



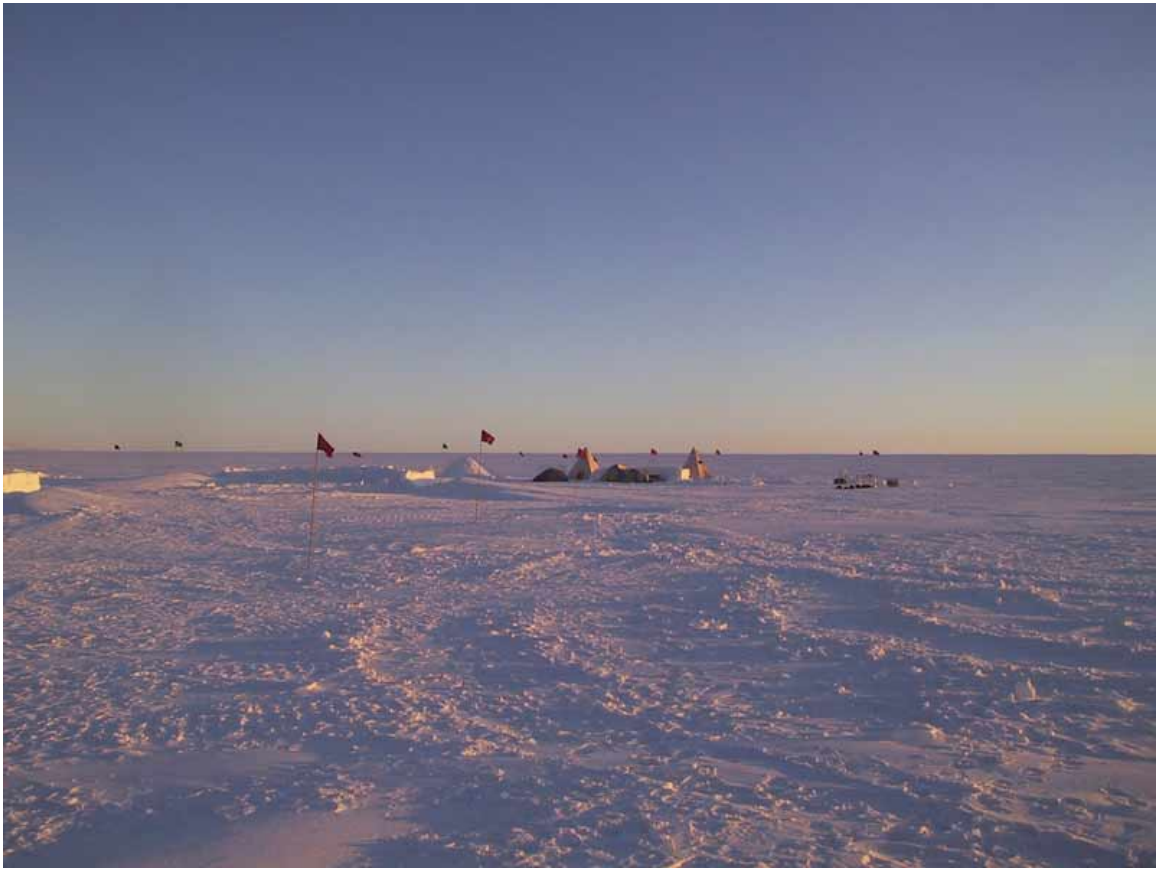
This is me at the beginning of Happy Camper snow school. It's about -28 that morning. We are standing on sea ice but where it rises in the background is part of Ross Island. Everyone who has to fly in helicopters or go on traverses needs to go to this two day one night class. Later in the season when all the people that need the class for their jobs have been through, it opens up for the people who want to do it just for the fun of it. Of course later in the season it is warmer.



