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

Driest September on record with only 0.18". Old record was 0.38" in 1943. This was the third driest month for any month. The driest is 0.08" in March 1910, second driest is 0.13" in December 1955. September was also one of the sunniest, cloud free months I have ever seen with 73.3% sunshine.

26th - 25 days with no measurable rains ended today. This was the second longest stretch ever. The record longest stretch without measurable rain is 26 days set 6/29 to 7/24/1998. The third longest stretch is 24 days set 8/15-9/7/1995.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Driest September on record. Previous driest was 0.64 set in 1986. Also driest month on record. Previous driest was 0.22" set in April 1985.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

11th - A nice weather day.