

JULY 1990: As noted on the front cover, July continued the trend of above normal temperatures for 1990 at all five airports. May remained the lone month this year with subnormal temperatures. However, there were no prolonged, intense heat waves, which can often occur during July, although 14 days reached or surpassed 90°F and the thermometer hit 100°F on July 5 at DCA. Only two years ago at National, July 1988 had 23 days of 90°F or more, including 4 days of 100°F+. The heat then persisted into August as readings climbed at or above 90°F a record-tying 21 consecutive days from July 29 to August 18! In sharp contrast, cool northeasterly winds, thick clouds, and occasional light showers on the 13th kept maximum temperatures at record low levels (66°F at IAD, BWI; 69°F at DAA, 70°F at DCA, and 71°F at ADW).

The 1990 pattern of frequent precipitation events continued during July. With numerous thunderstorms hitting the area, amounts varied, with the larger totals across parts of Fairfax (IAD 5.40" and cooperative observers ALS 5.91", GE 5.53", and BRR 5.41"), Montgomery (cooperative observer AH 5.29"), Prince Georges (ADW 5.14" and cooperative observers TEB 5.56" and TWF 5.54"), and Anne Arundel (BWI 5.68") Counties. Slightly lower amounts occurred in the immediate Washington area (DCA 3.78") and southeast of the city (e.g. DAA 3.83", Prince William County observer DM 2.49", and Calvert County observer MBH 4.24"). Some noteworthy thunderstorms occurred on the afternoon of July 1 with hail, strong winds, and power outages in Vienna and Bethesda; rainfall totals of 2.54" at BWI and 3" at IAD from July 12 into the 13th; soaking rain at DCA on the 14th (1.20") and DAA (1.27") from the 22nd into the 23rd; and heavy showers south and east of the city on the 29th (Calvert County 1-1.5", Patuxent River NAS, MD 3.54"). This year's wet weekend weather unfortunately persisted into July as 4 of 5 weekends (including June 30-July 1) had measurable rainfall [July 7-8 was the dry exception]. Since February, 23 of 26 weekends have recorded some (trace or more) precipitation at DCA.

JULY 1990 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station <u>Location</u>	<u>Temperatures (°F)</u>					<u>Extreme/Day</u>		<u>Precipitation (In)</u>		
	<u>AvMx</u>	<u>AvMn</u>	<u>AvgT</u>	<u>NmlT</u>	<u>DepNm</u>	<u>MaxT</u>	<u>MinT</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Norm</u>	<u>DepNm</u>
National (DCA)	87.9	70.8	79.3	78.9	+0.4	100/5	63/13	3.78	3.88	-0.10
Baltimore (BWI)	87.6	68.8	78.2	76.8	+1.4	101/9	62/13	5.68	3.89	+1.79
Dulles (IAD)	87.8	65.6	76.7	75.5	+1.2	99/5	56/3	5.40	3.75	+1.65
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	88.1	67.6	77.9	76	+2	101/5	58/3	3.83	3.8	0
Andrews AFB (ADW)	87.3	70.7	79.0	77	+2	99/5	62/3	5.14	4.3	+0.8

LOOKING AHEAD: ANOTHER DRY AUGUST?

Since 1980, only one year has had above normal rainfall at DCA (1986 when 5.33" fell, the most in any month during that dry year [32.57" versus Nml=39.00"]). Will the trend continue in 1990 for what is normally Washington's wettest month?

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>DepNml</u> [Nml=4.40"]
1980	1.11	-3.29
1981	3.02	-1.38
1982	2.68	-1.72
1983	3.11	-1.29
1984	2.30	-2.10
1985	2.35	-2.05
1986	5.33	+0.93
1987	2.07	-2.33
1988	2.39	-2.01
1989	1.15	-3.25