**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 2020**

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

TEMPERATURES

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

1. 50 35 35 T Drops at times late morn, early aft’n

2 44 34 35 0.01 T 0 Snow showers near dawn, dusting on cars

3 50 29 46 Nice weather for voting

4 49 **42** 43 0.59 Few drops dawn; steady light rain PM

5 47 40 40 0.21 Light rain till near dawn

**6** 44 30 30

7 39 25 28

8 42 27 34

9 41 31 41 0.03 0.2 0 Periods of wet snow dawn to 1300

10 50 30 30

11 56 28 34

12 57 31 52 T Foggy (vsby 300 ft) with drizzle 0730-1130

**13** 57 38 39

14 41 34 35 0.60 0.9 T Rain dawn > wet snow 0930, ended 1330

15 39 27 29 T

16 30 24 24 **0.94 6.5** 6 Snow 1230 > sleet 1830; 2-3 in/hr 1630-1830

17 37 22 23 0.46 2.2 **7** Sleet > snow, ended predawn

18 36 17 **18** 6

19 32 **12** 24 6

**20** 41 23 34 5

21 42 34 35 0.02 4 Light rain after 2200

22 46 35 40 0.03 2 Light rain mainly before 0700

23 45 27 36 1

24 61 36 **60** 0.82 0 Periods of rain from forenoon; some moderate

25 **63** 24 24 0.71 T 0 Showers till 0900; torr ~0130; flurries aft 26 **29** 20 20

**27** 38 17 27

28 52 27 39

29 40 24 25 T T 0 Flurry in vicinity predawn

30 43 25 43

31 45 29 29 0.19 Light rain into mid aft; only T after 0900

SUM 1386 1149 4.61 9.8 8

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 36.5 (+1.2)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 44.7 (+1.8)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 28.3 (+0.8)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 63 (+1) on 25th (record 77 on 29 Dec 1984)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 42 on 4th (record 60 on 22 Dec 2013)

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 12 (-2) on 19th (record -2 on 24 Dec 1989)

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

Heating Degree Days (Season): 879 (1662)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 0 (1304)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

-- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 4.61 (+0.35)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 53.65 (+1.67)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 0.94 on 16th (record 3.27 on 12 Dec 1983)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.53 on 24-25th (rec 3.90 on 04-05 Dec 1993)

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): 9.8 (+5.8)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 9.8 (5.0)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: 6.5 on 16th (record 8.5 on 05 Dec 2005)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: 8.7 on 16-17th (rec 10.0 on 27-28 Dec 1990)

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 8 on 17th

Days with Hail: 0

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

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 27 on 1st

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.59 on 29th

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.35 on 25th

HIGHLIGHTS

December 2020 averaged slightly warmer than normal with a mean temperature of 36.5 (+1.2). Strong warming on Christmas Eve climaxed just after midnight of Christmas with a high of 63. And this tipped the balance to the warmer side of normal. Otherwise, the month averaged about normal with alternating periods of mild and cold days which included a little harshly cold weather. Three days had lows below 20, lowest 12 on the 19th, and three days stayed at or below freezing. The coldest high was 29 on the 26th. On the mild side, two days, actually the single night of Christmas Eve, had highs in the 60s. Seven other days had highs in the 50s. Officially for Reading (RDG), the monthly mean was 36.1 and contained extremes of 11/64. The high of 64 came at 1 AM early Christmas morning. And that 64 was second warmest only to 68 on Christmas 1964. Christmas 2020 could be remembered as the “coldest warm Christmas” as a 1:30 AM cold front passage plunged temperatures to the 30s by dawn then 20s by dusk on chilling winds. December 2019 was about the same on average at 36.3 with modest extremes of 17/54.

December 2020 precipitation amounted to high-end normal at 4.61 (+0.35) and was keyed by two storms with over an inch of precipitation. The first of those was a storm of snow and sleet from midday 16th to predawn 17th which accumulated to 8.7” and melted to 1.40 of rainfall equivalent. This major winter storm plus two minor wet snow accumulations brought 9.8” total snow/sleet, well above the December average of 4.0 and 2.7 times the entire paltry snow/sleet output (3.6) of winter 2019-20. The resulting dense pack of snow/sleet helped to chill the next few days, including low/high of 12/32 on the 19th. Moderating temperatures afterward allowed only slow ablation of said pack. But then the near-tropical incursion of Christmas Eve rapidly erased what was left and proved to be a Grinch that stole a white Christmas from the Reading area. Aforementioned warmth was accompanied by soaking rain which amounted to 1.53 by predawn Christmas Day. Snow flurries Christmas afternoon were too-little-too-late to qualify for a white Christmas. December precipitation totals in Berks County ranged between 3.5 and 5.0 inches, including 3.51 at RDG. December 2019 at Reading 4 SW was slightly wetter at 4.81 and included the melt of only 0.6 inch of snow.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (DECEMBER)

Avg Temp 36.5 – 16th warmest of 37 (23.8 in 1989 to 47.5 in 2015)

Precip 4.61 – 14th (2-way) wettest of 38 (0.65 in 1998 to 11.76 in 1983)

Snowfall 9.8 – 8th most of 38 (T in 8 years to 17.3 in 1995)

The cooling year ended 31 December with 1304 cooling degree days (CDD), well above the average of 35 cooling years which is 1126 and seventh greatest of 36. The first CCD came quite late on 3 May, but 2 late CDD came on 11 November. As usual, July contributed the most with 470.