

January 2012

January was much warmer than average as the monthly mean temperature was 42.1 °F, a 7.2 °F departure based on the past three year average and the warmest since 2007. There were 19 days the temperature was 50 °F or above. January had only 18 days the minimum temperature was 32 °F or lower and the maximum temperature rose above freezing all 31 days of the month; both are new records for January.

The 1.95 inches of precipitation for January was a -0.82 inch departure when compared to the past three year average. The month had 10 days with precipitation.

The maximum temperature for January was 71 °F on January 27th. January also had a temperature range of 22.7 °F which was caused in part by the clear month. This January was the clearest January on record at Glen Allen (Records since August 2008). The average temperature range at the Richmond International Airport was 21.6 °F the highest since 1990 when it was 21.9 °F. Glen Allen's lowest minimum temperature was 15 °F which was recorded on the 4th which was the coldest reading since January 23, 2011 when it was 13 °F. The lowest barometric pressure of the month was 29.38 inches and recorded on the 13th and the highest was only 30.61 inches on January 16th.

The maximum wind gust for the month was 41 mph SSE that occurred on the 17th of the month at 1208 and made for the windiest day (wind run was 247.0 miles) since August 27th and hurricane Irene when a 284.1 mile wind run occurred. This is also the windiest January on record at the Glen Allen Station. (Records since August 2008).

The Richmond International Airport set only one daily record for the month. On January 6th the 37 °F temperature range set a new record for the date. The previous record was 35 °F set in 1929. The January mean temperature of 42.7 °F was the 20th warmest in the past 132 years. January was the 22nd driest of the past 125 years. No measurable snow fell at the Richmond International Airport this past January which has occurred only 26 times in the last 114 years.