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

COLDEST FEBRUARY IN 28 YEARS

February will be remembered for the Valentine's Day Storm which brought heavy sleet, freezing rain, rain, and snow and cold temperatures. Otherwise, per a note in **Kevin Shaw's** summary, it was a quiet month. This February was the coldest February since 1979.

The cold which began on January 16 did not moderate until the 20th. Most of the precipitation fell during two events, the 13th-14th and the on the 25th. Minimum temperatures failed to rise above freezing at ACON stations at **Laurel 2E, Eagle Rock, Potomac 4N, Hagerstown 1E** in Maryland, **Bear 2 SW** and **Newark AG Farm** in Delaware and **Davis 3 SE** in West Virginia.

The month began mostly cloudy with maximum temperatures in the low to mid 30's and minimum temperatures in the low to mid 20's. Light wet snow and rain fell on the 2nd. The coldest weather of the season moved in on the 3rd and did not moderate until the 10th. Maximum temperatures remained below freezing from the 4th to the 10th at many stations. Temperatures failed to rise out of the teens or lower 20's on the 5th. Minimum temperatures fell below zero in the Maryland Mountains at **Eagle Rock** from the 4th to the 8th, and at **Frostburg** the 5th to 7th.

Very dry fluffy snow fell on the 7th. East of the mountains one to two inches fell north of the Washington DC region. The heaviest amounts observed was 2.5" by **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE** and **Greg Klein** of **Westminster 5 SSE**.

The most significant winter storm of the 2006-2007 winter moved into the region on the 13th. Precipitation began as snow except as rain in the eastern and southern regions. The precipitation changed to sleet as the temperatures fell from the low to mid 30's to below freezing. The sleet became heavy at times and was mixed with freezing rain in the eastern



Top picture Frozen anemometers
Bottom Picture: Ice accumulation

Photos by Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW DE

portions. It remained all rain with a little freezing rain in the southeastern counties. Temperatures fell into the low to mid 20's during the nighttime hours. The greatest accumulation of ice accumulated east of the Chesapeake Bay from central Maryland northwards. **Gary Gal-**

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Ridge	62
Hollywood	62
Bryan Road 2 ESE	60

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	-12
Eagle Rock	-12
Frostburg	-7

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	33.1
Baltimore 2 SE	32.9

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	14.7
Eagle Rock	17.6
Frostburg	18.5

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	6.74
Gaithersburg 2 WNW	4.09
Eagle Rock	3.81

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Bethesda	1.49
Pasadena 3 SW	1.71
Baltimore 2 SE	1.79

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE	59.1
Eagle Rock	40.5
Frostburg	25.2

MINIMUM SNOWFALL

Ridge	0.7
Hollywood	3.3
Bryans Road 2 ESE	6.3

laher of **Bear 2 SW DE** reported 0.8" thick ice. Strong winds gusting into the 30's and 40's MPH blew from the NE and then backed to the NW after the storm passed.

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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2007

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Coldest month since January 2004 and coldest February since 1979. Freezing temperatures recorded on each day.

7th - Very fluffy snow. 1.4" with 0.04" liquid.

13th - 14th - Rain changed to freezing rain and sleet early in the afternoon of the 13th. 2" of sleet, 0.8" of glaze. Power out twice for 12 hours. Winds 20 to 40+ mph.

25th - Snow changed to sleet / freezing rain then to rain.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

16th - Very hard crust on the snow.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

Coldest February in 16 years of record. Most of the month's precipitation fell in two events.

5th - 3 degrees. Coldest February reading since 1996.

13th - Snow and sleet began predawn. It continued much of the day moderate to heavy at times. Sleet became predominant after dark.

21st - Cloudy early then partly cloudy and mild. 56 degrees.

25th - Snow and sleet mix began predawn and continued much of the day as snow heavy at times.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

13th - 14th - Two inches of sleet fell on top of 1" of snow.

25th - Wet snow 9AM to 3PM then occasional rain.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

13th- 14th - Heavy sleet, some snow.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

1st - Early light snow, overcast and raw.

6th - Sunny, breezy, and bitter cold.

28th - Frosty start, then sun and clouds and mild.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

2nd - Cold, rain, sleet, freezing rain and snow showers.

7th - AM light snow.

25th - AM sleet and snow then heavy snow & sleet.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

2nd - Snow pellets early then afternoon snow.

5th - 6th - Bitter cold / brutal outside.

19th - Very cold start, sunny day.

23rd - Colder, windy and sunny.

Greg Klein of Westminster 5 SSE

13th - 14th - 3" of snow followed by 3" of sleet then 1/4" of snow.

25th - Surprise 4 3/4" snow with light SE winds.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Winter 2006-07: Avg Max 41.9 (+1.1), Avg Min 25.0 (-0.2), Avg Temp 33.5 (+0.4), Precip 8.56 (-1.52), Snow 14.7 (-9.4)

10th - A few small PM CU, otherwise clear.

13th - AM light snow PM sleet at times.

14th - 4.5" sleet, 0.5" snow, 0.1" ice.

