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

## STRONG MOTHER'S DAY NORTHEASTER

Temperatures this month averaged below normal while precipitation was above normal. Two heavy rain events accounted for a large percentage of the month's precipitation. The warmest temperatures occurred early and late in the month. Almost all of the rain fell during the second and third week and on the last day of the month. The only snowfall observed fell as a trace in the Maryland Mountains.

The month dawned on a cold note. Nearly all stations reported their coldest readings on the 1st. Temperatures quickly rebounded and by the 2nd they generally ranged from the upper 70's to lower 80's.

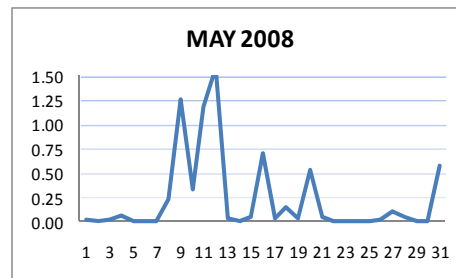
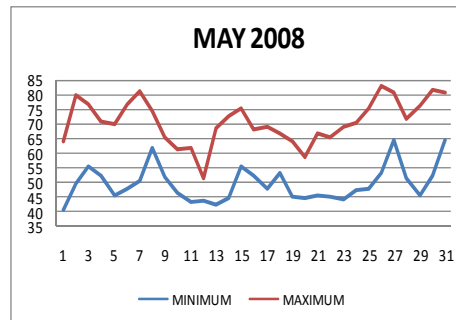
Two heavy rain events occurred from the 8th to the 12th. The first event occurred from 8th to the 10th. The heaviest rains fell the morning of the 9th. Amounts were generally in the one to two inch range. The heaviest amounts fell east of Washington DC. **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill** reported 4.42", **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE** reported 4.14", and **Dan Hanson of Pasadena 2N** 3.25".

A strong late season Northeaster brought strong winds, heavy rains, and unseasonal cold temperatures the afternoon of the 11th, Mother's Day, and the 12th. A boat performing wind research for a proposed off shore wind farm sunk off the Delaware Coast. One person lost his life. Storm totals ranged from less than an inch in Northern Delaware to over seven inches east of Washington DC. The heaviest rains fell in the same general area as the last event. The following amounts were reported by ACON observers: **Jug Bay Wetlands of Lothian** 7.25", **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill** and **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE** both 4.77", **Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE** 4.59" and **Lance Schafer of Sterling 4N** 4.26". Maximum temperatures on the 12th failed to rise much above 50. Some observers reported their lowest maximum

temperature ever for the month of May.

Several low pressure systems brought rain to the region from the 16th to the 21st. Amounts on the 16th and 20th were generally in the half to three quarters of an inch range while lighter amounts fell on the other days.

Fair weather occurred from the 22nd to the 26th. Minimum temperatures were in the 40's while maximum temperatures rose from the 60's on the 22nd and 23rd to the 80's on the 26th (Memorial Day) and the 27th. Scattered showers occurred on the 27th and 28th. Warm temperatures returned on the 30th and 31st. Thunderstorms on the 31st brought an average of a half inch of rain. The heaviest amounts fell between the Chesapeake Bay and I-95. **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill** reported 1.87" bringing his month's



### ACON MD/DE Network

Daily average temperatures and precipitation based on observation times, not calendar days.

### EXTREMES REPORTED BY

#### ACON OBSERVERS

##### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Bryans Road 2 ESE	90
Glenmont 1 NNE	88
Oxon Hill	88
Hollywood	88

##### MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	31
Eagle Rock	34
Frostburg	35
Emmitsburg	35

##### WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	64.2
Baltimore 2 SE	64.0

##### COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	50.8
Frostburg	53.1
Eagle Rock	55.1

##### MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Oxon Hill	12.78
Bryans Road 2 ESE	11.75
Jug Bay Wetlands	11.23

##### MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Harbeson 8 S DE	5.30
Emmitsburg	5.43

##### MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	0.5
Eagle Rock	T

precipitation to over 12 inches. Other ACON stations reporting over 10 inches of rain this month were **Jug Bay Wetland of Lothian**, and **Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE**.

Longtime ACON observer **AI Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW** passed away on the 28th. See pages 3 & 4 for a memorial.

# OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MAY 2008

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

**9th** - 2.50" New May monthly daily rainfall record. Old daily record was 2.49" set 5/1/1976.

**12th** - Peak wind gust 54 MPH from the ENE

**18th** - 29.31" New May monthly minimum barometric pressure. Old was 29.32" set 5/31/2003

## **Nate Mullins of LaVale**

Average maximum temperature of 66.8 is the coolest for any May.

**10th** - Daily record rainfall of 1.25".

**12th** - 47° high—record minimum maximum temperature for May. Old was 48 set 5/2/2005. Some light late season snowflakes in the nearby mountains.

**31st** - Series of strong thunderstorms, mainly in the morning, brings the daily total to a record 1.02"

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

**9th** - +TSRA till 0100, then RA till near dusk.

**21st** - Partial double rainbow ~1845..

## **Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills**

**19th** - Variable clouds, windy, and quite cool.

**26th** - Sunny, breezy, much warmer.

**31st** - Cloudy with light morning and early PM thunderstorms.

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

**22nd** - Partly cloudy, mild, very windy in the afternoon and evening.

**26th** - Cloudy, warm, a few light showers.

## **Eric Glass of Emmitsburg**

**5th** - Clear, sunny, calm.

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

**1st** - Frosty start, light showers.

**9th** - Thunderstorms, a soaker rain, cold.

**27th** - Evening heavy thunderstorm

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

**3rd** - AM fog, PM haze, little sun, PM max 69.

**12th** - Moderate - heavy rain in AM windy. PM max 46.

**19th** - Rainbow SW

## **Ray Muller of Westminster City**

**4th** - Dense fog, visibility 1/4 mile.

## **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**

**12th** - Mixed snow and rain.

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

**12th** - Minimum barometric pressure 29.36".

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

**13th** - 42 tied daily minimum temperature.

**31st** - Occasional thunder noon to 2 PM.

## **Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S**

**11-12th** - -RASH began in afternoon. Steady RA continued through 12th, totaling 2.92" by 8:00PM. Additional .02 more fell during the evening.

## **Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S (Cont.)**

**21st** - SHRA with gusty winds 5:50 - 6:15 PM, gustiest 5:55 - 6:00 PM.

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

**12th** - Maximum temperature of 49 lowest in 31 Mays of record. Old minimum maximum temperature 50 set 5/4/1994.

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

73% of May's rain, 4.88", fell from the 8th to the 12th. This was the 3rd wettest May. Record is 10.05" set in 1988.

**11th** - Daily precipitation record of 2.32" set.

**12th** - Minimum maximum temperature set for May of 49°.

**13th** - Minimum barometric pressure 29.35" at 3:30 AM.

## **Joe Terry of Forest Glen**

Wettest May in station history (13 years) and the second wettest month in a row.

**12th** - 50° tied with May 2003 for the months minimum maximum temperature. Months minimum barometric pressure of 29.31".

## **Brian Smith of Oxon Hill**

**9th** - TSRA started around 2300 5/8. +TSRA 0000-0300, RA to +RA 0300-0800.

**11th** - -RA 1400-1600, then +RA 1600-2400. +TSRA 2130-2150.

**28th** - Halo 0946

**31st** - +TSRA 1400 to 1600.

## **Floyd Abell of Hollywood**

**11th** - Afternoon and evening heavy rain, some thunder.

## **John Zyla of Ridge**

**7th** - Thick AM fog in yard.

**31st** - Fog, hail pea sized, thunderstorm at 8:05 PM.

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

**19th** - Cloudy, cooler, very windy.

**26th** - Very warm, PM showers, breezy.

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

**13th** - Dense overnight and early morning fog.

**18th** - Windy afternoon and evening. Minimum barometric pressure 29.28".

**27th** - Warm and humid. Some evening sprinkles with thunder.

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

**11th** - New daily rainfall (1.52") and minimum maximum temperature (60°).

**12th** - Maximum temperature of 49 set a monthly minimum maximum temperature. Old min max was 51 set on several occasions, the last being 5/17/2003.

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.

Long time ACON member and weather good friend **Al Kreinik** of **Parkton 5 SW Maryland** passed away on May 28. Al was an avid weather observer and train enthusiast. Bobby Miller and Al were the best of friends. They travelled thousands of miles across the beautiful USA visiting numerous weather and railroad sites. Below is memorial written by Bobby Miller and some pictures that I took over the years at our gatherings.

