

1989-11-04

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NEWSLETTER FROM MARION ISLAND FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

GREETINGS TO ALL FROM THE MARION 46 TEAM AS WELL AS THE NEW CAT HUNTERS. THIS MONTH WAS FULL OF EXCITEMENT WITH THE S A AGULHAS COMING DOWN FOR A SHORT TIME AND BRINGING DOWN THE NEW CAT TEAM WHO WILL STAY FOR THE SUMMER. WE WISH THEM THE BEST OF LUCK AND HAPPY HUNTING. THE WEATHER PLAYED ALONG WHEN THE SUPPLIES NEEDED TO BE OFF LOADED AND THE WHOLE EVENT TOOK PLACE IN A VERY SHORT TIME.

HERE IS A LIST OF THE NEW RESIDENTS TO MARION ISLAND AND MAY THEY ENJOY THEIR STAY:

SAMPIE FERREIRA (SEAL PROGRAMME)
ANDRE DE COCK (SEAL PROGRAMME)
CHRIS HINES (BIRD PROGRAMME)

CAT TEAM FOR SUMMER 89-90

PADDY COOK
GERALD GRIESEL
DAVE KEATING
RICHARD GREEN
CHRISTO STANDER
ANDRE BOTHA
JAKES VILJOEN
RIAAN ROOS
SAMPIE FERREIRA (WHO WILL ALSO BE ASSISTING WITH THE CAT PROGRAMME DUE TO HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AS A CAT HUNTER).
D. BENADIE

THE TAKE-OVER PARTY WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY THE OLD CAT TEAM SEEM TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS AND THE MUSIC WAS HEARD THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HOURS AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS WHICH IS COMPULSORY AND WAS ENJOYED BY THE OLD MEMBERS ESPECIALLY STEVE AND MARE.

DURING THE TAKE-OVER PERIOD, THE KILLER WHALES MADE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN, JUST OFF THE POINT OF BOULDER BEACH AND A GREAT RUSH WAS MADE BY SEVERAL PEOPLE TO SEE THESE HUGE AND BEAUTIFUL CREATURES. THE FAMOUS SKUA IS BACK FOR SUMMER AND SEVERAL HAVE BEEN SPOTTED ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE THE KITCHEN. HENRIK (SEN MET) TELLUS ME THAT THE UPPER AIR SKUA HAS RETURNED AND HAS BEEN COMING INTO THE UPPER AIR OFFICE.

BACK TO TAKE-OVER PERIOD AGAIN, PARCELS WERE RECEIVED BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE TEAM FROM THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, WHICH PROVED A LOT OF EXCITEMENT AND SOME OF US THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS BETTER THEN CHRISTMAS. BY OPENING THE LARGE WOODEN CONTAINERS IN WHICH THE PARCELS WERE STORED, WE FOUND THAT ALL THE PARCELS WERE MIXED TOGETHER AND IT WAS QUITE A TASK TO GET THE RIGHT PARCELS TO THE LAWFUL OWNERS.

A SPECIAL NOTE ON PETE BARLETTE WHO IS NOW THE NEW CAT HUNTER LEADER AND HAS DECIDE TO STAY ANOTHER SUMMER, PETE HAS BEEN DOWN ON THE ISLAND FOR A YEAR ALREADY, AND WILL STAY ADDITIONAL NINE MONTHS. PETE HAS BEEN TO THE ISLAND ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS AND THIS TRIP BEGIN HIS SIXTH SUMMER ON MARION. HOW LONG CAN HE KEEP COMING TO THE ISLAND WELL WHO KNOWS?

THE WEATHER THIS MONTH HAS BEEN A MIXTURE OF EVERYTHING RAIN, SNOW, WIND AND A LITTLE SUNSHINE. BUT THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER SO SPRING IS NOT TO FAR AWAY. THE LUNAR ECLIPSE ON THE 17 OF AUGUST WAS A LITTLE DISAPPOINTING BECAUSE NOTHING WAS SEEN AT ALL DUE TO A CLOUD OVER AT THE TIME OF THE ECLIPSE. THERE WAS A PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN ON THE 31ST OF AUGUST BUT DUE TO CLOUD COVER (AGAIN) NOTHING WAS SEEN.

