
SALSA Geophysics/SALSA EM, Location: LA14 Camp

- Our call-sign when communicating with McMurdo Operations has been “C-533 Traverse” all season, yet today was the first time it felt appropriate. This morning, we closed up camp at Whillans Subglacial Lake on a sunny, blustery day and headed south. After battling intermittent blowing snow, we arrived with our train of sleds at LA14 Camp, setting up a one-night camp before we move on to SALSA Camp (weather permitting of course).

- LA14 Camp is about 100 m upwind of SALSA GPS station LA14, located at one of the 2013/2014 WISSARD Lite boreholes. While camping here, we serviced the station, bringing the entire station back to the surface after being buried over the last two years. Three of eight SALSA GPS stations have now been serviced.

- As we set up camp and serviced LA14, the 15-20 knot winds that were around all day calmed to a gentle breeze. If this weather holds, we’ll wake up tomorrow, break our three-tent camp, and drive the last 58 miles to SALSA Camp at Mercer Subglacial Lake.

*The team hides behind their “camp on a sled” sled (three 40 cubic foot triwalls stuffed with everything one needs for an Antarctic field camp) to grab a quick lunch on the road out of the wind.*
At what was potentially the last dinner with just the four of us, Kerry presented Chloe with the “Golden Ratchet” award for best strap work during the past 5+ weeks.