THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

"BY AND FOR ALL ANTARCTICANS"

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BRASH ICE. We are finishing up twenty- eight years of putting these Newsletters to bed, and to tell you the truth, the thrill is wearing off. It was fun doing it for the first twenty years when Ruth Siple was alive and at my side supporting all of our Antarctican Society activities. Now it is more like work, and it seemed like all we did last year was write obituaries about my contemporaries, many of whom were younger than me!

But we are in an interesting era, the ending of a century of Antarctic exploration and science, the ending of fifty years of concentrated science which began with the International Geophysical Year, 1957-58, and the beginning of a soon-to-be inaugurated Fourth International Polar Year, 2007-08. But what we will probably do with this issue is to reflect on the past fifty years and its changes, not so much on science, but on life style in Antarctica. Have things really improved with change, or have they just gotten more complicated?

But before we kick things off, how did you folks enjoy MARCH OF THE PENGUINS? Already this film is the second highest grossing documentary of all time, behind "Fahrenheit 9/11". Pretty super film, and great to see a full-length movie of the Antarctic without a backdrop of Mt. Erebus, without a C-130, without a frosted bearded scientist, in fact no people at all, until the credits rolled at the end, and the film team was shown in the field. Sensational, can't wait until we can buy a DVD of it. What tremendous shots, and when that first emperor came splashing onto the screen, didn't it bring you right out of your seat? If there was a flaw, it seems to me that it was of the mid-winter circling of the groupie, as it did not approach the same high quality of a Kiwi film of the same feature which they filmed near Cape Crozier about ten years ago.

Now for something which we really do not know how to handle, but where the NEW YORK TIMES saw fit to do a review of the book, we should at least mention its existence. It's a paperback by a man, Nicholas Johnson, who has recently spent five summers and two winters at McMurdo as a grunt in the U.S. Antarctic Program, and the name of the book is BIG DEAD PLACE. Movies have a category labeled "parental guidance". Well, this book, supersaturated with four-letter words, should be restricted only for grown-ups who have obtained "juvenile guidance" from their kids. It is too bad that this guy could not allow himself to write shock-free English, as this once-upon-a-time English teacher in Korea presumably had the wherewithal to write as most of us talk. This book, which has much worthwhile information about contract people probably defeats its own purpose in exposing conditions and people by the uncouth style of writing, which will drive many people to toss it into the ash bin before they have read deeply into the book. Too bad, as it is a most unique book, one of a kind by a support type person. I know of no other such book unless you want to consider an ex-South Pole doctor's product of her plight, another support-partv book. Read the review of the book by Steve Dibbern later in this Newsletter.

And speaking of language, one can't help but think of that Living Legend from the first Byrd Antarctic Research Expedition, Norman Vaughan, who is closing in on 100 years in mid-December This deeply religious man, who has never sworn in his life, still has hopes of returning to Mt. Vaughan one more time, although they are now just faint hopes because of the monies involved. Hope breeds eternal with Norman, and he never gives up on any of his dreams. It is always a great joy to call Norman and hear him bellow out strongly "Norman Vaughan speaking."

ANTARCTIC CALENDARS. We are offering one more time the Antarctic calendars put out by Hedgehog in New Zealand, although they have sold the rights for distributing to Caxton Press in Christchurch. However, the calendar again features the beautiful pictures garnished together by Colin Monteath. We only ordered a hundred this year, and it is going to be first come, first serve, as we will be out of the country from mid-December to mid-January and we want it all wrapped up by our departure from CONUS. The price this year, $14.00 each, with checks made out to the Antarctican Society, mailed to Box 325, Port Clyde, ME 04855 . We expect the shipment from New Zealand by 1 November 2005, and will be mailing them out to you buyers by 15 November 2005. Although we have not seen an advance copy of the calendars, we are certain where they are Hedgehog that they will be the best Antarctic calendar that money can buy.

