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08/09/87

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 1987

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MARION ISLAND  
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WELCOME ONCE AGAIN TO THE REALMS OF MARION ISLAND.

THIS MONTH STARTED OFF ON A VERY HECTIC NOTE WITH ALL OF US BUSY WITH THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE S.A. AGULHAS, AN OUTSIDE SKIVVY WAS DONE IN SOMETIMES UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS, KOSKASSIES FOR THE HUTS WERE SORTED OUT AND CARTED UP TO THE HELI-PAD IN WINDS OF UP TO ONE HUNDRED KILOMETRES PER HOUR AND HEAVY SLEET SHOWERS. A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE THE SHIP ARRIVED ALL THE MAJOR WORK WAS COMPLETED AND THE BASE WAS IN TIP TOP CONDITION AND READY FOR OUR VISITORS.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SHIP ARRIVED WE HAD A FAREWELL SUPPER FOR THE GIRLS, MARIETA AND MARIANNA. AS THIS WAS THEIR LAST NIGHT ALONE WITH US, WE WERE ALL RATHER SAD BUT STILL MANAGED TO HAVE A FESTIVE PARTY. THE PARTY ENDED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE NEXT MORNING.

THE SHIP ARRIVED ON SUNDAY THE NINTH AND THE SHORE BASED PERSONNEL WERE FLOWN ASHORE. THAT NIGHT WE BECAME AQUAINTED WITH THE 19 NEW MEMBERS OF MARION 44.

THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS EVERYONE GAVE A HAND WITH THE OFFLOADING OF ALL THE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT - WHICH WAS HARD WORK.

AFTER THE OFFLOADING WAS COMPLETED, EVERYONE WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS TO START OR TO CARRY ON WITH THE WORK THEY HAD TO DO. THE P.W.D. TEAM AND SCIENTISTS RELIED ON FRANK S WEATHER REPORTS TO SEE IF FIELD WORK WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE NEXT DAY.

VOSSIE WAS ONCE AGAIN FLOODED WITH WORK, HE DID MAINTAINANCE AND REPAIRS ON ALL THE FAULTY RADIO AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. HE VERY SELDOM HAD A MOMENT OF SPARE TIME FOR HIMSELF.

JAN WAS AS BUSY AS ALWAYS, EITHER TUCKED AWAY IN HIS LAB PLAYING WITH HIS GOGGAS OR OUT IN THE FIELD LOOKING FOR MORE TO HARASS. HE ALSO WENT ON A FIELD TRIP HALFWAY AROUND THE ISLAND WITH CLARKE SCHOLTZ (HIS BOSS).

ANDRE J ONLY TOUCHED GROUND AFTER THE SHIP HAD LEFT AS HE WAS RUNNING AROUND ORGANIZING EVERYTHING AND SEEING THAT THE TAKE OVER RAN SMOOTHLY.

MARIETA AND MARIANNA FINISHED THEIR WORK AND PACKED ALL THEIR LAB EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL GOODIES THAT HAD TO GO HOME WITH THEM.

THE 25TH WAS MARIETA S BIRTHDAY, THE TWO CHEFS BAKED A CAKE IN THE FORM OF THE S.A. AGULHAS, WHICH WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL. HER BIRTHDAY WAS CELEBRATED IN THE GOOD OLD MARION TRADITION. GARY MADE A WOOD CARVING OF A ROCK HOPPER PENGUIN FOR HER.

ONE EVENING WE HAD EXTREMELY ROUGH SEAS, THE WAVES WERE SPECTACULAR AND BREAKING OVER THE FOOD STORE, WET LAB AND CRANE. THE NEXT MORNING WE HAD TO HAUL IN THE MOORING ROPE FOR THE RAFTS AS IT WAS NOT NEEDED ANYMORE. THE TASK WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE THE ROPE WAS ENTANGLED IN THE SEA WEED. OUR SUB-ANT-ARCTIC HERO, ANDRE MEYER, PUT ON HIS WET SUIT, GOGGLES, SNORKEL AND DIVING KNIFE. HE THEN BRAVED THE ICY COLD WATER TO FREE THE ROPE FROM THE SEA WEED.

