

1,203 More Antarctic Meteorites Bound for Study

View from Mt. Ward across the blue ice



ANSMET meteorite hunter



Images courtesy of the 2010-2011 ANSMET team.

This report celebrates the return of the ANSMET expedition team from Antarctica. ANSMET, Antarctic Search for Meteorites, is a U.S.-funded cooperative effort among the National Science Foundation (NSF-Office of Polar Programs), NASA, and the Smithsonian Institution. NSF provides support for field research and collection. NASA and the Smithsonian Institution share the responsibilities of classifying, storing, and distributing Antarctic meteorites to researchers around the globe. All three agencies sponsor research on these valuable specimens.

ANSMET collection efforts in the past 34 years have recovered about 18,000 meteorite samples, and this season's team adds another 1,203 that are now being shipped frozen to NASA Johnson Space Center for unpacking and initial inspection. Time on the polar plateau for the ANSMET team members runs roughly the months of December and January; with the leader and mountaineers spending additional time in Antarctica in November finalizing preparations. Their short, austral summertime fieldwork yielded great results.

We welcome home the 2010-2011 expedition, which consisted of two teams whose members lived in Scott tents in remote camps and conducted searches on snowmobiles or on foot traverses. The systematic-search team was responsible for the full-scale systematic meteorite recovery from icefields in the Dominion Range near Davis Nunataks-Mt. Ward in the central Transantarctic Mountains. These icefields lie about half way between McMurdo Station and the South Pole. The Reconnaissance team was a mobile party dedicated to exploring previously unvisited sites to investigate any meteorite concentrations, collect when possible, and assess the potential for future systematic searches.

2010-2011 ANSMET Team Members

Systematic Search

Ralph Harvey*, Principal Investigator of ANSMET, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio

Jim Karner*, Post-Doctoral Researcher of ANSMET, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio

Shaun Norman*, safety officer, Twizel, New Zealand

Joe Boesenberg*, American Museum of Natural History, New York

Ray Jawardhana, University of Toronto, Toronto

Inge Loes Ten Kate, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Maryland

Ryan Zeigler, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri

Bill Satterwhite, NASA Johnson Space Center, Texas

Rhiannon Mayne, Texas Christian University, Texas (pictured above)

Reconnaissance

John Schutt*, Science lead and safety officer of ANSMET, Blaine, Washington

Steve Ballou, Beloit College, Wisconsin

Melissa Lane, Planetary Science Institute, Arizona

Serena Aunon, NASA Johnson Space Center, Texas

Veterans of previous seasons are marked with an asterisk(*).

All ANSMET teams travel through Christchurch, New Zealand, which is the home of the official Antarctic Clothing Distribution Center for extreme cold weather gear and the departure airport for flights to McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Our hearts and thoughts go to the people of Christchurch who are recovering from the February 22, 2011 earthquake.

For more information see: The [ANSMET website](#), the [2010-2011 ANSMET team blog](#), the [February 2011 Antarctic Meteorite Newsletter](#), and the [PSRD](#) articles [Meteorites on Ice](#) and [Searching Antarctic Ice for Meteorites](#).

Written by Linda Martel, Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, for [PSRD](#).



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