

Dispatch from Monday, 30 April 2007

Greetings:

After a day of cargo ops and preparations, the *L.M. Gould* left this morning for a trip to obtain more ice fish for continued research at Palmer Station. The seal group figured things would slow down, and we would begin to catch up on e-mail and sample analyses. However, we heard from some of the Palmer Station staff about a sighting of two crabeater seals nearby. SO we loaded up the Zodiacs and took a look. Mixed amongst a group of hauled out elephant seals we found a juvenile crabeater seal. We debated whether we should instrument her or not given that she was a juvenile, but the decision was easy once we discovered that she had three recent wounds inflicted by a Leopard seal. At least this bodes well for the possibility of more crabeater seals hauling out on the shore here at Palmer Station. After dinner we celebrated Dave Shuman's birthday. He's our field veterinarian. Al enjoyed the cake made by the cook aboard the LMG.

Today's images include a picture of the juvenile crabeater seal. You can see one of the wounds on her side. For comparison I've included a picture of a juvenile elephant seal. It's always great to see our old friends, the elephant seal. Finally a picture of Dave and his birthday cake.

Best from the seal team.





