

Activity report for Tarfala Research Station 2007

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Visits and fieldwork

Tarfala was visited in January to check out the facility and to download data from the automatic weather station. An estimate of the amount of snow that had accumulated since November was measured during a tour on Storglaciären. The station was opened for the winter/spring season the 11th of March and was closed the 3rd of May. The winter balance on Storglaciären was measured between the 16th and 23rd of April. The Mårma glacier and Riukojietna were visited by helicopter and snow accumulation measurements were performed on skies the 1st and 6th of May respectively. The winter balance on Tarfalaglaciären and Rabot glacier was measured on the 18th and 28th of April. TRS was opened for the summer season the 2nd of July and was closed the 14th of September. The ablation on Storglaciären was monitored each week through the season. The ablation on Riukojietna and the Mårma glacier were measured on the 31st of August and on Tarfala glacier the 1th of September.

Whats new?

The research, monitoring and education programmes at Tarfala were evaluated by two external scientists; these were professor Jon Ove Hagen, University of Oslo, and professor Kjell Danell, SLU, Umeå. They visited Tarfala in the summer and interviewed staff and guests both in Tarfala and at INK in Stockholm. The result of the evaluation was very positive and we were encouraged to continue to support high quality glaciological, hydrological, climatological research and widen the topic of research if possible, expand the educational programme and continue to try to find long term financial support for the monitoring programme. On the basis of a proposal for strategic financial support the Faculty of Science, SU, decided to support Tarfala activities with 1 000 000 SEK per year in the period 2008-2012. This funding allowed us for example to invest in a new GPS, a differential GPS which will enable us to measure positions at an accuracy needed for measurements in both research

and monitoring projects.

Personnel and guests

For the winter/spring and summer seasons of 2007 we hired seven field assistants. Andreas Bergström was employed to assist us both during the winter/spring and during the summer season. Others were Charlotte Ahlberg, Arvid Bring, Katrin Lindbäck, Martin Schlegel, Sara Widell, and Annika Zachrisson. Marlin Svensson and Anna Engström were excellent chefs. Lukas Egarter Vigl, University of Innsbruck did his internship at Tarfala in the winter/spring.

Andy Aschwanden, ETH, Schweiz, Keith Brugger, University of Minnesota, Margaret Kuchenreuter, University of Minnesota and Wojciech Dobinski, Uniwersytet Slaski, Carmen Domingues, Salamanca University, Mark Dyrgerov, University of Colorado, US; Neal Iverson, University of Iowa, US; Richard Pettersson, Uppsala University, used TRS as scientific and logistical platform for research during 2007.

Håkan Grudd and Torbjörn Karlin, INK led the course "Glaciers and high alpine environment" in August. TRS was also visited by students joining the field excursion offered by the course "Living glaciers" led by Per Holmlund and Torbjörn Karlin, INK.

Eberhard Parlow, University of Basel returned to Tarfala with 31 undergraduate students at the end of August. Christoph Kneisel, University of Würzburg visited TRS in September for an undergraduate field course. David Graham, University of Loughborough, UK, scouted the station and surrounding for a potential future undergraduate student course.

Four college students followed the "summer research school" financed by the Faculty of Science, SU. They were supervised by Gunhild Rosqvist. The Swedish Polar Research Secretariat used TRS for a workshop focussing on polar logistics and preparation for Antarctic expeditions. "Markstridsskolan" held a mountain guide course.

TRS was also visited by college students from Hjalmar Lundbom school in Kiruna for a few days both during the winter/spring and during the summer. Traditionally

high school students from Tarendö also spent a few days at TRS at the end of the summer. A day visit at Tarfala was made by Allvar Gullstrands gymnasiet, Landskrona.

Annika Widegren, Swedish TV4, filmed the winter part of "Expedition Tarfala" in April, she returned in July to film summer activities. "Expedition Tarfala" was shown in the autumn by TV4.