**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

**February 2021**

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

TEMPERATURES

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

1 33 22 32 **1.64 12.4 16** Wintry mix till mid aft, then all snow

2 38 28 28 0.11 1.5 14 Light snow till 0800, then ocnl flurries

3 37 28 33 T T 12 Few feeble flurries during the day

4 44 28 32 11

5 49 32 33 0.14 0.2 9 Rain, wet snow mix dawn till 0800

6 45 25 29 7

**7** 37 24 24 0.24 3.0 9 Snow 0700 to 1300

8 31 **13** **19** 8

9 34 19 23 0.01 T 8 Flurry, freezing drizzle at midday

10 36 19 29 0.05 0.8 9 Moderate snow late evening

11 33 27 27 0.09 0.8 9 Light snow before 0700

12 29 21 27 9

13 30 25 25 9

**14** 38 25 34 T 8 Little freezing drizzle early morning

15 36 32 33 0.27 7 Occasional light rain, drizzle; moderate…

16 47 27 27 0.63 4 …at times till 0700

17 31 22 26 4

18 **28** 24 25 0.56 4.1 8 Snow morning, then mix forenoon into overnight 19 34 25 31 0.14 0.9 9 Mix to snow by dawn; ocnl light snow daylight

20 35 21 22 8

**21** 37 21 30 7

22 36 30 34 0.44 4.0 10 Snow 0900–1300; Light sleet, rain till 1500

23 49 32 35 8

24 **55** 29 **45** 5

25 49 33 33 4

26 46 29 36 0.01 T 3 Very wet snow after 2300…

27 48 33 36 0.47 0.4 2 …till 0300; mix till 0400; rain till noon

**28** 40 **35** 38 0.82 1 Rain after 0700, mostly during daylight

29 -- -- --

30 -- -- --

31 -- -- --

SUM 1085 906 5.62 28.1 28

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 32.4 (-1.5)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 38.8 (-3.7)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 26.0 (+0.7)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 55 (-7) on 24th (record 83 on 21 Feb 2018)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 35 on 28th (record 53 on 24 Feb 2017)

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 13 (+3) on 8th (record -3 on 6 Feb 1996)+

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 28 on 18th (record 14 on 15 Feb 2015)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 906 (3516)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 0 (0)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

-- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 5.62 (+2.41)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 7.94 (+0.91)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 1.64 on 1st (record 2.81 13 Feb 2008)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.65 on 1st-2nd (rec 3.25 12-13 Feb 2008)

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): 28.1 (+19.3)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 42.8 (+20.2)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: 12.4 on 1st (record 26.0 on 11 Feb 1983)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: 13.1 on 1st-2nd (rec 26.0 on 11-11 Feb 1983)

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 16 on 1st

Days with Hail: 0

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

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 29 on 6th

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.61 on 21st

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.49 on 2nd

HIGHLIGHTS

February 2021 will be remembered for its prolific snowfall which totaled 28.1”. Although far above the last-30-year average of 8.8”, it placed fifth during last 39 years behind 29.3 (2014), 30.5 (1983), 31.4 (2003), and 43.5 (2010). The blitz started a half day before February began with an additional 4.7”, missing by 12 hours a sum of 32.8”. More than half of that, 18.6”, had already accumulated during the 48 hours ending noon of the 2nd. The storm total of 18.6” from this historic nor’easter placed tenth greatest snowstorm for the Reading area since 1870, ironically displacing the March 1993 Superstorm (18.0). Additional light to moderate snowfalls every few days till late in the month brought an additional 14.2”. A persistence of mainly moderately cold days, and no really mild days, helped to preserve a little of the combined accumulation till month’s end. Six of the seven snowfalls during the month contained also some or mostly non-snow precipitation, evidence the region was not at all deep in cold air. It was mostly just cold enough. The snow/melt ratios were mostly less than 10 to 1. Two other storms brought only rain. The frequent precipitation added to 5.62” (+2.41) of rain and melted snow, fourth wettest February of 39. In sharp contrast, February 2020 brought only traces of snow out of 2.82” of precipitation.

Like January, temperatures fluctuated within a rather narrow range between modest extremes of 13 (8th) and 55 (24th). Those extremes were the only occurrences below 19 or above 49 respectively. Unlike January, the low-amplitude temperature curve oscillated mostly slightly cooler than normal, finally averaging 32.4 (-1.5). Although deep snow cover can foster really frigid temperatures during a night that is clear and calm, no such night occurred. Each night was cloudy, somewhat windy, or both. True arctic air never drilled in full-bore. Snow pack with persistent moderately cold air did keep the daily high temperatures in check, so that the average of the highs of 38.8 (-2.7) accounted for all of the cool anomaly. The average of the daily lows of 26.0 was actually 0.7 above normal. February 2020 was much milder at 38.9. Officially for Reading (RDG), temperatures averaged 31.4 including extremes of 11/53, and precipitation amounted to 4.77.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (FEBRUARY)

Avg Temp 32.4 – 13th coolest of 37 (22.4 in 2015 to 41.7 in 2017)

Precip 5.62 – 4th wettest of 39 (0.67 in 2009+ to 7.22 in 2008)

Snowfall 28.1 – 5th most of 39 (T in 2020+ to 43.5 in 2010)

Statistical (meteorological) winter (calendar months DJF) 2020-21 ended slightly milder than average at 34.4 (+0.5), including modest temperature extremes of 12 (12/19) and 63 (12/25), despite much above normal snowfall of 42.8” (+20.6), of which 32.8” accumulated after 1/30, including 18.6” during the nor’easter of 1/31-2/02. The melt of all this snow, plus ice and rain summed to 12.55” (+1.27).