

MARION NEWSLETTER-JUNE 1987

JUNE HAS COME AND GONE NOW AND EVERYBODY HAS HAD A RELATIVELY TROUBLE FREE MONTH. MOST OF US HAVE RECOVERED FROM THE LONG DRAWN OUT TAKEOVER WHICH ENDED IN MAY AND ARE ALREADY GEARING OURSELVES UP FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE S A AGULHAS IN AUGUST. MOST OF OUR ORDERS FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN SENT IN. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH WAS THE MIDWINTER PARTY ON THE 21ST. THIS CONSISTED OF A ROVING SUPPER WHICH STARTED IN THE LOUNGE AND THEN WENT VIA THE LABS, WEATHER OFFICE AND EQUIPMENT STORE TO THE FOOD STORE. HERE WE WITNESSED A VERY UNUSUAL DANCE WHICH WAS PERFORMED BY JAN, ANDRE JOUBERT (LOOKING VERY MUCH LIKE A PENGUIN IN HIS TUXEDO) AND KLEIN ANDRE (MEYER). THE DANCE INVOLVED STOMPING ON EMPTY FOOD CRATES TO THE BEAT OF MUSIC. JAN DISPLAYED AN EXCELLANT KARATE KICK TECHNIQUE AND MANAGED TO SUPPLY US WITH FIREWOOD FOR OUR NEXT FEW BRAAI S. AFTERWARDS HE COMPLAINED THAT HE HE HAD GOT A FEW NAILS IN HIS FEET. THE EVENING WAS OUNDED OFF WITH DON PEDRO S AT THE BAR. NOBODY MANAGED TO STAY AWAKE TO SEE THE SUN RISE AT THE END OF THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR. THERE WERE TWO TRIPS AROUND THE ISLAND THIS MONTH. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH ANDRE J, HENNIE, MARIETA, MARIANNA AND GARY SET OFF TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE ISLAND. THEY SOON FOUND THEMSELVES FLOUNDERING IN KNEE DEEP SNOW WHICH SLOWED THEIR PROGRESS SO MUC THAT THEY REACHED THE OVERNIGHT HUT IN MOONLIGHT. MARIANNA PULLED A MUSCLE AND RETURNED TO BASE WITH ANDRE J THE NEXT DAY. MARIETA, GARY AND HENNIE CARRIED ON BUT TURNED BACK A DAY LATER AFTER HEAVY RAIN AND 50 KNOT WINDS MADE THEM R EALIZE IT WAS FOOLISH TO GO ANY FURTHER.

LATER ON IN THE MONTH VOSSIE AND ANDRE M WENT ROUND THE ISLAND, THIS TIME IN AN ANTICLOCKWISE DIRECTION. THIS WAS IN SPITE OF A STATEMENT BY JAN WHO SAID THAT ANYONE WHO GOES ROUND ANTICLOCKWISE NEEDS HIS HEAD READ.

ANDRE M, MARIANNA, MARGETA MARIETA AND VOSSIE MADE AN ATTEMPT AT REACHING THE ICE PLATEAU ONE MORNING BUT WERE FORCED BACK WHEN THE CLOUDS CAME OVER.

AS FAR AS WORK GOES, RANK, HENNIE AND ANDRE M HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE SAYING IF ANYTHING CAN GO WRONG IT WILL APPLIES VERY WELL TO RADIOSONDAS AND WEATHER BALLOONS.

GARY HAS FINISHED REPACKING THE PANTRY AND HAS DONE A LOT OF HARD WORK IN THE FOOD STORE. IT IS ALSO TWO MONTHS SINCE HE GAVE UP SMOKING AND THE SMOKERS HERE ARE NOW OUTNUMBERED BY 6 TO 4.

CHRIS GOT BITTEN BY A MOUSE ONE EVENING AND WAS DULY HAULED OFF TO THE SICKBAY FOR AN INJECTION. HE ALSO HAD TO BE REASSURED THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CATCH AIDS FROM A MOUSE BITE.

