**Reading 4 SW**; Berks County, PA; Lat 40.316251, Lon -75.988661, Elev 320 feet 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 2022**

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

TEMPERATURES

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

1. 43 27 27

2 46 22 40

3 **60** 40 41 0.47 Periods of rain predawn to near sunset

**4** 44 26 26

5 51 21 28

6 53 28 **52** 0.84 Frequent rain/drizzle post 0700; some heavy fog

7 54 **49** 49 0.03 Dense fog at times; drizzle mostly AM

8 53 42 42

9 48 28 28

10 45 23 37

**11** 38 36 36 0.18 Light rain, drizzle dawn to dusk

12 41 30 30

13 41 23 23

14 42 21 28

15 42 28 41 **1.26** 0.1 0 Sleet, glaze predawn to forenoon, then rain

16 45 39 40 0.55 Periods of rain, drizzle into early PM

17 45 35 35

**18** 39 30 30 T T 0 Feeble flurries 0800 hour

19 35 28 30

20 41 24 24

21 42 20 28

22 47 28 47 0.82 **0.3** 0 Sleet/snow to rain AM; rain, melt PM

23 56 6 **6** 0.79 0.1 0 Rain ended as snow forenoon; sublimed PM

24 **16** **5** 14 Severe cold wave…

**25** 29 14 20 …eased somewhat Christmas Day

26 31 14 27

27 36 27 32

28 49 23 29

29 53 24 38

30 **60** 33 37

31 52 37 50 0.35 Rain/drizzle/fog PM, mostly after dusk

SUM 1377 831 5.29 0.5 0

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 35.6 (-0.7)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 44.4 (+0.4)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 26.8 (-2.0)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 60 (-2) on 3, 30th (record 77 on 29 Dec 1984)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 49 on 7th (record 60 on 22 Dec 2013)

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 5 (-9) on 24th (record -2 on 24 Dec 1989)

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 16 on 24th $ (record 16 on 26 Dec 1985)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 903 (1803)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 0 (1320)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence $ Tied record

-- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 5.29 (+1.04)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 47.94 (-4.85)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 1.26 on 15th (record 3.27 on 12 Dec 1983)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.57 on 15-16th (rec 3.90 on 04-05 Dec 1993)

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): 0.5 (-3.7)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 0.5 (-4.4)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: 0.3 on 22nd (record 8.5 on 05 Dec 2005)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: 0.3 on 22-22nd (rec 10.0 on 27-28 Dec 1990)

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: T on 22nd

Days with Hail: 0

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

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 36 on 23rd

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.57 on 2nd

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.13 on 23rd

HIGHLIGHTS

December 2022 brought mostly mild temperatures but averaged low-end normal at 35.6 degrees (-0.7). A severe cold wave which began forenoon of 23rd and continued through Christmas Day swayed the scale to the cold side, and moderating temperatures the last few days could not quite balance it again. Said cold wave began with a temperature plunge from 56 to 6 (50 degrees) during the 23rd, mostly PM, and then one more degree to 5 by dawn of the 24th. This marked the greatest calendar day range in 39 years, slightly bettering a plunge from 56 to 8 on 6 January 2014. The low/high of 5/16 on 24 December with strong winds at times marked coldest weather in nearly 47 months. That high of 16 tied with 26 December 1985 for coldest date high in December, and the mean of 11 marked a new coldest date mean bettering five occurrences of 12. The cold relaxed significantly for Christmas Day, 14/29 with less wind, but was still coldest Christmas since 2000 (11/22). The low of 5 marked coldest December min since 5 in 2005 and 9 lower than the average December low. That wild plunge followed by twelve days a calendar day (11th) during which the temperature held nearly steady with a range of only 2 degrees (36/38), held in check by dense overcast and stagnant air. A date range of 2 is unusual but not very rare. On the mild side, the 60 on 3rd and 30th was slightly less than the average December max of 62. December 2021 was second warmest of 39 at 42.0 with min/max of 20/66. Officially for Reading PA (RDG), the average was 35.3 with min/max of 4/61. The corresponding pre-Christmas plunge from 57 to 5 (52 degrees) was one short of the greatest calendar day range of 53 (83/30) on 28 March 1921. High 0f 15 on 24th bettered 16 from 24 December 1906.

December 2021 precipitation amounted to 5.29” (+1.04), and included soakings on 6th-7th, 15th-16th, and 22nd-23rd plus a few minor events. The greatest in 24 hours of 1.57” came from the 15th into early the 16th. Snow/sleet was scarce consisting of three brief coatings that added to 0.5” (-3.7). December 2021 was second driest at 1.01” with only traces of snow. Precipitation in Berks County ranged from 4 to 6 inches, including 4.24” at RDG. Total snow was generally less than an inch Reading area south and east, but 1 to 2 inches farther north and west.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (DECEMBER)

Avg Temp 35.6 – 17th coolest of 39 (23.8 in 1989 to 47.5 in 2015)

Precip 5.29 – 11th wettest of 40 (0.65 in 1998 to 11.76 in 1983)

Snowfall 0.5 – 12th least (3-way) of 40 (T in 9 years to 17.3 in 1995)

The cooling year ended 31 December with 1320 cooling degree days (CDD), virtually tying 2020’s 1304 and 2021’s 1302 CDD, well above the average of 38 years which is 1140 CDD and 7th greatest and was bolstered significantly by new warmest August which contributed 418 CDD, a new high for that month. The first CDD accrued quite slowly with only 2 before 12 May but then more than compensated for the early shortfall the rest of spring through summer. CCD accrual came to a sudden stop with 1311 in late September. After none during October, 9 CDD were added the result of unusual November warmth, a new high for that month.