PETER WILKNISS IS DEAD AT AGE 70. Probably no leader of the Office of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation was more controversial than Peter, but as far as the Antarctican Society was concerned, he was the best. He gave us more cooperation in his servitude there in the 1980s and 1990s than all the rest of their directors combined. He wasn't exactly loved by all the scientists, and I guess they helped to grease the planks which removed him from office. He went fast, as he presented the status of activities in the Antarctic to the Polar Research Board just before lunch break one spring day. That evening our Society had its annual Paul C. Daniels Memorial Lecture, and during the cocktail preliminary warm up, all the conversation was about Peter being shown the door that afternoon. After leaving the National Science Foundation in 1999, he moved to Alaska where he established a nonprofit institute, the Transnational Arctic and Antarctic Institute, a polar science and policy company.

According to the immortal Bert Crary, he, himself, brought Peter into the folds at NSF where he served as the director of the International Deep Core Drilling Program. Peter had a very masculine, robust body, and he played competitive soccer in the Washington area throughout his tenure there. As all of us who have worked for the government knows, one of the hardest tasks of working in a Head Shed is how to minimize the activities of those who you feel are not performing up to your standards. Peter did the impossible, he removed several of his inheritants in the Office of Polar Programs from the government payroll! A miracle worker! This strong-minded man also had the flexibility of being able to change his mind. No one was more adverse to welcoming tourists at his Antarctic bases where he wanted no outside interference, but in a few short years he reversed his position when he discovered that many of the so-called enemies had a lot of political clout on Capitol Hill. But, in spite of himself, he never found the answer to conquering cancer.

Why did we love Peter? When he moved into the Head Shed, we walked into his office and solicited his help in getting the news for our Newsletter. He assured us his door would always be opened for us, that he would answer each and all questions that we had. He never reneged on that promise, even though our questions at times were rather pointed. And he personally took us to each of his Program Managers and beseeched each and every one to support our requests of them. What a guy.

In closing, let's quote Barry Lopez from Peter Wilkniss's obituary in the June 14, 2005 issue of the Anchorage Daily News... .'Peter tried hard to get people to understand the importance of polar science in a world in dire need of better understanding of global climate and the United States' effort to establish international cooperation in the wake of the Cold War. Peter believes in science...He is poised to put information together in a striking new fashion...He is passionate, disciplined, and someone with a vision.'

DR. ROBERTA MARINELLI AT OAP. (Scott Borg) Dr. Roberta Marinelli has been appointed Program Director for the Antarctic Biology and Medicine (AB&M) Program in the Antarctic Section of the Office of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation. Dr. Marinelli comes to NSF from the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory of the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science . She brings a wealth of experience in biological and oceanographic sciences, and especially ecosystem studies, to OPP. She earned her PhD in the Marine Science Program at the University of South Carolina in 1991, and then served as Assistant Professor of Biological Oceanography at Skidaway Institute of Oceanography of the University of Georgia. Dr. Marinelli came to NSF as a rotator in 1997 and served as Associate Program Manager for AB&M. She left NSF in 2000 to become Assistant Professor, and then Associate

Professor, at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Dr. Marinelli began duties full time in OPP on 4 September 2005.

BIRTH OF McMURDO, by Patrick "Rediron" McCormick, Builder Second Class Petty Officer, Operation Deep Freeze [&II. Fifty years ago this austral summer McMurdo Station was constructed by the US Navy Construction Battalion (Special). I was one of those Seabees. The station was initially called the Naval Air Facility, but was soon dubbed Williams Air Operating Facility after Petty Officer Richard Williams drowned when his D-8 tractor went through the ice. It was not called McMurdo Station until later.

On December 20, 1955, a temporary base of tents was established near Scott's Discovery Hut. Construction materials were hauled over several miles of sea ice to Hut Point where it was staged in a logical order for future use. The transfer of supplies continued until mid-February 1956. Before our berthing units were completed we all lived in "Tent City," where we slept in sleeping bags laid on air mattresses, shipping pallets or the ground, protected from the wind by the tents in which we slept. The only source of water was snow, hauled from the surrounding hills and melted. The snow was very dry, so the yield of water was very small in ratio to the volume of snow. We melted snow in food cans scrounged from the galley waste dump over small primus stoves for water to brush our teeth and wash our hands, face and feet. There were no showers for a month and a hah^{0} or more.

