

# 38 Ice Times

Vesleskarvet, Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica

August 1999

## Wind

Being the last month of the Winter season one would expect temperatures to warm up and welcome Spring. It is also the month associated with winds that seem to sweep the dirt off the dry and cold season. Well this continent holds a surprise to those who hold this thought, instead this seemed to be the coldest month in the whole of the Winter period. This is attributed to the windchill factor.

This is also the month when we experienced windspeeds of over a 100 knots (187 km/hr). The experience is something like riding a train to Marabastad (stopping at no stations) to flying in an air bus over turbulent terrain. The sound is something from Christmas jingles to flute whistling. But I guess Andre' will testify that it is nothing as bad as the ship.

A lot of static was experienced in this period. Some demonstrations of spark and corona discharges were performed. Some team members plodded around inside the base with light fluorescent tubes illuminated by static in the air. Some were enjoying the shock experienced by metal objects even through gloves and thick soled rubber boots. Mike thought that this abundance of electricity in the air might be the cause of his behavior or misbehavior (neither was he certain)



The stairs at the front door at 90 knots (167 km/hr)

Sadly this storm has caused a lot of the scientific instruments to be damaged like Conrad's Gonio antenna, deformed like Fanu's now spider feet Radar antennae or blown away like Neil's Riometer.

## Special offer of the month

Cruise to Alpha Centauri, with stops at Alpha Apsilon, Atria and Alpha circle.  
Fare : Six pack or in kind.

## OppiNunatak

The nostalgia of concerts, shows, festivals etc. promoted the organizing of 'OppiNunatak', the bash of bashes. Co-incidentally the renowned 'OppiKoppie' organizers connived to hold their festival over the same weekend. Our original plan was to take camping gear and hold the festival at the Nunatak over the weekend, a plan that was also stolen. So we settled to erecting a stage inside the base instead.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for the festival

- Antappeltika for their home brewed Apple beer and for their manpower in erecting the stage.
- Coke for providing the stage support.
- Castrol for sponsoring the drums.
- 3M for providing the drum accessories and...
- Kitchen for the cymbals



The OppieNunatak music festival stage

The line up of the main concert comprised of:

- Duncan with his sweet melody remix of 'Piano Man'.
- Mike, the blues singer with a touch of rap.
- Fanus and Andre' with their rendition of nursery rhymes.
- James the Zulu dancer and substitute drummer.
- Conrad the pathetic gumboot dancer, occasional piano and drum player.
- Ernest on vocals and accomplice to the gumboot dance.
- Karel the multitalented drummer, guitar player and singer
- Ryan the guitar player and MC and finally
- Neil the sound engineer.

Di bowa Lebowa go phala Phalaborwa. Zi ya wa eVesles.



Dancing the night away during OppieNunatak

## Birthdays

Again, nobody was born at Vesleskarvet in August, so we didn't celebrate a birthday.

## Darts

SANAE has once more defeated Neumayer to another Darts game. The scores were  
SANAE : 6618      Neumayer : 6434

After the game the SANAE team showed respect to their counterparts by singing the German anthem. Hopefully the next time Nkosi Sikelele will be sung by the Neumayer Team, peace unto them.



What a team!!!!

Later in the month another dart game was organized with our sister team on Marion Island. Owing to the fact that Marion has more members than the SANAE team, the number of darts to be thrown was altered to 26 sets of three per SANAE team member and 20 per Marion member. After the game during which the both teams sang songs to each other, SANAE triumphed again with scores

SANAE : 10149      Marion : 9835

Another contest is to be organized with Marion, this time to test their efficiency in calculating scores

## Aurorae

August became the month where the most interesting and most pulsating Aurorae were seen after a tip off from Karel, who probably has the direct contact with their manufacturer. Conrad, after numerous unsuccessful attempts to write to the aurora manufacturer was contemplating organizing an Auroral dance.



A (very) rare photograph of an aurora seen by SANAE 38

## Mgosi of the month

- The leader has once more revealed his unchallenged potential by destroying yet another one of his cameras. To the wife, the team has agreed to protect the mug.
- Overheard at the dinner table  
“Thanks doc for my penis”
- A telephone conversation  
“Camilla.....?” after a short silence “Err, it’s Fanus aktuuaaaaly”
- The leader and radio operator are endangered species on this continent. Rumour has it that they might be extinct in the new millennium. One team member has reapplied to spend another winter doing what he does best, fill the smelly and jump starting the Challengers.

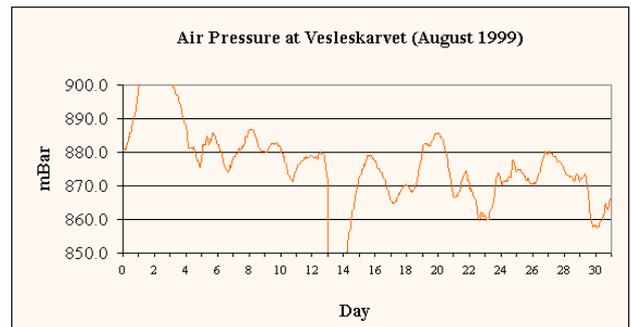
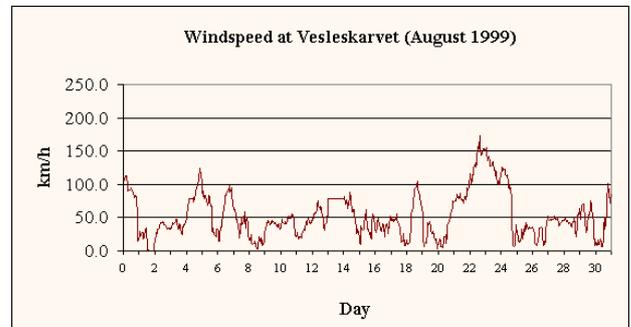
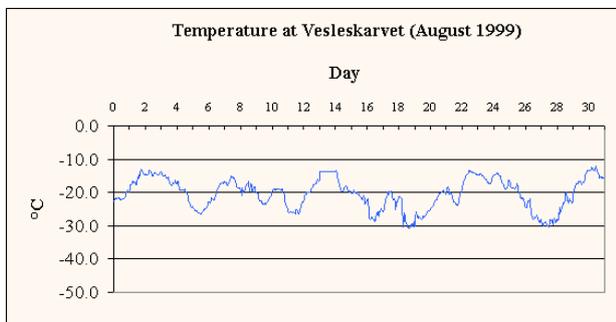
## Stay tuned

Next month in ICE TIMES:

The second record BREAKING storm, Life in the freezer, Spring day party and much more.

## Weather

	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Temperature/ °C	-30.96	-20.5	-10.4
Wind speed/ km/h	0	51.1	188.1
Wind Direction/ °	1	107	357
Air Pressure/ mBar	847.8	877.1	1692.4



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(Any problems? Call 911!!)

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