

II. Expedition Dates

Section II of the 2008-2009 season plan includes information concerning vessel and aircraft operations along with estimated dates of expeditions and other significant events.

Winfly Activities

Annual Augmentation of the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) begins with austral winter flights (WINFLY), departing Christchurch, New Zealand, and arriving McMurdo Station, Antarctica, about 4 September 2008. The aircraft will carry scientists and support personnel to start early pre-summer projects, to August (what is this?) maintenance personnel, and to prepare Pegasus Blue Ice Skiway at McMurdo Station. This will involve 4 U.S. Air Force C-17 flights (256 personnel expected to deploy at SpringFly with 50 winter over employees redeploying).

Mainbody Activities

Austral summer activities will be initiated on 30 September 2008 with wheeled aircraft operations between Christchurch, New Zealand and the Pegasus Blue Ice Runway at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. This will involve approximately 33 C-17 flights of transport aircraft of the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command (AMC), from September 2008 thru December 2008. The C-17 aircraft will return to Christchurch, NZ in late January 2009 to complete 12 missions til season close in February 2009. Additionally, 6 flights by C-130 transport aircraft of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and 6 flights by L-100 transport aircraft of the South African Air (SAFAIR) to Pegasus Ice Runway, and 4 LC-130 aircraft of the New York Air National Guard to Williams Field will fly missions between Christchurch, NZ and McMurdo Station during the period the C-17 aircraft is not in theatre. The Pegasus Ice runway operations will remain

open throughout the season. Williams Field will open approximately 5 Novemehr 2008 for the ski-equipped LC-130 aircrafts

The 109th Air Wing of the Air National Guard in Schenectady, New York will provide five LC-130 aircraft and six crews for intra-continental flights from early November 2008 through mid-February 2009. Challenger 601 aircraft will complete the annual FAA certification flights.

Significant Dates

Other significant dates for the summer season include:

1. 4 September 2008 SpringFly Begins
2. 14 September 2008 Palmer Station annual relief/opening
3. 30 September 2008 First C-17 mission to McMurdo Station during Pegasus runway period. McMurdo Station commences summer operations (1 of 33)
4. 04 October 2008 Black Island opens
5. 04 October 2008 Marble Point opens
6. 10 October 2008 Lake Fryxell Camp opens
7. 10 October 2008 F6 Camp opens
8. 10 October 2008 New Harbor Camp opens
9. 10 October 2008 Lake Hoare Camp opens
10. 11 October 2008 Lake Bonney Camp opens
11. 11 October 2008 Cape Crozier opens
12. 19 October 2008 Open COPA R/V Laurence M. Gould
13. 20 October 2008 Open Cape Shirreff R/V Laurence M. Gould
14. 25 October 2008 Siple Dome Camp opens

15. 5 November 2008 South Pole Station begins summer operations
16. 01 November 2008 WAIS Divide Camp opens
17. 3 November 2008 109th AW LC-130's arrive McMurdo Station to start on-continent missions at Williams Field
18. 12 November 2008 Cape Royds Camp opens
19. 19 November 2008 C-17 AGAP-North Field Camp Airdrop
20. 19 November 2008 C-17 AGAP North camp airdrop, #1
21. 22 November 2008 Lower Erebus Hut opens
22. 24 November 2008 C-17 AGAP North camp airdrop, #2
23. 28 November 2008 C-17 AGAP North camp airdrop, #3
24. 01 December 2008 C-17 AGAP North camp airdrop, #4
25. 5 December 2008 C-17 South Pole airdrop
26. 18-20 December 2008 NSF Job/Site Walk on the R/V Laurence M. Gould
27. 18-20 December 2008 NSF Job/Site Walk on the R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer
28. 17 January 2009 Lower Erebus Hut closes
29. 26 January 2009 C-17 returns to conduct the first of 12 missions to Pegasus Ice Runway at McMurdo Station
30. 31 January 2009 New Harbor camp closes
31. 31 January 2009 F6 camp closes
32. 02 February 2009 M/V American Tern arrives at McMurdo Station ice pier, cargo offload operation commence
33. 06 February 2009 Marble Point closes
34. 07 February 2009 Cape Royds camp closes