[n an effort to expedite construction, we were organized into two shifts with each shift working twelve or more hours a day, seven days a week. Meals were prepared in a tent galley and eaten from mess kits. The cooks were preparing four meals a day for a couple hundred men and did the best they could. The Coast Guard Ice-Breaker *Eastwind* was very gracious in sending us bread and desserts now and then.

The town was laid out with two north-south streets, each about 50 feet in width. By the end of the winter of 1956 we had completed most of the buildings. The shell of the first building was completed on January 19, 1956. Foundations for the buildings were 6" x 8" x 5' timbers cribbed up and shimmed to achieve level floors. It was impossible to dig into the volcanic ash permafrost. All the buildings were prefabricated, consisting of Clements huts (4'x8' insulated plywood tongue and groove panels), Quonset huts, Jamesway huts and Atwell huts. Jamesways and Atwells are similar to Quonset huts but are canvas covered and smaller. We Seabees became experts at erecting the buildings, as we worked on them hour after hour, day after day for several weeks.

On the morning of February 16, 1956, the first meal was prepared and served in the permanent galley and mess hall, a definite boon for the cooks. The building and equipment would not be completed for a month or so, but we were sitting at tables out of the wind and cold and it sure beat the tent galley. February 25, 1956, 'Tent City" was struck and stored. The wintering party of ninety-three, including me, moved into our new living quarters. We were now eating from normal military type trays washed by the mess cooks in the galley and mess hall. The mess cooking was a rotating detail that no one, not even the officers, were immune from. We were getting a short shower once a week in the completed power house. We had electricity and could now change clothes because we had laundry facilities. Living and working conditions were looking up as we began to settle into a normal day-to-day routine.

Eventually the power house was finished. It had two 100-kilowatt electrical generators each powered by a D-8 Caterpillar diesel engine. There were two large containers that were adapted so the hot exhaust from the generator engines circulated under the containers and melted the snow which was replenished from the snow field when needed.

The snow field was off limits to everyone except the people operating the only front end loader allowed there. This was an effort to maintain the snow's purity and prevent contamination. Water was never in ample supply and was not to be wasted. There were also some smaller generators used in selected buildings and shops so as not to overburden the main generators in the powerhouse.

Upon arrival on the Ice, most of us grew beards. But as time went on and water was more available we discovered beards were difficult to keep clean and trimmed, hoar frost would form on them and they didn't keep us any warmer. They began to disappear and soon the majority of us were clean shaven. On March 9, 1956, Admiral Dufek paid us a visit, wished us well, and departed for the United States. Our last contact with the outside world was gone and we settled in for winter.

The wintering party had five Clements huts constructed for berthing, each hut was divided into cubicles and an open area with a table and chairs. We used the open area to play cards, drink our beer, shoot the breeze, solve world problems and otherwise entertain ourselves. In the cubicles there were two bunk beds and four lockers resulting in four men per cubicle. The hut was heated by two oil fired space heaters with fuel being drawn from a tank outside which was filled each week

by rotating detail. The Clements huts had flat roofs and when high winds occurred, which was often, it had the effect of air passing over an airplane wing by lifting the panels off the ceiling trusses. We had to fasten them down to pre-vent them from flying off and secured a canvass tarpaulin over the outside top to prevent melting snow from seeping through the seams. We also constructed a vestibule on each hut to prevent warm air from escaping and cold air and wind entering while entering or leaving the hut. The door of the vestibule had to be closed before the door of the hut could be opened and vice versa, creating an air trap, which worked quite well. Linoleum was in-stalled on the floors of some buildings for sanitary purposes, particularly in the galley. We kept a bucket of snow and water on each stove in an effort to humidify our quarters. It worked quite well and was also handy for thawing frozen beer.

