January was mild and wet with light winds except during storm days; fog occurrence was about normal.

Temperature: January 1983 was closer to normal April than normal January. The average high of 53.8°F is 2.3°F above normal. Both days and nights contributed to the plus anomaly: 62.0°F vs 60.0°F by day and 45.6°F vs 43.0°F by night. Only four Januys in the past 32 years have been warmer (1981, 1978, 1961 (55.8°F), 1953). High for the month, 74°F, on both 12 and 13 Jan was unusual; the 12 Jan reading is a record for the date while the 13th reading tied the record for the date. The 38°F low on 20 Jan, along with the monthly minimums in Jan 1981, 1978, and 1958 is the warmest Jan low on record. Also, the 56°F minimum of 15 Jan set a new warm minimum record for the date.

Precipitation: January was dry until the 15th, after which it was just plain wet, on through the 29th. Mostly due to five major Pacific storms the month’s total, 6.90”, went well above the 4.27” expected. Every January since 1977 has been wetter than normal; Jan 83 is the wettest Jan sine 9.45” in 1969. The season total (1 Jul to date) stands at 20.61”, well above the 19.08” 32-year normal for the whole season 1 Jul to 30 Jun, and nearly double the normal to 31 Jan: 11.05”. Should the remainder of the year be normal, another 8” could be expected. However, this season’s seven month total, 20.61” to Jan 31 has found its match and then some: Jul 1951 through Jan 1952 measured 20.81”, to hold the record for the National Weather Service Climatological Station.

The fury (combined wind/rain) and concentration of the five major January storms (18, 22, 23-24, 26-27, and 28-29 Jan) to hit the Central California coast seemed to have little match in recent history. Damaging winds were recorded on 22, 23, 24 and 26 January. Winds were clocked to 64 mph on 26 January near the mouth of Carmel Valley and to near 60 mph on the other days. Scores of large trees down, repeated power outages and some residential property damage suggests that gusts were locally even stronger than those recorded. Most yards turned into temporary lakes by the 29 Jan storm and gutter drainage continued active into early February. By month’s end the action shifted to southern California giving a respite for most, if not all, of the Crosby Tournament. In addition, thunder was recorded early morning on both 19 and 24 Jan and hail early morning 19 Jan.

Fog: Fog was of little consequence in January. Five days with some fog equaled the average. Inland valleys did not fare as well through mid-January.

Wind: The airport average of 4 mph is quite low (Jan 1982 averaged 5 mph), mostly due to the quiescent period through mid-January.