25th - Some early PM heavy snow then sleet and glaze.

26th - AM freezing fog then some sun and haze.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

28th - 25" Snow cover.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

2nd - Morning light sleet, light freezing rain, light freezing drizzle, and drizzle. Snow shower began at 3:15 PM.

13th - 14th - Morning light snow changed to sleet in afternoon. Sleet and freezing rain overnight into the 14th ending as morning rain.

14th - Peak wind gust 43 MPH.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

Coldest February since 1979 when it was 11 degrees below normal. This February was 7 degrees below normal. Minimum temperature below freezing each day, first and only since 1987.

18th - Intense snow squall 5:30 - 6:00 PM. 0.8" fell.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

18th - Afternoon snow showers consisting of three main events: 12:10 to 12:25 PM, 3:35 to 4:05 PM and 4:40 to 6:00 PM.

22nd - Cold FROPA in early afternoon—becoming windy in the afternoon. Rain shower ~8:30 PM.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

13th - Light snow, sleet, freezing drizzle.

14th - AM mixed precipitation, light snow 1812-1855 hours.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

1" of snow on the ground for 22 of the 28 days.

2nd - Heavy fog.

5th - First sub 20 degree max temp in 17 years.

14th - 2.80" liquid set a new monthly record breaking the 1.78" set on 2/4/1998. 4.2" of sleet / snow set a daily record.

25th - 5.2" set a daily record.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

5th - 6th - Extremely cold and dry. Wind chills to -22 degrees and dew points as low as -12 degrees.

13th - AM snow changed to sleet early PM despite slowly falling temps from sunrise on.

14th - Sleet increased in intensity very early becoming moderate. Total sleet accumulation 1.5" over 2 days the heaviest since 1994. Crust on snow/sleet hard enough to walk on by late evening.

18th - Very impressive PM snow showers. The last dumped 1.4".

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

13th - Wintry mix 0400 to 2400.

14th - Sleet prevalent 0000-0700, heavy at times.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

13th AM sprinkles. Afternoon and evening rain and

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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.

(Monthly Summary Continued from page 1)

Power outages of up to 1 to 2 days resulted as a result of the winds and ice accumulation on trees and power lines in northeastern Maryland and Northern Delaware. As a result of sub freezing temperatures following the storm the accumulated snow and sleet froze as hard as concrete on surfaces.

A rapidly moving clipper brought scattered snow flurries and squalls the afternoon of the 18th. The heaviest fell in the Washington DC area. **Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N.** reported that 0.8" of snow fell during an intense snow squall late in the afternoon. **Joe Terry of Forest Glen** reported 1.4" fell during the last squall of the day.

Light rains fell during the PM hours on the 20th. Amounts were mostly less than a quarter of an inch. The heaviest rains reported was 0.60" by **Floyd Abell of Hollywood.** **Joe Terry of Forest Glen** reported 0.32", and **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill** 0.29"

The warmest air of the month occurred from the 20th to the 22nd. Maximum temperatures in the fifties was common. Sixty degree maximums occurred southeast of Washington DC. **John Zyla of Ridge** and **Floyd Abell of Hollywood** reported 62 and **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE** reported 60 degrees.

The second significant snowstorm / rain event occurred on the 25th. Liquid amounts was generally in the half to three quarters inch range. Amounts of over an inch fell in St Marys County where **Floyd Abell of Hollywood** reported 1.28" and **John Zyla of Ridge** 1.16". **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock** reported 1.13". The precipitation began as snow and changed to sleet and freezing rain and ended as rain. Snowfall amounts of two to five inches was common except in the Washington DC and Baltimore regions where four to five and a half inches fell. **Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S** measured 5.5", the greatest reported by an ACON observer. 5.2" was reported by **Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE.**

The last three days saw seasonal temperatures and no precipitation.

(Observer Comments Continued from page 2)

freezing rain. Light ice coating.

14th - AM light freezing rain. Light ice coating.

John Zyla of Ridge

Coldest February in station history (13 years)

19th - Last consecutive day (30 days) with temperature 32 or below. Record 39 days set January/February 2004.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

13th - Snot changed to sleet / freezing rain, breezy.

14th - Freezing rain / sleet changed to snow in PM.

25th - Snow mid AM to mid PM changing to freezing rain.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

5th - Very cold wind chills as low as -15.

6th - Very cold. West winds gusting to 30 MPH. Very light powdery snow after 8 PM.

13th - Snow began around 6 AM. 2" fell by 4 PM when it began changing to sleet and freezing rain this evening. Most fell as sleet. 1.2" of sleet by midnight.

14th - Sleet and some freezing rain fell all night with a little snow at times. 1.5" of sleet fell by 8 AM. Freezing rain changed back to snow with another 0.3" of snow. The snow and ice on the ground froze into one 5" thick ice pack and was hard like concrete.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

New daily low maximum temperatures set on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th. Third coldest February in station history behind 1979 and 1978.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

2nd - Surprise trace of snow and sleet. Gone by 3 PM.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

Snow cover varied from 13 inches on the 2nd to 28 inches on the 19th.