



# WAIS Divide Ice Core Project

Climate, Ice Sheet History, Cryobiology

## Annual Fall Science Meeting

The WAIS Divide Ice Core Project held its first annual science meeting on October 4-5 in Kings Beach, CA and was hosted by the Desert Research Institute. Sixty-eight people attended and twenty-one science talks and twelve posters were presented. The presentations and posters from the meeting are available within the password-protected data area section of the project website ( <http://www.waisdivide.unh.edu> ) for funded PIs, Co-PIs, and scientists. To access the presentations, login to the 'Participant Area' section of the website and then go to 'Data'.

The next science meeting will be hosted by Scripps Institution of Oceanography and held in the San Diego, CA area. The tentative dates for the meeting are 2-3 October, 2008. As the exact meeting dates and location are firmed up we will let everyone know.

## Antarctic Field Season 2007/2008

The WAIS Divide 2007-2008 field camp was opened on October 27. Six Raytheon employees arrived at the camp via the Basler. On page 2 of this update you can see some of what the put-in crew was greeted by; lots of drifting, which was expected. Once the digging out was completed and the skiway groomed, the construction crew arrived to assemble the camp and finalize the construction in the arch. The first ICDS crew arrived on December 3 and NICL and some SCO folks arrived on December 7. Most of the science techs are currently at camp and the rest are at McMurdo waiting for a flight to camp. It is hopeful that drilling will begin just after Christmas, pretty much on schedule. Support from RPSC has been very good. Personnel from all groups at camp are getting along very well. Camp population is already at around 50 people. Bad news is the weather, as we pretty much expected. The pattern over the past few weeks has been a good day, then a marginal day then a couple day storm. Getting flights in and managing the drifting at camp has been a bit of a challenge but progress is being made.

## 2008/2009 Science Technicians Needed

In early 2008 the SCO will begin accepting applications for science technician positions for the 2008/2009 Antarctic field season. The field season begins in early November and ends in late January (but don't plan on being back to the USA until the first week of February). *The NSF strongly discourages deployments of less than a full field season.*

The science technicians will spend about 80% of their time processing the ice cores after they are removed from the drill. Working in two person shifts they will remove the drilling fluid from the core, measure the length, quality, and electrical properties of the core, and pack the core for shipment. The daily work requires an ability to lift 20 pounds on a regular basis and occasionally 40 pounds. There are three shifts per day; each is ten hours long counting a shift overlap. We take most Sundays off, but occasionally we change the schedule so we don't work on a holiday. This work takes place inside a building with an internal temperature of -20 C. The science technicians will also spend about 20% of their time assisting the drillers collect the core. They will be able to observe and participate in all aspects of the deep ice coring.

The complete job advertisement, along with information on how to apply, can be found at: <http://www.waisdivide.unh.edu/news/jobad.html>

## 2008 NICL Core Processing Line

All of the ductile ice (~600 meters) collected during the 2007/2008 Antarctic field season will be returned to NICL and processed this summer. If you are a funded PI on the project and expect to receive samples

you need to send someone to NICL to participate in the core processing line. The tentative time frame is the month of June. People who have been selected to fill the science technician positions for the 2008/2009 Antarctic field season may also be asked to participate in the core processing line.

**Photos from the Camp Put-In**

All photos courtesy of RPSC.

