

Palmer station has now started the short part of the winter season with no ship. However there is only eight short weeks until the return of the R/V Lawrence M Gould with the summer crew.

Inventory continues in the laboratory. The volatile chemical storage was completed this month along with the 703 Warm Van (instrument storage). Inventory records for capital equipment are still being updated. Two shelving units in the Bio Machine shop were changed out with cabinets, to help keep the glassware cleaner. The wharf tank spare parts previously stored in the Aquarium were sent out to the Punta Arenas warehouse for storage. The ENPAWS pyranometer BNC connector was changed out and is now working properly. The Buchi Rotavap evaporators were assembled to ensure all parts were in working condition. Digital pictures were taken of old or seldom used equipment and sent to Denver to be used later when investigating what can and can not be disposed of. The current project of classifying and packing the hazardous waste is close to completion.

Construction continues on the first floor GWR remodeling. All the walls have been erected and mudding, tapping and sanding continue. All the interior doors have been installed. The new sewer main has been put in and tied to the old sewer system. Water and sewer piping, and supply and return ducting in medical has been completed. The generator stack has been rerouted to accommodate the new stair tower. When the wind allows, which has been infrequent, the siding has been put on the stair tower. The fire alarm, lights, outlets and the electrical part of the HVAC system continues to be rough in. The main power box (P100) for the remodeled section of GWR has been installed and is in service.

Work also continues on the boat house addition. An outside door was installed. Two exhaust fans were installed with just one to go although the roof jack is in place. The sprinkler piping was changed out from M to L to bring it up to fire code.

The rock removal project has been completed and the team has redeployed. There were a total of eleven test blasts and twenty-two production blast. The requirement not to go over 36 PSI on the pier was easily achieved with the bubble curtain; the highest value was 21 PSI. The divers reported a total of three dead fish seen and that the invertebrates would move into the blast area over night. A video, taken and narrated by the professional commercial dive master, of the process at the beginning, middle and end is on station.

Not much to report on for wildlife this past month. There are still an abundance of snow petrels around with a few Giant Petrels, Cormorants, and Sheathbills.

The winds still haven't let up this month. There were 19 days that had peak winds over 30 knots. However the average wind speed did increase by 2 knots to 14 knots. The average temperature remained about the same -3.6 C. A total of thirty-eight centimeters of snow fell over the twenty-nine days there was precipitation. We had our maximum snow stake depth on day eight with forty-four centimeters. A typical month for cloud cover: twenty-six days over cast, one day partly cloudy, 4 clear days.