

## ICE AXE ANTARCTIC SKI CRUISE - NOVEMBER 2011

Ski Days – Nov 12-17

Andrew McLean, 24 Nov 2011

### Nov 12 – Saturday (Waypoints 002-006)

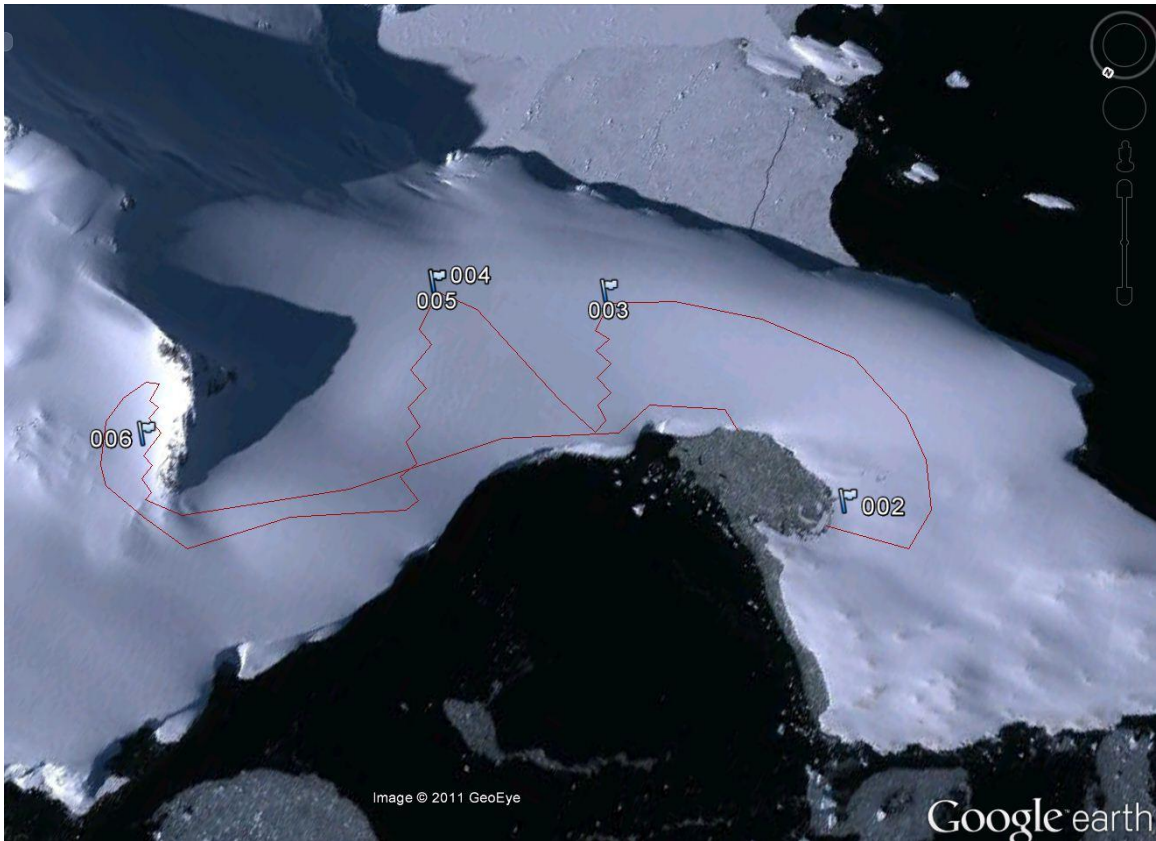
Mark & Jen Hansell, Eric B. & Jackie C.

Toured Port Lockroy and adjacent island in the morning. Mostly cloudy skies. Came back to boat for lunch. Headed back out to ski at about 3:00pm with entire group of skiers (100+ people) to the west shore of Jabet Peak on Wienke Island.



Skipped the steep booter headwall and landed over by the Argentinean sheds with Quinner and skinned up – nice landing and mellow skinning. Worked our way up the ridge in the clouds, then took a mini run (500') back down towards the shore, as much as anything to space out from the other groups. Skinned back up towards “Wintervention Couloir” and skied it from about the 2/3rds level to avoid the cluster of people who were booting above us. Crusty snow, poor visibility. Lots of crashes. Toured out way to the next bowl to the NE and skied that from about half way, just below the cloud level. Deeked out left at the bottom and did a long traverse back to the booter headwall.

Everyone was psyched to get out and ski– smiles all around despite poor snow & visibility.

