

# MARYLAND/DC COCORAHs

Volume 2, Issue 1

JAN 2010

## December Weather Review

Our Cocorahs weather observers were quite busy during the month of December with several winter weather events to deal with as well as several rainstorms which made for another very wet month, ending a very wet year! A couple of winter storms impacted the state with a major winter storm on Dec 18-19<sup>th</sup> setting some all time December records for snowfall. That storm along with several other systems during the month allowed Baltimore Washington International Airport to set a new precipitation record for the month with 8.06 inches, eclipsing the old record of 7.44 inches set in 1969. December averaged about 2 degrees cooler than normal at the airport. Statewide, every Cocorahs reporting station received over five inches of rainfall for the month, with most station reporting between 7 to 9 inches making for a very wet end of the year! Sandra (MD-SM-4) from Charlotte Hall Maryland led all observers with a whopping 10.05 inches of rain for the month, while the lowest reading of 5.31 inches was reported by Brian (MD-FR-3) near Frederick, Maryland. For snow, George (MD-GR-4) near McHenry Maryland lead the state with 37.7 inches for the month, but Richard (MD-MG-24) in Clarksburg in Central Maryland was not too far behind with 35.1 inches of snow for the month. The snow totals diminished sharply as you neared the coast, with Ed (MD-WR-5) in Ocean Pines Md only reporting an inch of snow for the month.



## December 18-19 Snowstorm one for the Record Books

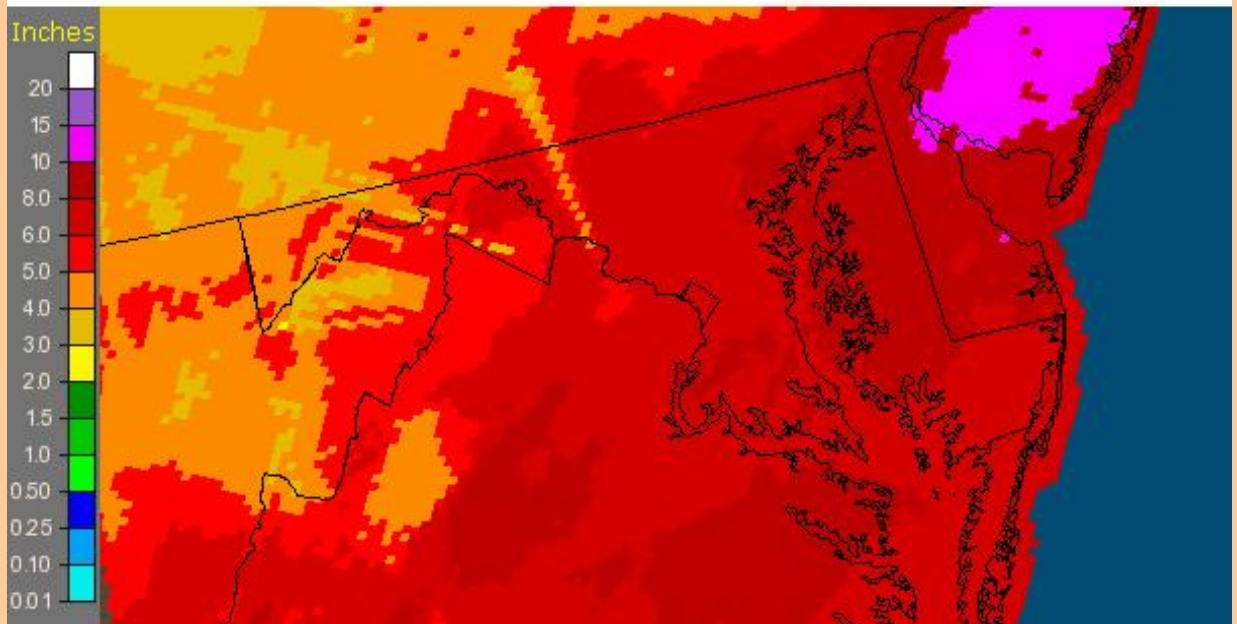
We have never experienced a snowier December in most of Maryland than this past December and you can thank the snowstorm that occurred on Dec 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for most of the monthly snowfall. As it turned out, this storm not only set all time records at both National and BWI airports for the most snow in a 24 hour period in December, but the snowfall also exceeded the previous record monthly snow totals at both locations. For BWI the official 2 day snow total was 21.1 inches. The old record for Dec 19<sup>th</sup> was 7.6 inches set in 1945 and the previous all time December daily record was 11.5 inches on Dec 17, 1932. For National Airport, the 15 inches which occurred on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> broke the previous record for that date of 7 inches set in 1945. The previous single day record for the entire month of December was 11.5 inches set on Dec 17, 1932.



Visible satellite image on Dec 20, 2009 from polar orbiter showing snow cover across the entire region after the storm.

## December 2009 PRECIPITATION

Maryland: December, 2009 Monthly Observed Precipitation  
Valid at 1/1/2010 1200 UTC- Created 1/1/10 23:43 UTC



DECEMBER PRECIPITATION ANALYSIS FROM THE ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC PRECIPITATION SERVICE ANALYSIS.

You may have noticed that the monthly Cocorahs reports were not included in this month's analysis. The reason for this was there was too much variability between close stations, which was probably a result of differences in the way folks measured or had difficulty melting the snow from the major snowstorm on Dec 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Thus in order not to remove stations that appeared too low or too high, I decided to just use the Advanced Hydrologic Precipitation analysis shown above. You can compare your own monthly totals for December 2009 with the analysis above to see how close the estimate is to your own actual total. For future reference, the best way to find the liquid amount of deep snow is to take a core sample with your outer gage.

MORNING AFTER THE MAJOR WINTER STORM OF DEC 19 2009 IN  
BOWIE, MD



If you have any question or comments about Maryland/DC CoCoRaHS or would like to submit something for our newsletter please send to [bruce.sullivan@cocorahs.org](mailto:bruce.sullivan@cocorahs.org) or [bruce.sullivan@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.sullivan@noaa.gov)