

SITREP 11, January 27, 2013; Day 66 at WAIS Divide

Donald Voigt, SCO Rep., Chief Scientist at WAIS Divide

- I. Passenger movements
 - A. SCO
 - 1. John Fegyveresi and Emily Longano left WSD on Friday, 1/25
 - B. IDDO
 - 1. Linda Morris departed on the same flight.
- II. Cargo Movements
 - A. Incoming; none.
 - B. Retro; none.
- III. Camp Activities
 - A. Current camp population; 38 total. 10 T-350, 2 I-477, 2 G-079 (PoleNet), 17 ASC, 3 T-500 (KBA), 3 BAS (Twin Otter pilots and crew), 1 C-407 (PIG).
 - B. Our last Week-in-review meeting of the season was held on Saturday. It was followed by a steak and lobster dinner and slide show from the season.
 - C. All three access-ways to the Arch have been re-opened. The Moose-Chute door was drifted in for a period during a two day storm Wednesday and Thursday with no way to get heavy equipment in.
 - D. Elizabeth Morton (IDDO Safety Officer) and I continue to inspect the Arch and surroundings for Safety issues.
 - E. Camp remains in very good condition thanks to continuous grooming and attention by the camp staff.
 - F. The skiway remains in good condition.
 - G. The generators are running normal except that the switch gear is not on line.
 - H. The correct parts for the generator are still on the way.
 - I. The freezers are running normally and temperature has reached -25°C to -28°C. Trays are emptied every 8 hours.

IV. Status of Drilling

- A. From Jay Johnson; “Yesterday, 20 January 2013, we ran the logging tool test on fourth deviation. The 29lb (129N) dummy logging tool was used and was attached to the 10m tether below the camera. The tool was lowered through the deviation, 1935m to 1952m, at 0.05 m/s. The total WOB variation was 16N. My conclusion is the dummy logging tool passed the test.” I concur with Jay’s conclusion and we proceeded on with deviation #4.
- B. Finished Replicate core #4 on Monday morning during first shift at a field measured depth of 2000.2 meters. Collected a total of 48 meters from #4
- C. Immediately began milling for deviation #5.
- D. First coring run of replicate core #5 on surface at 11:55 PM on Thursday, TD of 2416.5 meters.
- E. A cloudy layer was observed at 2426.5 meters depth that in the main core was at 2426.9 meters and in deviation #2 was at 2426.2 meters.
- F. Finished deviation #5 on Saturday morning at 7:30; BD 2429.08 meters.
- G. This completes the Replicate Coring Science Goals for the season in stellar fashion. (With aplomb, one might say.)
- H. Work began on cleaning the borehole of chips produced during formation of the deviations. This problem was not anticipated before the season, but there are now 15 meters of chips at the bottom of the main borehole that need to be removed.

- V. Flights; Several factors are combining to make this a very difficult end-of-season. The weather in McMurdo has prevented the start of C-17 flights for passengers northbound. Maintenance issues with the LC-130 has limited the availability of aircraft. The search and rescue mission for the lost KBA Twin Otter has further drawn on resources. Our flight schedule for the coming week, when were originally scheduled for five flights, is now down to three flights. One of those is our cold-deck with no passengers. We have been asked to re-prioritize our retro cargo and send only critical pieces and I will have to evaluate what items will be returned to McMurdo for shipment north. Our flight scheduled for this coming Saturday has 20 pax on the manifest including the drillers and remaining I-477 personnel. Little cargo will go out on this flight.

Monday; gave fuel, took cargo.

Friday; Received a flight coming back from Union Glacier which refueled at WSD and took 10 passengers. D029 arrived late with fuel and took cargo.

VI. Other

- A. Assisted Linda Morris (IDPO under T-350) with her work at WAIS Divide.
- B. Had a two day storm Wednesday through Thursday with winds 25 to 30 knots and cold temperatures. This hampered all flight plans and any outside work necessary for preparations to pull out. Storm cleanup began in earnest on Thursday afternoon.