

FLASHLINE MARS ARCTIC RESEARCH STATION 2004 SEASON REPORT

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The Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station (FMARS) was occupied for its ninth annual rotation from 9 July to 2 August 2004. This season's report will provide an overview of the crew's research goals and accomplishments, as well as provide a personal description of the Mars Analogue experience. Research was conducted within the fields of biology, geology, geophysics, palaeontology, linguistics, space medicine, navigation, and logistics/operations sciences under Mars Analogue conditions. Overall, FMARS team 9 covered over 300 kilometres of total exploration and research and completed 24 out of 32 planned Extra Vehicular Activities (EVAs). As expected in any expedition, there were many accomplishments and many challenges. Despite a high degree of planning, trips do not always occur as expected. This presentation will discuss some of the hazards and pitfalls of Mars exploration, as well as the difficulties unique to conducting analogue missions with the Arctic Circle. As such, this presentation provides a commander's view of "lessons learned", directly applicable to assisting the Australian Mars Society in operation of their own future station.

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