

Meteorological Services

Winterovers: Timothy Markle, timothy.markle.contractor@usap.gov
Sue O'Reilly, suzanne.oreilly.contractor@usap.gov

- The End of Season and Turnover Reports for winter 2010 have been completed and handed over to management both on station and in Denver.
- Snow has been cleaned off the landings and stairs of the BIF in anticipation of summer operations.
- The Basler from Rothera arrived on the 16th. This was a refueling stop as the Basler continued to McMurdo. The temperature at arrival was around -53°C.
- The station opened on the 19th with the arrival of the first Basler from McMurdo. The temperature at South Pole during the flight ranged between -53°C and -55°C. This flight was originally scheduled for the 18th but was cancelled due to the cold temperatures.
- Basler flights #2 and #3 arrived at South Pole Station on the 23rd and the 24th, respectively. The second Basler brought with them the first of the two summer meteorologists for the 2010-2011 season. With that, turnover with the winter meteorologists began.
- A new digital barograph was brought down to the Meteorology Office with the intention of replacing our current antiquated aneroid barograph. Testing with the new barograph started on the 25th to see how reliable the data output is relative to the barometers in the Clean Air Sector that we use for our observations.
- All routine data collection and reporting activities continued as normal.

Weather: October 2010

Temperatures:	Date	
Average		-49.5°C / -57.1°F
Maximum	10/22/10	-35.6°C / -32.1°F
Minimum	10/09/10	-64.5°C / -84.1°F
Station Pressure in millibars:		
Average pressure		676.3 mb
Highest pressure	10/06/10	691.8 mb
Lowest pressure	10/31/10	659.6 mb
Physiological altitude in feet and meters:		
Average physio-altitude		10,768 ft/ 3,282 m
Highest physio-altitude	10/31/10	11,407 ft/ 3,477 m
Lowest physio-altitude	10/06/10	10,186 ft/ 3,105 m
Visibility:		2 days with ¼ mile or less
Wind:		
Average Wind Speed		12.2 mph or 10.6 knots
Maximum Gust	10/28/10	33 mph or 29 knots
Maximum Gust Direction		Grid North
Vectored Wind Direction		050 degrees
Vectored Wind Speed		8.3 knots
Prevailing Direction		Grid North or 020 degrees

**** Records****

October 23rd: The average wind speed of 3.0kts/3.5mph broke the previous lowest average wind speed record of 3.8kts/4.4mph set in 1977.

The number of clear days (3) tied the previous record for the least number of clear days in October set in 1972.

The average sky cover (6 oktas) tied the previous record for maximum average cloud cover in October set in 2007.