**Reading 4 SW**; Berks County, PA; Lat 40.316251, Lon -75.988661, Elev 320 ft ASL

CoCoRaHS ID: PA-BR-2, Reading 3.5 SW; CWOP ID: FW1703 Observation time: 2359 EST

Observer in Charge: Jeffrey R. Stoudt

Period of Record: Precipitation/Snow - January 1983, Temperatures - June 1984

**December 2019**

DAILY DETAILS (Sundays, monthly extremes in **bold**)

 TEMPERATURES

DAY MAX MIN OBS PCPN SNOW DEPTH REMARKS (all time references are military EST)

 **1** 37 30 36 0.75 T Rain, fz rain, sleet till 1300 then rain/drizzl

 2 40 35 36 0.01 T Occasional drizzle; few wet flurries in area

 3 42 33 37

 4 42 34 38 0.11 T Rain/snow mix predawn; rain mid aft, early eve

 5 44 34 34 T Few feeble drops

 6 48 32 38 T Sprinkles mid afternoon

 7 41 23 23

 **8** 42 20 34

 9 52 34 **52** **0.78** Rain, steadiest forenoon to dusk; lull eve

10 **54** 37 37 0.40 T Rain after 0800, mix with snow after 2300

11 40 30 30 0.08 **0.6** Mix to wet snow near dawn; melted by noon

12 37 21 28

13 40 28 40 0.38 Periods of rain after 1125

14 50 **40** 42 0.28 Occasional rain/drizzle, fog till mid aft

**15** 46 35 36 on elev surfaces

16 37 32 33 0.40 Rain after 1700, little sleet then light glaze^

17 37 33 36 0.47 Rain, drizzle till 1600

18 37 22 22 T T Snow shower at 1700, dusting

19 **29** **17** **21**

20 36 **17** 23

21 34 20 22

**22** 47 18 28

23 52 25 29

24 50 26 26

25 46 22 28 A tranquil Christmas; heavy frost morning

26 49 26 42

27 51 36 36 0.01 Sprinkle daybreak; light rain forenoon

28 53 31 32

**29** 43 31 40 0.40 Few drops dawn to forenoon then light rain

30 44 **40** 40 0.74 Rain and drizzle till mid afternoon

31 49 38 40 T Sprinkles ~1900

SUM 1349 900 4.81 0.6 0

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 36.3 (+1.1)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 43.5 (+0.6)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 29.0 (+1.5)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 54 (-9) on 10th (record 77 on 29 Dec 1984)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 40 on 14th,30th (record 60 on 22 Dec 2013)

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 17 (+3) on 19, 20 (record -2 on 24 Dec 1989)

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 29 on 19th (record 16 on 26 Dec 1985)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 884 (1841)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 0 (1247)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

 -- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 4.81 (+0.55)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 65.57 (+13.59)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 0.78 on 9th (record 3.27 on 12 Dec 1983) Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.07 on 29th-30th (rec 3.90 on 4-5 Dec 1993)

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): 0.6 (-3.4)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 0.6 (-4.0)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: 0.6 on 11th (record 8.5 on 05 Dec 2005)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: 0.6 on 11th-11th (rec 10.0 on 27-28 Dec 1990)

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 1 (short)

Days with Hail: 0

Days with Thunder (Dep): 0 (-0)

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 30 on 18th

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.76 on 12th

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.24 on 14th

HIGHLIGHTS

December 2019 at Reading 4 SW brought mainly mundane weather with blunt extremes. Both temperatures, 36.3 (+1.1), and precipitation, 4.81 (+0.55), fared slightly above normal and near the median of their respective categories. And snow was a near no-show with only 0.6 on the 11th, whose coating whitened the ground for a mere few hours. No daily precipitation amount reached 1.00, and the greatest floating 24-hour amount slightly exceeded an inch at 1.07. The monthly maximum temperature of 54 was 9 degrees under the average December maximum of 36 years, and only two Decembers produced an even lower max, 53 in 1995 and 44 in 1989. The monthly minimum of 17, while not atypical, was 3 degrees less cold than average. December was rather tranquil despite some major movements in barometric pressure. Gloominess thwarted a major warmup on the 30th, a soar to 60s and even low 70s 100 miles to the south, instead limited the rise to 4 degrees.

This December contained a few oddities. Temperatures before the winter solstice (21st) ran mostly below normal, but none by very much, and resulted in a running average of a degree subnormal as of the solstice. Post solstice December was milder, though no unusual mildness, but enough to raise the final average to 1.1 above, and was entirely snow free. While daily low temperatures in December are usually plenty cold enough for frost, cloudiness or winds usually prevent frost formation during most overnights. However, this December contained a long streak clear and calm nights, which are conducive to intense cooling in low-down areas such as Reading 4 SW. Nine of ten days, beginning on the 19th, began with heavy frost. Meanwhile, nearby hilltops stayed above freezing most of those nights. Prior to this frosty streak, trees, not the ground, on the same hills became heavily glazed in ice during the 16th/17th overnight and remained glazed for a few days while glaze ice was minimal and brief lower down. Impact on traffic due to the freezing rain was minimal. However, a brief snow squall late afternoon of the 18th, briefly blinding at scattered locations, had major impact on traffic. The squall was rather minor, a slight dusting, at Reading 4 SW.

Last December (2018) was slightly warmer and wetter than this December with an average temperature of 37.8, which included extremes of 18/65, and 5.47 of precipitation, which included only two feeble traces of snow.

Precipitation totals in Berks County were mostly in the range of 3.5 and 5.0, including 3.66 officially for Reading (RDG), and monthly snowfall totals fell mainly 0.5 to 1.5 south and 1.5 to 3.5 north or higher elevations.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (DECEMBER)

Avg Temp 36.3 – 17th Warmest of 36 (23.8 in 1989 to 47.5 in 2015)

Precip 4.81 – 13th Wettest of 37 (0.65 in 1998 to 11.76 in 1983)

Snowfall 0.6 – 13th Least (2-way) of 37 (T in 8 years to 17.3 in 1995)