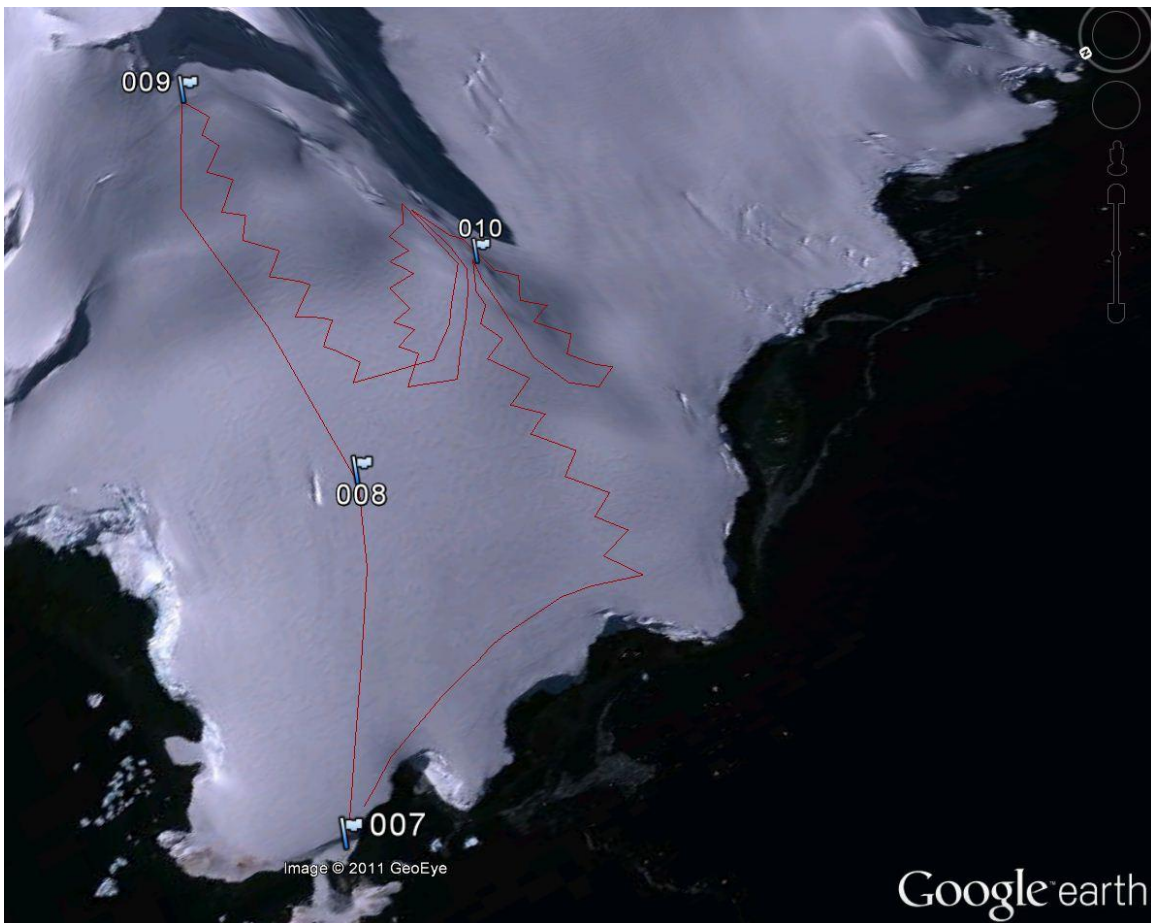
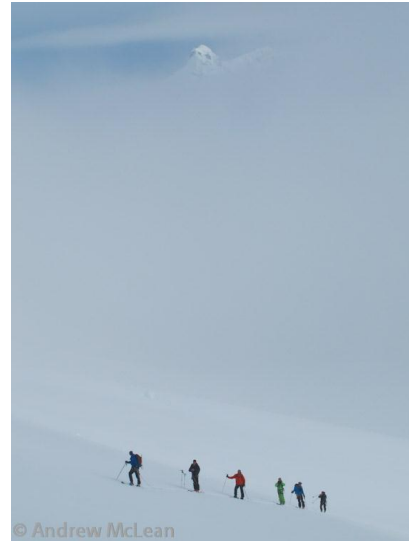


### Nov 13 – Sunday

Mark & Jen Hansell, Eric B & Jackie C.

Tried to get into Wienke Island in the morning, but the wind kicked up and the mission was aborted after two Zodiacs made it ashore, then had a hard time getting back off. Winds up to 50 knots, drifting ice and mostly cloudy.

Sailed about 2 hours to get into Paradise Bay and anchored the Gabriel Gonzalez Videla base station on Duthiers Point (waypoints 007 – 010). Skinned up with the entire group of people, then put in a nice run down the center of the bowl. Skinned back up and to the west and got in a shortie in poor visibility, then another, then climbed up again and dropped over the ridge onto the west facing slope, then traversed back to the boat.



