

Dear Friends;

Correction from last e-mail;

*3 years not 30 years of melting ice was recently observed, that would normally take 100 years.

We're still roaming around the Antarctic Peninsula! We have a total of 5 days to explore this area. Because of the breaking off and melting of the ice shelf, the captain on our boat today announced that he broke his all time record for going south! (65 degrees) We were able to work our way through some beautiful narrow channels that in the past, have been iced in. Here are a few pictures from those channels. We hit a few icebergs and boy does it ever make a loud sound when it hits the hull! The ice pilot did a fantastic job of maneuvering around most of them!

Antarctica is a continent that is very unique among all others because no one owns it. Many nations have claimed it but the "Antarctic Treaty" protects this pristine region so far! Imagine a world where there are no wars, where the environment is fully protected and where research is the priority. Antarctica is that land...one that the Antarctic treaty parties call a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science.

PALMER RESEARCH STATION

We had the opportunity today to pick up 5 research scientist from Palmer Station. This station is where research scientists come to learn about our world. The research focuses on monitoring the marine ecosystem, atmospheric studies, and the effects of increased ultraviolet radiation on marine and terrestrial communities. The ozone hole has prompted a lot of interest lately; they say it will be closed up within the next 50 years. They said that the changes in the sea ice conditions and snowfall has resulted in the reduction of the population of the Adele Penguins to fewer than 3,300 pairs, down by 60% from 1974, and it has been predicted that they will be gone from this island altogether by 2014. At the dinner table tonight a man reported that those penguins are not reducing in population, their just moving south to the colder climate that they prefer. Climate change will cause the shifting of animals to different locations and it may do the same for humans as well. If it gets too hot in California because of climate change, I'm sifting my body to Wisconsin where it's not only cool outside but some really cool people live there as well! That would be my family! Hi Frankie, Claire and Gracie.....I love and miss you very

much! Hi Mom, Debi, Paul, Steve, Cheryl, Elizabeth, Drew, Linda, Frank, Emily, Sarah, Luke, John, Leslie, Heather and the munchkins!

Don and I had lunch with one of the scientists from the center. His name is Alex Mc Donald. He graduated from UCLA and then went to MIT for his graduate work. His background is in chemical engineering and Oceanography. He plans to learn all he can from the little critters that live here. He hopes that it will help us understand how we can cure diseases like osteoporosis and anemia. There's a little ice fish called the Antarctic Cod that has no red blood cells. This is a fish he's very interested in learning more about. He said the Antarctic is a great place to study because everything that happens to our planet, happens there first.

Scientists at the center have big drills that can go down 1.3 miles into the surface of Antarctica. The drill brings up ice layers that give information about this area from up to 30,000 years ago! Yes..... that 30,000 year old mud tells us a lot!!

Here's a list of some new animals we saw today. Because of all the icebergs, there were lots of penguins and seals spotted. There's enough icebergs for each seal to have their own private little floating home. Some of these icebergs even come with private swimming pools. We see humpback whales all the time! There's a lot of krill for them to eat around here.

1. elephant seals
2. crab eater seals
3. weddel seals
4. fur seals
5. leopard seals
6. Gentoo Penguins
7. Delie Penguins

"Always there has been an adventure just around the corner-and the world is still full of corners!"

Love you all,

Susie

<http://www.air-and-space.com/200101%20Antarctica/23%20Antarctic%20Sounda.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKt7Mif79ss>