SALSA Field Report: 12.13.18. Compiled by Billy Collins

SALSA Science Team, Day 7 Update

Departure and Arrival

- Drillers Graham Roberts, Justin Burnett, and Dar Gibson flew to Mercer Subglacial Lake yesterday to begin the hot water drilling process.
- SALSA science team members David Harwood, Al Gagnon, and arrived in McMurdo last night after several delays and a boomerang flight (a flight that turns back around on the way from CHC to MCM).
- Much of the SALSA team have loaded their initial cargo for the cargo flight to Mercer Subglacial lake on December 17th which will include PhD Student Ryan Venturelli, Lead Scientist John Priscu, and PI Brent Christner.

Cargo

- Yesterday, Ryan, Christina Davis, and Tim Campbell moved 2,300 lbs. of science cargo into the system and more cargo is going in today.
- After many hours of configuring data output, PIs Amy Levanter and Brad Rosenheim have finished calibrating and tank testing the CTD instrument (conductivity, temperature, depth).

Science

- Ryan Venturelli briefed the team members on their way out to the field for avoiding contamination between sediment lab and the chem lab during camp set up. This is important because the samples being prepared in the sediment lab will be used to measure natural levels of radiocarbon, whereas the samples being prepared in the chem lab use amplified levels of radiocarbon for their experiments.
- The rest of the team have further developed sampling protocols for the field and protocols for different possible sampling outcomes.
- The SCINI team completed another tank test and are adjusting the cameras equipped on the clump weight.

Outreach

- The Education and Outreach team of Kathy Kasic and Billy Collins have been filming much of the prep work, completed an interview with Ryan Venturelli and PI Brad Rosenheim and flew their drone at Observation hill.
- While the SALSA team have had their hands full, many members of the team had a chance to visit the pressure ridges, an area where the sea ice meets the land and the combination of tidal forces and moving ice causes ice to buckle creating a variety of interesting ice formations.
PhD Students Christina Davis and Ryan Venturelli getting ready to ship out to Lake Mercer with Project Manager Cindy Dean.

Chief Deep SCINI Engineer Bob Zook shows Education and Outreach PI Kathy Kasic how to operate the Deep SCINI during the tank test.
Education and Outreach PI Kathy Kasic Interviews PI Brad Rosenheim in one of the McMurdo fish huts.

Graduate Students having some fun washings and cleaning bottles for the field labs.