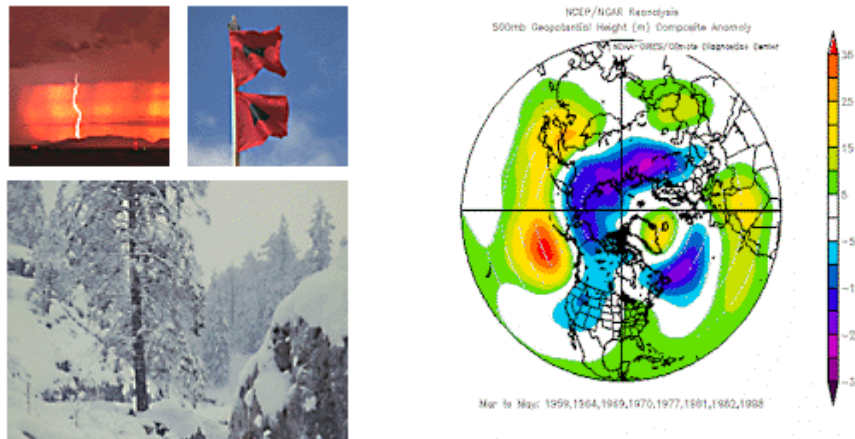


One wintry weekend leads to disaster on highways

<http://harrisburg.injuryboard.com/tractor-trailer-accidents/whiteout-on-interstate-80-leads-to-weekend-wrecks-crashes-and-fatalities-in-pennsylvania.aspx?googleid=298586>

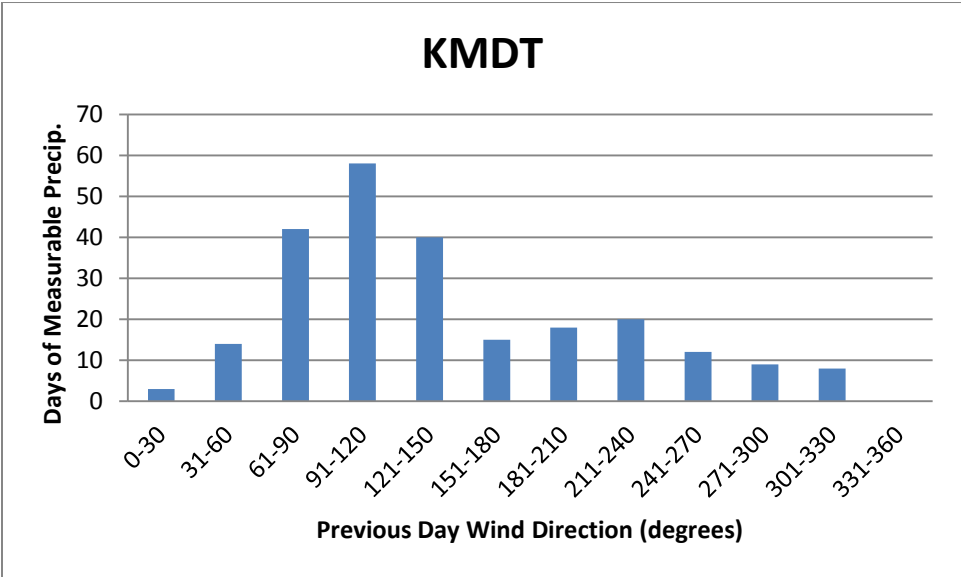
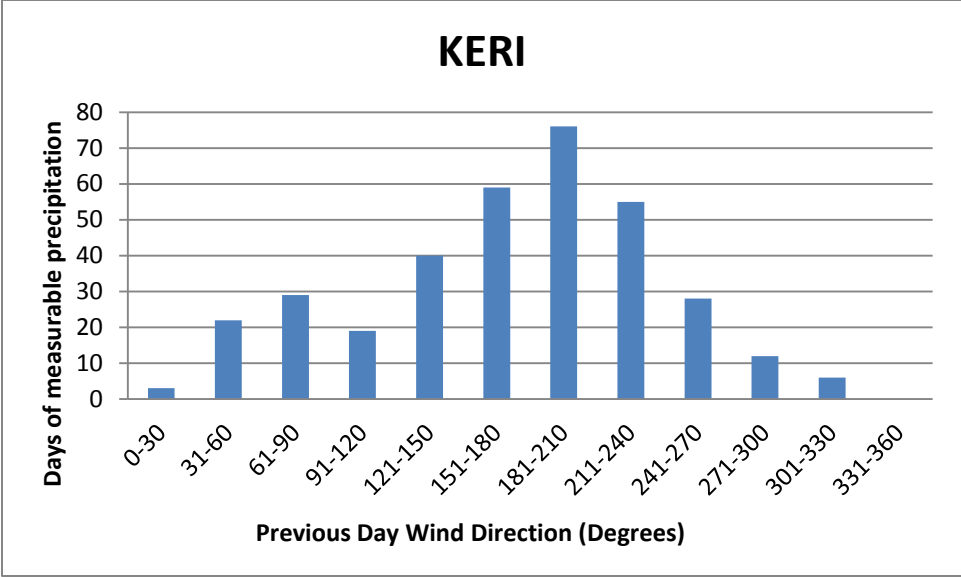
The Pennsylvania Observer