The officers and chief petty officers had their own huts. The rest of us lived together with no attention paid to status such as pay grade. Each hut had a Hut Captain, usually the senior petty officer, who maintained order and assigned duties as needed. We were allowed to arrange and decorate as desired, as long as the majority agreed. A member of each hut would perform "compartment cleaning duty" such as sweeping and taking out the trash, for one week at a time. Each man was responsible for his laundry, bunk making, and personal item storage.

We also constructed one building that wasn't in the original plan for the base. Mysteriously, a stockpile of scrap building material began to accumulate at the end of the street near the base of Observation Hill. Chaplin Father John Condit, a rather free spirit, began to recruit "volunteers" to put this scrap together during their off time. We had no plans, but with Seabee ingenuity and a "can do" spirit, it turned into a chapel complete with steeple and belfry. The bell somehow made its way up the hill from an oil barge frozen in Winter Quarter's Bay to be placed in the belfry. On May 6, 1956, the chapel was dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows.

(ADDENDUM, pcd) Dave Canham was the station commander in 1956, and he was a good one, most highly respected by his workers and loved by one and all. His heritage sort of indicated that he would be a good leader. Some of you old timers may remember the well known editor of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR by the name of Canham. Well, Dave was of that family. And you football fans may remember the famous duo at the University of Michigan before World War II, Tommy Harmon and Forrest Evashevski. Who opened up the holes in the line so that they could run to stardom? Dave Canham. And probably the most famous athletic director in collegiate sports after World War II was Dave's brother at the University of Michigan, who parlayed his career as their AD with the merchandising of sports equipment. After his military career, Dave became administrators for several large university research organizations. While serving in these capacities, I repeatedly succumbed to his tennistry on the courts, but losing to him was always an honor. This nice guy died a premature death about a decade ago.

BIG DEAD PLACE: Inside the Strange & Menacing World of Antarctica, by Nicholas Johnson, Feral House, Los Angeles, 2005, 260 pp. $16.95 Paperback. (Review by Steve Dibbern.) My first reaction to "Big Dead Place" was that it was a diatribe by a dissatisfied employee who had the means to air his grievances in print; I think now that I was only partially correct. He was a disgruntled Raytheon employee but he also has considerable writing skills and weaves a fascinating story. It is a classic story to be sure, "Us versus Them". If the reader can get past his "Shock-Jock" use of particularly crude sexual references, a la Howard Stern we may learn a great deal about the most underreported of Antarctic stories, how the support staff lives, works, and feels at McMurdo Station.

Older readers may remember the IGY period when the roles were reversed and the Navy appeared annoyed that they had to have those pesky "Sandcrabs" messing about at their great military bases! Johnson is astute enough to see this pattern and weaves it into his narrative, particularly (no surprise) Finn Ronne's reign at Ellsworth Station.

Sharp readers will find a number of minor mistakes in historical reference, but make no mistake, Nicholas Johnson is a knowledgeable student of Antarctic history. His main failing is what Antarctic isolation does to many; he grossly exaggerates the importance of individual problems. I would however hope that the management of Raytheon and NSF would take this book to heart as a manual of how things go wrong...it is an honest, *if* exaggerated description of a classic blue collar "Us versus Them". As Johnson points out, what adds immeasurably to the problem is that the workers at McMurdo are frequently there for the "Adventure" of Antarctica and are allowed no adventure. They are also frequently over-educated, over-qualified and too intelligent for the sometimes menial jobs that are necessary to support our Antarctic program.

RELATIONSHIPS ON THE ICE. (Kirk Spelman) With the advent of women on THE ICE in the 1969-70 austral summer, the number of stories about 'coupling' have increased exponentially, many pertaining to those who winter over as well as the summer folk. The following was

contributed by someone who has 'been there.' In his own words, with minor editing, he starts with "... once the female population reached about 40%,... the number of male fighting incidents dropped drastically. I know that I certainly enjoyed the company of women during my deployments. My first summer at McMurdo I was not really interested in starting anything... but it was certainly available. My feeling of McM was that it was like a college campus without the schoolwork. People talk about the first month being the rutting season where everyone tries to catch their mate...for however long they like. This is not just the men. I get the feeling that there are many women who really thrive on the attention that they receive while on the ice. One of the other sayings that is somewhat appropriate is that, "the odds are good but the goods are odd."