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NEWLETTER CONT.

A LITTLE MORE ON THE INSECT RECORDINGS, THE FAMOUS MARION FLY IS BACK AND SEVERAL SPECIES HAVE BEEN SPOTTED ON THE WINDOWS AROUND BASE. ONCE IN A WHILE A SPIDER CAN ALSO BE SPOTTED BUT THEY ARE PRETTY RARE. STILL ON THE ANIMAL TOPIC THE ELEPHANT SEALS HAVE STARTED TO INCREASE IN NUMBERS ON BEACHES ON THE EASTERN PART OF THE ISLAND, THAT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY SAMPIE (SEAL EXPERT). AS WELL AS THE FUR SEALS ARE BACK ON THE ISLAND, BUT THEY TEND TO KEEP TO THE WESTERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

HENRICK AND GERALD WENT AND GOT THREE CHICK KING PENGUINS FROM ARCHWAY AND KING PENGUIN BAY, ALL THE PENGUINS ARE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS OLD. THE PENGUINS WERE ALL SENT TO R.S.A. AND WILL BE KEPT AT THE PRETORIA ZOO. THE MAIN REASON FOR SENDING THE PENGUINS BACK TO S.A IS THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE CHICKS IS AN ALBINO, WHICH IS VERY RARE AND THERE SEEMS TO BE ONLY TWO OF THESE SPECIE TYPE IN THE WORLD. THE CHANCE OF SURVIVAL AS A CHICK IS SEVEN TO ONE ON THE ISLAND. SO THAT WAS THE MAIN REASON TO TAKE (PINKIE) AND TWO OF HIS FRIENDS BACK TO THE REPUBLIC. LETS HOPE THE TRIP BACK HOME WAS NOT TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN ON THEM.

THE ONLY BIRTHDAY FOR THE MONTH WAS MARG ZANK S AND HE HAD THE HONOUR OF BECOMING QUARTER CENTURY OLD. THE PARTY TURNED OUT TO BE GREAT FUN FOR MOST PEOPLE AND THERE WAS THE ODD SLIGHT INJURY WHICH WAS PATCHED UP BY OUR EXPERIENCED MEDIC (GLEN).

AR NO ICEBERGS HAVE BEEN SEEN AND NOW WINTER COMING TO A END IT SEEMS THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SEEING ONE AT ALL. WITH THE SUN JUST ABOUT PEAKING IN ACTIVITY WITH SUNSPOT CYCLE 22 JUST ABOUT REACHING A MAXIMUM IN A YEAR OR SO THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNS OF ANY AURORA DISPLAYS DURING OUR STAY ON THE ISLAND SO FAR.

SO ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO GET THE WEATHER INFO FROM OUR MET STAFF AND THAT WOULD SUM UP THE NEWSLETTER FOR THIS MONTH REGARDS TO ALL AND ENJOY SUNSHINE UP THERE IN THE GOOD OLD R.S.A.

WEATHER SUMMARY

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH +4C
HIGHEST TEMPERATURE +12C
LOWEST TEMPERATURE -1.7C
AVERAGE SEA TEMP 4.2C
AVERAGE HUMIDITY 84 PERCENT
AVERAGE AIR PRESSURE 1005,6 HPA
LOWEST AIR PRESSURE 972.9 HPA
DAILY AVERAGE SUNSHINE 2,9 HOURS
TOTAL SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH 88,6 HOURS
DAY WITH MOST SUNSHINE (17TH) WHICH WAS 7,5 HOURS
DAYS WITHOUT ANY SUNSHINE 5 DAYS
TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH 198 MM
DAYS WITH 1 MM OF RAIN AND MORE 13 DAYS
AMOUNT OF DAYS WITH RAINFALL 28 DAYS
C (DEGREE CELSIUS)
248553, 76.0354 6 (94 - (RADIO TECH)).

WRITTEN BY PETR SYKORA (RADIO TECH)

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809.04