

# Alpha Ridge Test of Appurtenance (ARTA)

Newsletter #13

## 8 April (Tuesday)

In the morning the weather to the north of us was not good: poor visibility in blowing snow. As a result, the helicopters did not leave to recover boxes until about 1430. Helicopters CFPHO (pilot Gerard) took John Shimeld and Lloyd, and helicopter CFCNG (pilot Orin) took Thomas and Patrick. They put in a long day, not getting back until almost midnight. All boxes are safely accounted for. They say that there is a lot more open water up north, and the ice is starting to be mobile. The North Camp was moving at 200 metres per hour for a while. Actually, Mike and Greg won't mind this since they are doing reflection seismography, and there is nothing more frustrating than sitting in one spot making the same measurement all day long.

The weather here at the camp was quite reasonable today. There was a bit of a wind, but the temperature seemed a little higher – the low 30s, perhaps. In the late afternoon and evening the wind dropped to nothing. As I write this, it is very pretty outside. The visibility is amazing; the mountains 10 km to the south seem right on our doorstep.

You will note that I had to guess at the temperature. It is amusing that at almost every Icecamp I've ever been at, we haven't a thermometer to tell us the temperature. All this sophisticated equipment and not a five-dollar thermometer. We can tell you the local value of gravity to umpteen decimal places, but we can't tell you the temperature to the nearest five degrees unless we ask a pilot in his helicopter. I anticipated this before I left Victoria, and I bought a Canadian-Tire thermometer to bring north. However, in the rush to leave Eureka, I left it behind.

Today, for your general interest I have several pictures of life around the camp. First, there is Joanne Edwards in her kitchen tent cutting up chicken. Tonight we had roast



chicken with all the trimmings, and it was wonderful.

Next, we have Jon Biggar in the 'office' tent minding all his radios as he 'follows' the various aircraft.



This picture is of Rudy Cutillo in the camp workshop. He's working on a depth-sounder.



And finally, for the ladies, I have a picture of Kirby and Bob soaking their feet after a hard day's work.



Best Wishes,  
Ron Verrall

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

If you have been writing and I haven't been replying – that's because I'm out at the Icecamp, and I don't have access to my email. I'll try to catch up when I next get back to Eureka.