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

NEAR RECORD WARMTH, ALMOST NO SNOW

Persistent warmth was the highlight (or lowlight depending upon your preference) of the month. The National Weather Service reported that the daily average temperatures at BWI (Baltimore - Washington Airport) averaged below normal on one (1) day, at IAD (Washington Reagan - National Airport) two (2) days while at ILG (Wilmington New Castle Co. Airport) three (3) days. There was no extreme warmth but maximum temperatures climbed into the lower 60's on a half a dozen days depending upon location. The only stations where the daily maximum temperature failed to rise above freezing on at least one day was in Western Maryland and West Virginia mountains. Temperatures failed to fall below 20 at many stations. As a result of the mild conditions many stations did not report any measurable snowfall.

The new year began on a warm note with temperatures near 50, light W to NW winds and decreasing afternoon clouds. Steady rains fell on the second and third. Rainfall amounts ranged from less than a half of an inch in some Washington DC suburbs to over 1 inch in Delaware, and from Carroll County Maryland westwards into the mountains.

The first snow flurries occurred on the 6th. On the 9th temperatures rose into the upper 50's to mid 60's. **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood** reported 68 degrees.

Temperatures rose into the 50's the night of the 13th and the morning of the 14th ahead of a cold front which moved across the region on the 14th. Around 1/2" of rain fell ahead of the front. **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** reported a minimum barometric pressure of 29.17". East of the mountains light measurable snows fell in St Marys County where John Zyla reported 0.4" on the 14th and 0.2" on the 15th and in Carroll and Washington Counties. Wind gusted to over 40 mph

during the afternoon and evening hours of the 14th and the morning of the 15th. The following ACON observers reported wind gusts of 50 mph or greater: **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 58 MPH, **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** 55 MPH, **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE** 53 MPH, and **Rich Gianola** of **Laurel JHU/ APL** 50 MPH.

Maximum temperatures on the 15th and 16th ranged from the mid 30's to the lower 40's, some of the coldest of the month. Maximum temperatures rebounded quickly to the 50's on the 17th.

The 18th saw predawn rising temperatures, morning rains, windy conditions and falling daytime and evening temperatures. **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** reported 65 degrees. Rainfall amounts during the morning ranged from 1/2 inch to over 1 inch. **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE** reported the greatest amount of 1.51". Winds gusts of 50+ mph were reported by the following ACON observers: **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 63 mph and **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E**, 51 mph.

Maximum temperatures remained in the 50's and 60's through the 21st. During the evening of the 24th a squall line with thunder, rain, and wet snow moved across the mountains and through our region into New Jersey. Wet snow was reported in some northern regions. 1 inch hail was reported just northeast of Northern Delaware at the Philadelphia International Airport. See the observer comments page and the report filed by **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 S** for details concerning this event as reported by ACON observers.

Maximum temperatures on the 25th and 26th were generally in the mid 30's to mid 40's while the minimum temperatures fell to the upper teens to mid 20's. Maximum temperature soon rose back to the mid 50's to the mid 60's on the 28th to 30th. The 31st saw early showers and then falling temperatures along with windy conditions.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	69
Hollywood	68
UofD REC Georgetown DE	67
Forest Glen	67

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	8
Eagle Rock	11
Frostburg	15
Parkton 5 SW	15
Smithsburg 1.5 SW	15

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	43.9
Baltimore 2 SE	43.7

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	32.3
Eagle Rock	34.1

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	6.36
Eagle Rock	5.68
Millers 4 NE	5.05

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Laurel JHU/APL	2.77
Sterling 4 N	2.84
Annapolis 2 N	3.08

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	30.8
Eagle Rock	22.4
Frostburg	4.0
LaVale	1.3
Manchester 1 SW	1.3
Millers 4 NE	1.0
Westminster City	1.0
Ridge	0.6
Smithsburg 2 NE	0.6

Intense Thunder snow hits Manchester 1SW
9:15PM – 9:50PM on Tuesday, January 24, 2006.

A strong cold front associated with an Alberta Clipper east of the Great Lakes and a strong jet stream overhead created the right conditions for thunder snows and thunderstorms to develop over the mid-Atlantic region.

After a mild, sunny day with a high temperature of 47° F., clouds quickly moved in from the west around 5:30pm. A few sprinkles occurred in the area around 6:30PM – 7:30PM. After 9:00PM, I could here distant continuous rumbles of thunder to the north. The rumbles got louder and seem to last longer. At 9:15PM, the winds suddenly picked up out of the north and northwest 25mph to 45mph estimated. At 9:17PM, I ran and looked out the back door facing the SW and saw moderate snow starting to fall and the snow was picking up. All of a sudden, a bright blue flash occurred, followed by a loud boom!!! The snow squall picked up to a heavy snow with visibility near zero. The flakes were moderate to large size. Some snow pellets also fell in the beginning. The temperature dropped from 37° F at 9:17pm to near 32°-33° F at 9:32PM. The snow quickly stuck on everything and accumulated to 0.4" in 15 min. at 9:32PM. At 9:32PM, near whiteout conditions occurred with visibility near zero along with winds and intense thunder and lightning occurring overhead. I could not see the house across the street. Visibility

