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M43/553

HI FOLKS

TWELVE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE FIRST NINE MEMBERS OF THE MARION 43 TEAM ARRIVED AT THIS WONDERFULL PARADISE. IN SEPTEMBER A FURTHER 22 MEMBERS ARRIVED AND THE MARION 43 TEAM WAS COMPLETE, AND WHAT AN ADVENTURE IT HAS BEEN. NOW THE CYCLE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND ITS TIME TO GO HOME. EVERYBODY HAS BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING HOME SO MUCH, THAT WHEN APRIL FOOLS DAY BROKE UPON US, ONLY STEVE HUNTER REMEMBERED.

IT WAS A TYPICAL GLOOMY MARION DAY, AND STEVE H HAD NEIL SCRAMBLING FOR HIS CAMERA AND BINOCULARS. STEVE H HAD ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WERE TWO WHITE HEADED PETRELS (A VERY RARE BIRD SPECIES FOR MARION) AT THE VAN DEN BOGAARD RIVER.

THE TWELVE DAYS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP, SAW THE BASE SPRING-CLEANED, A SKIVVY RUN OUTSIDE AND EVERYBODY PACKING. ON FRIDAY THE 10TH HENNIE VAN WYK (21) AND ANDRE CRONJE (20) CELEBRATED THEIR BIRTHDAYS (THREE DAYS EARLY) IN TYPICAL MARION STYLE. BOTH HAVING TO RUN THE MERCURCHROME GAUNTLET. THE PARTY, NEEDLESS TO SAY, WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

SUNDAY THE 12TH WAS A BLEAK DAY WITH HIGH WINDS AND RAIN SQUALLS. AT NOON THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP WAS ANNOUNCED WITH SHOUTS BY THE LOCK-OUTS. IT WAS ONLY LATER IN THE AFTERNOON THAT THE WIND DROPPED SUFFICIENTLY FOR THE VISITORS TO BE FLOWN OFF. INVASION SHOCK ONLY SET IN MUCH LATER THAT EVENING WHEN ONE OF THE TEAM MEMBERS COULD BE SEEN WALKING AROUND NOT QUITE KNOWING WHAT WAS GOING ON. A FEW HAD RECEIVED PARCELS AND WERE ALL SMILES. BY WEDNESDAY 15TH THE SHIP HAD BEEN OFF-LOADED AND TAKE-OVER WAS IN FULL SWING. THE F.W.D. TEAM STARTED ON THE ERECTION OF THE HELICOPTER HANGER AND THE NEW DIESEL FUEL TANKS. THE VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES HAD SENT DOWN REPRESENTATIVES FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS AND SOON ALL THE LABS WERE FULL AND EVERYBODY BUSY.

THURSDAY SAW A 12 STRONG FIELD PARTY LEAVE FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. TWO ORNITHOLOGISTS, TWO FROM THE MAMMAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, 6 BIOLOGISTS AND TWO GEOLOGISTS. TWO OF THE BIOLOGISTS HAD TO RETURN A DAY LATER BECAUSE STRONG WINDS HAD BLOWN THEIR TENT DOWN. THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF WALKING EXPEDITIONS AROUND THE ISLAND THIS MONTH. ANDRIES LEAVING ON THE 20TH WITH LYNNE SEFTON AND RICHARD WICKS (TWO VISITORS), MARK ON THE 22ND WITH ANDREA FULFRICH AND GARY WILLIAMS (VISITORS) AND ROB WITH VOSSIE (A NEW TEAM MEMBER) ON THE 26TH.

ON THE 17TH VOSSIES BIRTHDAY WAS CELEBRATED, AND ON THE 20TH RICHARD PARKERS (A F.W.D. TEAM-MEMBER AND A REGULAR VISITOR DOWN SOUTH) SUNDAY THE 26TH WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND SUE JACKSON (VISITOR) ANDRE CRONJE AND HENNIE VAN WYK HEADED UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS WITH ARCHIE HUFFING AND PUFFING BEHIND TRYING TO KEEP UP. FOR THE FIRST THREE IT WAS SUCCESS AS THEY REACHED THE ICE-PLATEAU AND PRESIDENT SWART PEAK (HIGHEST). THE END OF THE MONTH SAW THE VARIOUS ROUND-ISLAND TRIFFERS STRAGGLING INTO BASE.

BUT THIS NEWSLETTER WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE IF I FAILED TO MENTION OUR TWO CHEFS, DEON KNOETZ AND DEETS HUGO, WHO HAVE BEEN DOING A MARVELOUS JOB IN THE KITCHEN. AND LAST BUT MOST CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, THE MARION 43 TEAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR FOLKS AT HOME WHO HAVE SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED US THROUGH TIMES GOOD AND BAD. WE WILL BE LEAVING THE TWO LADIES BEHIND, AS THEY WILL ONLY BE RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER, BUT WE WILL REMEMBER THEM IN OUR HEARTS FOR THE SPARKLE THEY BROUGHT TO THE BASE.

AND SO FOR THE LAST TIME, MARION GREETINGS FROM 46,5 DEGREES SOUTH
MARION 43

WEATHER DATA -- APRIL

TEMPERATURE: MAX 17,0 C
MIN 0,8 C
AVERAGE 7,1 C
HUMIDITY AVERAGE: 86
SUNSHINE: TOTAL: 74,4 HOURS
RAINFALL: TOTAL: 216,3 MM
TOTAL DAYS WITH MORE THAN 0,1 MM: 27

MET DATA: A.J. VAN ZYL

NEWSLETTER BY: ARCHIE MOORE

W. 5/1/85