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

MILD AND WINDY

The first month of the Spring of 2008 will be remembered for its winds. High winds, some damaging, accompanied three of the months four storm systems. Peak wind gusts exceeded 70 MPH across portions of the region.

Temperatures averaged warmer than normal. **Jeff Stoudt** of **Laurel 2 E** noted this in his monthly summary "Temperatures did average slightly above normal, and there were no unusual extremes of cold or warmth as is often observed during the month of March."

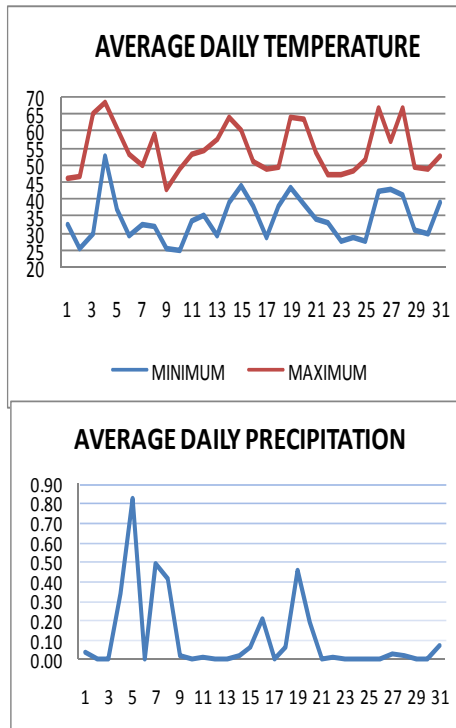
Precipitation averaged below normal. Snowfall was almost non-existence. East of the mountains only a Trace was recorded at some stations.

The first storm of the month on the 4th and 5th brought with it the strong damaging winds and the heaviest rainfall. Over 1 inch fell from Montgomery County northwestward to Carroll County and westwards into the Mountains. Winds at DCA (Washington National) gusted to 74 MPH, a March record. **Marty Brumback** of **Bryans Road 2 ESE** reported 73 MPH, and **Jim Vaughn** of **Smithsburg 2 NE** 70 MPH. This storm system also brought with it the warmest temperatures of the month at many stations in the central and northern areas.

The next storm came on the 8th. Rainfall amounts of one inch plus fell east of I-95. **Bobby Miller** of **Millers 4 NE** reported a wind gust of 68 MPH and **Gary Gallaher** of **Bear 2 SW DE** a 62 MPH gust.

Rainfall from the third storm on the 15th & 16th averaged around a quarter of an inch. The last significant storm system on the 18th - 20th brought one half to one inch plus. **Rich Giannola** of **Laurel JHU/APL** reported a wind gust of 50 MPH and **Richard Holden** of **Clarksburg 2 ENE** 48 MPH. Light rains of a tenth of an inch or less fell on the 22nd, 27th, and 31st.

This month temperatures failed to



ACON MD/DE Network
Daily average temperatures and precipitation based on observation times, not calendar days.



12:19 AM PWG of 73 MPH Display
Photo by Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hollywood	80
Ridge	80
UofD Georgetown DE	78
UofD Harbeson 8 S DE	78

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	9
Eagle Rock	10
Frostburg	10

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Hollywood	49.5
Ridge	48.9

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	33.1
Frostburg	35.8
Eagle Rock	36.7

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Davis 3 SE WV	5.74
Hagerstown 1 E	5.16
Smithsburg 1.5 SW	4.93

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

UofD Harbeson 8 S DE	2.10
Owings Mills	2.20

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	19.0
Eagle Rock	16.0
Frostburg	4.6

rise above 70 in the northern half of the region. Upper 70's and 80° temperatures occurred in Sussex County Delaware southwards into Maryland and St Mary's County in Maryland on the 28th.

East of the Mountains only a trace of snow, and/or sleet, was observed on either the 1st, 18th, or 22nd.

For detailed comments from observers see [Observer Comments on page 2](#).

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MARCH 2008

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

8th - The squall line which brought a wind gust of 62 MPH at 5:14PM was followed by pea size hail.

18th - Little sleet mixed with a rain shower at ~ 5:20PM. Temperature was 43 degrees.

Greg Latta of Frostburg

1st - Maximum snow cover of the month 7"

3rd - Big snow melt

5th - Windy Power out 12:30 AM till after sunrise

Nate Mullins of LaVale

1st - Maximum snow cover of the month 2"

3rd - Partly cloudy, much warmer.

4th & 5th - Heavy rain fell, 1.32", during the evening of the 4th as a strong cold front passed through.

8th - Cold front passed through this evening with strong winds and mountain snow showers.

20th - Very windy, NW winds gusting to 45 MPH, caused scattered minor tree damage in the area.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

March was moist and mild overall, even though total precipitation was subnormal. There seemed to be no progress towards spring from start to finish because the smoothed temperatures trend was flat.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

26th - Partly sunny and warmer.

