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AAHQ16 FAME 070730  
MP 416

M45/153 PAGE ONE OF THREE PAGES  
ATTN: TANNIE VAN STADEN - GENERAL SECTION D.E.A.

MARION 45 NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 1988

TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

OUR SINCERE APOLOGY FOR THE DELAY OF THE NEWSLETTER. (ONE CAN ALWAYS USE THE TAKEOVER AS AN EXCUSE BUT THERE IS NONE).

UNLIKE THE PREVIOUS MONTH, AUGUST HAS BEEN MOST EVENTFUL. EARLY IN THE MONTH MARION WAS LITERALLY COVERED FROM ITS TIP TO ITS TOE WITH SNOW AND GENTOO LAKE, (A LAKELET, NEAR THE BASE STATION) WAS FREQUENTLY ICED OVER.

DANIE AND MARC MANAGED TO TAKE A SHORT HOLIDAY. THEY SET OFF ON A ROUND ISLAND TRIP EXPECTING TO BE BACK TEN DAYS LATER. WE EXPECTED THE BUGGERS TO BE AWAY FOR THE MENTIONED DURATION... LITTLE WERE WE TO KNOW THEY WERE TO ARRIVE UNEXPECTEDLY AT BASE, FIVE DAYS LATER, AFTER HAVING COMPLETED THE LAST STRETCH FROM ROCKS BAY TO BASE IN AN UNINTENTIONAL SEVENTEEN HOURS. ON THEIR RETURN WE HEARD THAT CAPE DAVIS AND KILDALKEY WEREN'T FOUND AND OUR INTREPID EXPLORERS THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE BLOWN OFF THE MAP DURING OUR RECENT STORMS.

MOVIE TIMES HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY ENJOYED AND THE TURNOUTS SEEMED TO BE BETTER WHEN PETER PRESENTED HIS EXCEPTIONAL MILK TARTS WHICH HE HAS LATELY PERFECTED. IT SEEMS THAT THIS ABILITY COMES WITH AGE AS THE MAN CELEBRATED HIS 21ST JUST PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE SA AGULHAS.

ACTIVITIES ON PETERS SPECIAL DAY STARTED WELL AT MIDNIGHT WHEN THE REST OF THE TEAM WAITED FOR HIM UNDER THE BRIDGE AT CAPUA CREEK AND AFTER SABOTAGING THE MID-NIGHT METEOROLOGICAL ASCENT DATA CARRIED HIM TO THE FLAG POLE, WHERE HE WAS TIED BEFORE BEING DOUSED WITH MERCURIO-CHROME AND OTHER EVIL MIXTURES. A FEW FLARES ENHANCED THIS VERY RED OCCASION.

THE BIRTHDAY BOY WAS LATER PRESENTED WITH A KEY TO THE DOOR MADE BY SPARKS AND AMONGST THE OTHER PRESENTS FROM LOVED ONES AT HOME RECEIVED AN OUTSTANDING PAINTING DONE BY OUR RESIDENT PICASSO. THE PARTY THAT FOLLOWED CARRIED ON INTO THE EARLY HOURS.

WE HAVE HAD A FEW RADIO SKEDS WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS ON GOUGH AND HAVE HEARD SOME EXCITING NEWS OF A FEW SIGHTINGS OF WHALES. AS REGARDS TO THE ABOVE, WE TOO, HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD A SIGHTING OF PILOT WHALES AND ONE OTHER LARGER WHALE SPECIES ON THE SAME DAY. THE KILLER WHALE ACTIVITY SEEMS TO BE INCREASING NOW THAT THE SUMMER PERIOD HAS BEGUN AND OUR DATA SHEETS ARE SLOWLY FILLING UP.

GENERALLY THE ISLAND HAS BECOME MORE INTENSE AS REGARDS TO THE ANIMAL AND BIRD LIFE. DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS WE HAVE NOTED: THE SKUAS RETURN, THAT THE GENTOOS ARE NOW FEEDING THEIR CHICKS (SOME PAIRS HAVE TWO CHICKS TO FEED), THE LETHARGIC MALE ELEPHANT SEALS RETURN AND AMONGST OTHER THINGS TOO INNUMERABLE TO MENTION, THE YOUNG ALBATROSS CHICKS SLOWLY SHEDDING THEIR JUVENILE PLUMAGE AND BEGINNING TO EXERCISE THEIR WINGS. THE SURROUNDING BEAUTY REMAINS INEXPLICABLE AND CANNOT BE APTLY EXPRESSED.

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ZCZC 414 01621  
AAHQ16 FAME 070735  
MP 417

M45/153 PAGE TWO OF THREE PAGES

THE ARRIVAL OF THE SA AGULHAS SAW THE WAITING OF THE MUCH ANTICIPATED PARCELS, COME TO AN END. THANKS GOES TO ALL THOSE FOLK YOU SO KINDLY SENT US GOODS.

