

AWS Field Season Plans for 2013-2014 and Beyond

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1. OVERVIEW

The 2013-2014 field season marks the start of a new three-year grant for the Automatic Weather Station (AWS) program. With studies focused on meteorological and climatological phenomena, a variety of activities are planned in the coming field seasons. Fieldwork, while subject to available logistics and approval, will be variable each season. This presentation outlines plans for the upcoming season, along with outlying seasons. Other changes the AWS team is undergoing are also noted.

2. 2013-2014 FIELD SEASON

Four to five regions of the AWS network will be the focus in the coming season. Efforts in West Antarctica will be one of the regions of focus with up to two new AWS sites to be installed in deep West Antarctica in the Hollick-Kenyon Plateau region and toward the historic Siple Station. Some sites in West Antarctica are due for removal (e.g. Brianna AWS), if that is possible. Other sites are due for repairs (such as Thurston Island AWS). Preliminary discussions with Antarctic Support Contract (ASC) indicate that we may have a limited time in West Antarctica, and thus other efforts (such as visiting Siple Dome AWS, etc.) may be put on hold for future seasons, given the timing of AWS personnel deployment.

Other regions that will be a focus include repair and servicing in the Ross Island region and Ross Ice Shelf region (e.g. Lettau AWS). Some AWS are well overdue for servicing such as Margaret AWS (Figure 1), which has not been visited since installation over 5 years ago. Also planned are removals, one of which will be Eric AWS (Figure 2). In Terra Adelie in East Antarctica, D-10 and D-

47 AWS will be replaced with new hardware. Replacement of the electronics for D-85 AWS is also planned. Port Martin AWS is awaiting re-installation, but has not been possible due to conditions in reaching the location. The remaining focus this season will be at Alexander Tall Tower! AWS, with servicing and a tower inspection planned.

3. 2014-2015 FIELD SEASON AND BEYOND

This field season plans operations based from South Pole Station to service Nico and Henry AWS, as well as a visit to Cape Hallett AWS, also for servicing. More traditional servicing work in the McMurdo region, Ross Ice Shelf region and West Antarctica are also scheduled.

In this field season and remaining field seasons, any work that is not accomplished in the prior season will be attempted in the next. Effort will focus on keeping at least one AWS serviced, as weather and logistics allow, in sub-regions of the Antarctic network. The aim is to reduce the downtime for long running AWS records, and where that is unavoidable, at least have a "nearby" AWS be full operational to play a support role.

4. PERSONNEL CHANGES

The AWS team is seeing some personnel changes in 2013. Jonathan Thom, who has been a member of the team since 2000 will be moving on to other projects, primarily working on tall tower AWS in Northern Wisconsin. Jonathan will remain working within Space Science and Engineering Center, and hence will be close by and remain a resource to the project given his many years of experience and knowledge. His efforts have been most appreciated, and he will be missed, but we

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are glad that he is not going too far away. Linda Keller is expected to achieve emeritus status later this summer. We congratulate Linda on a very successful career here at Wisconsin. We are happy to report that Linda will continue to collaborate with our group into the future. Lee Welhouse and Dave Mikolajczyk will be our primary field team members in the coming seasons.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Figure 1. Margaret AWS site, as seen here during its installation in November of 2008, is scheduled for servicing in the coming field season.



Figure 2. One AWS scheduled for removal is Eric AWS, seen here in 2010 during its last service visit. Weather observations at this location have been utilized in research projects that have come to an end.