HENNIE WAS KEPT BUSY BY THE FEMALE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU. SHE GAVE HIM LESSONS IN COMPUTER PROGRAMMES. HE ALSO ACCOMPANIED IAN AND JACO ON A WALK TO KILDALKEY.

CHRIS HAD HIS HANDS FULL WITH ALL THE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT THAT BROKE DOWN DURING THE MONTH. ONE OF THE THINGS TO BREAK, WAS THE GEYSER, A COLD BATH HERE WILL NOT BE AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE AND IT IS THANKS TO CHRIS THAT EVERYTHING IS IN RUNNING CONDITION AGAIN.

THE NINETEEN NEW MEMBERS OF MARION 44 ARE:

STEVE CHOWN - ENTOMOLOGIST  
CHARLES GILBERT (JUG) - ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSISTANT  
IAN WILKINSON (POMME) - MAMMALOGIST  
JACO SWART - POMME S ASSISTANT  
JONATHAN BLOOMER - BIOLOGIST IN CHARGE OF THE CAT PROGRAM  
DEON MULLER (DULLA) - FIELD ASSISTANT  
ROBIN COOK (PADDY) - FIELD ASSISTANT  
IVAN DALGLISH - FIELD ASSISTANT  
JOHNNY KIESER - FIELD ASSISTANT  
HANS FEILING (ZOOT) - FIELD ASSISTANT  
DANIE ZEEMAN (SNAKE) - FIELD ASSISTANT  
MARCEL KROESE (GUMMIES) - FIELD ASSISTANT  
FRANK VREEDE - FIELD ASSISTANT  
RORY SHONE - FIELD ASSISTANT  
NICO DU PLESSIS - FIELD ASSISTANT  
STEVE HENLEY - FIELD ASSISTANT  
PAT DUIGAN - FIELD ASSISTANT  
ROBIN MATTHEWS (BETA) - FIELD ASSISTANT  
GEORG MANKE (ICE PICK) - FIELD ASSISTANT

THE EIGHT MEMBERS THAT HAVE BEEN ON MARION SINCE APRIL ARE:

ANDRE JOUBERT - COMMUNICATOR/LEADER  
ANDRE MEYER - METKASSIE-/DEPUTY LEADER  
FRANK SOKOLIC - SENIOR METKASSIE  
HENNIE BARWISE - METKASSIE  
CHRIS POTRAWIAK - DIESEL MECHANIC  
HANS VOSLOO (VOSSIE) - RADIO TECHNICIAN  
JAN CRAFFORD - ENTOMOLOGIST  
GARY GUNNELL - MEDIC

DURING THE WINTER MONTHS WE DID NOT HAVE ANY SIGHTINGS OF CATS AT THE BASE, ONLY FOOTPRINTS WERE SEEN. NOW THAT THE HUNTERS HAVE ARRIVED, 23 CATS HAVE BEEN PUT DOWN. TWO OF THE HUNTERS, ZOOT AND PADDY (BOTH TRAINED CARTOGRAPHERS) SPENT THE NIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN. THEY COULD NOT FIND THE HUT WERE THEY WERE GOING TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAD MAPS WITH THEM.

ON THE 29TH THE S.A. AGULHAS LEFT ON ITS RETURN VOYAGE TO CAPE TOWN. IT WAS SAD TO SAY GOODBYE TO OUR TWO ISLAND SISTERS, MARIETA AND MARIANNA.

WELL FOLKS, THAT IS ALL FOR THIS MONTH. THANK YOU ALL FOR THE LETTERS AND PARCELS WE RECEIVED.

REGARDS FROM ALL  
MARION 44

WEATHER DATA - AUGUST 1987

HIGHEST TEMP.....11,2 DEGREES  
LOWEST TEMP.....-2,5 DEGREES  
AVERAGE TEMP.....4,7 DEGREES  
TOTAL RAINFALL.....173,0 MM  
HIGHEST WINDSPEED.....162,0 KM/H  
TOTAL HOURS OF SUNSHINE.....69,6  
AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE PER DAY.2,2

NEWSLETTER BY: GARY GUNNELL  
WEATHER DATA BY: FRANK SOKOLIC

*Handwritten:*  
8/21/08  
RCB 870908  
87-09-08