

NNNN
ZCZC 163 01621
AAHQ16 FAME 050310
MP 692

M44/253

5/10/87

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1987

MARION ISLAND

WELCOME ONCE AGAIN AND I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ALL THE GOINGS ON ON MARION WITH YOU ALL.

LIFE IN THE BASE IS RETURNING TO NORMAL AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE S.A. AGULHAS. ONCE THE SHIP HAD LEFT WE HELPED CLEAN UP IN AND AROUND THE BASE. AFTER THIS THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS SORTED OUT THEIR BEDROOMS.

SUMMER IS SLOWLY BUT SURELY ARRIVING HERE. THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER AND WE ARE ENJOYING MORE SUNSHINE. MORE AND MORE ANIMALS ARE RETURNING TO THE ISLAND FOR THE SUMMER AFTER SPENDING THE WINTER ELSEWHERE. THE SOOTY ALBATROSSES ARE BACK AND CAN BE SEEN GLIDING THROUGH THE AIR NEAR THEIR NESTS WHICH ARE BUILT ON CLIFFS. THE SKUA S ARE EVERYWHERE, LOOKING FOR EASY FOOD AMONGST THE NEWLY ARRIVED ANIMALS. THE GENTOO PENGUINS, WHOSE EGGS HATCHED OUT LAST MONTH, HAVE LOST A LOT OF CHICKS TO THE SKUAS. THE LARGE WANDERING ALBATROSS CHICKS ARE BUSY GETTING THEIR ADULT PLUMAGE. THE CORMORANTS ARE GOING THROUGH THEIR ELABORATE COURTSHIP DISPLAYS AND THEY SHOULD BE LAYING EGGS VERY SOON NOW.

ELEPHANT SEAL COWS AROUND THE ISLAND ARE GIVING BIRTH TO THEIR PUPS NOW. BY THE END OF OCTOBER ALL THE COWS WILL HAVE ARRIVED. ONCE THE COWS HAVE ARRIVED, THE BULLS DO BATTLE WITH EACH OTHER TO DETERMINE DOMINANCE OF THE VARIOUS HAREMS. A FEW SKIRMISHES HAVE ALREADY BEEN WITNESSED. ALL THIS ACTIVITY AMONGST THE ANIMALS ON THE ISLAND HAS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE KILLER WHALES WHO ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A POSSIBLE MEAL. KILLER WHALE PACKS OF UP TO FIFTEEN WHALES HAVE BEEN SEEN AND ATTACKS ON SEALS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. EARLIER THIS MONTH A LEOPARD SEAL TURNED UP AT TRYPT BEACH AND MOST OF THE TEAM WENT ALONG TO PHOTOGRAPH IT. LEOPARD SEALS ARE VERY RARELY SEEN HERE.

AFTER BEING SPOILT WITH GOOD WEATHER DURING THE TAKEOVER, THE CATHUNTERS HAVE NOW BECOME FULLY AQUAINTED WITH THE VARIABILITY OF THE WEATHER HERE. WE HAD A LOT OF SNOW THIS MONTH AND RAINFALL HAS BEEN WELL ABOVE AVERAGE. THE STRONG WINDS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL AS USUAL AND CHRIS WAS OFTEN CALLED UPON TO REPAIR DAMAGED BUILDINGS. AS A RESULT OF THE VERY CHANGEABLE WEATHER, FRANK SOKOLIC IS OFTEN ASKED TO FORECAST THE WEATHER FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO PLAN TO GO FOR A WALK SOMEWHERE. HIS FORECASTS ARE OFTEN VERY GOOD AND HE IS BUILDING A GOOD REPUTATION FOR FORECASTERS IN GENERAL. FRANK ALSO WENT TO SEE WHAT THE WEATHER IS LIKE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND DURING A FIVE DAY TRIP AROUND THE ISLAND.

AFTER TAKEOVER MANY SMALL JOBS HAD TO BE DONE. AMONGST OTHER THINGS, A SMALL GENERATOR HAD TO BE TAKEN OUT TO ONE OF THE HUTS. ONE MORNING IN THICK SNOW AND WITH THE GENERATOR ON THE BACK, ANDRE AND ANDRE (A.J. AND A.M.) UNDERTOOK THE WALK TO THE HUT. AT TIMES A.J. HAD HIS HEAD UNDER THE SNOW ALTHOUGH THIS WAS ONLY TO POSE FOR A PHOTOGRAPH. A.J. ALSO WENT ON A NUMBER OF SHORT WALKS FROM THE BASE. THIS WAS TO GET AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE FOR A WHILE. HE ALSO WENT ON A HUNT WITH ONE THE CATHUNTERS AND HAD AN UNWELCOME SWIM IN A WATERBED. GARY HAS ALSO BEEN ON A FEW CAT HUNTS.

