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April 2009 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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This April was a packed month, because it contained elements of most every season in a matter of thirty days. It kicked off with seasonable temperatures and precipitation, cool and moist. There was a precipitation record on Mount Pocono of 1.57 inches on April 3rd which beat its previous record of 1.30 inches. On the 7th, cold air followed in the wake of a low pressure system moving up from the Great Plains. Brisk northwesterly winds caused the temperature to struggle to reach the 40F threshold in the western half of the state. Some locations in the west even saw some snow showers as a result. There were accumulations of an inch of snow per day over the course of three days. By the third week in April, the conditions started to level out to those typical of the month, but on April 24th the entire state started to experience an unusual heat wave. Warm days and sunny skies were the result of a large high pressure system that moved into the region. In the northeast, Avoca had temperatures of almost thirty degrees above the average, expected temperature. The record highs started on April 25th with the Pittsburgh Int. Airport tying its record high of 87 degrees set in 1990. On April 26th the Scranton Int. Airport had a record high of 90 degrees, which was 2 degrees greater than the record set in 1990. Harrisburg tied its record high of 92 degrees on April 27th. Also, on April 27th there was a new all-time April record high at the Scranton International Airport at 93 degrees. As the month came to a close, a cold front caused the temperatures to drop down to more seasonable values and showers marked the return of more seasonal conditions.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during April 2009 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Williamsport	94°F	April 27 th	Lycoming
Lowest Temperature	Bradford	18°F	April 13 th	McKean
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Safe Harbor Dam	5.55"	-	Lancaster
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Susquehanna	0.95"	-	Susquehanna

Weather Stories

Hold the Sunscreen: Gloomy season returns

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/breaking/20090501_Hold_the_Sunscreen_Gloomy_season_returns.html

Tornado-chasing project aims to improve forecasts

http://www.mercurynews.com/nationworld/ci_12248095

Probing Question: Can humans control the weather?

<http://www.physorg.com/news159123630.html>

Heat today, gone tomorrow

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/breaking/20090428_Heat_today_gone_tomorrow.html