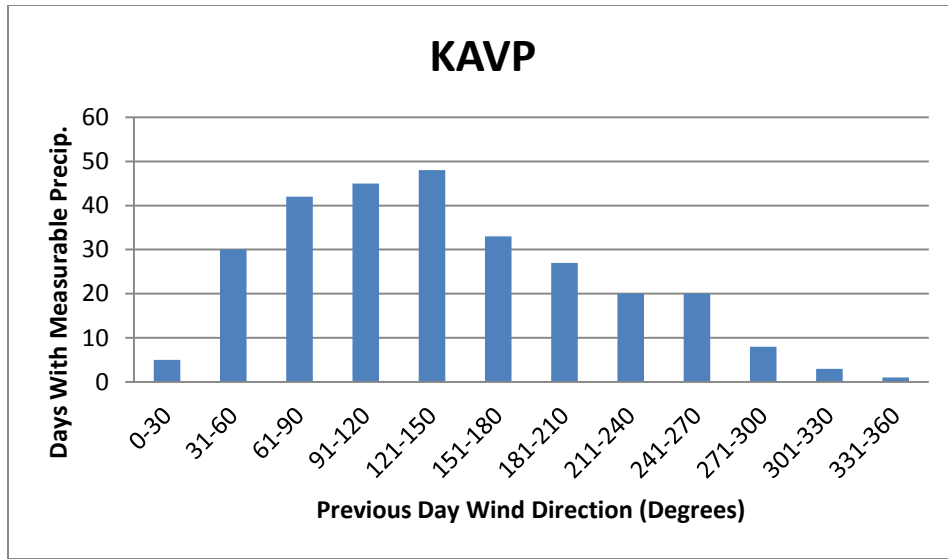


FEATURED CLIMATE HIGHLIGHT 1

By: Steven Fuhrman

Can wind direction be a predictor of precipitation? We looked at 2010 and 2011 data from the Pennsylvania State Climatologist web page for three PA cities for analysis. The chosen cities were Harrisburg (MDT), Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AVP), and Erie (ERI). A frequency distribution of measureable precipitation based upon the previous days mean wind direction was created and used to create the three graphs. The graphs clearly show which wind directions favored precipitation on the next day in each city. In both Wilkes-Barre/Scranton and Harrisburg, the distributions were similar with a peak for southeasterly winds (91-120° or 121-150°). However, Erie had a markedly different distribution, showing it was most likely to rain the day after a southwest wind (181-210°). This difference is likely because moist southeasterly winds off the ocean don't have the influence on Erie that they do on its eastern PA counterparts.





FEATURED CLIMATE HIGHLIGHT 2

By: Randy Miller

In reviewing the winter months of Dec-Jan-Feb that have tallied the least snow in the past 61 years (of which 2011-2012 will be one) for the eastern two-thirds of the state, the distribution of precipitation during the following March and April are shown below. There is a strong trend 27 v 13 for above normal precipitation (rain/snow) during March in the eastern third of the Commonwealth. There is a slight tendency toward drier than average conditions in both regions during the following April.

		Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4		Divisions 5, 6, 7	
March	A	MA	A	MA	
	16	11	11	4	
	B	MB	B	MB	
	3	10	8	7	
April	A	MA	A	MA	
	8	11	12	2	
	B	MB	B	MB	
	14	7	10	6	

Frequency