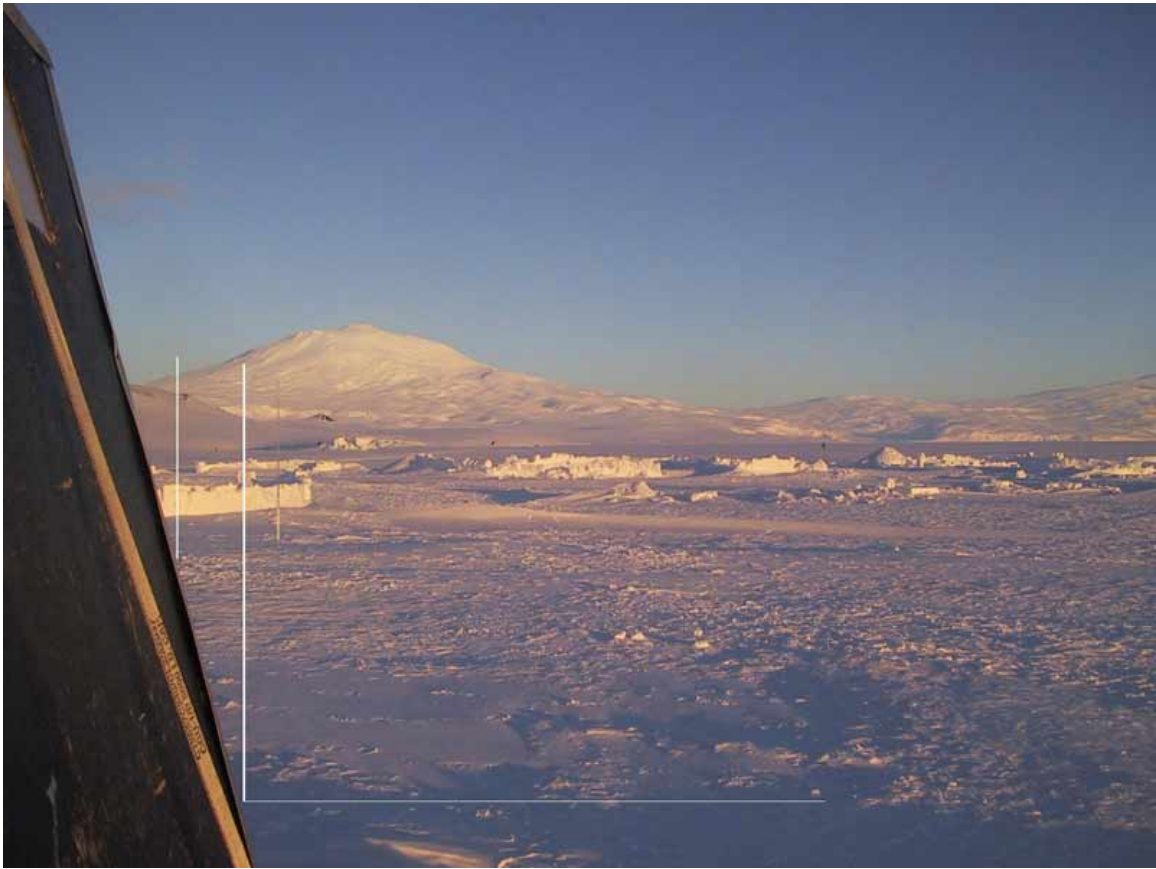
Bad picture of our group on the ice. I think I have frost on the camera lens. This must have been in the evening when we were melting snow for after dinner hot (warm) chocolate. The pretense of the outing is that the people have survived a "hard landing" and have some survival gear. They don't like to use the term crash so we have hard landings instead. But we get a couple of small camp stoves, sleeping bags, tents and some dry food. I've been more uncomfortable on some of my own trips.



Still have frost on the lens. Same place closer in, the pyramid tents are Scott tents named after the explorer who designed them. The low wall is an attempt to keep everything from blowing away. I slept in one of the little mountain dome tents. The wind was coming up and it was starting to cool off.



Later the wind died back some, the flags aren't hanging limp but its better. This was taken at two o'clock in the morning while I was out on a call of the wild walk. You really don't want to get out of the tent too often. This was 10-31-06, so it's brighter all night now. Just to the left of the tents is a sort of mound of snow called Quinsy. You build Quinsy by stacking all your gear in a pile and covering it with about two feet of snow all around. Pack the snow down, dig out an opening, pull out your stuff and you have a place to sleep inside. I've always liked igloos better. There were people sleeping in trenches too.



Same place just a little to the left of the tents. We had a couple of people sleeping in the snow structures you see here too. The white lines are not really there, something electronic that I don't know how to take out. This was the same walk, same time of night. Mt. Erebus is the largest mountain in the back, Tera Nova in the saddle to the right and the land is rising toward Mt. Terror out of frame on the right.



Our bunch of happy campers, all packed up and waiting to be picked up. It must have gotten down to -40 that night. We got everyone through alright, not one bit of frostbite. Getting picked up only included our gear; we walked out a couple of miles, warmed up the feet though. I don't seem to have taken too many pictures; it was just too cold to take your hands out of your gloves to operate the camera.

I was going to show you the Long Duration Balloon site, but I think I'll wait. We are going to launch those payloads in about a week and it will be better to have the whole story together. How about skiing out on the sea ice to the Kiwi base?



Looking back at McMurdo from out on the ice, its right where the dark meets the white just to the left of center. I wish I had my own ski equipment here; the stuff available is pretty bad. Even with bad equipment it's an experience not many people get.



I love this picture; wish I would have taken it in black and white. Other than the penguin pictures, this is classic Antarctica (to me), black rock and white ice. Scott Base, the place we are going to is right out at the tip of where the black meets the white.



Scott Base in the background. Angela Woolliams is ahead of me, this was her first time on skis. During the day she is our Labor Allocator – she charges everyone's time to the proper accounts. Out in front of her is Ryan Abeloe; this young man has a degree in geography but here he shovels a lot of snow as a general assistant.



This is me relaxing at the Kiwi beach; they were actually having a beach party that night (mostly inside). A quick scotch and we headed back.

Hope this sends better and doesn't tie up anyone's computer too bad.
Cheers. Tom