

SITREP 10, January 22, 2012, Day 61 at WSD

Donald Voigt, Chief Scientist, WAIS Divide

Written at WAIS Divide

I. Passenger movements

A. SCO

1. John Fegyveresi departed WSD for home on 1/17, D024. This was earlier than scheduled but I felt it unnecessary to keep three Science Techs at camp for the remainder of the season.

B. IDDO

1. None

II. Cargo Movements

- A. None. Received a tankers with fuel but had only one cargo flight this week.

III. Camp Activities

- A. Current camp population, 29, 8 T-350, 3 I-477, 1 I-168, 12 RPSC, 5 NANA; All is well.
- B. The processing-side freezer units are ops-normal.
- C. One 225 kW gen is still down and will not be repaired before the EOS.
- D. All heavy equipment is working, the D-4, 953, Tucker and Pisten Bulley.
- E. Camp has started preparations for close-out. The carpenter crew arrives on Wednesday of the coming week. Dean, Jay, Gary and I have worked on a schedule to accommodate the continuation of drilling while also getting ready for our departure and the breakdown of camp structures. We are hoping that proper planning will constrain the rush that often accompanies the arrival of the cars.
- F. Stephan Hansen presented a talk on NEEM at our Monday Night Science Series. This will conclude our series for the season.
- G. I was able to spend some time talking with Deborah Roth and Dawn Needham about this year's camp, future plans for WAIS Divide and field camp operations in general.
- H. Our GOES satellite system is scheduled to come down on Thursday, 1/26. Today's will be the last regular Situation Report I send from WAIS Divide. I am scheduled to leave WSD on Monday, 1/30. Please begin adding my regular address, dev2@psu.edu to all emails so I am sure to receive them.

IV. Drill Depth and Time

- A. Work has continued on the replicate coring drill. No core was obtained.

V. Status of Borehole Logging

- A. Borehole logging is on standby until the deviation has been started.

VI. Other

- A. E. Morton and M. Jayred set up the Eclipse drill and finished drilling the new WDC12A hole to 121.5 meters. The hole was cased for the top two meters, the casing extending to 2 meters above the current snow surface. An additional 1.5 meters of casing is being stored in the Arch for extension in the future. Before we cased the borehole, I checked with Dean Einerson, Cindy Dean (Environmental) and Julie Palais to ensure that this was covered under our environmental permitting.
- B. Wong and Mitchell completed a three walled snow pit to examine current accumulation patterns and to measure densities in the top two meters. Our hope is to eventually correlate all of the snow pit maps and density measurements that have been collected in past seasons.
- C. The Science Techs spent a day cleaning the processing side of the Arch in preparation for pack-up.
- D. Safety continues to be a primary focus of all residents at WAIS Divide. In our End of Week meeting Dean stressed the importance of continued vigilance over the coming weeks as the season draws to a close. He stressed that Camp Staff get the rest they need to avoid becoming fatigued. It is important that people work together and communicate well to avoid injuries. It is also important to avoid “non-event feedback” when something is done that could have resulted in an accident, but didn’t, and complacency sets in. Throughout the season Dean has asked that I attend the End of Week meeting each Saturday in my role as Chief Scientist. This has been a positive step in making Science part of Camp and Camp part of Science.
- E. J. Johnson, E. Morton, G. Clow and D. Voigt have continued to inspect the worksites at the Arch and Logging Winch to evaluate progress and assess the work environment. Safety concerns are addressed as necessary. Repairs were made to a safety light knocked down when the big doors were opened. The Science Techs are maintaining the processing side of the Arch, trying to keep up with the artificial snow that the freezer produce. Accumulation of snow makes the floors slippery. Since we are not processing core now and don’t have shifts in the Arch, it is easy to let this task slip.

F. It is the time of the season where everyone starts to slip physically. There are many comments that we are all having a difficult time staying warm. However, morale is high among Science and Camp Staff alike and all hands are working hard for a strong finish to an excellent season.