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NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 1990  
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MARION 46  
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HI THERE FOLKS

WELL ANOTHER MONTH HAS SEEN US BY. THE PENULTIMATE MONTH FOR MOST OF US MARIONITES. WE CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THAT IN A FEW DAYS TIME THE SA AGULHAS WILL BE EDGING OVER THE HORIZON AND OUR TIME SPENT ON THE ISLAND IS ALMOST OVER. FOR MOST OF US HERE A SAD THOUGHT WITH THE ONLY CONSOLATION BEING THAT IN A SHORT WHILE WE WILL BE SEEING OUR LOVED ONES AGAIN.

NO DOUBT THE MAIN ITEM OF NEWS THIS MONTH HAS BEEN THE DELAY OF THE SHIP. THIS DELAY HAS BEEN TREATED BY MOST AS REALLY GREAT NEWS AS IT GIVES US A BIT MORE TIME HERE ON OUR ISLAND PARADISE.

IT ALSO LED TO SOME TO SOME FRANTIC REARRANGING OF PLANS FOR GETTING HOME... NOT FORGETTING STEVE WHO HAS DECIDED TO STAY FOR ANOTHER YEAR AS DIESEL MACHANIC, TO KEEP ANDRE COMPANY... OR IS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND...WHO KNOWS? ALL I DO SAY IS, HOPE THEY ENJOY IT AND SEE THEM NEXT YEAR...

ANDRE BOTHA WAS THE ONLY BIRTHDAY BOY THIS MONTH. CELEBRATED OUT IN THE FIELD AS WELL AS HERE IN THE BASE. I THINK THEY DO IT JUST SO THEY CAN CELEBRATE TWICE...

IT HAS BEEN A QUIET MONTH FOR ROUND ISLAND TRIPS WITH ONLY ANTON AND VINCE GOING AROUND. VINCE FOR A HOLIDAY AND ANTON TO COMPLETE SOME WORK. EVEN WITH A COUPLE OF GOOD DAYS THIS MONTH NOBODY TACKLED THE ICE PLATEAU. ALL THE INTREPID MOUNTAINEERS HAVING GONE UP LAST MONTH.

BASE AT THE MOMENT IS A HIVE OF ACTIVITY WITH EVERYBODY PACKING AND THE SKIVVY TAKING PLACE TO GET THE BASE READY FOR THE NEW TEAM.

PETP HAS BEEN MAKING THE MOST OF THE RECENT SUNSPOT ACTIVITY BY WORKING HIS AMATEUR RADIO. HE COMPETED IN A COMPETITION THE OTHER WEEKEND AND MANAGED 544 CONTACTS IN 48 HOURS. NOT BAD GOING. SO FAR THIS YEAR HE HAS LOGGED APPROXIMATELY 20 000 CONTACTS WORLD WIDE.

BIRD WISE THIS MONTH THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF ACTIVITY. ON THE NEWLY HATCHED SIDE OF THINGS THE WANDERING ALBATROSS CHICKS ARE BUSY HATCHING. ACCORDING TO PETP THE PARENTS ARE NOT TOO CO-OPERATIVE IN SHOWING THEIR CHICKS FOR THE CAMERA. ON THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE THE GIANT PETRELS, PADDYS (LESSER SHEATHBILLS), KEMP GULLS, TERNS AND SKUAS ARE ALL FLEDGED OR IN THE LAST STAGES OF FLEDGING.

ALMOST ALL THE ROCKHOPPER AND MACKERONI PENGUINS HAVE NOW FLEDGED AND GONE OFF TO SEA WITH THEIR PARENTS. MAKING BASE A LOT QUIETER PLACE TO LIVE IN. THOUGH THIS RESPITE IS SHORT AS THE NON-BREEDERS ARE NOW COMING IN TO MOULT.

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THIS LEAVES THE KING PENGUINS WHICH ARE STILL INCUBATING THE LAST LAAT-LAMETJIES AND BEGINNING THEIR PARENT HOOD. SOME POOR GUYS ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT A ROCK IS AN EGG... SO THEY WILL BE INCUBATING FOR A LONG WHILE...

WITH THE SLOW DISAPPEARANCE OF THE SKUAS WINTER IS NOW APPROACHING FAIRLY QUICKLY. THE TEMPERATURE IS NOW GETTING LOWER AND LOWER AS IS THE SNOW LINE. WITH WINTER ARRIVES THE ROUGH SEAS AND NOW THE CHIEF OF THE FUZZY WUZZY (GLEN-NAMED DUE TO HIS MOP OF HAIR...) RUNS THE GAUNTLET WHILE GOING TO FETCH FOOD OUT OF THE FOOD-STORE. THE WAVES WHEN THEY BREAK AGAINST THE CLIFFS END UP GOING OVER THE STORE. REALLY AN IMPRESSIVE SIGHT BUT ALSO VERY NOISY AND WET...

MIDDLE OF THE MONTH ALSO SAW THE PASSING OF THE AUSTRALIAN SHIP THE AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURER ON ROUTE FROM A VISIT IN CAPE TOWN TO ADELAIDE IN AUSTRALIA. SEEMS LIKE THEY LIKE THIS ROUTE HOME...

ON THE SEAL SIDE OF THE LIFE ON MARION THE GAZELLA SEALS ARE BUSY WEANING THEIR PUPS WHILE THE TROPICALIS SEALS ARE PREPARING TO STAY FOR WINTER WHILE LOOKING AFTER THEIR NEW BORN PUPS. THE ELEPHANT SEALS HAVE NOW ALMOST COMPLETED THEIR MOULTING BEFORE GOING OFF TO SEA FOR THE WINTER PERIOD. (THIS BIT OF NEWS INCLUDED AT SAMPIES INSISTENCE...)

WELL ALL YOU FOLKS AND LOVED ONES OUT THERE ENJOY YOUR LAST MONTH OF PEACE AND QUIET BEFORE WE COME HOME. WE CERTAINLY ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN SO KEEP WELL AND PREPARE FOR A HIPPIE OR TWO COMING HOME...

NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY MARC ZANK (METKASSIE)  
WEATHER DATA SUPPLIED BY HENDRIK SWART (SEN. METKASSIE)

WEEK VIER DIE MAAND  
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GEMIDDELDE DRUK	1015,1 HPA
GEMIDDELDE VOGGEHALTE	81 PERSENT
TOTALE REENVAL	52 MM
HOOGSTE REENVAL	18 MM OP DIE 9DE
AANTAL REENDAE	18 DAE
AANTAL DAE MET SONSKYN	27 DAE
GEMIDDELDE SONSKYN	3,8 URE PER DAG
GEMIDDELDE TEMPERATUUR	7,4 GRADE C.
HOOGSTE TEMPERATUUR	13,3 OP DIE 6DE
LAAGSTE TEMPERATUUR	1,3 OP DIE 19DE

WEATHER FOR THE PAST YEAR  
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LAEKOP: IT TRIED TO RAIN BUT IT MIST.  
LONGRIDGE: WE HAD ONE DAY OF RAIN IN A ROW.  
CAPE DAVIS: SUNSHINE BUT WE DIDN'T SEE IT, IT WAS CLOUDY.

RC  
1101  
90-04-24