slowly improved to 1/8 mile by 9:38PM and ¼ mile by 9:40PM. By this time, I had ¾" snow. The snowfall rate was between 1 ½" to 2" per hour. Between 9:40PM – 9:45PM, the flakes got very large, measuring 1" to 1 ½" diameter with a few 1" X 2" caused by flakes sticking together. The intensity of the snow however was getting lighter. Visibility was getting better. The thunder was leaving to the south. The snow cover became very lumpy due to the very large flakes. Snow depths varied from ¾" to 1 ½" on the deck banister, depths of 1" to 1 ¼" common on the deck table and snowboards in the back yard. The snow quickly slacked up between 9:45PM – 9:50PM. By 10:10PM, the snow ended. Visibility improved to several miles. In the end, 1.1" snow fell. I used a core sample to measure the melted snow. I measured 0.13" in the gage from the core. Only 0.08" fell in the gage from the snowfall, however only about half the snow went into the gage due to the winds. A lot less than 1" snow was in the gage. The winds died down at the tail end of the snow to NW 5 mph. This was one of the most impressive thunder snows that I have observed in a long time.

Herb Close, Jr.
Manchester, 1SW, MD

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JANUARY 2006

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Average max temp warmest on record. Average temperature 2nd warmest. Trace of snow tied for the least on record. Tied peak wind gust for January of 55 MPH. Length of records: 40 years - temp, 39 yrs - Precipitation, & 16 yrs -wind..

Greg Latta of Frostburg

23rd & 24th - Glaze reported.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

January was the warmest and least snowy. It was a wet month with frequent frontal passages, nearly all brought rain but no snow.

24th - Cold front came through this evening with strong winds, brief heavy rain turning to sleet and show showers, even some thunder in the area.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

14th - Pre dawn thunder, early evening flurries.

24th - Gusty shower 2200-2300; little thunder.

30th - Shallow dense fog at sunrise.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

6th - Few early afternoon snow flurries.

14th - Heavy wind approx 50 mph @ 10 PM lifts roof off neighbor's rear deck, throws over house and it lands on the front driveway . It missed the car by inches.

24th - Distant thunder

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

13th - Dense AM fog, foggy and damp.

14th - Early thunder.

24th - Frosty start, then sunshine and mild. Thunder with snow 2145 to 2155.

29th - Dense morning fog, then sunny and warm.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

14th - AM showers, thunderstorm, mild, variable clouds, very windy and colder late.

24th - Late PM thunder and lightning.

25th - AM light snow and rain showers, very windy, cold.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

2nd - Rain, thunder, hail.

24th - Intense lightning and thunder with squall line. AM snow showers.

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

24th - Brief thunder-snow with high winds around 40 MPH and a 1/4" of snow.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Second warmest January in 24 years. Record 39.9 set in 1990. Second least snowfall. Record 0.8" set in 1995.

5th - Heavy fog. 1/4 mile visibility @ 6AM.

8th - Solar halo @ 1PM, lunar at obs (6 PM)

23rd - Freezing rain 1 to 4 AM.

24th - Thunder with heavy snow 9:15—9:45 PM.

Manuel Farfan of Frederick 4 N

9th - 63 degrees. Warm as !@\$#?. Where is winter?

24th - Frost and freeze this morning. Mostly sunny, turned partly cloudy later with rain and even thunder after 8 PM mixing with some sleet.

30th - Very dense morning fog, burning out later with mostly sunny skies and cooler.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

Four rainbows this month.

3rd - Fog and thunder.

23rd - Sleet

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

14th - Peak wind gust 48 mph from WNW at 9:39 PM.

15th - Peak wind gust 50 mph from NW at 12:20 AM.

25th - Peak wind gust 47 mph from WNW at 10:53 AM.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

3rd - Thunder 12 to 1 AM.

14th - Thunder 3 AM very windy afternoon.

20th & 21st - Record daily max temperature.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

24th - Thunderstorm 9:45 - 9:50 PM accompanied by strong winds and rain. Winds diminished by 10:15 PM.

25th - Occasional snow showers during the day.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Second warmest January . Record of 40.1 set in 1990. Records date back to December 1978. Least snowfall on record. Old record was 0.7" set in 1983.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Persistent warmth, warmest January in 11 years of station records. Three thunderstorms days tied the number between August and December. 2005!

3rd - Distant AM thunder, mostly distant rumbles.

14th - Thunderstorm 0300 to 0400

18th - Temp rose 10° in 1 1/2 hours starting at midnight. Wild dew point swings: rose from 19° to 52° yesterday, then fell from 59° to 17° today.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

24th - -TSRA 2208-2235, third thunderstorm of the month

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

Warmest January on record. 10 days 60 degrees or higher.

3rd - Weak thunder before dawn.

14th - Thunderstorm 3 AM. Early AM tornado watch, evening snow showers.

John Zyla of Ridge

Warmest January in station history.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

24th - Evening rain & thunderstorm w/very gusty winds.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

7th warmest January on record. Records data back to 1898. Warmest 42.9 set in 1932.

14th - Warm early this morning high 60 around 1 AM. Falling temperatures - rain showers changed to wet snow this afternoon and evening. Very strong evening winds gusting to near 50 MPH.

24th - Strong cold front came through. Thunder and lightning with winds gusts to 39 mph but only 0.06" of rain some sleet fell.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

Warmest January in 30 years of record. 7 days with peak wind gust of 50+ mph set a record for January.

24th - Thunder snow.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

30th - Fog starts the day. Still too hot!

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.