What makes things interesting and different from working at GM in Detroit, for example, is that there is really no separation between work and private life. You are always at your work place, seeing the same people for months on end. This creates a lot of familiarity very quickly and can make things blossom fast. The other thing is that the sun is up all the time, the work is fast and furious, and there is lots of alcohol on station. I cannot think of another time when I felt more manic...that there was not enough time to get things done, and that I needed to capture every moment of time on station.

I also think that there is a certain kind of person who is attracted to working in Antarctica, either adventuresome or money hungry. But there are lots of people who have a love of travel and these folks can meet and plan new adventures together.

I think that a lot of the relationships on the ice seem to end not because of being incompatible but rather the geographic problems of return back to the states. You realize that the person you are with lives in West Virginia or Arkansas and you are a diehard Yankee or something along those lines.

While on the ice I have seen people quit and head home because they were without their love and either missed them too much...or did not trust them to be alone, seen both men and women cheat on their mates while on the ice, seen couples start long lasting relationships, and have seen couples who arrived together end their relationships. So it is just like life anywhere else.

I know that the stations are fairly well policed in terms of men harassing women...if it goes too far the men are gone on the next flight out. As it should be. I don't recall hearing any times when women were sent out for harassing men, but it could very well happen.

I honestly don't think that anyone goes to the Antarctic to meet their mate. But I think that people go there for the adventure and that includes meeting people with comparable aspirations. I think that the "hooking up" for winter is a natural process that can help create a bond or shared experiences that can make the time easier and more enjoyable.

There are a few sayings that I have heard when it comes to the opposite sex on the ice. There is the saying, "you're either fast or you're lonely." "If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with." There is the term of "Ice Wife", or "Ice Husband" for relationships that are not expected to last beyond the time on continent.

ANDRILL (ANtarctic DRILLing) is a multinational scientific drilling program which seeks to investigate Antarctica's role in Cenozoic global environmental change by recovering stratigraphic core records from two currently funded drilling projects set to begin in 2006 and 2007, respectively. The projects will be a focal point during the International Polar Year (2007-08).

These two projects, known as the McMurdo Ice Shelf (MIS) site (co-leaders Drs. Tim Naish (NZ) and Ross Powell (US)) and the Southern McMurdo Sound (SMS) site (co-leaders Drs. David Harwood (US) and Fabio Florindo (IT)), are expected to recover as much as 1000 meters of core, which will be used to interpret Antarctica's climatic, glacial and tectonic history over the past 50 million years and at varying scales of age resolution.

Besides the United States, the program's international partners also include Germany, Italy and New Zealand. Science teams for both the MIS and SMS projects will comprise more than 20 on-ice scientists and students, as well as numerous off-ice scientist and student collaborations from these nations.

In August 2005, ANDRILL was awarded $12.9 million dollars by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to sponsor Antarctic research and drilling over the next five years. Overall, ANDRILL is backed by more than $30 million in funding, including $9.7 million in previous and on-going international agreements to support drilling operations and

nearly $8 million from ANDRILL partner nations (including contributions from the U.K.) to support scientific research.

The NSF grant, to be dispersed over the life of the two projects, will be administered by the ANDRILL Science Management Office, located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. ANDRILL's operations management is headed by Antarctica New Zealand.

In October and November of 2006 and 2007, ANDRILL will deploy a powerful new drilling system to recover rock cores from the seabed in the McMurdo Sound area of the Ross Sea, using floating ice as a drilling platform. ANDRILL's drilling system, developed and operated by Antarctica New Zealand, will enable the Program to drill in much deeper water than during earlier Antarctic projects, such as at Cape Roberts. The drill is designed to punch through about 275 meters of ice, drop through 900 meters of water to the sea floor, and pull a continuous 1000-meter-long sediment core at each project site.

