Elliot Moravec emoravec2@wisc.edu

Special aspects

Oral

High-Altitude Thermal Drilling

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| Elliot Moravec1, Kristina Slawny1, Elizabeth Morton1, James Koehler2 | 1University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, United States2Koehler Design Works LLC, Fort Atkinson, WI, United States |

The Thermal Drill maintained by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Ice Drilling Program (IDP) was recently used for ice coring at high-altitude sites in both the northern and southern hemispheres. In 2022, researchers from the University of Maine and an IDP engineer/driller joined international colleagues in an ice coring effort on Quelccaya Ice Cap in Peru. In 2023, three IDP drillers operated the Thermal Drill on Mt. Waddington in British Columbia, Canada. This presentation will highlight recently-designed features of the drill, such as the ethanol deployment system, describe borehole deviation in attempts to drill around embedded rocks, and discuss logistics challenges in accessing these remote locations.