

# Journal

November 11, 2007

Dear Fellow Antarctic Travelers,

At long last, I am on the helicopter schedule to go into the field tomorrow. Granite Harbor (Mackay Sea Valley): here I come!

After two weeks of quite stormy weather, the sun has come out and it is a glorious day here in McMurdo. I spoke to one of my teammates in the field who reported that it was "warm" - that she wasn't needing her "big red" parka, but was opting instead for a lighter "small red" which is more like a windbreaker. She reported that the scenery was magnificent and their weather had been much kinder than ours in McMurdo.

Needless to say, I am very eager to get out. My emails and blogs will slow significantly - but if a helicopter comes out my way, I will send a blog or an electronic postcard for you view, and someone will post it for me. My teammates will continue posting their blogs and postcards, so please check them out!

**Both of these sites are on my Bach web site.**

**Blogs:** <http://www.andrill.org/iceberg/blogs/index.html>

**Postcards:** [http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/people/postcards/andrill/andrill\\_post.html](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/people/postcards/andrill/andrill_post.html).



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I will not have any email in the field, but I promise to fill you in on details when I am back in McMurdo at the end of November. The date I am currently hearing for our return is November 25.

Yesterday I had the great thrill of going out to the ANDRILL Drill site - where the core is actually getting pulled out of the ground. That was a remarkable experience! Imagine driving along in an oversnow vehicle for 2 hours - through magnificent scenery and vast emptiness, and then suddenly you come across a remote camp with a 90 ton drill rig and 30 drillers sitting atop 8 meters of ice doing cutting edge science! While I was there, a section of core was pulled up - from 620 m of depth. The technology behind the rig and the drilling process is fascinating. There are numerous links to information about the rig and drilling technology on the [andrill.org](http://andrill.org) website. I have attached a few photos for you to get some idea of the site and the journey there.

If I have time, I will post a blog this evening about the drill site. However, 40 meters of new core were logged last night, so there is a full day of work on the core. I just can't seem to catch up with myself!! (Some things never change!)



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There is much action on the ice runway today. Aircraft are arriving from Christchurch, some bearing people, and some bearing cargo. We are all crossing our fingers that some of our much-coveted packages from home will arrive. We have heard that there are 4 hercs worth of mail waiting to be sent.

Somewhere in there are my boots, as well as the school T-shirts and banners that some of you have sent. Hopefully they will reach me out in the field!! In any case, it is good to finally see planes moving again! We are even dreaming of some fresh fruits and vegetables, but no one is getting their hopes too high for that...

It's been awhile since we have had a shipment of "freshies." (I have a funny conversation with a man this morning who told me all about the ORANGE he ate at Scott Base! He was bragging!)

So, for now, I'll sign out. Think of me basking in the joy of being out in the field, on the sea ice, amidst magnificent scenery, learning about the world below my feet. Know that I will be having the time of my life out there!

I promise you stories and photos upon my return. And, if weather moves in between now and tomorrow, I will let you all know that I am grounded in McMurdo again. Hopefully that won't be the case!

Best to all - with hugs from the south.  
Robin

