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

## DRY MONTH WITH ISOLATED HEAVY THUNDERSTORMS, ONE TORNADO, & ONE FUNNEL CLOUD

July 2007 brought with it pleasant cool weather, hot humid weather, dry conditions which caused the Maryland Governor to declare a drought disaster, and isolated heavy thunderstorms.

The month began on a very cool pleasant note. Minimum temperatures were in the 40's and 50's while maximum temperatures ranged from the mid 70's to lower 80's on the 1st to the 3rd. **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** reported 42° on the 2nd. 43° was reported at Salisbury Wicomico County Airport by the NWS on the 3rd.

The first round of thunderstorms occurred on the Fourth of July. The National Mall in Washington DC was evacuated due to approaching severe weather. **Joe Terry** of **Forest Glen** observed his first tornado while visiting family in Laytonsville, MD. He reported that he saw a funnel cloud to the NE (light funnel against a very dark background sky that highlighted it very well) moving towards Olney. It had sharp boundaries and was tilted at a rather steep angle. Rainfall amounts from the 4th to 6th ranged from less than a quarter inch to over 2". **Dave Leshner** of **Davis 3 SE WV** reported 2.83" and **Rebecca Harvey** of **Eagle Rock** 1.87".

The second week of the month was the hottest. Temperatures rose well into the 90's and even broke 100° at a few locations. 101° was reported by the following ACON observers on the 9th: **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE**, **Marty Brumback** of **Bryans Road 2 ESE**, and 100° by **Dan Hanson** of **Pasadena 3 SW**, **David Roth** of **Montgomery Village 1 SW**, and **Kevin Shaw** of **Gaithersburg 2 WNW**.

This heat wave ended with afternoon thunderstorms which brought heavy rains to some areas on the afternoon of the 10th. **Joe Manfre** of **Baltimore 2 SE** reported hail. Scattered thunderstorms with heavy rain brought

over an inch of rain to portions of New Castle County DE (**Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** 1.41"), Anne Arundel County (**Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E** 1.84"), and Montgomery County (**Stan Rossen** of **Glenmont 1 NNE** 1.29").

Temperatures on the 11th were around 90, from the 12th to the 15th mid to upper 80's and from the 15th to 19th upper 80's to mid 90's. Scattered thunderstorms the afternoon of the 16th brought light rains of less than a tenth of an inch to some areas. An EF1 tornado touched down near Fallston, Harford County MD, causing some tree and property damage.



300 Block Old Jappa Road ©Baltimore Sun  
Tornado report from Sterling NWS:  
A TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN NEAR FALLSTON MONDAY AFTERNOON. NWS DAMAGE SURVEY SUGGESTS THIS TORNADO WAS AN EF1 INTENSITY ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE. MAXIMUM PATH WIDTH WAS 150 YARDS AND THE LENGTH APPROXIMATELY 4 MILES LONG. EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO TREES INCLUDING SOME SOFTWOOD TREES SNAPPED AND MANY HARDWOODS TOPPLED. STRUCTURAL DAMAGE OBSERVED WAS LIMITED TO TREES AND LIMBS FALLING ONTO STRUCTURES. MANY POWERLINES WERE ALSO DOWNED. NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED. EVENT TIME APPROXIMATELY 615-627 PM.

Cooler, more pleasant weather returned from the 20th to the 25th. Maximum temperatures were mid 70's to mid 80s in the northern regions and in the 80's in the southern regions.

The last period of thunderstorms

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

#### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Baltimore 2 SE	101
Bryans Road 2 ESE	101
Pasadena 3 SW	100
Mont. Village 1 SW	100
Gaithersburg 2 WNW	100

#### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	40
Davis 3 SE WV	46
Frostburg	47

#### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	82.8
Ridge	79.3
Oxon Hill	79.0

#### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	63.0
Eagle Rock	65.9
Frostburg	66.9

#### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	7.10
Bear 2 SW DE	6.33
Eagle Rock	4.46

#### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Ridge	0.23
Jug Bay Wetlands	0.40
Mont. Village 1 SW	0.53

occurred from the 27th to the 30th. Isolated amounts of over an inch fell. **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** reported 3.02", **UofD Harbeson** 8 S DE 2.71" **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** 2.11" , and **Marty Brumback** of **Bryans Road 2 ESE** 1.21". Severe thunderstorms with hail were reported by **Greg Keefer** of **Hagerstown 1 E** on the 28th and by **Brian Smith** of **Oxon Hill** on the 29th.