The program is proceeding in three stages. First, seismic surveys to determine the best drilling sites will be completed in October and November, 2005. In 2006, a scientific team led by Naish (NZ) and Powell (US), will drill from the McMurdo Ice Shelf. In the second drilling season, Harwood (US) and Florindo (IT) will drill from a site west of Ross Island. Once core is recovered, samples will first be examined by scientists at the Crary Lab in McMurdo Station and then stored at Florida State University's Antarctic Research Facility in Tallahassee, where they will be available for more thorough and on-going scientific studies.

For more information about the ANDRILL Program, including the MIS and SMS projects and scientific prospectuses, please visit the website at http://andril.org, or contact the ANDRILL Science Management Office at 126 Bessey Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0341 (tele: 1+402.472.6723).

SOUTH POLE TELESCOPE BEING DESIGNED. Anew 10-meter-diameter telescope is being constructed for deployment at the South Pole. The project, which will help scientists reveal new details regarding a mysterious phenomenon called Dark Energy, is a collaboration between the University of Chicago, U.Cal.-Berkeley, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Illinois, and Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and it is primarily funded through NSF OPP.

One of the most important discoveries in cosmology is that apparently much, if not most, of the mass of the Universe is *not* made up of stars and glowing gas, but of dark matter, which emits little or no light or other electromagnetic radiation and makes its presence known only through the gravitational force it exerts on luminous matter.

The South Pole Telescope (SPT) is designed explicitly for conducting large-area, high-sensitivity survey observations of the polarization of the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB). South Pole's climate, atmospheric stability, and millimeter and sub-millimeter opacity are nearly ideal for studying CMB radiation.

The telescope's optics will support a one-degree-diameter field of view, and to further reduce signals due to scattering and spillover, the entire telescope will be deployed within a large reflecting ground screen attached to the South Pole's Dark Sector Laboratory. (To appreciate the size of the ground shield, picture the Dome flipped upside down and mounted on a pedestal.)

Construction of the telescope is underway, with deployment planned for late 2006, and first observations starting in early 2007.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS AT SOUTH POLE. (Nick Powell, Satellite Communications Engineer, Raytheon Polar Services.) Under the South Pole Station Modernization (SPSM) program, a significant upgrade to station communications was started in 2000 and should be completed during the 2005-06 austral summer. The upgrade addresses all aspects of the communication infrastructure including the Local Area Network (LAN), intercontinental high speed voice and data communications, as well as traditional radio communications. Furthermore, communications operations will move from the old Comm office under the dome to the new Station Operations Center (SOC) on the second floor of the elevated station. This new location with its height and windows provides operators a good view of the skiway and surrounding area, thus enhancing safety and operations. Furthermore, new consoles will consolidate the various radio and communications functions into a single ergonometric improved system. The station LAN comprises a fiber optic cable backbone network supporting gigabit per second traffic. This fiber backbone connected through Cisco routers and switches provides connectivity to all station facilities including a seismic vault 8 km from the station. A copper-cable plant provides literally hundreds of network access points around

the station in offices, living quarters, and research facilities. Personnel can enjoy high speed computer connections in the rooms that give them access to a variety of capabilities including e-mail, internet access (when there is satellite connectivity - see below), instant messenger, etc. Also, Voice over IP (VoIP) telephony provides support on station communications and intercontinental calling (again when the satellites are visible). Station personnel can pick up a phone and dial home using a phone long distance credit card (available at the station store if they don't already have one). The station also makes use of Wireless LAN technology to service distant locations or as temporary emergency links when a cable is cut and until it is repaired. Bulldozers make excellent cable finders!

