

Alpha Ridge Test of Appurtenance (ARTA)

Newsletter #7

It's Monday just after noon, and I'm writing this at the Icecamp. Alain Belzile, Lloyd Litwin and I came out with the first Twin Otter load. Tim Cartwright went out with the last load last night. The following is a list of the people now out at the Icecamp.

John Biggar
Rudy Cutillo
Aaron Carpenter
John Mercuri
Mike Black
Rob Morisson
Knut Lyngberg
Joanna Edwards

Tammy Stinson
Robert Olsen
Kirby Kleiter
Tim Cartwright
Alain Belzile
Lloyd Litwin
Ron Verrall

We are now in the process of preparing for the first (the inner) seismic shot line. The 'blasters' (and that includes me) are getting ready to deploy all the explosives under the ice. There will be eleven shot locations with a total of 158 boxes (times 17.5 kg) of explosive. Once the explosives are in place, the three helicopters will set out 115 seismometers and their recording boxes. They will cover a total distance of ??? km. When everything is in readiness, the blasters will blow all the explosives (one at a time, of course), and then all the recording boxes will be recovered. Right now the Twin Otter is hauling explosives.

The weather is quite pleasant today. The temperature this afternoon is -25 and there is no wind. You can feel the heat from the sun.

The camp is still very busy with construction. In the neighbouring picture, Mike, Knut and Rob are setting up the last tent. This one will be a sleeping tent for the women, Joanne and Tammy. You can



see that this morning it was still cold enough that the guys were bundled up in parkas.

The next picture shows Joanne and Tammy, themselves, preparing lunch in readiness for the hungry hoard. They seem to be enjoying the experience of living out on the ice.



This picture shows Rudy up a small tower installing an HF antenna. It looks like a folded dipole – but not quite. The top wire isn't continuous; there is some sort of a balun at its centre. I'm told that it's called a 'broad-band folded dipole', and it has an impedance of 50 ohms rather than 300. I'm sure most of you aren't interested in this – but there are a few hams...

John and Rudy have just talked to Eureka using the new antenna, and they're pleased about that. However, the radio is a bit noisy. They think that it's picking up noise from the Iridium telephone.



This camp will be quite posh when it's all finished. The yellow spider in the centre of the picture is an electrical distribution box. Every tent has power leading to it, the power being generated by a nice four-cylinder Diesel. Note the ladies' tent on the right; it's almost finished. Another big generator will be coming in to provide heat for the three helicopters. When that happens, the helicopters will be able to stay out here.



The last picture shows Alain taking a gravity measurement. This type of measurement, as well as depth measurements will be taken as an adjunct to the seismic measurements. Alain says that the slight wavy motion of the ice makes it hard to get a truly accurate measurement.



Best Wishes,
Ron Verrall

We'd like to hear from you. Send your comments to: Name: ronverrall Address: gmaildotcom