



<http://www.jhuapl.edu/weather/education/ACONdata.html>

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

WARM WITH LITTLE SNOWFALL HEAVY RAINS ON THE 6th-7th

December continued the 2011 trend of above normal temperatures and precipitation. Very little snow fell.

On the temperature side its highlight was the warmth. Temperatures averaged ~5 degrees above average. Intrusions of unseasonably cold temperatures were non-existent. Several ACON observers reported station near record high mean temperatures. Minimum temperatures on the 6th were around 10 degrees above the normal maximum temperature for the date.

There were two highlights on the precipitation side. 1st was the heavy rain event of the 6th and 7th. 3.10" of rain that fell on the 7th set an all-time December daily record for the month at NWS Washington National surpassing the old record of 2.81" set on 12/18/1977. The 2nd was the lack of snowfall.

The weather pattern this month allowed for the sky to clear at night which along with light winds allowed for several mornings with heavy frost.

There were four warm periods during the month where 60° temperatures occurred: 5th - 7th, 15th & 16th, 21st & 22nd, and the 31st. Temperatures reached the 70° mark from Sussex County Delaware southwards on the 7th.

Minimum temperatures ranged from the upper teens east of the mountains to the upper 20's along the Atlantic Coast, in St Marys County, and at NWS Washington National.

The month began sunny with mild days and chilly nights. Unseasonable warm air overran the region the 5th and the 6th. **Richard Holden** of **Clarksburg** reported 60° at obs on the 6th.

Over 2 inches of rain fell on the 6th and 7th from Central Maryland to Northern Delaware. The greatest amounts of over 3 inches fell from Washington DC eastwards towards the Bay. **Jug Bay Wetlands** in **Lothian** reported 4.65", **Marty Brumback** of **Bryans Road 2 ESE** 4.31", **Brian Smith** of **Oxon Hill** 3.71", **Jeff**

Stoudt of Laurel 2 E 3.18" and **Joe Terry of Forest Glen** 3.01". Less than an inch fell from Sussex County Delaware southwards. The rain changed to wet snow as it ended at some locations in Central Maryland. Most locations only reported a Trace but in Carroll County **Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW** reported 1.1".

Light snow fell early on the 18th in Northern Delaware and in Carroll County Maryland.

The second rain event occurred from the 21st to the 23rd. Rainfall amounts were around an inch.

Christmas day began with heavy frost. Afternoon temperatures rose to the mid 40's and lower 50's. Clouds increased during the afternoon.

The third rain event occurred on the 27th. Half to three quarters of an inch

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

DEOS Georgetown 5SW DE	70
DEOS Harbeson 8 S DE	69
Ridge	69

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Davis 3 SE WV	9
Frostburg	13
LaVale	17
Smithsburg 1.5 SW	17
Hagerstown 1 E	17

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	46.4
Hollywood 3 ENE	45.9

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Davis 3 SE WV	32.9
Frostburg	34.1
LaVale	38.0

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Jug Bay Wetlands	6.36
Bryans Road 2 ESE	5.57

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

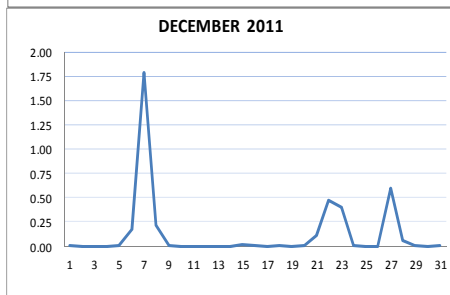
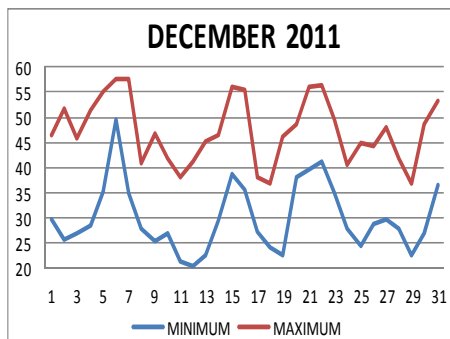
DEOS Harbeson 8 S DE	1.57
DEOS Rehoboth Beach DE	1.60

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Davis 3 SE WV	16.4
Frostburg	3.3

of rain fell.

Some light snow fell in portions of Central Maryland on the 29th. Amounts ranged from a Trace to half inch.



ACON MD/DE Network

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

NEW ACON MEMBER

Alex & David McGinnis of Rockville 2 W MD. Alex and his father David are members of the WBCR Network.

