



Where Science
Comes to Life...

[OAR hot items](#) [archive](#) [help](#)

The first-ever, all-woman winter crew at Summit Observatory, Greenland

31 July, 2007

[Global Monitoring Division - ESRL-GMD](#)

This story entered on 1st Feb, 2007 07:38:29 AM PST

More stories from Global Monitoring Division

- [Increasing Understanding of Tropical Clouds on Climate.](#)
- [Gas Chromatograph Installed and Operating at Summit, Greenland Observatory](#)
- [A Picture of Atmospheric Carbonyl Sulfide: Strong Ties to Photosynthesis](#)

The team has maintained and operated the station physical plant, conducted a wide range of scientific measurements, and launched research balloons in temperatures as cold as -80F over the past 3 months at an elevation of 10,500 feet. The midwinter phase is the coldest period of the year and has a long period of darkness. During the midwinter crew phase there was no transport in or out of the station. They will be relieved in mid February. Come summer, the station will be populated by 35-40 scientists and support staff and there will be regular flights to the station.

Background:

Summit Station is situated atop the Greenland ice sheet. At approximately 300 miles from the nearest towns on the coast and an elevation over 10,500 feet, the site offers unique opportunities for investigating atmospheric processes. Originally established in 1989 as a seasonal camp to support ice core drilling operations, Summit Station is now a year-round facility for monitoring key climate variables. Current research at Summit includes measurement, monitoring and analysis of snow accumulation; surface snow chemistry; snow pit chemistry and stratigraphy; shallow firn densification; ultraviolet and short and long wave radiation; radionuclides; aerosols; PCBs, formaldehyde, nitrogen dioxide, nitrous oxide, bromine monoxide, carbon monoxide and other human-made compounds and pollutants in the Arctic atmospheric. In addition to the above, the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory, Global Monitoring Division, has supplied instrumentation and support for continuous monitoring of meteorology; surface ozone, and black carbon; regular collection of air samples for analysis of carbon cycle gases and halocarbons; and weekly ozonesonde launches. The NOAA/GMD Observatory Group is committed to facilitating year-round operation of the station by supplying a science technician during two of the winter phases.

The station is currently staffed by three VECO Polar Resources employees – Kathy Young (station manager); Shannon Zellerhoff (mechanic); and Andrea Isgro (science technician); and Sonja Wolter (science technician) is on station for NOAA/ESRL/CIRES.

Significance:

Historically, crews at polar research stations have been both men and women or all men. This winter's November to February crew of four women at Summit Station marks the first time a group of all women have maintained a Polar station and conducted a complicated science operations. Though an all-woman crew is a first, the group does not lack experience in the polar regions. In total, the women have spent over 12 years working in the Antarctic and more than 6 years in the

Arctic. For a view of the station and its operations, go to the site below or visit <http://www.summitcamp.org/>

More information: <http://www.geosummit.org/>

Contact information

Name: Schnell Russ

Tel: (303) 497-6733

Russell.C.Schnell@noaa.gov

[Show printer-friendly page](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

[Admin login](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [DISCLAIMER](#)

Contact Us

<http://www.oar.noaa.gov>