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MARION 45 NEWSLETTER
JULY 88

HELLO AGAIN FROM US SEVEN MARION ITES IN THE FAR SOUTH INDIAN OCEAN. NO MAJOR OCCURRENCE HAS TAKEN PLACE THIS MONTH AND ALL ARE STRONG, IN GOOD HEALTH AND FULL OF LIFE. THE WEATHER REMAINS UNCHANGED, (SOMEWHAT COLD, WET AND WINDY).

PETER AND DAVE TOOK A FEW DAYS OFF TO ENCIRCLE THE ISLAND. DURING THEIR WALK THEY FOUND THAT THE RECENT STORMS HAVE DEALT RATHER SEVERELY WITH A FEW OF THE HUTS SITUATED AROUND THE ISLAND. PETER, PERTURBED BY THE DISRESPECT OF THE RESIDENT MICE AT A FEW OF THE HUTS, EXPRESSED THEIR INCONSIDERATION TOWARDS A VERY TIRED AND WEARY VISITOR, (THEY EVEN HAD THE AUDACITY TO USE ONES FACE AS A PLAYGROUND). BASE AND THE HOMECOMING WAS WELCOMED WITH PETER MUMBLING ABOUT HAVING SLIGHTLY SORE FEET.

DURING THE PAST MONTH OUR CULINARY SKILLS PRESENTED THE ODD PLEASANT SURPRISE. PETER SURPRIZED THE REST WITH A DELICIOUS APPLE TART, MARC MANAGED TO BREW A GOOD BATCH OF GINGER BEER WHICH ENSURES THAT THERE ARE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THIRST AND EVERYTHING FROM FUDGE TO HOT CROSS BUNS HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED. (SOME EFFORTS BEING MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN OTHERS, WITH THE GINGER BEER HAVING A MINIMAL TOXIC EFFECT).

MARC AND STEPHENS DISCOVERY OF A WHITE FEMALE ELEPHANT SEAL, WHO WAS BASKING ON ITS BACK ON BOULDER BEACH DID NOT GO UNNOTICED. THAT DAY THE INTREPID PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE LAST SEEN HEADING IN THE DIRECTION OF TRYPOT BEACH AS THEY HAD DECIDED THAT THERE WERE BOUND TO BE A FEW MORE OF THESE STRANGE WHITE PHOTOGENIC MAMMALS AROUND. (DISSAPPOINTMENT WAS EXPRESSED WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT THE SEAL WAS NOT AT ALL DISSIMILAR TO THE REST OF ITS SPECIES).

THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE OF SNOW DURING THE PAST MONTH AND GENTOO LAKE (AN INLAND LAKELET SITUATED IMMEDIATLY IN FRONT OF THE BASE) HAS, ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS, BEEN FROZEN OVER. THIS HAS PRESENTED SLIGHT PROBLEMS WITH THE FREEZING OF THE PIPES SUPPLYING WATER TO THE BASE. GERRIT HAS BEEN BUSY CHECKING AND RECHECKING THE WATER SUPPLY.

THE VIDEO MACHINE HAS BEGUN TO WORK OVERTIME. A FEW MEMBERS ARE ALREADY RECITING VIDEOS OFF BY HEART. THESE LONG SLEEPLESS NIGHTS HAVE HAD INFLUENCE ON THE VIDEO AND MOVIE MARATHONS.

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ONE OTHER EXCUSE FOR A PARTY WAS THAT SPARKS, OUR RADIO
TECH, BECAME A PROUD UNCLE FOR THE FOURTH TIME.

NOW THAT MIDWINTER IS OVER THE SUNS ENTRY AND EXIT FROM THE SKY IS
MORE NOTICABLE.

INFORMATION BROUGHT BACK FROM THOSE WHO ENJOY WALKING: IS THAT THE
GIANT PETRELS ARE BUSY WITH THE BUILDING OF NESTS. THIS SIGNIFIES
THE APPROACH OF SUMMER, THOUGH STILL A LONG WAY AWAY IT IS
NOTABLE.

THE GENTOO PENGUINS ARE INCUBATING THEIR EGGS, (A SMALL WHITE EGG
ABOUT THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF THAT OF A CHICKEN S), AND A VISIT
TO THESE COLONYS, WITH THE CHITTER AND CHATTER IN AMONGST THE
SNOW, REMAIN A PLEASANT, EXTREMELY ENTERTAINING, EXPERIENCE.

HERE FOLLOWS THE CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH:

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE.....4,1 DEGREES C.
HIGHEST TEMPERATURE.....9,4 DEGREES C.
LOWEST TEMPERATURE.....-4,5 DEGREES C. (-26 DEGS WITH WINDFACTOR
AVERAGE HUMIDITY.....78
AVERAGE PRESSURE.....10007,7 HPA
TOTAL RAINFALL.....192,3 MM
DAYS WITHOUT SUNSHINE.....4
AVERAGE SUNSHINE PER DAY.....2,6 HOURS PER DAY.

THAT S ABOUT IT FOR THIS MONTH FOLKS.
MARION GREETINGS.

NEWSLETTER: GERRIT JANSE VAN VUUREN
TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH: DAVE BAKER
WEATHER DATA: DANIE FERREIRA

B9 88.08.82

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