

Life in the Atacama Field Journal

August 23, 2005

Salar Grande, Chile

Agenda

- Assemble Zoë
- Establish satellite connection

Status and Progress

• Assembled Zoë. The process of assembling a rover in the desert is becoming routine and today Zoë went together in 5 hours flat. The pictures show it all, you can watch the shadow clock around as we went from crates to rover charging batteries and driving around. The trick, of course, is that there isn't any instruction manual so you have to know how it goes together. Everything seems to be in working order—the fluorescence imager sustained a dent in the move but that can be fixed.





- Establish satellite connection. While we were assembling Zoë, the support crew from Telefonica were setting up our camp communications. We now have a 512k uplink (and 256k downlink) connection to the internet. This system too is becoming simpler to put together, and through carefully observing the process, we wrote an instruction manual. This year as we move to the three investigation sites in the Atacama we will take the satellite dishes with us and set them up ourselves.



Weather

Morning: Clear, 13C, light breezes 5 KPH, 70% RH

Afternoon: Clear, light breeze, 10 KPH, warm 28C, 30% RH

Night: Fog (dusk) then clear, still, 14C, 80% RH

Quote of the Day

“The internet connection is great, but I don’t know about this phone ringing all the time.”