**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

**January 2021**

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

 TEMPERATURES

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

 1 36 23 36 **0.79** Cold rain 1300-2200; narrow miss of glaze ice

 2 **52**  31 31 0.07 Leftover light rain, drizzle before dawn

 **3** 36 29 36 0.40 0.2 0 Sleet, wet snow 0615-0815; Rain, drizzle PM

 4 44 32 39 T Drizzle till little past midnight

5 42 **36** 37 T Sprinkles before dawn

 6 41 **36** 36

 7 43 28 28

 8 38 25 30

 9 46 25 34

**10** 46 27 27

11 39 22 24

12 43 20 22

13 45 26 31

14 50 29 32

15 47 29 **45** 0.18 Light rain after 2100

16 46 **36** 36 0.20 Rain ended predawn

**17** 46 34 39 T T Few wet flakes ~0950

18 44 33 34 T T Few drops, wet flakes midday

19 45 28 36 T T Few wet flakes midday

20 40 25 25 T T Snow shower ~1110

21 48 **19** 40

22 44 34 34

23 34 26 27

**24** 36 21 31

25 37 29 34

26 34 32 34 0.12 T Fz rain, sleet 0839-1100, then rain, drizzle

27 39 31 31 T T Few feeble flakes early morning

28 33 23 24

29 29 22 25

30 36 21 23

**31** **27** 22 **22** 0.56 **4.7** **5** Steady snow, mostly light, 1000 on; sleet late

SUM 1266 864 2.32 4.9 1

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 34.2 (+2.5)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 40.8 (+1.4)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 27.5 (+3.6)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 52 (-9) on 2nd (record 71 on 06 Jan 2007)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 36 on 5,6,16th (record 61 on 15 Jan 1995)

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 19 (+13) on 21st (record -14 on 21 Jan 1994)

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 27 on 31st (record 2 on 19 Jan 1994)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 945 (2607)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 0 (0)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

 -- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 2.32 (-1.50)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 2.32 (-1.50)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 0.79 on 1st (record 3.02 on 23 Jan 2016) Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 0.86 on 1st-2nd (rec 3.20 on 22-23 Jan 2016)

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): 4.9 (-4.3)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 14.5 (+0.7)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: 4.7 on 31st (record 24.6 on 23 Jan 2016)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: 11.5 on 31st-1st (rec 28.0 on 07-08 Jan 1996)

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 5 (long)

Days with Hail: 0

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

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 32 on 29th

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.55 on 1st

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.44 on 16th

HIGHLIGHTS

January 2021 was as mundane as January could be, except the last day, with many small temperature ranges and long dry streaks with minor precipitation, mainly rain, in between. Diurnal and day-to-day temperature movements were mainly small, such that if likened to a roller coaster, the ride would be too gentle to cause even the faint-of-heart to cower. The difference between minimum (19) and maximum (52) was only 33 degrees, about half of what January could produce. The largest diurnal range of 29 on the 21st included the month’s minimum of 19 and a maximum of 48 which was only 4 degrees short of the monthly maximum of 52 on the 2nd. Those modest “extremes” were 13 above and 9 below typical January extremes respectively. Eleven days produced ranges of ten degrees or less, including a range of only 2 (32/34) on the 26th, held tight by light sleet and rain, some freezing, all day. Only two days failed to rise above 32. Temperatures ran more above normal than below, all modest departures, and averaged to 34.2 (+2.5). Last January (2020) averaged milder at 36.8 with extremes of 18/66. Officially for Reading (RDG), the average was similar at 33.8 with extremes of 18/51.

Persistent cloudiness and moderate winds were significant contributors to the limited temperature movements. However, most of the cloudiness did not produce precipitation. Long streaks of eleven days (4th to 14th) and nine days (17th to 25th) without measureable precipitation are very unusual for January, a month which normally brings precipitation, not necessarily heavy, within two or three days of the previous occurrence due to fair and inclement weather systems that rapidly traverse the continent. This January, most inclement weather passed north or south of this region. Snowfall was especially scarce before the last day with only 0.2 inch. The mundane pattern broke in a big way on the 31st when an historic snow/sleet storm got underway and continued into February. Snow of 4.7” accumulated by the final midnight. A 12-hour delay of this storm would have resulted in 0.2 instead of 4.9 inches of snow. Thus, the least snow in January remains 0.3 from 2006. And precipitation ended at 2.32” rather than 1.76, but still 1.50 subnormal. January 2020 brought 3.37” of precipitation, which included the melt of 3.0 of snow. Precipitation in Berks County was low throughout, mostly in the range of 1.8 and 2.7, including 1.92 officially for Reading (RDG). And January snowfall totals ranged mainly 4.5 to 6.0, almost all during the final half day.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (JANUARY)

Avg Temp 34.2 – 13th (2-way) Warmest of 37 (21.1 in 1994 to 39.6 in 2006)

Precip 2.32 – 4th (2-way) Driest of 39 (1.58 in 2008 to 8.00 in 1996)

Snowfall 4.9 – 17th Least (2-way) of 39 (0.3 in 2006 to 46.5 in 1996)