MARION 45 IS NOW COMPLIMENTED WITH 26 MEMBERS, THEY BEING:

PETER OLDACRE.  
JOHNNY KIESER  
SPENCER VAN DELLYVELD  
PETRUS GILDENHUIS  
IAN OLWAGEN  
COLIN DU PLESSIS  
IVAN DALGLISH  
STEPHEN HENLEY  
DEON M ULLER  
STEPHEN BRETT  
IAN WILKINSON  
RORY HEATHER-CLARK  
DIRK WESSELS  
JACHA POTGIETER  
THOMAS LABUSHAGNE  
PETER BARTLETT  
MARTIN VAN ROOYEN  
FRANCIS ROESTROFF  
DANIE FERREIRA  
DERRICK VAN ZYL  
HENNIE VAN WYK  
GERRIT JANSE VAN VUUREN  
MARC FEIN  
CLIVE MCMAHON  
STEPHEN GROENEWALD  
DAVE BAKER

MOST ADDITIONAL MEMBERS BEING INVOLVED WITH THE CULMINATION OF THE THIRD HUNTING SESSION AND WILL BE CONTINUING WITH THE ERADICATION OF THE FERAL CAT SPECIES THAT IS STILL PRESENT ON THE ISLAND. (GOOD LUCK GOES TO ALL YOU FOLK). AMONGST THE NEW FACES ARE THE OLD REGULARS WHO CAN SEEM TO GET ENOUGH OF THE ISLAND AND RETURN YEARLY, LIKE ALL THE NATURAL SPECIES.

IAN WILKINSON BEGINS THE LAST OF A THREE YEAR STUDY ON SOUTHERN ELEPHANT SEALS AND WILL HOPEFULLY BE ACHIEVING MUCH SUCCESS WITH HIS TRACKING PROGRAM.

STEVE AND COLIN WILL BE INVOLVED WITH ORNITHOLOGICAL WORK AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THEIR WORK AND HAVING THEM ANSWER ALL OUR QUESTIONS.

DEON IS LEADING THE CAT TEAM AND WITH ONLY FOUR HUNTING NIGHTS IN THE FIELD, HAVE SO FAR, BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL.

THE TAKEOVER IS NOW WELL UNDERWAY. WITH THE S.A. AGULHAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART ON THE EVENING OF THE NINETH, WE HAVE REALIZED HOW SHORT A TIME WE HAVE HAD TO GET TO KNOW THE VISITORS WITH US. THEY HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERABLE HELP AND HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH SURPRISED ACTIVITIES SUCH AS COOKING AND BASE SKIVVY DUTY. THESE, (VOLUNTARY) CHORES WERE READILY CARRIED OUT... THE AIRFORCE HAVING PREPARED BRANDY PANCAKES DURING ONE OF THEIR OFF DAYS FROM FLYING AND THE SPECIAL BULLY BEEF BREAKFAST AND CHICKEN CURRY SUPPER THAT WAS PREPARED WHEN OUR CHEFS HAD A DAY OFF WAS THOROUGHLY ENJOYED BY ALL, (ALTHOUGH MANY QUIPS COULD BE HEARD BEING PASSED IN REGARD TO THE STAND-IN CHEFS ABILITY).

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ZCZC 415 01621

AAHQ16 FAME 070740

MP 418

M45/153 PAGE THREE OF THREE PAGES

LAST BUT NOT LEAST WE SAW A SURPRISING OCCURANCE TAKE PLACE AS REGARDS TO DIVING IN THE SUB ANTARCTIC. DURING AN INTERMITTENT SNOW FALL OUR CO-ORDINATOR, MR GERHARD OOSTHUIZEN BRAVED THE COLD WATER AND EXPERIENCED THE MAJESTIC BEAUTY UNDER THE SURFACE DURING A SCUBA DIVE. HIS INSTRUCTOR MANAGED TO CATCH AN ANTARCTIC COD WHICH WAS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION WHILST UNDERWATER AND THE PUPIL WAS SO CALM AND COLLECTED DURING THE DIVE THAT HE EVEN MANAGED A HEARTY LAUGH WHILST UNDERWATER. THE 20 MIN DIVE IN THESE CHRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS REMAINS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE.

WE WISH THE VISITORS ALL THE BEST AND A SAFE AND CALM VOYAGE HOMEWARD AND TO THOSE BACK HOME TO KEEP THOSE LETTERS ROLLING IN.

HERE THEN THE CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA:

AVERAGE PRESSURE : 1004,1 MB

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE : 2,8 DEGREES

AVERAGE HUMIDITY : 80

RAINFALL PER MONTH : 202,7 MM

SUNSHINE HOURS PER DAY : 3,2 HOURS.

WEATHER DATA : DANIE FERREIRA

NEWSLETTER : DAVE BAKER

WELL, THAT'S ABOUT IT UNTIL NEXT MONTH,

GO WELL

MARION 45

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