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MARION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1989

GREETINGS FROM MARION ISLAND, THE INHABITANTS AND A NEW YEAR. ON THIS MOST REMOTE PART OF SOUTHERN AFRICA HAPPENINGS KEPT UP TO WHAT WAS EXPECTED FOR THIS MONTH. EVERYBODY IS WELL AND ENJOYING THEMSELVES. AS IT TURNED OUT, THIS MONTH WAS FULL OF ACTION WITH VARIOUS EVENTS TAKING PLACE. BUT LET US FIRST INFORM YOU ON OUR FELLOW CREATURES JOINING US ON THIS BEAUTIFUL AND EXOTIC ISLAND. ALL THE ANIMALS ARE FULLY REPRESENTED NOW AND ARE ENJOYING THE LOVELY WEATHER AS MUCH AS WE ARE. THE BULK OF THE ELEPHANT SEALS ARE HAULING OUT FOR THE ANNUAL MOULTING SEASON. THIS IS DEFINITELY GIVING THE WHALES VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDING. WE WERE THEN ALSO VERY FORTUNATE TO OBSERVE KILLS QUITE CLOSE TO BASE. SPEAKING OF THE WHALES, THE KILLER WATCH IS OVER NOW AND EVERYBODY IS JUST MAKING RANDOM OBSERVATIONS. THE ENTHUSIASM IS STILL ON A HIGH AS PETR SYKORA'S HYDROPHONE ILLUSTRATES. HE DID MANAGE TO GET A SOUND OF A WHALE IN THE FEW ATTEMPTS THAT WERE MADE. ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE ISLAND, NEW LIFE HAS AWAKENED WITH A BIG BANG AS ALL THE FURSEALS ARE POPPING NOW AND THE BEACHES ARE A DEATH-TRAP TO WALK ON. CONCERNING THE BIRDLIFE, THINGS ARE REALLY IN THE BREEDING MODE, MOST OF THE BIRDS ARE EITHER ON EGGS OR HAVE CHICKS IN THEIR NESTS. THE MACARONI AND ROCK-HOPPER PENGUIN CHICKS ARE STARTING TO HATCH WITH ALL THE KINGS SITTING OR RATHER STANDING ON EGGS. THE WANDERING ALBATROSSES ARE HAVING THEIR FUN WITH THEIR WIDE-WINGED COURTSHIP DANCES AND WILL SHORTLY START BREEDING. NO STRANGE BIRD SIGHTINGS WERE MADE THIS MONTH LEAVING ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE OTHER EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE THIS MONTH. PETR STAYS IN THE NEWS AS HE HAS MADE THE FIRST CONTACT ON 50MHZ FROM MARION ISLAND. HE HAS BEEN TRYING FOR 9 MONTHS AND MANAGED TO MAKE 5 SUCCESSFUL CONTACTS WITH PORT ELIZABETH. THIS WAS HISTORY AND ENDED UP IN A MAJOR PARTY FOR HIM AND EVERYBODY ELSE THAT WERE ENCOURAGING HIM IN THE PROCESS. WITH THE ALLOWANCE OF EAST GERMANY'S RADIO AMATEURS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICANS, PETR HAD MADE CONTACT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. AS USUAL WERE ROUND-THE-ISLAND-TRIP WELL SUPPORTED. VINCE AND ANDRE LC WENT FOR A QUICK DASH OF SEVEN DAYS AROUND IN THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH. IT WAS ACTUALLY 5 DAYS, BECAUSE THEY WERE RAINED OUT FOR 2 DAYS. THEN PETR AND HENDRIK ALSO LAUNCHED THEMSELVES AWAY FROM BASE JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS HAVING AN EXCELLENT TIME WITH VERY GOOD WEATHER ALLROUND.

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THE GOOD WEATHER ALLOWED US THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE RARE ACTIVITIES.
ON THE 11TH EVERYBODY WAS TANNING IN A NOT SO COOL SUN (THE TEMPERATURE WENT UP TO 20 DEGREES). ROOIBAARD, DIE KAT-JAGTER - CHRISTO - WAS MUCH REDDER AT THE END OF THE DAY LEAVING HIM WITH A WARMED UP BODY THAT WAS VERY SORE THE NEXT DAY. THE GOOD WEATHER ALSO ALLOWED THE MARION OLIMPICS TO GET GOING. UNFORTUNATELY ONLY A FEW OF THE EVENTS HAVE BEEN FINISHED. THE RESULT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THIS NEWSLETTER, HOWEVER, THE SCORES ARE HUNTERS - 63 BASE - 67 AT THIS STAGE. WE HAD THREE MAJOR PARTIES THIS MONTH. ON THE 23RD AN EFFORT WAS PUT FORWARD TO CELEBRATE 5 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH. CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE, PETR, ANDRE LC, ANTON AND RICHARD. CHRISTMAS DINNER SAW US EATING IN THE TRUE MARION STYLE. MARC, RIAAN, RICHARD AND VINCE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR A MARVELLOUS DINNER AND ALSO A POTENT PUNCH LEAVING THE REST OF US PRETTY MUCH KNOCKED OUT THE NEXT DAY. THEN NEW YEAR WAS ON US AS WELL AS MARION S FIRST VISIT BY UNIDENTIFIED ALIENS AS SPACESHIP BROWNSTORE WAS BOARDED BY ANDROIDS, SUB-HUMANS ECT. THE NEW YEAR WAS ENTERED WITH A BONFIRE. THE PARTY ENDED WITH THE SUN ALREADY HIGH AND SOME OF THE ALIENS LYING DEAD ON THE SKUAS PLAYGROUND. BUT THAT IS NEXT MONTH S STORY AND ALL THAT REMAINS NOW IS THE CATS AND THE WEATHER.
A MAJOR EFFORT WAS MADE BY THE HUNTERS THIS MONTH BRINGING THE TALLY UP TO 58, CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM.
WE WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND ENJOY IT, WE CERTAINLY WILL.
HENDRIK S WEATHER INFORMATION FOLLOWS.

NEWSLETTER BY SAMPIE FERREIRA (MRI)

DESEMBER SE HEERLIKE WEER:

GEMIDDELDE TEMPERATUUR	7,1 GRADE C.
HOOGSTE TEMPERATUUR	20,0 GRADE C. OP DIE 11DE
LAAGSTE TEMPERATUUR	0,7 GRADE C. OP DIE 22STE
TOTALE HOEVEELHEID SONSKYN VIR DIE MAAND	149 URE
GEMIDDELDE DAAGLIKSE SONSKYN	4,8 URE
HOEVEELHEID SONSKYN DAE	27
HOEVEELHEID DAE MET REEN	29
TOTALE REENVAL VIR DES.	200 MM
HOOGSTE DAAGLIKSE REENVAL	35 MM OP DIE 5DE
GEMIDDELDE VOGGEHALTE	84 PERSENT
GEMIDDELDE LUGDRUK	1005,8 HPA

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