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NEWSLETTER MARION 46 APRIL 89

1989-05-03

BEING OUR FIRST EDITION I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE ALL TO THE MARION 46 TEAM SO AS TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THEM AND THEIR WORKING RELATIONSHIP. THE TEAM COMPRISES OF SEVEN LOGISTIC GUYS AND EIGHT FIELD ASSISTANTS. THE LOGISTIC TEAM AS FOLLOWS, GLEN, STEVEN, VINCENT, MARC, HENDRICK, GERALD AND PETER. THE CAT TEAM WHO ARE ALL SEASONED CHAPS EXCEPT FOR ANTON AND PIET (WHO ARE NEW). ARE DEON, PETE, STEVE, JACHA, MARTIN AND IVAN WHO INCIDENTLY IS DOING HIS 4TH YEAR ON THE ISLAND WHICH IS A NEW RECORD, COLIN WILL BE REMAINING OVER WINTER TO COMPLETE HIS PENGUIN PROJECT, THUS COMPLETING THE PERSONNEL FOR THE NEW TEAM.

THE VOYAGE DOWN TO MARION HAD IT'S MOMENTS, LAST MINUTE DASHING IN AND OUT OF CAPE TOWN TO FINALIZE SUPPLIES AND AFTER WAITING FOR THE HELICOPTER TO ARRIVE WE SAID OUR GOODBYES AND SET SAIL. MONTHS OF PLANNING AND MANY DREAMS WERE NOW BECOMING A REALITY FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE ON BOARD AND DEFINITELY FOR THE 46 TEAM. THE FIRST TWO DAYS WENT WELL WITH EVERYONE LOOKING RIDICULOUS WITH THEIR STICKERS BEHIND THEIR EARS, SET ON THE FACT THAT WITHOUT THEM THEY WOULD GET HORRENDOUSLY ILL, WHICH DULY DID OCCUR, PETE (THAT IS THE CORRECT SPELLING) AND CAREN, OUR RADIO TECH AND OBSERVER RESPECTIVELY WERE SOON HORIZONTAL AND SET TO STAY THAT WAY UNTIL MARION WAS REACHED. THE REST OF US WERE MORE FORTUNATE. ON THE 4TH OF APRIL EARLY MORNING OUR MOMENT HAD ARRIVED - MARION, IT WAS DEFINITELY ALOT COOLER NOW BUT NOTHING FELT WARMER THAN OUR HEARTS AT THAT MOMENT, STANDING ON THE DECK, OBSERVING WHAT WOULD BE OUR HOME FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

THE NEXT WEEK WAS SPENT OFF-LOADING THE SHIP AND SUPPLYING THE BASE, GETTING TO KNOW THE OLD TEAM CAME QUICKLY AND NO TIME WAS WASTED WITH SHOWING US THE IMPORTANT PLACES LIKE THE BAR FOR INSTANCE WERE MANY A PARTY HAS BEEN HAD IM SURE. WELL THEY PROVED TO BE A BUNCH OF TOP GUYS AND HAVE ASSISTED US IN LEARNING THE ROPE'S WHENEVER POSSIBLE. OVER-CROWDING HAS BEEN A SMALL PROBLEM CONSIDERING THERE HAS BEEN UP TO EIGHTY PEOPLE LIVING HERE WHEN THE BASE IS REALLY SUPPOSED TO ACCOMODATE APROX FORTY

ALOT OF FLYING HAS TAKEN PLACE, RE-SUPPLYING THE HUTS WITH FOOD AND GAS WITH GENERAL SKIVVY RUNS TO REMOVE THE OLD DEBRIS FROM THE ISLAND. THIS HAS GIVEN OUR TEAM THE CHANCE TO VIEW THE ISLAND FROM THE AIR AND THUS CREATING SOME PERSPECTIVE AS TO IT'S LAYOUT.

