

WISSARD FIELD REPORT: 22 January 2013

WISSARD Science Personnel at SLW: Slawek Tulaczyk, Matthew Siegfried, Dan Sampson, Brent Christner, Grace Barcheck, John Priscu, Ross Powell, Alberto Behar, Jill Mikucki, Tristy Vick, Amanda Achberger, Andy Mitchell, Reed Scherer, Tim Hodson, Mike Osment Alex Michaud, Carlo Barbante, Mark Skidmore, Ken Mankov, Jason Thomas, Doug Fox

WISSARD Drillers at SLW: Dar Gibson, Darin Blythe, Graham Roberts, Dennis Duling, Justin Burnett, Jeff Lemery, Robin Bolsey,

The SLW camp population is now at 40 in addition to 9 members of the SPOT2 traverse (49 total!).

Camp Update:

- A Bassler arrived at SLW carrying 12 scientists (Ross Powell, Alberto Behar, Jill Mikucki, Tristy Vick, Amanda Achberger, Andy Mitchell, Reed Scherer, Alex Michaud, Carlo Barbante, Mark Skidmore, Tim Hodson, Ken Mankov) and 2 outreach specialists (JT Thomas, Doug Fox). Cargo included additional scientific equipment to be used for borehole sample processing. We are grateful to the traverse team for their assistance with cargo movement and to Jessie and Megan for providing the new arrivals with a warm welcome to SLW camp life.
- Tulaczyk, Siegfried, Barcheck and Fox used snowmobiles to collect data and service GPS stations within 25 km of SLW. This team plans to return late tonight. Sampson, Tulaczyk and Barcheck prepared a 9 station seismic array to be deployed approximately 50 km from SLW (near the confluence of the Mercer and Whillans Ice Stream). The seismic array will be deployed tomorrow using snowmobiles while servicing GPS stations in the area.
- Sampson and Mankoff began final preparations for deploying geophysical sensor strings, including seismic, temperature, and tilt sensors, for leaving behind in the WISSARD borehole as a long-term borehole observatory. The delicate fiberoptic temperature sensor tested positive and is ready for deployment.
- Bolsey, Christner and Priscu began preparing the light winch for borehole tool deployment. Two individual winch configurations are being prepared to accommodate various borehole tools.
- Behar and Mankov began assembly of the borehole camera on the “mothership” which will be used to determine the depth of SLW and examine the sediment characteristics of the lake.
- Vick, Achberger, Michaud, Mikucki, Skidmore, Barbante and Mitchell began the final set-up of the chemistry lab.
- Powell, Scherer and Hodson began organizing the sediment laboratory, the multi-corer and the command and control center. Osment continued preparing the percussion corer in the NIU workshop.
- The drillers marked return water hoses and continued melting drill feedwater and remain hopeful that drilling will begin in about 2 days. They melted the secondary hole for using to construct the NIU POP and percussion corer before being deployed. They plan to start melting the firn hole (key hole) tomorrow morning if all goes well may start drilling the access hole later in the day. We now have appropriate scientific personnel at SLW to begin processing initial SLW samples as planned.

Weather

- Broken cloud deck, ~ 10 mph wind, air temps near -10 C.

Compiled by John Priscu



22 January 2013 Bessler arrival at SLW



Snow melting continues