

## Meteorological Services

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- On February 1<sup>st</sup>, The Meteorology Department began using the electronic observation form MF1M-10C. This form supersedes the paper MF1M-10A and MF1M-10B forms. All data from the MF1M-10A and MF1M-10B forms for January 2011 were transferred onto the electronic MF1M-10C form in order to keep the format type consistent for calendar year 2011.
- The winter senior meteorologist arrived at South Pole on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The three summer meteorologists left South Pole on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Two SOPP technicians arrived from McMurdo Station on February 11<sup>th</sup> and removed the summer optic instrumentation from the Skiway tower.
- The two winter meteorologists continued to provide hourly weather data to SPAWAR in Charleston, SC and McMurdo Station between February 15<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup>, well beyond the station closing date of the 15<sup>th</sup>, in order to provide observational weather support to three Twin Otters flights and one Basler flight during their transit of the Antarctic continent from McMurdo and Casey Stations to Rothera Station via South Pole.
- Both windsocks were removed from the skiway on February 26<sup>th</sup> and stored in the B2 Science Lab for the winter season.
- February 2011 was the third warmest February on record with an average temperature of -37.2°C / -35.0°F. The only years in which the month of February was warmer was 1986 (-36.1°C / -33.0°F) and 1958 (-35.5°C / -31.9°F).
- All routine data collection and reporting activities continued as normal.

***Weather: February 2011***

Temperatures:	Date	
Average		-37.2°C / -35.0°F
Departure from Normal		+3.7°C / +6.6°F
Maximum	02/05/11	-25.8°C / -14.4°F
Minimum	02/28/11	-53.2°C / -63.8°F
Station Pressure in millibars:		
Average pressure		686.0 mb / 20.258 in. Hg
Departure from Normal		+0.4 mb / +0.012 in. Hg
Highest pressure	02/15/11	693.6 mb / 20.482 in. Hg
Lowest pressure	02/27/11	675.4 mb / 19.945 in. Hg
Physiological altitude in feet and meters:		
Average physio-altitude		10,404 ft/ 3,171 m
Highest physio-altitude	02/27/11	10,804 ft/ 3,293 m
Lowest physio-altitude	02/15/11	10,119 ft/ 3,084 m
Visibility:		5 days with ¼ mile or less
Wind:		
Average Wind Speed		11.7 mph / 10.2 knots
Departure from Normal		-0.7 mph / -0.6 knots
Maximum Gust	02/09/11	33 mph / 29 knots
Maximum Gust Direction		Grid Northeast
Vectored Wind Direction		050 degrees
Vectored Wind Speed		7.4 knots
Prevailing Direction		Grid East or 070 degrees

**\*\* Records\*\***

February 9<sup>th</sup>: The peak wind speed of 29 knots/33 mph broke the previous record of 28 knots/32 mph set in 1976.