ANDRE J HAD HIS HAIR PERMED AND NOW LOOKS RATHER WILD WITH HIS BEARD WHICH IS GETTING QUITE BUSHY. VOSSIE, WHO HAS CURLY HAIR, APPLIED SOME HAIR STRAIGHTENER TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD LOOK LIKE WITH STRAIGHT HAIR. HIS HAIR IS JUST AS CURLY AS EVER.

AFTER A NUMBER OF FALSE STARTS VOSSIE FINALLY GOT ROUND TO PAINTING HIS ROOM. IT NOW LOOKS VERY COSY.

THERE WAS GREAT EXCITEMENT ON THE ISLAND

WHEN ANDRE AND POTTE SAW 5 KILLER WHALES. THEY WERE VERY CLOSE INSHORE AND ONE OF THEM CAME CLOSE ENOUGH FOR ANDRE TO TOUCH. THEY THEN MOVED OFF TOWARDS THE OIAT WHERE THEY ALMOST MANAGED TO CATCH A SEAL FOR LUNCH. LUCKILY, THE SEAL S REVERSE GEAR WAS FASTER THAN HIS FORWARD GEARS AND HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

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OUR MOUSE CATCHING COMPETITION WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND THERE ARE NOW VERY FEW MICE LEFT IN THE BASE. THE COLD WEATHER HAS ALSO HELPE TO KILL THEM OFF. WE DISCOVERED A MOUSE WHO HAD MADE A HOME FOR ITSELF IN THE BIG WALK-IN FRIDGE. T T E WHE IT IS REMEMBERED THAT AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR IT IS USUALLY WARMER INSIDE THE FRIDGE THAN OUTS

WE RELIAZED WINTER HAD ARRIVED WHEN WE AWOKE TO FIND THE WATER PIPES FROZEN ON THE MORNING OF THE 17TH. THE ICE ALSO CA SED ONE OF THE PIPES TO BURST. THE PIPES FROZE UP AGAIN LATER ON IN THE MONTH.

JAA AND HENNIE CELERATED BIRTHDAY S THIS MONTH. HENNIE HAD HIS BIRTHDAY THE DAY AFTER MIDWINTER SO IT WAS DECIDED BEFOREHAND TO INCLUDE HIS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WITH THE MIDWINTER PARTY. BOTH JAN AND HENNIE RECEIVED RESENTS FROM HOME AS WELL AS FROM THE TEAM. THE EAM PRESENTS WERE MADE BY ANDRE M WHOSE LEATHERWORK IS VERY POPULAR.

THE PHOTOGRAPHY BUG HAS WELL AND TRUELY BITTEN US HERE AND EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT DEPTH OF FIELD AND EXPOSURE TIMES, WE HAVE A FULLY EQUIPED DARK ROOM HERE WHERE WE DEVELOP ALL OUR FILMS. SLIDE SHOWS ARE BECOMING A REGULAR THING NOW.

CHRIS WATCHED AMADEUS ON VIDEO LAST WEEK AND WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE INTERPRETATION OF MOZART S LAUGH. CHRIS NOW GIVES A VERY GOOD IMPERSONATION OF THE MOZART LAUGH.

IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE EVERYONE THAT WE ARE EATING VERY WELL AND ARE ENJOYING OUR STAY HERE.

WEATHER DATA - JUNE 1987

HIGHEST TEMPERATURE.....14,0 DEGREES
LOWEST TEMP.....-1.5 DEGREES
AVERAGE TEMP.....5,2 DEGREES
TOTAL RAINFALL.....246,1 MM
HIGHEST WINDSPEED.....196,9 KM/H
TOTAL HOURS OF SUNSHINE.....76,9
AVERAGE HOURS SUNSHINE PER DAY...2,6

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NEWSLETTER BY: FRANK SOKOLIC
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