September 1997 was a nice transition month between summer and fall. Temperatures were mild with a couple of cool spells. The first cool spell came towards the end of the first work week and was brief. It brought record to near record cold to two of the National Weather Service stations, BWI and Wilmington. The second one came just after the beginning of Autumn. Again this cold front brought record cold to BWI and Wilmington National Weather Services Offices. Gary Gallaher of Bear 6 WSW, DE had his coldest temperature so early in the fall season of 38 on the 22nd and 36 on the 25th.

The first 20 days saw maximum temperatures generally in the 70's and 80's with minimums in the 50's and 60's. After the 20th of the month the maximum temperatures fell generally to the 60's and 70's and minimum temperatures fell generally into the the 40's and 50's. 90 degree days were at a premium this month.

Precipitation this month was below normal in the Eastern half of Maryland and all of Delaware. The southeastern areas were the driest. Washington County, in Central Maryland recorded the most. Training thunderstorms on the 10th and 11th brought 4 to 6 inches at both of the counties ACON stations. According to Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg and Greg Keefer of Hagerstown thunderstorms moved north along a north-south line bringing heavy rains over the same area with no breaks during the evening of the 10th and early in the morning of the 11th. Lightning was also severe at times. Carroll County observers Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW and Bobby Miller of Millers 4 ENE each reported over 2 inches. 1 inch plus totals were common across other areas except the southeastern parts of the area. Kenny Boggs of Whaleysville reported the least with 0.05".

A line of thunderstorms with heavy rains and strong winds rolled across the area on the 20th.
THE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN WEATHER DEDICATED

Roger Brickner's Museum of American Weather held its fifth annual conference September 12-13th. On Saturday, September 13th, the museum was dedicated to the memory of David Ludlum, weather historian, and renamed "The David Ludlum Museum of American Weather". His wife and four children were on hand for the early afternoon ceremony. Next years conference is scheduled for September 11-13, 1998. Mark your calendars now.

WEATHER STATION FRIED IN JULY

ACON Member Bob Mills of Frederick, Maryland had some tough luck this past July, his station was hit by lightning. Bob will begin submitting data in October.

WELCOME BACK CLINT!

Clinton Bubb has rejoined us. He retired and moved to St Marys County where he built a new home. His station has been installed and he began submitting data this month.

SNOWFALL MEASUREMENTS

Now that the snowfall season is on our doorsteps I wanted to review will everyone how to measure snowfall. Attached is the "Snow Measurement Guidelines" issued 10-23-96 by the National Weather Service. Please review this NWS official procedure before the first snowfall. By using this procedure we can all have accurate amounts.

Per the procedures snowfall measurements are to be taken minimally once-a-day, but can be taken as frequently every six hours beginning with your observation time for a maximum total of four times an observation day. The snowboard or measuring area is not to be cleaned more than once in six hours. If snowfall measurements are taken more frequently than 6 hours and added together to come up with a 24 hour total the snowfall total could be falsely increased.

If anyone has any questions please contact Kevin or me and we will answer your questions.

GARY GALLAHER
MD/DE ACON DATA COLLECTOR AND REPORT WRITER