Al, you will be missed,  
Gary Gallaher  
ACON Data Manager  
and Report Writer

**In Memory of Allen Kreinik: July 11, 1930- May 28, 2008**

By Bobby Miller, NWS Cooperative Weather Observer and charter member of ACON

2008 was a very difficult year for all of us and for me personally as I lost my best friend and assistant observer, Al Kreinik. Al joined our Maryland and Delaware ACON group in 1988 right before our annual meeting in State College, Pennsylvania. I had met him on May 26, 1988 working at AAI Corporation on the beginning or pre production phase of ASOS. Al was very involved with the configuration management side. He called about 3 P.M that day and found him to be very interesting and full of conversation of all kinds of topics. Weather was one he was particularly fond of as he passed a correspondence course in meteorology in February 1951! His interest in weather went back at least that far! Al said he heard of somebody who works at AAI that attends weather meetings and he wanted to know more! Needless to say we and ACON had a wonderful 20 year relationship! Kevin and I will always remember the head end of his cot falling while he was talking in our room at the first meeting. We all got a great laugh out of that one and many more for two decades.

Al enjoyed the first meeting at State College and came with me (naturally!) to many other meetings and our annual parties at Robert Rickell's or Herb Close's house. He was a fixture at these gatherings, mainly due to his easy outgoing style in conversation and his knowledge of electronics. If Al couldn't fix it he would get on the telephone and find out how to fix it. That's how he did a lot of things!

On Labor Day 1988, Al paid a visit to the station at Millers 4 NE, Maryland and took notes and asked many questions on setting up a home weather station. Another item Al was excellent in doing- asking questions!

By 1989, Al had built a Heathkit 5001 weather station. I helped him install a shelter and a rain gage and he was on his way to a fine two decade record of observations at his home 5 miles southwest of the post office in Parkton, Maryland.

(Continued on page 4)



2002 Al Kreinik



1993 Al with Bobby Miller & Wayne Winston



2001 Al with Kevin Shaw

(Continued from Page 3)

During Al's initial visit I also found out that he liked trains both real and model! From 1989 until his untimely death he helped in building our model railroad layout. He also introduced me to a friend of his named Joe Albert who designed our layout and helped lay our track work beginning in 1993.

It would be impossible to list every story or highlight but I would be amiss if I didn't mention the fact that he had a lot of respect for all of our Maryland and Delaware ACON weather observers. That he told me on more than one occasion! He was extremely proud of our group and the fact that we have remained dedicated and faithful observers for such a long time.

Al was a very busy individual and remained so up to the very end. In May of this year we acquired a large part of the weather equipment of Lowell Koontz who was moving from Annandale, Virginia to northwest of Richmond, Virginia. Al and I called it the Nimbus project and we planned on working the entire summer on it.

But God had other perfect plans. Al had been suffering from diabetes for a quarter of a century or so. It forced him to live with us everyday for 5 years and 5 months. No problems here as he was part of our family! After a 911 calls and trip to the hospital on Friday May 23, 2008, he slipped into a diabetic coma and never recovered. His suffering from this terrible disease had come to an end. He always told me he would like to live to be a 100 and I believe he could have since a long life ran in his family. But he also said, "I would like to know my up from my down!" He was too active to live any other way and I am sure God called him to avoid this situation for all of us.

Al told me after his December 2002 heart bypass operation and his pacemaker procedures that everything will work out fine! If anything would happen to me you will be taken care of. He also told me never to stop observing and enjoying the train layout. I completed the Nimbus weather station on November 13, 2008 in memory of Al Kreinik. I felt like he was watching me overcome my electronics inexperience on many occasions.

I cannot image my life without knowing Al for 20 years and 2 days. I am sure many other observers feel the same way. I also would like to thank everyone for all of their cards, emails, phone calls and flowers during this difficult time. It also reminds me of all of the Maryland and Delaware observers who have gone on before like Joe Moyer, Kenney Boggs and Dave Bryant, just to name a few, who have left an excellent weather observing legacy. Take a look at the official Maryland Delaware Climatological Data publications for those individuals who have observed many decades in decades past! I also want to encourage everybody who remains to live a life and leave a legacy like Al would want us to do-keep observing. There are many more or hopefully many more blizzards and thunderstorms to observe and document! And as Al would say "How 'bout that!"



2003 Al with Bobby Miller & Jeff Stoudt



2005 Al with Jeff Stoudt



2006 Al with Marty Brumback & Bobby Miller



2007 Al with Herb Close, Bobby Miller