

WISSARD Daily Science Report, January 19-21st, 2013



Science Personnel on Station: Amanda Achberger, Peyton Adkins, Alberto Behar, Carlo Barbante, Marci Beitch, Rob Edwards, Doug Fox, Brian Guthrie, Tim Hodson, Susan Kelly, Ken Mankoff, Emily McBryan, Alex Michaud, Jill Mikucki, Andy Mitchell, Ross Powell, Marino Protti, Reed Scherer, Mark Skidmore, JT Thomas, Betty Trummel, Tristy Vick-Majors

Science Personnel in the Field: Grace Barcheck, Slawek Tulaczyk, Robin Bolsey, Brent Christner, Dan Sampson, Mike Osment, John Priscu, Matt Siegfried; all drill team personnel.

Science Update:

- After weather delays on 18th and 19th and a no-fly Sunday the 20th, two planes landed at SLW on the 21st.
- Power is up to the labs, NIU containers, drill containers, and the LARS crane, though they are having difficulties syncing one of the generators.
- Field crew is using lots of Aluminum tape to seal cracks in the containers resulting from the traverse.
- Slawek is working with crew on final positioning of the labs and NIU containers. The mandoor on the NIU command van is still stuck.
- The drill system is likely to be ready on Wednesday, which means a borehole would be open as soon as Sunday, so long as we can get the full field team in by Saturday we should be able to complete the four day full sampling scenario.

Outreach update

- Media and public attention to WISSARD website, Facebook page, blogs continues to rise
- A variety of media outlets have requested interviews with scientists, including Science, Popular Science and Fox News.
- B-roll footage is ready for use by TV outlets per Peter West at NSF-Office of Polar Programs. There are close two 20-minutes of footage which includes segments about the hot water drill, the science, and the traverse.
- The latest from Fox News: <http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/01/18/new-cold-war-us-leads-race-to-find-life-under-antarctica/>

Weather

- While we had good weather today, weather continues to be our biggest challenge; we are continuing our wissardy weather incantations. Practice your chanting and spells please.



Compiled by Rob Edwards and Susan Kelly for the WISSARD science team