I'M SURE EVERYONE MUST BE WONDERING HOW THE GUYS ARE ADAPTING TO THE NEW ENVIROMENT, WELL UP UNTIL NOW THERE HAS ONLY BEEN PRAISES OF THE NEW HOME, THE GUYS LOVE IT HERE, EVEN THE OLD TEAM ARE RELUCTANT TO LEAVE, HOWEVER THEY ARE EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT OF SEEING THEIR LOVED ONES AGAIN. UP UNTIL NOW WE HAVE BEEN SHARING ROOMS WITH THE OLD TEAM SO WE HAVEN'T EVEN HAD THE CHANCE TO UNPACK YET AND GET SETTLED IN. ALREADY MAIL HAS BEEN RECEIVED EAGERLY BY ALL AND VINCENT AND MARC DON'T SEEM TO LEAVE THEIR TYPWRITERS AS A RESULT OF THE OUT-GOING MAIL NOT TO MENTION ALL THE PHONE CALLS BEING BOOKED.

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HENDRIK, GERALD AND MARC (ZANK) WERE STUMPED BY THE SUDDEN WEATHER FLUCTUATIONS AROUND HERE, BEING THE MET. DEPT. AND USED TO SOUTH AFRICAN WEATHER SYSTEMS THEY LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERYDAY, DESPITE THE TEETHING PROBLEMS EVERYTHING IS NOW UNDER CONTROL. STEVEN AND GERRIT OLD AND NEW DIESEL MECHANICS RESPECTIVLY HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE WORKING ALONGSIDE P.W.D (PUELIC WORKS DEPT.) MAINTAINING THE BASE. P.W.D HAVE REALLY STOOD OUT, WORKING DAY IN AND DAY OUT TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK SCHEDULE. THE TWO CHEFS IERAFEM AND JOE HAVE HAD ONE FREE DAY SINCE THEY ARRIVED, BEING SO BUSY THEY STILL MANAGED TO PROVIDE TOP CLASS MEALS FOR EVERYONE ON BASE. (HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN WE START OUR OWN COOKING).

THE CAT TEAM HAVE BEEN OUT TWICE SINCE WE ARRIVED AND ANTON WASTED NO TIME IN SHOWING THEM HOW THE JOB WAS TO BE DONE, MERRILY GOING AHEAD AND TERMINATING 5 CATS ON HIS FIRST NIGHT OUT. THE REST OF THE TEAM HAVE DONE WELL, A MORE DETERMINED BUNCH I HAVE YET TO SEE. EVEN VINCENT HAD A BASH AND WENT OUT WITH DEON THE ONE NIGHT TO HAVE A TASTE OF WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HUNT IN THE DARK.

THE TAKE-OVER PARTY WAS MOST DEFINITELY THE CHERRY ON THE TOP, WITH THE TRADITIONAL INITIATION CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTING THE EVENING, A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL! ESPECIALLY SPARKS AND PETER WHO BOILED UP THE BREW THAT WE WERE DUNKED IN, I THINK SOME OF THE GUYS ARE STILL TRYING TO REMOVE IT.

THE NEWSLETTER WILL TAKE A DIFFERENT FORM EVERY MONTH IN THAT EACH TEAM MEMBER WILL GET A CHANCE TO TELL HIS TALE IN HIS OWN WAY THUS ALSO VARYING BETWEEN ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

WELL LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT HENDRIK, GERALD AND MARK HAVE COME UP WITH CONCERNING THE MONTHLY WEATHER DATA FOR MARION.

NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY: GLEN MUIR
WEATHER DATA SUPPLIED BY: HENDRIK SWART
AVERAGE PRESSURE: 1008.7 HPA
AVERAGE TEMPERATURE: 6.2 DEGREES
AVERAGE HUMIDITY: 85 PERCENT
AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE PER DAY: 2.9.
TOTAL RAINFALL FOR APRIL: 302.0 MM
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH 1MM OR MORE RAIN: 14 DAYS
DAYS WITH SUNSHINE: 20.

JS 89.05.05