

MARYLAND/DC COCORAHS

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March Weather Review

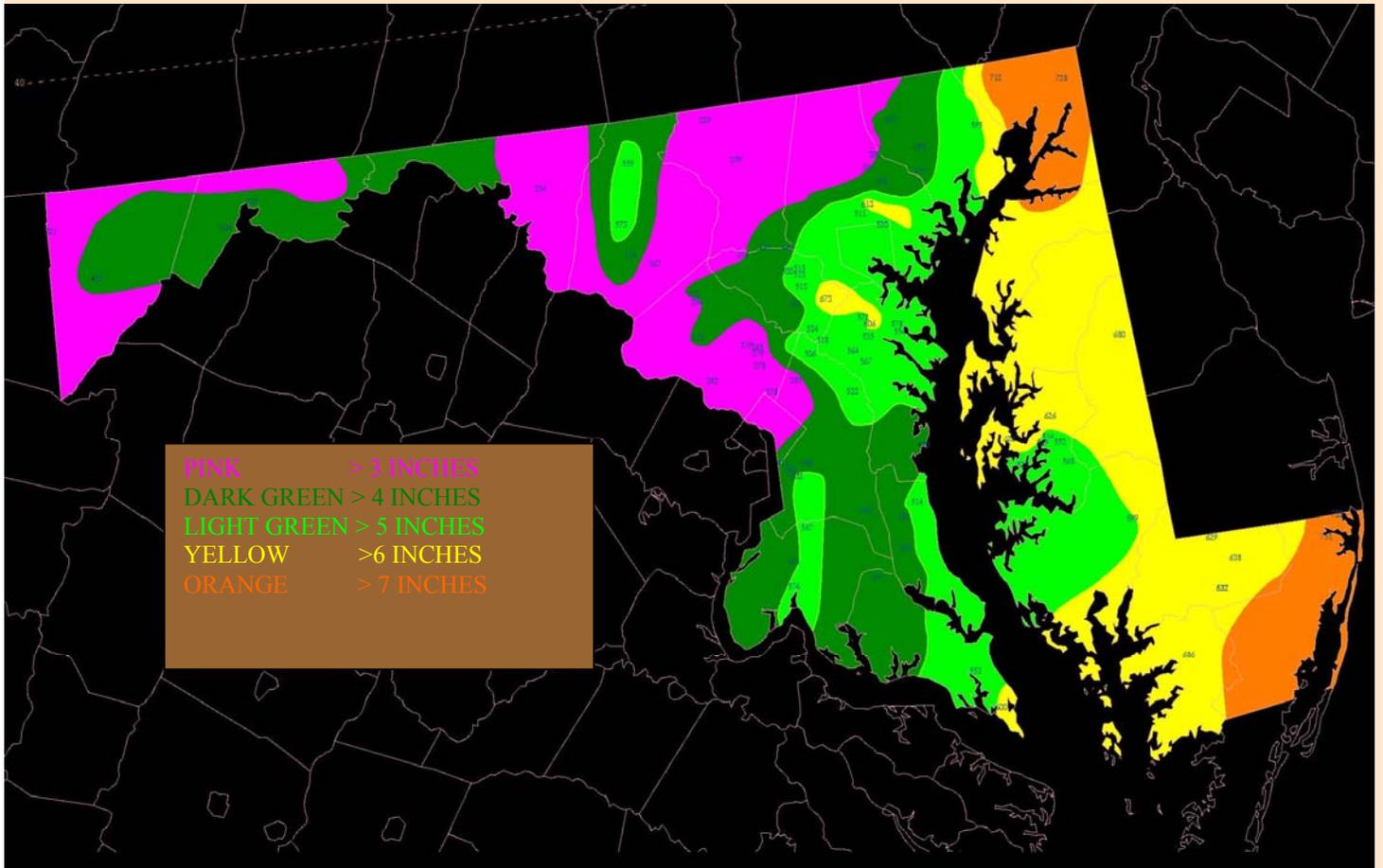
After experiencing one of the snowiest and rather cold February's on record, March rewarded us with a respite from winter's wrath giving us above average temperatures as well as very little snowfall. Temperatures at Baltimore Washington International airport averaged 48.5 degrees which was 4.8 degrees above normal. The highest temperature for the month was 75 degrees which occurred on March 21st. Low temperatures in fact were over 5 degrees above normal with the coldest reading at the airport for the entire month only falling to 29 degrees. After a rather dry start to the month, March monthly precipitation was above normal across most of the state and was especially heavy over the Eastern shore. The combination of warm temperatures, heavy rains, and upstream snow melt from the mountains of western Maryland and West Virginia resulted in some flooding along areas of the Potomac River basin between March 12 and March 14th. In fact most of the heavier rain for the month occurred during this 3 day stretch. The heaviest rainfall amounts for the entire month were reported on the Eastern Shore. Ed (MD-WR-5) near Ocean Pines lead the way with a whopping 7.51 inches of rain, while Joe (MD-WR-4) to the south near Bishopville was close behind with 7.33 inches for the month. The lowest amount for the month was reported by Deborah (MD-CR-5) near Taneytown with 3.29 inches. The heaviest 24 hour rainfall amount was 2.95 inches reported by Andrew (MD-HW-3) near Ellicott City. As mentioned, very little snow fell across the state during March. George (MD-GR-4) in Garrett County Maryland reported 4.5 inches for entire month leading all Cocorahs reports. Some light snowfall amounts fell as far as east as parts of central Maryland. There were no reports of hail during the month.



Getting Prepared for Spring Storms

As we continue to transition away from winter into the spring season, our thoughts turn toward the increasing prospects of thunderstorms as the weather continues to warm. With the increasing threat of thunderstorms comes the possibility of severe weather, including the potential for hail and flash flooding. The Significant Weather Report and the Hail Report forms are handy and very useful tools to report significant precipitation that is routinely viewed and used by the National Weather Service offices supporting our region. Many of you used the Significant Weather Report to send in your heavy snow observations during several of the heavy snowstorms this winter and this is a reminder to use that same form to report heavy rain when you see it. Use the Hail Report form to report hail. You don't have to wait till your normal reporting time. In fact we would prefer you to send in the report as soon as you possibly can. Your reports may help the National Weather Service determine the need for a Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Flash Flood Warning based on your report. If you haven't done so already, please familiarize yourself with the procedures for using the Significant Weather Report and Hail Report forms.

March 2010 PRECIPITATION



THE MARCH PRECIPITATION ANALYSIS IS FROM COMPLETED MONTHLY COCORAHS REPORTS ADJUSTED BY THE ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC PRECIPITATION SERVICE MONTHLY ANALYSIS.

WELCOME NEW COCORAHS OBSERVERS

**BUDDY MD-SM-12
FRED MD-AA-39
DAN MD-AA-40
LARRY MD-AA-41
WILLIAM MD-AA-42**

FLOOD PHOTOS IN WESTERN MARYLAND



PHOTOS
COURTESY
OF LESTER
MD-GR-2
AND MD-GR-6



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 or bruce.sullivan@noaa.gov

