

The Antarctic Sun

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Brien Barnett / Special to *The Antarctic Sun*

Carpenter Mike Hole drives a tracked vehicle near the South Pole Station on Tuesday as a loader preps the skiway. Hole and others have been putting flags up on the skiway to prepare for the first flight of the summer season from McMurdo. Weather delayed flights until Monday.

50 years and still going

This summer season on the Ice may prove the old adage, slightly modified, that you cannot plan for the future without studying the past.

Some exceptional, long-term science projects are under way this year to help improve our understanding of climate change by studying the continent's history through extracting deep sediment and ice cores. Other teams of scientists will peer far back into the beginning of time itself with powerful telescopes. Yet other researchers will traverse the Southern Ocean to unlock the little understood role of marine ecosystems within our biosphere.

It's the kind of science we've come to expect in Antarctica. Yet only a half-century ago, early pioneers were just arriving on U.S. Navy ships to establish stations and begin the first sophisticated measurements of the continent. Next year, we will celebrate the International Polar Year, a worldwide collaboration of Arctic and Antarctic scientists.

And life will continue at the stations, in some ways much as it did 50 years ago

as the International Geophysical Year got under way. The annual sea ice runway must be maintained and groomed by tractor. Fresh fruits and vegetables are still luxuries. But much has also changed in the last five decades. Twenty-four-hour e-mail has replaced ham radio and an ATM is only down the hall from the dining facility at McMurdo Station.

Next week, we'll begin our regular coverage of science and life on the Ice. *The Antarctic Sun* is written for those of us on the continent as well as the global community. We welcome photos and story suggestions from all the stations and research vessels. We are also on the hunt for first-person "Perspectives," personal columns with a humorous or profound slant about working and living in Antarctica.

For questions or submissions, e-mail us at antarcticssunsubmissions@usap.gov or contact one of us directly. At McMurdo Station, we can be reached at extension 2407, or just stop by our office in Building 155, room 133.

- Peter, Steven and Steve

Meet the press

Peter Rejcek returns to the *Sun* for his second season, this time as the lead journalist. He also spent a year at the South Pole (2003-2004) as a carpenter helper. Before heading south, he worked more than three years in warmer climes as assistant editor for a newspaper in the Marshall Islands. In his younger years, he knocked around as a reporter for daily and weekly papers in Texas.



Steven Profaizer returns to *The Antarctic Sun* for his second season on the Ice. Before joining the *Sun* staff, he worked for three years as a reporter, photographer, columnist, page designer and editor for several newspapers in Arkansas and Massachusetts.



Steve Martaindale is new to the *Sun* this year. His background includes more than 20 years with small daily newspapers across Texas and as a self-syndicated columnist. Before heading south, he welcomed his first grandchild, already projected to become a fourth-generation Aggie at Texas A&M University.



COMING NEXT WEEK

New book brings IGY to life

Scientists say ozone hole at record size

AntarcticSun.usap.gov

Level 1 Comix

Matt Davidson



News briefs from McMurdo Station

SAR deadline this week

The Search and Rescue Team is accepting applications for volunteer members. Applications are located on the message board in Building 155 and are due by 5:30 p.m. Friday.

Win a trip to Cape Evans

Would you like to have a guaranteed spot on a Delta trip? The first 10 people to arrive next Sunday morning to help break down the Halloween Party will be added to the list for one Recreation Delta trip to Cape Evans.

Med team help needed

Volunteers are still needed for various mass casualty incident medical teams. Open slots as of Friday included eight medical auxiliaries, five medical recorders, three VHF radio operators and 14 stretcher bear-

ers. People who want to volunteer should send an e-mail to Harry Owens or contact Medical at extension 2551.

Film debuts Sunday

The main presentation at the Sunday Science Lecture in the dining hall will be the McMurdo debut of a new National Geographic documentary, "Emperors of the Ice," which is based on work at McMurdo. It will be preceded by a short presentation by Paul Ponganis on the status of the Cape Crozier and Beaufort Island emperor colonies.

Dust off those costumes

Get your Halloween costume ready for the Oct. 28 party. Costume contest prizes will be given away in five categories: Scariest, Funniest, Best Antarctic Theme, Best Group and Best Overall.

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Senior Editor: Peter Rejcek

Editors: Steven Profaizer, Steve Martaindale

Copy Editors: Ben Bachelder, Susannah "Webster" Coates, Krista Eastman, Rob Jones, Traci Macnamara, Melanie Miller, Erin Popelka, Bethany Profaizer, Travis Senior, Cori Manka, Emily Stone.

Publisher: Valerie Carroll, Communications manager, RPSC

Contributions are welcome. Contact *The Sun* at AntSun@usap.gov. In McMurdo, visit our office in Building 155 or dial 2407.

Web address: AntarcticSun.usap.gov

Our Antarctic week

Sunday, October 22

LDS services, chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass, chapel, 9:45 a.m.

Protestant services, chapel, 11 a.m.

Movie, "SeaLab 2021," Coffee House, noon

Crary Lab tour, 1 p.m.

Movie, "Brokeback Mountain," Coffee House, 4 p.m.

Burger Bar, Gallagher's, 5-8 p.m.

Movie, "A Very Long Engagement," Coffee House, 7:30 p.m.

Science Lecture, "Emperors of the Ice" by Paul Ponganis, dining hall, 8 p.m.

Monday, October 23

Travelogue with Michael Green, "Kazakh Golden Eagle Hunters of the Altai Mountains of Far Western Mongolia," dining hall, 8:30 p.m.

Tap Dance classes, laundry room, 7-8 p.m.

Salsa Dance classes, Gallagher's, 7-9 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous, chapel, 7:30 p.m.

Volleyball and bowling leagues begin

Tuesday, October 24

Open Yoga, 203B, lounge, 5:30-6:45 a.m.

Morning Coffee, Coffee House, 6:45-10:45 a.m.

Outdoor Safety Lecture, Crary Lab, second floor, 7 p.m.

Stitch-n-Bitch, 208, second floor lounge, 7 p.m.

Guts-n-Butts, laundry room, 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25

Yoga, Chapel, 6:30-8 p.m.

Burger Bar, Gallagher's, 7-9 p.m.

Science Lecture, "Icebergs" by Doug MacAyeal, Crary Lab, second floor, 7:30 p.m.

Cosmic Bowling, 7-10 p.m.

Thursday, October 26

Morning Coffee, Coffee House, 6:45-10:45 a.m.

American Night, Scott Base, 7-10:45 p.m.

Guts-n-Butts, laundry room, 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Coffee House Cinema, "Buffalo 66," 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 27

Big Gym closed all day for Halloween Party set-up

Indian Dance class, laundry room, 6-7:15 p.m.

Yoga, Chapel, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Burger Bar, Gallagher's, 7-9 p.m.

Friday Night T.V., "The Simpsons," Gallagher's, 7-8 p.m.

Saturday, October 28

Outdoor Safety Lecture, Crary Lab, second floor, 10:30 a.m.

Halloween Party, Big Gym, 8 p.m.

Costume Judging contest, big gym, 9 p.m.