The month ended sunny and bright with afternoon temperatures ranging from the mid 80's to the lower 90's.

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR JULY 2007

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

Cool, wet month. Much needed rains came at weekly intervals but yards still browned. 3 days with minimum temperature in the 70's tied for the least set in 1976 and tied in 1978 & 2004.

**2nd** - 49 degrees - Only the second sub 50° reading in July in 41 years of records.

**30th** - Heavy thunderstorm: 2.01" of rain fell from 2:44 to 3:22 PM.

## **Greg Latta of Frostburg**

**2nd** - 47 degrees - Beautiful morning!

## **Nate Mullins of LaVale**

**5th** - Heavy rain and thunderstorms 4 to 6 PM. 0.64" of rain.

**29th** - Thunderstorms after midnight. Parts of the county south and east had 3+ inches of rain and flash flooding.

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

Heat, humidity, and brief cooler periods this month were typical for July. Although thunderstorms were in the area on numerous days, their torrents of rain were isolated to scattered.

**10th** - 0.90" of rain in 30 minutes ending at 1:20 PM EDT along with brief gusts approaching damaging force. After a brief lull, an encore brought an additional 0.50" before 2 PM.

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

Lack of rain affecting crops. Corn in bad shape.

**10th** - Thunderstorm late afternoon.

**19th** - Occasional late PM showers, lightning, no thunder heard.

## **Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills**

**10th** - 96 degrees - Mix of clouds and sun. Hot and humid.

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

**9th** - Very hot 101°, moderate humidity.

**10th** - PM thunderstorm with hail.

**17th** - Hot 96°, low humidity.

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

Extremely dry - crop losses. 0.75" out of the month total of 0.97" fell between the 4th and the 6th.

**4th** - Tornado watch. Overnight shower, scattered late storms.

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

Third consecutive month with less than 2" of rain for the first time since October to December 2001. Crops in poor condition.

## **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**

Thunder reported on 15 days.

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

**29th** - Thunder 6 AM, and occasionally 2 - 6 PM.

## **Rich Giannola of Laurel 1 S**

**3rd & 4th** - Showers began at 10:45 PM on the 3rd and ended by dawn on the 4th. Showers and thundershowers ~ 3 PM to after 9 PM on the 4th.

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

July was warm and dry. Temperatures were a bit above normal mostly due to warm maximum temperatures highlighted by the 100 maximum on the 9th..This was the third driest July in 29 years. The driest was in 1997 when 0.63" of rain fell.

**4th** - Tornado watch. Funnel cloud sighted by a friend and several others in Laytonsville, Damascus, and Olney, within 10 miles of my house. Only minor storm damage was reported.

**9th** - 100° today set a daily record. This was the 6th 100° temperature for July since 1979.

## **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**

Many hot days but also many relatively cool nights resulting in a large average temperature spread between min and max temperatures. A few very pleasant spells with exceptionally low humidity. Very dry conditions despite 8 thunderstorm days.

**1st & 2nd** - Gorgeous weather! Can't get much better for July. Deep blue skies and dew points as low as 45°.

**29th** - So much thunder but so little rain. Hours of incessant thunder AM and PM, yet only 0.27" of rain fell, mostly light.

## **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill**

**29th** - Severe electrical storm 1241 to 1350 hours. 1/2" hail 1337 to 1340 hours. Large tree limb down 100 feet south of site.

## **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**

Driest July on record, - precipitation total 0.57".

**19th** - Fair, then strong afternoon thunderstorm with a peak wind gust 52 MPH and 0.45" of rain.

## **John Zyla of Ridge**

Driest July on record - precipitation total 0.23". This was the driest July for any St. Mary's County station going back as far as we have records (1861).

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

**28th** - Hazy, hot, humid. Nearby intense thunderstorms.

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

**2nd** - Don't get many days like this in July. Sunny high 76° along with low humidity.

**9th** - Mostly sunny, very hot high 97°. Slight increase in humidity.

**28th** - Intense wild thunderstorm developed overhead this evening between 9 & 10 PM. The storm was slow moving and quickly turned into a severe type storm with frequent continuous lightning and very heavy rain. 1.64" of rainfall, most of it fell in about 20 minutes. 0.66" fell in 5 minutes. Small hail occurred along with a PWG of 36 MPH.

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

The last time an inch of rain fell in any 24 hour period was April 15th, 111 days ago. Second driest July on record. Driest 1.34" set in 1983.

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

**3rd** - Awesome weather! Max 77 degrees..

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.