PAGE TWO.....

NNNN

ZCZC 166 01621
AAHQ16 FAME 050311
MP 692

M44/253

PAGE TWO

DURING THE MONTH THERE WAS A FOUR DAY DIVING EXPEDITION TO SHIPS COVE. THE EXPEDITION WAS ORGANISED BY A.M. WHO WAS ALSO ASSISTED BY VOSSIE AND GARY. A GROUP OF EIGHT PEOPLE LEFT FOR SHIPS COVE, MOST OF THEM GOING ALONG TO HELP CARRY EQUIPMENT. THOSE PEOPLE WHO SPENT THE WHOLE EXPEDITION AT THE COVE HAD A VERY GOOD TIME EVEN THOUGH WEATHER CONDITIONS DID NOT ALLOW MUCH DIVING TO BE DONE.

THE PUNK HAIRSTYLES MADE POPULAR BY THE CATHUNTERS ARE CATCHING ON WITH THE OTHER TEAM MEMBERS. JUG KEEPS HIS HEAD COMPLETELY BALD. THIS IS SO THAT HE CAN WASH OFF THE HAIR CONDITIONER APPLIED BY THE ALBATROSS CHICKS. NOT TO BE OUTDONE, CHRIS, GARY, FRANK S, HENNIE AND STEVE CHOWN ALSO HAD THEIR HAIR CUT. GARY CUT HIS HAIR MORE AS A MATTER OF PRIDE AND NOT BECAUSE HE BELONGS TO THE PERMANENT FORCE. JAN SHAVED HIS BEARD OFF BUT AFTER SEEING THE RESULT, QUICKLY DECIDED TO GROW IT AGAIN.

THE RECREATION AREA IN THE BASE IS UNDERGOING A BIG CHANGE AS GEORG CONTINUES WITH HIS WORK. THE CREATIVITY AMONGST THE CAT HUNTERS HAS ALSO LED TO A COMPETITION TO SEE WHO CAN BUILD THE BEST TOILET FACILITIES AT THE HUTS. SOME OF THE HUTS NOW BOAST CLOSED TOILETS WITH FLUSHING FACILITIES.

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH MARCEL IS STILL THE CHAMPION MIRE SINKER IN THE CAT TEAM. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING AS HE IS THE TALLEST MAN ON THE ISLAND AND HAS SIZE 13 FEET. HE IS ALSO THE ONLY PERSON WITHOUT GUMBOOTS AS NO SIZE 13 BOOTS WERE AVAILABLE.

IN SPITE OF THE BAD WEATHER AND DIFFICULT TERREIN, THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS HAVE SETTLED DOWN WELL. THE AMOUNT OF CATS SIGHTED AND SHOT COMPARES WELL WITH LAST YEAR AND IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE CAT PROGRAMME IS BEARING FRUIT.

THERE WERE A FEW BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH. FIRST WAS FRANK VREED- THE MAN WITH THE LARGE APPETITE. AFTER HIM CAME ZOOT WHO MADE SURE THAT HE WAS AWAKE FOR THE FULL 24 HOURS OF HIS BIRTHDAY. HE WAS VERY ABLY ASSISTED BY NICO. IVAN ALSO HAD A BIRTHDAY BUT WAS ALREADY IN BED BY THE TIME HIS PARTY STARTED AT EIGHT P.M. A.J. BAKED CAKES FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAD BIRTHDAYS AND FOUND OUT THAT ICING A CAKE IS A VERY FRUSTRATING BUSINESS AND NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS. STEVE H ALSO HAD A BIRTHDAY BUT DIDN T TELL ANYONE SO HE WILL HAVE A SURPRISE WAITING FOR HIM WHEN HE GETS BACK FROM THE HUT. SUCH NEGLIGENCE ON HIS PART CAN T GO UNPUNISHED.

EVERYBODY HERE IS FIT AND WELL AND EVERYONE LOOKS FORWARD TO RECEIVING NEWS FROM HOME. WITH THAT NEWS I D LIKE TO SAY GOODBYE TO EVERYONE AT HOME.

GREETINGS FROM US ALL,
MARION 44.

WEATHER DATA

HIGHEST TEMP.....10,2 DEGREES
LOWEST TEMP.....- 1,5 DEGREES
AVERAGE TEMP.....4,4 DEGREES
TOTAL RAINFALL.....269,2 MM
HIGHEST WINDSPEED.....141 KM/H
TOTAL HOURS OF SUNSHINE.....111,9
AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE PER DAY.....3,7

NEWSLETTER BY: ANDRE MEYER
WEATHER DATA BY: FRANK SOKOLIC