Intercontinental communications rely on satellite communications. Unfortunately, the earth's curvature blocks South Pole's view of communication satellites at geosynchronous altitudes normally used for this application. However, the station makes use of three old geosynchronous satellites (MARISAT F2, TDRS Fl, and GOES-3) in highly inclined orbits that make them visible at South Pole for approximately 6 hours per day. During this 6 hour period the satellites rise above the South Pole horizon to maximum elevation angles of ~5 degrees, and then set 3 hours later. Since the coverage overlaps, the station gets approximately 11.25 hours of high speed (1.544 Mbps) satellite connectivity per day. This supports most off station data and voice communications as well as video teleconferences, particularly any needed for medical care. E-mail, internet access, and telephone calls take place during this daily satellite coverage window. In addition to high speed satellite communications, the station also uses Iridium for intercontinental voice service between satellite windows. However, this is reserved for high priority operations and emergency calls.

In addition to satellite communications, the station still relies on High Frequency (HF) and Very High Frequency (VHP) radio communications. HF radio provides point-to-point and broadcast communications for aircraft operations, comms with McMurdo, and deep field camp support during the austral summer. VHP radio supports line of site air-to-ground operations and local area ground communications. Ham radio (South Pole call sign KC4AAA) plays a role in supporting station morale activities and as a tertiary emergency radio system. During the austral summer when most activity takes place, the best chance of hearing it is between 23 to 03Z near 14.243 MHz. 20m propagation into the US (particularly the eastern seaboard) typically works well that time of day. SPSM has funded a major upgrade to HF and VHF communications systems. A new suite of antennas including 3 directional log-periodics, 1 Near Vertical Incident Skywave, and 1 Conical-Monopole antenna will be installed for HF system this next year. Four Ham radio antennas (6 element 20m beam, 3 element 40m beam, two multi element 10-15-20m beams) will be installed in the next year. Antenna installation also includes new antennas for VHF systems as well. Radio equipment gets an update as well. State of the art commercial HF, VHF, and Ham radios replace equipment that is over 20 years old this austral summer.

REGIONAL CONCLAVES. This past spring when we found out that our illustrious president would be spending some vacation time in New Hampshire, we decided that it might be a good idea for him to meet the strong contingent of Latter Day Polies living in midcoastal Maine. What started out to be a small gathering got out of hand, and our net captured many New Englanders, and some from beyond the Connecticut River who had close friends in our area. We ended up with over thirty on July 22nd, and it was a wonderful admixture of some really old has-beens as well as many kids still wet behind their ears. But age was no factor, as the love for Antarctica brought them all together and we found out that there was great mutual respect for each. It all ended with us wondering if we could have other regional conclaves where we have a significant concentration of Antarcticans, such as in the Bay Area, or perhaps the Denver-Boulder Corridor.

Let's look at the great diversity of Antarcticans who attended. Amazing. Starting out we had one of the widows (Bess Urbahn) of the famed polar aviator, the very first man to ever fly over the South Pole, Bernt Balchen; one of the three daughters (Jane DeWitt) of famed polar scientist Paul Siple and the widow of an Antarctic ichthyologist, Hugh DeWitt; the grandson (Leverett Byrd) of the Admiral of the Poles, as well as Senator Leverett Saltonstall. How about that for name dropping?

We had a goodly collection of really old has-beens. We will start out with one of the last of the bona fide dog team drivers, Bob Dodson, geologist on the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition in the late 1940s. Incidentally the youthful looking Bob is far older than he appears in real life. Then we had one of the last of the iron men who man-hauled sledges, Bill Meserve. This man had no other choice, as he went south with Bob Nichols who strongly believed nothing of significance was ever accomplished on the ice unless it was done by husky young studs pulling their own sleds. A man (Bill Marshall) who sort of disappeared from sight, but who was the first glaciologist involved in the deep

core drilling program in West Antarctica, and was also influential in introducing Tony Gow to Antarctica, surfaced and enjoyed himself tremendously. And we had one of the builders of the original South Pole station, Charlie (CB) Bevilacqua, who is still on his Antarctic honeymoon.

