

Dispatch from Saturday, 5 May 2007

Greetings from Antarctica:

We moved about the Gould last night as we made final preparations to sail this morning. We left Palmer Station at 9:00 heading for Punta Arenas Chile and then home. We were greeted by a marvelous sunrise (see Departure sunrise by M.E. Goebel) and said good by to our friends and colleagues at Palmer Station (see Palmer_farewell) as the L.M. Gould pulled away from the wharf. Of course no departure from Palmer Station is complete with out the Polar Plunge (see photo). It is a tradition at Palmer Station that at least someone goes for a quick swim off the pier when the ship heads back to PA. The graduate students joined a few of the Palmer Station staff (see Polar plunge by M.E. Goebel).

Once departed we all settled in for the trip across the Drake, hoping for good weather. So far things look extremely good as the weather reports are favorable and the wind is minimal at 5-7 knots. We hope that our good fortune will continue as we make the crossing (see photo The_Drake).

All the best from the seal team minus Gitte.