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|--|
| 35. | 07 February 2009 | Cape Crozier camp closes |
| 36. | 07 February 2009 | Lake Fryxell camp closes |
| 37. | 07 February 2009 | WAIS Divide camp closes |
| 38. | 07 February 2009 | Siple Dome camp closes |
| 39. | 10 February 2009 | Lake Hoare camp closes |
| 40. | 10 February 2009 | Lake Bonney camp closes |
| 41. | 10 February 2009 | M/V American Tern Departs McMurdo Station ice pier, cargo operations completed |
| 42. | 13 February 2009 | Black Island closes |
| 43. | 15 February 2009 | Field camp set up James Ross Island/LMG |
| 44. | 15 February 2009 | Winter operations commence at South Pole Station |
| 45. | 17 February 2009 | Field camp set up Livingston Island/LMG |
| 46. | 17 February 2009 | 109th AW departs McMurdo Station |
| 47. | 23 February 2009 | Winter operations commence at McMurdo Station |

Ship Movements

Resupply Vessel

The resupply vessel (*American Tern*) is scheduled to complete one trip to McMurdo this season. The ship will depart Port Hueneme, California, in early January 2009 after on loading cargo and transit directly to Port Lyttelton, New Zealand. The Resupply Vessel will again on load additional cargo and depart New Zealand for McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Cargo will be off-loaded between 02 February – 10 February, after which the ship will depart McMurdo and proceed to Lyttelton, New Zealand to offload cargo destined for New Zealand. It will depart on approximately 21 February for Port

Hueneme, CA to off-load waste and recyclable materials from McMurdo Station, approximately 09 March 2009 arrival at Port Hueneme, CA.

R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer

The *R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer* will conduct cruises in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. Scientific research conducted onboard will include the following disciplines: Marine Biology, Marine Geology and Geophysics, and Physical and Chemical Oceanography.

The vessel is scheduled for work in the Antarctic polar regions as well as in the mid-latitudes of the Pacific Ocean during the 2008-2009 season, including the Pacific and Southern Oceans and Ross Sea. Ports of call will include: Lyttelton, New Zealand; McMurdo Station, Antarctica; and Punta Arenas, Chile. The NBP will sail in support of approximately six science cruises during the 2008-2009 season.

R/V Laurence M. Gould

The *R/V Laurence M. Gould* will conduct cruises in the Antarctic Peninsula area of the Southern Ocean and Drake Passage. Research projects supported during the 2008-2009 season will include Marine Biology, Chemical and Physical Oceanography, and Marine Geology and Geophysics. The *R/V Laurence M. Gould* will also provide logistics support to transport scientists, cargo, and personnel to and from Palmer Station from its primary port of Punta Arenas, Chile.

The *R/V Laurence M. Gould* will provide transport as described above and provide oceanographic and field camp research support in and around the Bransfield Strait area of the Antarctic Peninsula. Ports of call will include: Punta Arenas, Chile and Palmer Station, Antarctica. During the 2008-2009 season, the vessel will sail in support of nine science cruises, three peninsula research field camp openings and numerous Palmer Station staff and resupply shuttles in the Antarctic Peninsula area.

R/V Yuzhmorgeologiya

The *R/V Yuzhmorgeologiya* is contracted by the Korean Polar Research Institute as a supply ship to service the Korean Antarctic base at King George Island and to conduct

research cruises in the Drake Passage and Bransfield strait off of the Antarctic Peninsula.

In early 2009 the ship will be contracted by NOAA/AMLR* to conduct research in marine biology and to provide logistical support for the NOAA/AMLR marine mammal study at Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island and the B-040-E avian biology research at the NSF Copa facility at Admiralty Bay, King George Island.