

WISSARD FIELD REPORT: 12 January 2015. Compiled by Ross Powell

ACT SLW camp population: 44 total (18-ASC; 4-C525; 9-C524; 5-C523; 6-C522; 2-C521)

Weather @ 1600h local: Sunny; Wind 0kts; Temp 24F

General:

A brilliantly sunny day allowed the Transantarctic Mountains to provide a spectacular backdrop for camp.

Our camp hosted a brief 2hr visit from NSF Program Officers Lisa Clough and Paul Cutler, and our Project Coordinator Julie Raine. The flight was scheduled for retrograde cargo and to take Frank Rack, Drill Manager, back to McMurdo. Lisa and Paul were given a guided tour of drilling, science and camp operations and science personnel were pleased to be able to show them and Julie what we have been achieving thus far.

Drilling Ops:

Reaming the main borehole commenced last night after deployment of the Doctor + CTD to evaluate the borehole condition. Reaming continued all day until 8pm.

Science achievements:

- The borehole reaming provided the opportunity for science to catch up on sample processing and preparing equipment and instruments for the next phase of sampling.
- Our new CTD data showed the 20m-thick brackish layer above the 10m-thick seawater has now dissipated.
- At 11:30AM the science team re-visited the borehole timeline and made some adjustment to the schedule.
- 3 C525 personnel had a day trip away from camp to tend GPS stations.
- Progress was made on a fix for the "smart" winch, which is scheduled for a test in the borehole tomorrow midnight.

Science plans:

- Next deployment will be the Niskin sampler, followed by the multicorer, water filterer and then the piston corer through the night tonight.