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

## MILD WITH A FEW FLURRIES

December 2006 continued the period of above normal temperatures which began last month. NWS Washington National (DCA), Baltimore (BWI), and Wilmington DE (ILG) all set daily record high temperatures on the 1st and 18th. Precipitation was below normal which allowed the soggy ground to dry after a wet autumn. The coldest portion of the month occurred between the 4th and 9th. Precipitation was light during the first three weeks. Almost all of the months precipitation fell from the 22nd to the 25th. Snowfall east of the mountains was limited to a few flurries to a very light coating.

The month began with strong southerly winds and morning minimum temperatures in the lower 60's. Temperatures rose to the low to mid 70's ahead of a strong cold front. **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E** observed 72 which broke the record high of 68 set in 1928. The warmest reported by ACON observers was 79 by **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE**, and 76 by **Dan Hanson** of **Pasadena 3 SW**, **Brian Smith** of **Oxon Hill**, and **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood**. **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** reported a peak wind gust of 68 MPH and wind damage to his holiday decorations and home. 50 MPH plus gusts were also reported by the following ACON observers: 53 MPH by **Rich Giannola** of **JHU/APL** in **Laurel**, 52 MPH by **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E**, and 51 MPH by **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE**, **Ralph Hartsock** of **Westminster 4 SSE**, and **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE**. Thunder was reported by some observers as a strong cold front moved through during the afternoon hours.

The coldest weather of the month followed. Daily minimums remained below freezing from the 3rd to the 10 at most locations. A few scattered light snow flurries fell on the 5th.

Maximum temperatures briefly rose into the upper 40's and lower 50's on the 6th and 7th ahead of another strong cold front. Light snow showers or flurries was reported by some observers as the front moved through the region during the late afternoon and evening hours of the 7th. The coldest maximum temperatures of the month followed on the 8th. This was the only day of the month were temperatures failed to rise above freezing at many stations in the northern portion of the region east of the mountains. The coldest air remained in the mountains. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** recorded a max of only 15, **Greg Latta** of **Frostburg** 19 and **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE WV** 9 degrees.

Temperatures for the balance of the month were mild for December. Fog, some dense, was reported on numerous days from the 13th to the 31st.

The next and last extreme warmth this month occurred on the 18th. 70 degree temperatures were common. The highest reported was 77 degrees by **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE** and 75 by **Marty Brumback** of **Bryans Road 2 ESE**. **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E** reported a record of 66 which broke his old record of 64 set in 1984.

Two significant precipitation events occurred within days of each other on the 22nd / 23rd and 25th / 26th. Other than light events of around a tenth of an inch on the 1st, 13th, and 31st little or none fell. Amounts of 1 to 1 1/2 inches fell from Baltimore, Howard, and Montgomery counties westward on the 22nd/23rd. The heaviest reported was 1.79" by **Al Kreinik** of **Parkton 5 SW** and 1.68" by **Ralph Hartsock** of **Westminster 4 SSE**.

Amounts which fell on Christmas were less than the previous event. Amounts were generally in the one half to three quarter inch range. The heaviest amounts reported was 0.97" by **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock**, **Dean Dey** of **U of**

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY

#### ACON OBSERVERS

##### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Baltimore 2 SE	79
Pasadena 3 SW	76
Jug Bay Wetlands	76
Oxon Hill	76
Hollywood	76

##### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	5
Eagle Rock	6
Frostburg	12

##### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	48.2
Ridge	46.2

##### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	34.1
Eagle Rock	36.7
Frostburg	37.2

##### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	2.97
Smithsburg 2 NE	2.88
Westminster 4 SSE	2.61
Smithsburg 1.5SW	2.61

##### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Bryans Road 2 ESE	1.50
Oxon Hill	1.53
Hollywood	1.59

##### MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	11.2
Eagle Rock	4.0
Frostburg	1.8

**Delaware Warrington Farm** in **Harbeson 8 S DE**, and 0.78" by **Nate Mullins** of **LaVale**.

The heaviest daily snowfall amount in the Maryland mountains was 3 inches at **Eagle Rock** on the 8th. 7.2 inches was reported in **Davis 3 SE WV** on the 8th.

