December followed the same footprint as did most of the others this year - above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

The first day of the month along with the last day of November saw the coldest temperatures of the winter season so far. Temperatures rose rapidly so by the 3rd 60 degree temperatures were common across the region. These temperatures remained through the 5th.

The warmest ACON stations Jug Bay and Hollywood (71), while Ridge, Baltimore 2 SE, Bryans Road 2 SE, and Harberson DE each had 70. Maximum temperatures cooled off some what but remained generally in the 40’s and 50’s while minimums were in the 30’s until the first day of winter. Many stations saw their first subfreezing day of the month on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Near seasonal temperatures remained until 50’s and a few 60’s returned for the last two days of the month.

On the precipitation side, amounts were generally in the 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inch range. Five periods of precipitation occurred this month. All were rain expect the last one which occurred on the 28th. The 13th -14th saw the heaviest amounts. Amounts of over an inch fell at all ACON stations east of the mountains. The heaviest fell at Owings Mills (2.18”) while the least fell at Bryans Road 2 ESE (1.02”). The precipitation event of the 20th - 22nd saw a little sleet at many stations on the 22nd. Forest Glen (0.4”), Gaithersburg 2 WNW (0.2”), Glenmont (0.2”), and Hanover 2 S PA (0.1”) were the only ACON stations to report measurable sleet. The last event was a pure snow one. This was a very light event with measurable snow falling at 14 sites. The heaviest was 1” at Owings Mills 2 SE, Manchester 1 SW, and Hanover 2 S PA. Other amounts except for Millers 4NE (0.9”) were less than 1/2”.

Eagle Rock, located in Western Maryland’s Garrett County, was the only station to report multiple days with one inch. Snowfall of over one inch (1”) was observed on six (6) days with the heaviest one on the first of December (3.0”). The balance of the ACON stations remained snow starved. Thirteen (13) stations scattered across the two state region have yet to see any measurable snowfall.

**FIRST MONTH OF WINTER SEES LITTLE SNOWFALL AND MILD TEMPERATURES**

**EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS**

**MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE**
- Jug Bay Wetlands 71
- Hollywood 71
- Bryans Head 2 ESE 70
- Baltimore 2 SE 70
- Harberson DE 70

**MINIMUM TEMPERATURE**
- Eagle Rock 2
- Westminster 4 SSE 10
- Owings Mills 2 SE 11
- Manchester 1 SW 11
- Hagerstown 1 E 11

**WARMEST AVG. TEMP.**
- Ridge 43.8
- Baltimore 2 SE 42.5
- Hollywood 41.7

**COLDEST AVG. TEMP.**
- Eagle Rock 31.4
- Hanover 2 S 35.3
- Westminster 4 SSE 35.8

**MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION**
- Owings Mills 2 SE 3.80
- Westminster 4 SSE 3.73
- Millers 4 NE 3.66

**MINIMUM PRECIPITATION**
- Ridge 2.22
- Baltimore 2 SE 2.29
- Bryans Road 2 ESE 2.30

**MAXIMUM SNOWFALL**
- Eagle Rock 10.8
- Hanover 2 S PA 1.1
- Parkton 5 SW 1.0
- Manchester 1 SW 1.0

**MANY THANKS!!**
Since I volunteered to be the Data Coordinator and Report Writer in 1992, I have enjoyed it. Any suggestions, comments, please forward to either Kevin or myself. This publication would not be possible with dedicated observers like you!

Gary Gallaher, Bear 2 SW DE.
OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR DECEMBER 1999

Jug Bay Wetlands
10th - Rain started at 10 AM
21st - Overcast with geese.
29th - Light dusting of snow on ground at observation time.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW
3rd to 5th - Warmest days of the month.
4th - Dense fog at 10:30 PM.
28th - Light snow 6:30 - 9:35 PM.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills
16th - Scattered clouds / sunshine, windy and much colder.
31st - Foggy start, hazy sun and clouds and mild

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW
1st - Very cold, winds North 10-30 MPH.
28th - Light to moderate evening snow.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE
10th - Mid day and PM rain, some heavy.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 N
1st - First sub-zero wind chill of season.
3rd to 5th - Very mild, but not close to any record. Last year was milder.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock
1st - 3.0” of snow, the heaviest of the month.

Rich Giannola of JHU/APL
15th - AM for lifting for a short time ~ noon, then returning in early afternoon.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4N
15th - Dense morning fog.

Rich Giannola of Olney
6th - Mostly AM rain. 0.61” by 5:30 PM.
21st - Light rain and light sleet in afternoon. More light sleet in the evening.

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE
21st - Showers of sleet and light rain fell late in the afternoon and evening and were mostly brief. Sleet began falling around 10:15 PM and mixed with rain until obs. 0.1” on grass, cars.
22nd - Sleet at obs mixed with and changed to light rain...changed to snow grains by 2:30 AM changed to light snow by 3:30 AM which accumulated another 0.1” on grass, cars. Did not stick on pavement.

Joe Terry of Forest Glen
A relatively warm beginning with gradual cooling until almost the end of the month. The coldest being around Christmas. 90% of the precipitation came during the first half of December. Only two (2) minor snow/ice events.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW
December was milder and slightly drier than normal. The only low min temperature was set on the 28th (17 deg). No new maximum temperatures were set.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE
Mild first month of Winter. Above normal temperatures 3rd-21st. No measurable snow fell this month. Only major event was on the 13th - 14th. Cold Christmas.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie
1st - Clear, heavy frost 0700 hours
15th - Dense fog until 1300 hours.
28th - Light snow 1900 - 2100 hours, just a dusting on cars and grass.

Marlene Walchli of California
11th - Crystal clear, blue skies, unrestricted visibility after the rains of yesterday.
27th - Becoming cloudy by Noon, very fine, light snow flurries.

John Zyla of Ridge
28th - Snow showers 8:15 - 10:15 PM. 0.5”

Tim Preuss of Harberson, DE
5th - Beautiful day 70 degrees
9th - Freezing fog in AM.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E
20th - Fog with periods of rain and drizzle today.
25th - Christmas Cold low of 11. A mostly sunny breezy cold day.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE
Percipitation for the month and year below normal. Precipitation 10.93” below normal since July 1, 1998, 1.07” for ‘99

28th - First measurable snowfall of the season

Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA
28th - As of 9PM this evening 1” of the “fluffy white stuff,” that is snow, of which we don’t see enough of, had accumulated here in South Hanover. Roadways have become extremely slippery. It seems that there is a thin film of ice on the roadways beneath the snow cover. Many cars have had much trouble traveling up and down between the 2 hills here where I live. My neighbors mailbox just got “knocked down” as a car lost control. Several other cars have slid off the road.

OBSERVER NEWS

NEW MEMBER:  
Tim Preuss of Haberson, Delaware
Tim’s station is located between Lewes and Georgetown. Tim fills a void that we have. He is the only ACON observer from south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in Delaware. Welcome Tim - we all will be looking forward to your monthly reports.