

10 October, 2003

Dear PAL-LTER 2002-2003 Team Member,

*"During a particular voyage to the South Atlantic in 1820, Captain "Nat", as he was known, skippered his small 47 foot sloop "Hero" southward searching for new seal rookeries. In the area at the same time was another ship's master on a similar mission. He was Captain Bellinghaus of the Russian Imperial Navy. On November 17, 1820, Captain Nat sighted land not yet shown on any chart. The next morning the Russian Captain sailed his 250 foot ship into the same area only to find the small sloop already anchored in the harbor. Curious to learn who had beaten him to this unknown land, Captain Bellinghaus signaled for the master of the sloop to come aboard his ship to identify himself.*

*Upon meeting the young skipper, the Russian acknowledged his skill and bravery and said to him, "You, sir, have discovered new territory so let it be named Palmer Land. Today's maps of Antarctica show Palmer Peninsula named in honor of the Yankee Skipper from Stonington."*

Dixon F. Hemphill, 1996

Nathaniel Palmer's great, great, great grandnephew

First of all, welcome to our group of Antarctic scientists! Above is the story (USA Version) of the discovery of Antarctica, in particular the West Antarctic Peninsula, by Yankee Sea Capt. Nathaniel Palmer, namesake of Palmer Station. For many of you, Palmer Station will be your home in the coming months. Others will visit during our annual cruise aboard ARSV LM Gould in January. We all look forward to working with you and introducing you to the fantastic world of the Antarctic Peninsula region. Our region is experiencing one of the most rapid rates of climate warming on our planet, and PAL-LTER is engaged in research on the response of the Antarctic marine ecosystem to this great change. Useful links for the Palmer LTER are:

**Palmer LTER Website:** <http://pal.lternet.edu/>

**LTER Network:** <http://lternet.edu/>

Please find enclosed the PAL-LTER Manifesto, developed by the PIs and scientific staff of PAL-LTER. It is meant as an introduction to our research effort as well as a number of important issues of working together in a fragile and, sometimes, hostile environment. For all of you who have been there before, this is familiar, but (as a favor to me), please read it anyway. For the newcomers, this is must-reading.

Thirdly, find enclosed the most recent 2002-2003 Deployment Schedule for the PAL-LTER. Listed below are the designated points of contact (POC) for this field season. These people are the official representatives of PAL-LTER in Antarctica during the times shown. After your own team leader, these are your official supervisors/representatives to National Science Foundation (NSF) and Raytheon Polar Services Company (RPSC) (see the Manifesto document for details). Any issues relating to PAL-LTER should be brought to their attention.

LTER Points of Contact and Field Team Leaders, 2003-04:

Oct 17 to Nov 08      Wendy Kozlowski  
Nov 8 to Dec 31      Langdon Quetin  
Dec 31 to 20 March   Bill Fraser (at Palmer Station)  
Mar 20 to April 09   Hugh Ducklow (at Palmer Station)

Dec 31 to Feb 08      Hugh Ducklow (aboard LM GOULD)

Of course you may also contact me at any time, as PI for PAL-LTER.

In this field season, we are in our third 6-year grant from NSF in the Long Term Ecological Research Program, and our 13<sup>th</sup> field season. With over a decade of observations under its belt, PAL has amassed an unprecedented wealth of climatic, ecological and biogeochemical data, and is gaining a new understanding of the Antarctic marine ecosystem. Many of you have contributed to that monument already and will continue to do so. I thank you profoundly for your efforts on behalf of PAL, and appreciate the sacrifices you make for our program. For those of you joining PAL for the first time, you are about to become part of a great adventure and a serious, world-class scientific research and education program. You are also a new member of the larger world of LTER, contributing to a great vision of ecological research. I hope you find the experience enriching and satisfying. We are lucky to have you all in the project.

If you have any questions regarding any of this, please feel free to contact me either by phone (804-684-7180) or e-mail ([duck@vims.edu](mailto:duck@vims.edu)). Finally, have a great field season! Get all of your science done, enjoy the camaraderie and appreciate the spectacular wildlife of the Peninsula. Good luck!

Hugh Ducklow (“duck”)

Lead PI, PAL-LTER