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2006

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

**1st** - Windy, very warm 74 degrees. Falling temperatures at night. 2nd warmest day ever for December in 40 years of records.

**5th** - Windy, brief snow flurry around 3 PM.

**13th—15th** - Dense fog formed during the evening of the 13th and hung around till the 15th.

## **Nate Mullins of LaVale**

**25th** - Thunder

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

Mild and snow-less described December. Two moderate rainfalls during the Christmas holiday period accounted for the great majority of this month's precipitation.

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

**1st** - Little rain but thunder to the north.

**13th** - Heavy AM fog, poor visibility.

**25th** - Moderate afternoon rain.

## **Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills**

**8th** - Sunshine, windy, quite cold.

**14th** - Lots of fog. Some PM sun and damp.

**18th** - Warm with a mix of sun and clouds.

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

**7th** - Very windy, turning colder in PM.

**25th** - Rain developed in early afternoon.

**31st** - Cloudy, mild, light rain showers in PM.

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

**1st** - Very windy. Severe thunderstorm warning. Bolts of lightning around 5 PM.

**8th** - Very windy, bitter cold.

**18th** - Partly cloudy and really warm.

**30th** - Fog early - sunny and mild.

## **Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE**

**25th** - Rainy, raw Christmas day.

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

**1st** - Few showers and thunderstorm with wind gusts of 40 MPH 5:00—5:15 PM. Peak wind gust of 51 MPH from the WSW at 2:20 PM.

**3rd** - Heavy AM frost. Halo at observation.

**7th** - Snow squall during evening after observation.

**8th** - Light snow 4 - 6 AM.

**14th** - Very heavy fog then sun by 8 AM. Relative humidity 35% at 2 PM.

## **Ray Muller of Westminster City**

**5th & 8th** - Snow flurries

**30th** - Visibility reduced to 1/16th mile in dense fog.

## **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**

**8th** - 3" snow depth, maximum for the month.

**14th, 20th, & 30th** - Heavy frost.

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

**7th** - Peak wind gust 41 MPH from NW at 8:29 AM.

**13th** - Morning fog and rain. Fog dissipated by 9 AM.

**14th** - Morning fog, dissipating by 7:30 AM.

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

**1st** - Morning minimum temperature in the lower 60's.

**7th** - Light flurries around 9 PM +/-.

**1st, 10th, 17th, 18th** - Record maximum temperatures.

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

**8th** - Snow shower ~ 8:30 PM.

## **Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE**

Snow-less month.

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

**7th** - Brief snow shower on the way home from work.

**10th & 18th** - Record maximum temperatures.

## **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**

Warmest average max temperature in 12 year station history. 23 days reached 50 degrees or higher.

**1st** - Unusually warm and humid before early evening FROPA, turning much colder and drier during evening. Dew point dropped from 67 degrees to the upper 20's during the PM.

**7th** - First snowflakes of the season.

**18th** - Warmest I've ever seen so close the solstice.

## **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**

**1st** - Few light showers, windy at times.

**23rd** - Rain before dawn, fair late AM, afternoon, and evening.

**30th** - Very dense morning fog, fair afternoon and evening.

## **John Zyla of Ridge**

**6th** - First yard-wide frost of the season.

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

**4th** - Cold AM Very windy, falling temperatures.

**7th** - Cold, cloudy, very windy, evening show squalls.

**22nd** - Rain almost all day, heavy at times, breezy.

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

**1st** - Record warmth. Old record 68 set in 1929. A spring like day warm and humid with passing showers throughout the day along with strong SSE winds gusting to 46 MPH. Cold front passage passed in the afternoon with high winds during the evening from west gusting to 52 MPH and falling temperature into the 40's - some wind damage to power lines and trees reported.

**18th** - Record warmth. Old record 64 set in 1984. Strong west winds gusting to 36 MPH midday.

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

**1st** - Record high of 73 broke the 66 set in 1991. Winds gusting to 68 MPH at 1:29 PM. Beautiful late afternoon rainbow to the NNE. Winds destroyed 150 feet of Christmas lights. It also blew some siding and an awning off of the house.

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

**3rd** - Frosty start.

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

**8th & 9th** - 6" snow depth, the greatest of the month.

**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.**