

ZLZL 225 U1021
AAHQ16 FAME 050700
MP063
M43290 05/01/86

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1986

MUCH OF DECEMBER SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP WITH CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR WITH A FULL HOUSE ON BASE, BUT A FEW OTHER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED AROUND THE ISLAND.

ON THE BIRD FRONT YET ANOTHER VAGRANT TURNED UP. FROM THE BRIEF VIEWS HAD, IT WAS PROBABLY A CUCKOO OR HAWK. OTHER NON-RESIDENTS VISITORS HAVE BEEN AN ANTARCTIC FULMAR AND TWO OR THREE PINTADO PETRELS. OF THE BREEDING BIRDS THE WANDERING ALBATROSSES HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH THEIR COURTSHIP ROUTINES AND THE FIRST EGGS WERE LAID BY MID-MONTH. THE FIRST ROCKHOPPER CHICKS HATCHED UNDER THE BASE CATWALKS ON CHRISTMAS DAY, FOLLOWED TWO DAYS LATER BY THE FIRST GULL CHICKS ON BOULDER BEACH BELOW THE BASE. MOULTING KING PENGUINS HAVE BEEN SEEN ALL OVER THE PLACE INCLUDING ONE FAR INLAND NEAR JUNIORS-ON ITS WAY UP THE MOUNTAINS, FOR A CHANGE OF SCENERY NO DOUBT.

KILLER WHALES CONTINUE TO BE SEEN IN GOOD NUMBERS AND KILLERWHALE FEVER IS STILL RUNNING RIFE THROUGH THE TEAM MEMBERS. DECEMBER HAS ALSO BEEN A GOOD MONTH FOR OTHER WHALES WITH BOTH PILOT WHALES AND HUMPBACK WHALES BEING SEEN. THE ELEPHANT SEALS ARE BUSY MOULTING AND LIKE THE KINGS HAVE BEEN TURNING UP IN ODD PLACES. THE FUR SEALS HAVE BEGUN PUPPING.

MANY OF US SAW OUR FIRST ICEBERG AT THE BEGINING OF THE MONTH. IVAN FIRST REPORTED IT FROM ROOK S BAY AND IT WAS FINALLY SEEN DISAPPEARING OFF TO THE NORTH-EAST TWO DAYS LATER. GUESSES AT THE SIZE RANGED FROM IT S ONLY A LITTLE ONE TO IT S A BLOODY ENORMOUS THING .

JOHN AND ANDRE V.D.MERVE DECIDED TO GIVE UP SMOKING-JOHN GIVING ARCHIE ALL HIS CIGARETTES TO LOCK AWAY NOT TO BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES . ANDRE DECIDED ONLY TO GIVE UP FOR A WEEK. BY THE END OF THE WEEK MOST OF US WERE WORN OUT BY HIS HYPERACTIVENES AND WERE SURPRISED TO SEE HIM JOGGING AROUND THE PLACE AND EVEN GETTING UP FOR AN EARLY MORNING SWIM. THERE ARE FURTHER PROMISES FROM OTHERS TO GIVE UP SMOKING FOR THE NEW YEAR. WE SHALL SEE.....

BY THE 20TH EVERYONE WAS BACK ON BASE FROM THE HUTS FOR A WELL EARNED REST. OVER THE MONTH A DARTS/SNOOKER/TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION WAS HELD. THE FINALS WERE HELD ON CHRISTMAS EVE WITH IVAN BEATING QUINTON 3-1 IN THE DARTS: HENNIE OVERCOMING ANDRE V.D.M IN THE TABLE TENNIS: AND MARTHAN BEATING KRAPPIE 3-2 IN A LONG BATTLE OVER THE SNOOKER TABLE.

CHRISTMAS DAY BROUGHT A SPELL OF FINE WEATHER. ADRIAAN, STEVE C AND NEIL TOOK TO THE MOUNTAINS EVENTUALLY REACHING THE ICE PLATEAU. ON THE WAY UP A BRIEF SNOW SHOWER PROVIDED THEM WITH A WHITE CHRISTMAS. THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF SANTA IN ANY OF THE ICE CAVES. AFTER A SWIM IN ONE OF THE POOLS ALL THREE RETURNED WITH ACHING LIMBS AND EMPTY STOMACHS. CHRISTMAS DINNER WAS PROVIDED IN THE EVENING WITH THE COOKS (MARIANNE, MARIETA, HENK, STEVE H, GERHARD) SPENDING MOST OF THE DAY (AND THE PREVIOUS DAY) SLAVING OVER A HOT STOVE. THE FOOD WAS MUCH APPRECIATED BY ALL.

THE PARTY

CONTINUED INTO THE NIGHT.

DECEMBER AND THE END OF '86 WAS ROUNDED OFF WITH A MAID MARION BEAUTY COMPETITION. ALL THE LADIES - ROB, WARREN, QUINTON, JOHN, MARTHAN, SAMPIE, HENK, DAVE AND RORY- PUT ON A GOOD SHOW BUT THE MISS WORLD COMPETITORS CAN FEEL SAFE FROM COMPETITION FROM THESE CONTESTANTS. IT WAS SO CLOSE THAT THEY ALL CAME LAST EQUAL. THE NEW YEAR WAS FINALLY SEEN IN WITH CELEBRATIONS GOING ON INTO THE EARLY HOURS.

FINALLY ALL THE MARION 43 TEAM MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE BACK HOME A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

WEATHER DATA FOR DEC

AVERAGE PRESSURE	1002.7
AVERAGE TEMP	7.1
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	174.5
RAINFALL IN MM	194.7
NO OF DAYS WITH 1MM OR MORE RAIN	21

NEWSLETTER BY:- NEIL GARTSHORE
WEATHER DATA :- ADRIAAN VAN ZYL