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# ATLANTIC COAST OBSERVER NETWORK, MD / DE / DC CHAPTER

## ANOTHER EARLY DECEMBER SNOWSTORM

The final month of the year 2007 saw above normal temperatures and precipitation and near normal to snowfall. Precipitation fell on nearly two thirds of the days. Almost all of the months snow fell on the 5th. A significant snow storm has occurred on either the 5th or 6th four out of the last six years. There were two high wind events where winds gusted to 40 to 60 plus mph. There were no sub-zero readings this month.

December began sunny and seasonably cold. On the 2nd and 3rd an inch of rain fell over the northern portions and a half inch in the southern portions. The event began with a little sleet. In the wake of the storm winds gusted to 40 to 50 plus MPH on the 3rd.

An Alberta Clipper brought the heaviest snowfall of the month to the region on the 5th. Four inch amounts were common except for areas east and south of Washington. **Herb Close** of **Manchester 1 SW** reported 7.8" on the 4th & 5th.

Following the Alberta Clipper a high pressure moved in bringing with it the coldest air of the month. Single digit readings were reported in portions of Carroll County westward into West Virginia. South and east of Washington the temperatures remained above 20 degrees.

The cold air was short lived. Precipitation moved into the region on the 7th. It began as light sleet and freezing rain in colder locations and changed to rain as temperatures slowly rose above freezing.

Temperatures rose on the 8th into the mid 40's to lower 50's. The warm temperatures melted the remaining snow cover east of the Maryland mountains.

Temperatures fell close to 20 degrees late on the 8th. Precipitation returned late on the 8th briefly as sleet and freezing rain in Central Maryland westwards before temperatures warmed and the frozen precipitation changed to rain. Temperatures rose steadily from

midnight of the 8th thru mid day on the 12th. Temperatures remained freezing or above at all Maryland / Delaware ACON locations from the 9th to the 12th except at **Eagle Rock** where a 30° minimum was observed on the 9th. The 12" snow cover in the mountains at **Eagle Rock** on the 7th melted by the 10th.

Temperatures peaked on the 12th ahead of a cold front. Readings were generally in the 50's. The warmest reading of 60°+ were east and southeast of Washington DC. **John Zyla** of **Ridge** and **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood** both reported 72°.

Seasonal temperatures arrived on the 13th and remained thru the 21st.

The strongest storm of the month began late of the 15th and lasted into the 16th. Precipitation began as sleet and or freezing rain in Central Maryland westward and snow in the Maryland Mountains. Winds gusted to 50 to 60+ MPH range. **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E** reported severe icing at nearby higher elevations areas. The heaviest amounts fell in Central Maryland. **Max Hutto** of **Smithsburg 1.5 SW** 1.86", **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1E** reported 1.77", and **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 1.62".

Seasonal temperatures and dry weather followed the storm from the 17th to the 21st. Rain and warm temperatures moved in on the 23rd. 63° was reported by the following ACON observers: **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE**, **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE**, **Marty Brumback** of **Bryans Road 2 ESE**, **Brian Smith** of **Oxon Hill**, and **Floyd Abell** of **Hollywood**.

Christmas Day, which began frosty, was sunny mild.

The 26th to 31st was mild and wet. Rain fell on each day except the 27th at most stations.

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

#### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hollywood	73
Ridge	73
Bryans Road	66

#### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	3
Emmitsburg 2 SE	6
Eagle Rock	6
Smithsburg 1.5SW	6

#### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	42.6
Hollywood	41.6
Baltimore 2 SE	40.7

#### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	30.9
Eagle Rock	31.2
Frostburg	31.8

#### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	8.99
Eagle Rock	6.71
Jug Bay Wetlands	6.05

#### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

UofD Warrington Farm DE	3.40
Gaithersburg 2 WNW	3.46
Laurel JHU/APL	3.51

#### MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	27.5
Davis 3 SE WV	27.1
Frostburg	10.4

#### MINIMUM SNOWFALL

Hollywood	0.8
Ridge	1.1
Bryans Road 2 ESE	1.8

ACON Observer **David Allan Bryant** passed away on December 22, 2007. Dave joined ACON in 2002. His station was located in St. Margarets, east of Annapolis, and more recently at Annapolis 2N. Many thanks to his daughter, Sandy, who assisted him during recent years with his data submittals.

