SALSA On Ice Report: 28 November 2017

Drill Team Update

Weather: Sunny skies but with a very cold wind throughout the day. Mostly sunny with winds from the east at 13kts gusting to 19kts and a temperature of 19F/-7C at 19:00.

SALSA Drillers on Ice: Dar Gibson, Graham Roberts, Justin Burnett, Bob Zook.

Activities:
- 5kw generator, Herman Nelson heaters and accessories returned to Mechanical Equipment Center.
- Cleaned up HPU-1, inventoried items stored inside and sealed openings with foil tape. Container is ready for traverse.
- Moved Hannay Reel back onto LARS Deck for winter storage and transport to Lake Mercer next season.
- General cleanup around SPOTSA. All outside debris removed and work is complete at this site.
- SCINI prep work for final wet testing on sea ice tomorrow (Wed, Nov 29).

Report by Dar Gibson

GPS Station Update

Location: Shackleton Glacier Camp, Trans Antarctic Mountains (85.086°S, 175.289°W)
Personnel on Ice: Matthew Siegfried (Stanford University), Susheel Adusumilli (Scripps Institution of Oceanography)

Updates:
- Susheel, Matt, and Shackleton Camp mountaineer Nick visited four of the eight SALSA GPS sites on Mercer and Whillans ice streams, including the GPS site at the potential 2018-2019 SALSA drill site.
- In addition to downloading data from all sites, Susheel and Matt fixed the Iridium telemetry at one site and brought another site back to the surface after it was buried in the snow this past winter. They will hopefully finish their work with one more day of Twin Otter time.
Figure 1. Susheel and Nick enjoying their Twin Otter time.

Figure 2. A GPS near the future SALSA Drill Site, sitting under the watchful wing of CKB.
Figure 3. A buried GPS site. Time to dig.

Report by Matthew Siegfried

SCINI Project Update

- Operations began shifting primarily into packing and cleaning up – there is lots of this to do!
- While we can no longer fly the vehicle at depth, we have devised one final wet test to be carried out on the sea ice tomorrow. This will allow us to test the camera system and fiberoptic modem, as well as observe the winch and generator under load.

Report by Justin Burnett