We had quite a few from the IGY, many of whom continued on to make Antarctica their careers. Ken Moulton was there before the IGY started, and kept going back under the aegis of the National Science Foundation for well over thirty years, during which time he set a Cal Ripken type record which will never be broken, Christmases at McMurdo. Tony Gow was introduced to the ice during the IGY, and he was never able to live a normal life thereafter. Another Antarctican of notoriety who showed up was Steve Denny" Den Hartog, who has kept active on the ice until recent years. My expanded ego demands that I include myself, whose chief note to fame being that I was the only American married man to spend both years of the IGY on the ice. Says little for my intelligence, I know, but I loved every minute of those two years.

Then we had a bunch from shortly after the IGY. Bob Dale commanded the VXE6 squadron in 1959 and later worked in the Office of Polar Programs at NSF. Rob Flint started his Antarctic career at about the same time; one that was to see him winter over at Byrd, at Plateau, and at Vostok. On top of all that, he made countless other summer expeditions to the ice for the USSR, France, and the USA. We had the former station scientific leader from Eights, Jerry Huffman, who later became a program officer in the Office of Polar Programs at NSF.

Then we had some tweeners, who are almost young enough to be called neophytes, but are more old than young. One, Lucia de Leiris, is a well-known Antarctic artist, and she captivated the hearts of all who had not already lost their hearts to her. Steve Dibbern, polar transportation expert, Antarctic historian, champion of the use of the hovercraft, came and was enthralled by meeting so many of the old, so many of the young. Charles Lagerbom, one of the most congenial of all Antarcticans, who was in the Dry Valleys with a Univ of Maine team, manned the grill.

Then we come to the Modern Era, and we will start out with Bob and Marie Hurtig, who were at the South Pole back in the 1980s. Marie is the author of a small booklet of Antarctic poems. Another married couple with years and years of South Pole experience - and still counting- Drew and Diana Logan, attended, a most delightful couple, whose most wonderful dog, Dory, also graced the party. Drew has tallied four winters at the South Pole, and Diana will probably be spending her third winter there this coming year. Kirk Spelman, who was at the Pole in the late 1990s and his friend, Meghan Prentiss, Polie in the year 2000, came much to our pleasure. Now for one o1 my favorite Antarcticans, Lynn Arnold, school teacher in Singapore, who wintered over at the Pole in 2003. Knowing my lack of husbandry, she came three days early to help convert my household from utter chaos to respectability And last, but by no means least, Dr. Will Silva, who is one o1 my all-time favorite Antarcticans. He is a sweetheart of a person, and will be returning this coming year for his 3rd winter at the South Pole. He also has served time at both McMurdo and Palmer.

We regret to inform that Rudy Honkala of Wilkes, Casey, and Palmer had a leg amputated that week, that Chet Langway's doctor told him that he could not drive three hundred miles to get here; Hal Boras was in France giving a paper; Dr. Chester Pierce was being honored by his medical organization for his fifty years of faithful attendance. Anyway, we think it was successful, and even twenty odd but tired people showed up the next morning at a local emporium for breakfast. It was FUN!

WEATHER PREVENTS RESCUE OF ARGENTINIANS IN ANTARCTICA. Buenos Aires, (Prensa Latina) Adverse weather conditions on September 19th interfered with rescue efforts for the two Argentineans who fell into a glacial crack in Antarctica, lessening hope they will be found alive, reported Argentine Defense Minister Jose Pampuro.

The accident occurred on September 17th when five men riding snowmobiles crossed an ice field on their return to a Uruguayan Base in Antarctica, and two, a soldier and a scientist, fell into a crack in the glacier.

Their three companions, Captain Jorge Pavon and Lieutenants Mario Leohnard and Alejandro Carballo, tried unsuccessfully to rescue them, but their 165-foot cord did not reach the bottom of the fissure. The other three were rescued on Sunday after surviving some 30 hours on the ice field, but 38 mph winds, a temperature of 22 degrees below zero and very poor visibility have made it impossible for experts at Esperanza Base, 125 miles away, to reach the site by airplane. Sergio Marenssi, director of the Argentine Antarctic Institute, said that "all possible alternatives" will be attempted to rescue them, but so many hours without any contact or signs of life has reduced hope they will be found alive.