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2007

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

Measurable precipitation that fell on 19 days set a monthly record. Old record was 18 days in 1996.

**5th** - First measurable snow of the season. Also first day of the winter season where the temperature failed to rise above freezing.

## **Greg Latta of Frostburg**

**17th** - Damaging winds during the 24 hours period ending at 7 AM.

## **Nate Mullins of LaVale**

**3rd** - Strong NW winds, light snow showers.

**16th** - Strong W winds, minor tree and power line damage, snow flurries.

**23rd** - Period of rain, strong PM winds, & falling temperatures.

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

Precipitation was frequent but seldom heavy with at least 19 days with some.

**16th** - Rain AM; rather heavy before dawn.

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

**13th** - AM fog, light rain today.

**23rd** - Heavy fog, moderate rains.

**30th** - Some PM ice.

## **Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills**

**20th** - Frosty start, partly cloudy and seasonable.

**26th** - Overcast & raw with afternoon & evening rain.

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

**7th** - Cold, light rain and sleet until mid afternoon.

**15th** - Light rain and sleet late PM.

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

**5th** - Heavy snow on a southeast wind.

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

**5th** - Cold, snow all day light to moderate and some heavy.

**12th** - Warmer, light PM showers.

**26th** - A little AM sleet. PM light rain.

**30th** - Cloudy, cold, rain develops.

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

7 days with glaze (2nd, 8th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 30th, & 31st)

**2nd to 13th** - 12 straight days with measurable precipitation, Second longest streak.

**3rd** - Snow squall late after obs time.

**16th** - Up to 1/4" glaze then rain.

**22nd** - Heavy AM fog, visibility zero

## **Ray Muller of Westminster City**

5 days with ice pellets (2nd, 7th, 13th, 16th, & 31st)

5 days with dense fog (9th, 11th, 14th, 28th, & 29th)

## **Eric Glass of Emmitsburg 2 SE**

**4th** - Partly cloudy, very windy.

**14th** - Fog, damp, cold.

## **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**

**10th** - Thunder. 12" of snow cover on the 6th & 7th gone.

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

4 days with peak wind gusts of 40 plus MPH (3rd, 4th, 16th, & 17th)

**14th** - Morning fog, clearing rapidly by 8 AM.

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

**16th** - Thunder.

## **Rich Giannola of Laurel**

**5th** - Snow began ~6 AM. 4.5" fell by 4 PM. Another 2" by 9 PM. Snow/liquid ratio 12.9 to 1.

**16th** - Thundershower 10:00 to 10:30 AM

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

**14th** - Early morning dense fog, visibility 1/4 mile.

**25th** - Faint lunar corona - Moon and Mars visible thru overcast.

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

Above normal temperature and normal precipitation. Snowfall slightly below normal.

**11th** - Daily record high minimum temperature of 43.

**25th** - Sunny, mild early - increasing clouds evening.

## **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**

**5th** - Second heaviest snowfall (4.2") so early in the season in 13 years station history.

**16th** - Extraordinary pressure drop of 7 millibars in 20 minutes around 4 AM.

**23rd** - Dense fog from 4 AM to 1:30 PM. Highest temp of month reached at noon along with 60° dew point.

## **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill**

**7th** - Light freezing rain 0730 - 1000.

## **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**

**3rd** - Showers before dawn, fair, windy day.

**29th** - Early AM rain, heavy at times.

**31st** - Rain before dawn, morning fog, then fair.

## **John Zyla of Ridge**

**5th** - Snow began at 10:30 AM, changed to rain at 2:30 PM.

**29th** - Rare December thunderstorm 8:30 to 10:00 AM.

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

**16th** - Overnight freezing rain / sleet. Rain into midday.

**25th** - Christmas: cold AM, sunny, breezy.

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

6th wettest December. Record wettest 6.12" in 1983.

**8th** - Light freezing rain overnight caused a light coating of ice.

**16th** - Sleet and freezing rain overnight. Severe icing in nearby higher elevation areas. Cascade MD area reported severe icing and winds well over 60 MPH.

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

17th consecutive month with wind gusts of 40+ MPH.

**16th** - Northeaster with significant ice damage. Winds gusted to 64 MPH.

**23rd** - Wind gust of 66 MPH.

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

**6th** - 11" snow cover, max for 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.