

APRIL 1989: After recording another month with above normal precipitation (the wettest April since 1984), DCA has now observed three consecutive wetter than normal months (February-April 1989) for the first time since November 1986-January 1987, although the precipitation totals were greater then [5.23, 4.98, and 4.90", total=15.11"] versus the current period [2.80, 4.30, and 3.50", total=10.60"]. 1989 also marks the wettest start to a year since 1984 at both DCA and BWI (DCA's 13.09" vs. 14.99" in 1984 and BWI's 13.83" vs. 14.60" in 1984). It is interesting to note that despite such a wet beginning, both DCA & BWI ended up below normal for the year (DCA 37.73" vs. normal 39.00"; BWI 36.96" vs. normal 41.84"). In addition, ADW has received 11.32" for March and April (5.67" and 5.65", respectively), and has now measured 17.28" through April, which is on an annual pace of 51.87" (normal=42.5").

For the first time this year, all 5 stations reported subnormal monthly temperatures, breaking a string of above normal monthly temperatures starting in November 1988 at IAD and BWI (DCA's December departure was -0.2°F). Similar to March, April had many more colder vs. warmer than normal days (approx. a 2-to-1 ratio), but the warm spells were short-lived and not nearly as dramatic as ones in March (which averaged slightly above normal).

Even with the generally cold and wet conditions, there were no days with any snow (including trace amounts) at all of the airports, ending a streak of 7 straight years at DCA and BWI (4 years at IAD) with a trace or more of April snow.

APRIL 1989 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	64.8	45.9	55.3	56.7	-1.4	80/18	35/2	3.50	2.93	+0.57
Baltimore (BWI)	63.0	41.7	52.4	54.0	-1.6	79/4	30/12	3.16	3.35	-0.19
Dulles (IAD)	64.7	38.6	51.7	53.3	-1.6	80/27	24/12	2.70	3.14	-0.44
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	63.5	38.9	51.2	55	-4	81/27	26/2,12	5.31	3.2	+2.1
Andrews AFB (ADW)	62.9	43.6	53.3	55	-2	79/18	30/2	5.65	3.0	+2.7

Note the large difference (nearly 3") from relatively dry portions of Loudoun County (IAD) to excessively wet portions of Prince Georges County (ADW).

MAY MEMORANDUM:

WHILE NORMALLY THE THIRD WETTEST MONTH OF THE YEAR AT DCA (3.48"), RAINFALL AMOUNTS CAN BE HIGHLY VARIABLE AS MAY AVERAGES 5 THUNDERSTORM DAYS (6 IN JUNE AND JULY, 5 IN AUGUST). LAST YEAR WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE ERRATIC PRECIPITATION PATTERN WITH 3.59" RECORDED AT FT. BELVOIR AND 10.26" AT DULLES.

FOUR IN A ROW? THE LAST TIME THAT THERE WERE FOUR CONSECUTIVE WETTER THAN NORMAL MONTHS AT DCA OCCURRED FEBRUARY-MAY 1984 (3.43, 6.14, 3.71, 3.80 INCHES).