WELCOME!

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2011

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

Second warmest of 45 Decembers. Wind speeds averaged lower than average and the barometric pressure averaged higher than average. 58° minimum on the 6th broke the old December maximum minimum temperature of 57° set 12/23/1990. New monthly minimum daily maximum temperature of 38° set, 18th & 29th). Old record was 36 set 12/31/1974.

7th - Daily record precipitation of 2.20". Old record was 1.11" set in 1976.

18th - Pre-dawn light snow. Only snowfall of the month.

Nate Mullins of LaVale

Near normal precipitation, lack of snowfall, and much milder temperatures this month. There were no subfreezing days.

7th - Daily record precipitation of 1.68". Old record was 1.20" set in 1953.

Jeff Stoudt of Laurel 2 E

Although no unusually warm ($\geq 65^\circ$) temperatures occurred, significantly mild weather frequented throughout the month with ten days reaching the upper 50's or lower 60's. Periods of subnormal temperatures were brief and few, and no harshly cold ($\leq 20^\circ$) weather occurred.

6th & 7th - An innocuously light rain on the 6th evolved into an all-out drenching on the 7th and accounted for over half the whole month's rainfall. Total amount 3.18". High water partly or completely blocked some area roads..

Ray Muller of Reisterstown

5th - Dense AM fog.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

Temperatures averaged 5.2° above normal.

2nd - Frosty start, then sunny and milder.

4th - Dense AM fog, then mostly sunny and milder.

12th - Frigid start, then inc high clouds and chilly.

29th - Becoming overcast with light snow, cold.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

7th - Heavy rain, cooler late, light snow by 9 PM.

13th - Very frosty start, sunny and milder.

18th - Early snow flurries and cold.

29th - Early afternoon surprise light snowfall.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

Many mornings with heavy frost.

1st - Nice start to December - 100% sunshine.

7th - Heavy rain changed briefly to snow after obs time.

17th & 18th - Light snow evening of 17th & morning of 18th.

29th - Evening light snow.

Marty Brumback of Bryans Road 2 ESE

6th & 7th - Two day rain event began at 9:50AM on the 6th and ended at 11PM on the 7th. Total 4.31". Thunder heard on the evening of the 7th.

Eric Glass of Emmitsburg 2 SE

25th - Frosty, cold, calm morning.

29th - Very windy.

Richard Giannola of JHU/APL

Maximum barometric pressure: 30.63" on the 11th.

Minimum barometric pressure: 29.40" on the 27th.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

29th - Light snow and flurries 1 - 3 PM.

Rich Giannola of Olney 1 S

22nd—23rd - Rain began the evening of the 22nd and ended by dawn of the 23rd. 1.08" fell.

Richard Holden of Clarksburg 2 ENE

6th - Temperature rose to 60° at obs (midnight).

7th - Heavy rain, light snow, AM minimum temperature 52°, afternoon maximum temperature 53°.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

The 2.10" that fell on the 7th broke the old December daily precipitation record of 2.09" set 12/24/1986.

Trace of snow this month tied five other Decembers for the lowest monthly snowfall total.

Second warmest December in my 34 years of records. Warmest December is 42.2° set 12/1984.

Average minimum of 32.9° set a record for the warmest average minimum. The old record was 32.2° set 12/1984.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Temperatures well above normal. No extreme warmth but 8 days reached 60° or above and no maximums below 41°. No ice and only very minor traces of snow fell.

Brian Smith of Oxon Hill

7th - 3.39" of rain today ended as a trace of snow.

John Zyla of Ridge

17th - First freezing temperature of the season.

18th - Partly cloudy and cold. Snow flurries at 1:30 PM.

Max Hutto of Smithsburg 1.5 SW

7th - Rain all day, heavy at times, dropping temperatures, PM flurries. Two day event 2.16".

16th - Warm overnight, dropping temps throughout the day.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

8th - Windy overnight; NNW winds gusted up to 40 MPH.

12th, 13th, & 14th - Cold, frosty with mins in upper teens.

16th - Windy overnight with west winds gusting to 31 MPH also high temperature of 59° around 1 AM.

29th - Cloudy, cold with snow showers between 9 AM and noon.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 2 NE

7th - 1.98" set new daily precipitation record. Old record was 1.50" set in 1976. 0.5" of snow set a new daily record. Old record was 0.1" set on several occasions with the last being 2008.

Dave Leshner of Davis 3 SE WV

7th - Max snow depth of the month 9".

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.