

SALSA Field Report: 14 Nov 2018. Compiled by Matt Siegfried

SALSA Geophysics/SALSA EM, Day 15 Update

- Another big day! Our SLACO (ski-landing area control officer) flight to certify our landing site was activated in the morning. By mid-afternoon, the SLACO gave us two thumbs up to land an LC-130 aircraft at the Camp 20 skiway.
- While we were waiting for news from the SLACO mission, we rode the roller coaster of emotions from “you’re probably not leaving tomorrow” to “bag drag is at 1930”. That means we had to have all of our personal gear ready to go and hand over everything but our carry-on bags just after dinner. Nothing like a hard packing deadline to get a team to work efficiently.
- We found out after lunch that our cargo flight is scheduled for 0800 tomorrow, while the flight that will take us in is scheduled for 1800. Night put-in’s are certainly sub-ideal (given that you start setting up camp at 2000 at the earliest), but as Kelly Brunt once said, “if there’s a nairplane seat with your name on it in Antarctica, you take it.” Tomorrow will be a long day if our mission launches, but we’ll make it work. For reference, in my six years heading to the Whillans/Mercer area, 17 Nov is the earliest I have ever put-in.
- Our 1930 bag drag went smoothly. Now we relax in our mostly empty rooms and hope for good weather and maintenance-free airplanes.



The teams personal gear loaded up in the pick-up for bag drag