31st - Low overcast, drizzle, spotty rain, cool.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

1st - Cloudy, early AM light rain, then partly cloudy, very windy, and cool.

4th - Warm, windy, light rain in the evening.

26th - Mild, windy in the afternoon.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

5th - Heavy rains, lightning, then clearing and cooler.

19th - Rain and warmer / some heavy showers.

20th - Very windy again, power outage.

22nd - Early snow flakes

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

4th & 5th - Periods of heavy rain late on the 4th and early on the 5th.

8th - Wind gust of 68 MPH at 4:13 PM is the third highest in station history. Power out later from 8:55PM to 6:30 PM on the 9th.

10th - Heavy frost in AM.

20th - Heavy showers @ 12:30 AM.

Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE

5th - A 73 MPH peak wind gust occurred at 12:19 AM. The gust knocked my bedroom window 1" inward and out of its frame. Many nearby homes suffered roof and siding damage.

Eric Glass of Emmitsburg

19th - Fog, drizzle, light winds

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

2nd - 17" snow cover, maximum for the month.

4th - Snow cover decreased from 16" yesterday to 5" today.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL

Winds gusted to over 40 MPH on the 1st (44), 5th (41) 8th (49), 10th (41), and the 20th (50).

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

1st - Very light flurry, windy.

5th - Thunder at midnight.

8th - Squall with pea size hail mid afternoon.

Rich Holden of Clarksburg 2 ENE

Peak wind gusts of 40 MPH or higher occurred on 5 days, 1st (42), 5th (49), 8th (56), 12th (40), and 20th (48)

22nd - Moderate snow, light sleet, AM minimum 37.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

22nd - Light sleet.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

The minimum temperature of 26 was my highest March monthly minimum in my 30 years of record keeping at my current location.

22nd - Brief flurry blew through around 11:30 AM, only a few wet snow flakes mixed in a light rain shower. Air temperature was 40°.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

The month's maximum temperature of 71 didn't even exceed January or February maximum temperature.

8th - Dense AM fog and light rain. Very gusty winds and rapidly falling temperatures after 4 PM cold frontal passage.

22nd - Two brief ice pellet showers early to mid afternoon.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

7th - Heavy afternoon rain, evening drizzle.

20th - Gusty shower before dawn then fair, windy.

John Zyla of Ridge

8th - High wind gust of 46 MPH, very high for this station. Thunderstorm with 1.69" of rain.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

8th - Dreary start, evening clearing and windy.

13th - Sunshine, breezy, brisk.

19th - Overcast with rain for much of the day.

31st - Low overcast, drizzle, spotty rain, cool.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

1st - Windy today, turning colder with snow flurries and falling temperatures in the afternoon. Winds gusted to 42 MPH.

4th - Rain and windy with a few evening thunderstorms.

5th - Thunderstorm just after midnight.

8th - High winds during the afternoon and evening with many gusts past 40 MPH. PWG 57 MPH. Temperatures fell into the 20's this evening.

22nd - Cloudy and chilly with a few snow flurries.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

12 days with PWG of 40 MPH or greater.

Snowfall total of 0" tied 2000 for the least for March.

5th - New daily high precipitation of 1.73" smashed the old record of 0.43" set in 1997.

Lance Shaffer of Sterling 4 N VA

22nd - Sleet, snow grains today.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

2nd - 12" snow cover, maximum depth 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.

Tuesday's windstorm packed 73-mph wallop

• Western county hit hardest

By NANCY BROMLEY McCONATY
Staff writer

A fast-moving storm packing wind gusts of up to 73 miles an hour raced through Charles County Tuesday night, causing about 1,000 households to lose power.

A total of 1,140 Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative customers were without power during the height of the storm around midnight, said Tom Dennison, SMECO spokesman.

Most of the outages occurred in western Charles County, including Nanjemoy, Bryans Road, Indian Head and the Accokeek area, he said.

On Wednesday morning, 327 Charles County residents were still without power, according to SMECO's power outage map on its Web site, www.smeco.com. The outages were concentrated in western Charles County, Hughesville and La Plata.

The outages were related to the high winds that the storm produced, Dennison said.

A wind gust of 73 miles per hour was reported by a National Weather Service spotter in White Plains, said Jim DeCarufel, meteorologist with the NWS in Sterling, Va.

A gust of 74 miles per hour was reported at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Washington, B.C., he said.

On average, wind gusts during the storm ranged between 35 and 40 miles per hour, DeCarufel said.

There were a few downed trees because of the storm in western Charles County, said Crystal Hill, county government spokeswoman. The county's public facilities crews were still removing some of the trees on Wednesday morning, she said, adding that no major damage was reported because of the storm.

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Newspaper article provided by Mary Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE