

The Journey - Camp 4

DATE: 12th May 2009
LOCATION: 66.03051, -40.19278
HEIGHT: 1726m
WEATHER: GREY, NO SUNSHINE
 LIGHT WIND INCREASING
 LATER TO 30KNOTTTS
TEMP: -10°C DAY

Diary entry

It's amazing how quick the conditions can change. Today there was no brilliant sunshine and the horizon was nonexistent. It was definitely a day for goggles and face masks. Helena was dog musher today though no one envied her as the temperature was -10 °C. With no contrast navigation demanded 100% concentration and at times became very disorientating. The team skied for 6 hours breaking it up into 1 hour sections with 5 minute breaks in between. 5 minutes is all you can last before getting too cold but it's enough time to eat a chocolate bar, slurp some water and change a track on the iPod.

Skiiing when there is no horizon can have an odd effect on the brain. Despite it being flat for miles on end I felt like I was skiiing up a 45° slope.

At camp we were told that the weather had been forecast to deteriorate . Winds speeds were expected to reach 30Knotts. We double poled the tents and crawled into our tent with the knowledge that the we were just about to experience our first storm.

There is very little you can do in a storm. You definitely should not keep moving. The team spent the following days in the tent, chatting, reading, drinking tea and eating biscuits. The team were grateful for the rest but after 2 days you start to get cabin fever and even look forward to the 3 hourly dig out.



Picture 9 - Wind blown around the tent



Picture 10 - Helena in full cold weather gear



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FACTSHEET

Top tips for enduring a storm in a tent:

- Keep a shovel inside the tent so you can dig your way out (the boys forgot to do this)
- Dig out the tent every 3 hours even through the night (See video Clip 3)
- If you really have to go to the toilet outside inform your tent partner where you are going. If you are not back after a set time then they will come to find you.
- If you are outside and get lost and disorientated DO NOT MOVE, huddle down and wait for your tent partner to find you.
- If you feel the tent might collapse, lie on your back and put your feet on the roof.



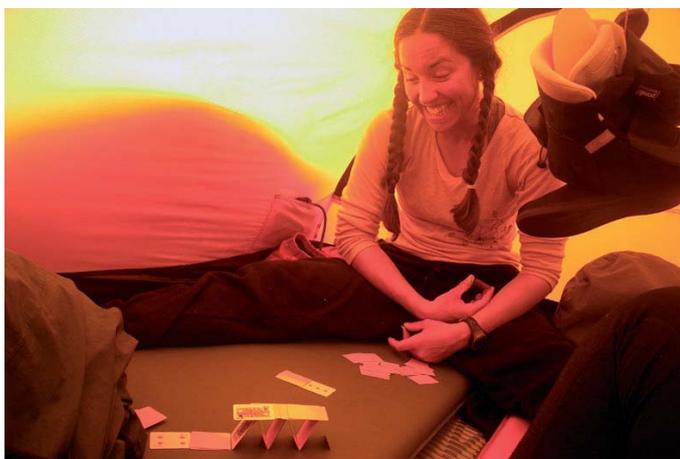
Picture 12 - Danny and Andy are snowed in!



Picture 11 - No tent for the dogs!



Picture 13 - Digging out the tent



Picture 12 - Helena trying to relive her boredom!



Picture 14 - Moving the tent to a new location



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