

Dispatches from Monday, 14 January 2008

Greetings:

We made it across the Drake Passage in record time. It was calm seas the whole way. We arrived this afternoon at Admiralty Bay on King George Island. We are dropping off three people at the US summer Field Station Copa. This site has a 30 year time series on the population dynamics of penguins. While here we stopped of at Arctowski Station and dropped off some fresh produce. It is a base of about 20 people. Tomorrow it's off to Cape Shirreff for base relief and the beginning of the fur seal census.

Best,
Dan Costa



While at Copa we made a visit to Artowski Station to drop off some fresh produce. It is a permanent field station, it had been some months since they had a re-supply of freshies.

Best,
Dan



Here is an image of the Yuzomegeologia, the Russian ship that is making this all possible. She is sitting in Admiralty Bay, King George Island.

Dan



While at Copa, I saw these three Gentoo Penguins walking along the beach. Copa is situated in amongst a series of penguin colonies and there are penguins walking all around.

Best,
Dan



Just before we set out to Copa station, a large group of Cape Petrels landed near the boat. I was able to get this shot of them. Cape Petrels have been with us almost all the way across the Drake Passage.

Best,
Dan



Greetings:

Well our luck finally gave up. After a wonderful crossing of the Drake and a very easy day of offloading supplies at Copa, we had hoped for the best as we made our passage to Cape Shirreff. The weather was promising as we were able to make it through Nelson pass and save a lot of time getting to the Cape. However, just as we were arriving the weather picked up and we were getting 50 knot winds gusting to 70-80 knots. Obviously not the kind of weather you would want to operate small boats in. While the ship is rolling a little bit more than we had on the crossing it is still quite comfortable. We spent the day getting ready for the off load and planning for the fur seal survey which will start hopefully tomorrow weather permitting.

The attached picture is of the wardroom where we get our meals. It's not big enough for us to all eat at once, so we eat in two sittings.

Best,
Dan