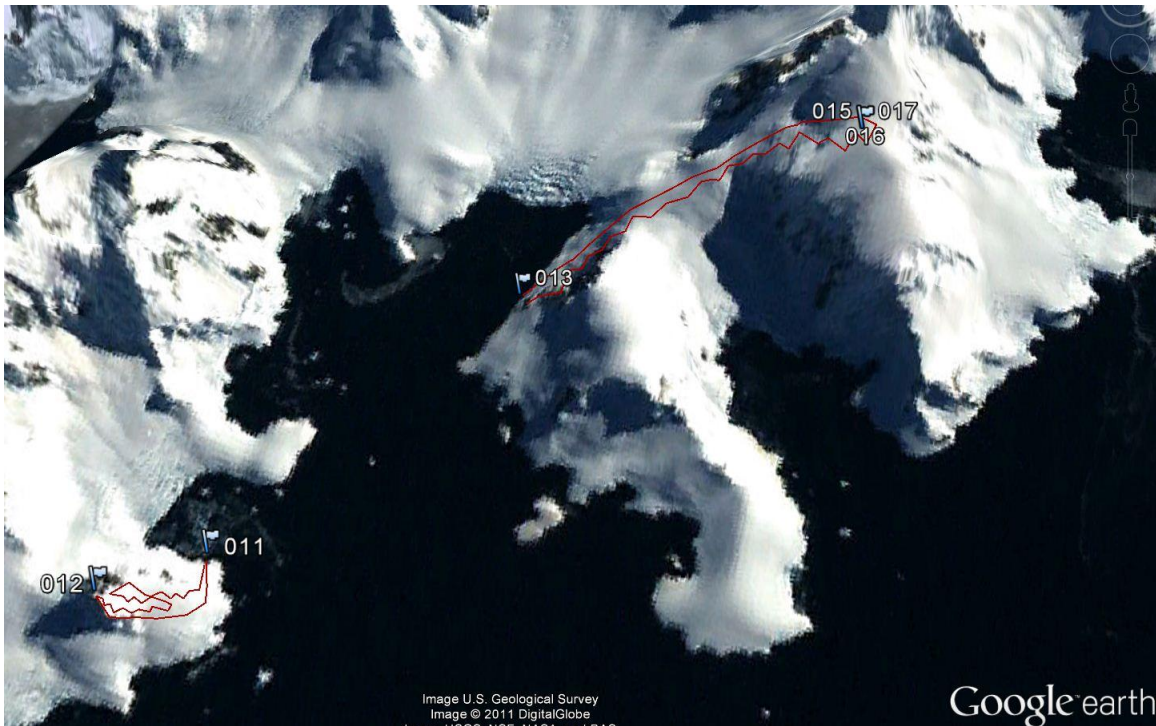
### Nov 14 – Monday

Eric & Jackie, Mark (waypoints 011 – 015)  
Chiriguano Bay on Brabant Island in nice weather! Motored over to Victoria peak and had a good landing. Very soft and mushy for the first 100', then great skinning all the way up the shoulder (1,200' vert?). We continued up from there on crampons and short-

roped to the summit. Ski belayed off the summit for two pitches (90m) across a couple of crevasses. Made it back to the shoulder and had an excellent descent down to the middle of the apron. Skinned, then booted back up about 2/3rds of the way on the main face, cut a launch pad and skied it from there. Steep! Probably in the 48-50 degree range and very consistent.



Caught a Zodiac back to the boat and dropped off one person from Jorge's group, then continued on to "the farm" landing (not quite sure where that was, but about 180 degrees across from Victoria). Skinned up to what looked like the summit of the largest peak nearby, but it turned out to be a sub-summit. The true summit was in the clouds, so we called it good and had an excellent descent from there.



### Nov 15 – Eckener Point

Eric & Jackie, Andres – Waypoints 16 - 24

After a tricky landing, booted up about 200' to a dome and skinned up, over and out through a long, flat glacier. Worked our way through a heavily crevassed ice fall with lots of bridges in a near white out. Skinned up about 7/8ths of it, then booted the final section to the ridge. The weather was shutting down, so we geared up and skied back down our skin track. Ten good turns, 100 bad ones and an excellent finish right into the sea.



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Google earth

### Nov 16 - ?? and Admiralty Bay

Eric & Jackie, Mark, Andrea and John

Had a wild night of tossing and turning in Force 9 winds which led to a delayed breakfast. Continued in to a sheltered area near a Polish base where we had skied in 2009. Loaded up in rolling seas and had a wild ride and landing at the base of a steep slope. Had to chop steps to get onto the slope, then booted up the firm snow and wind pockets to a ridgeline. Very high winds. Climbed until we got dead-ended by a huge

avalanche prone wind-drift and skied the slope from about  $\frac{3}{4}$  height. Good skiing, that would be very worth repeating in better conditions. Waypoint #25.



Got back on the boat for lunch and did a short cruise over to another place we had skied in 2009 – also in the Admiralty Bay area. Got dropped off on the back side and skied a nice gully, then skinned back up. Climbed a small peak via an arête and had a fun, low angle powder run all the way back to the boats, which were at some sort of closed-down base station. Excellent dinner followed by the Black & White party.



### **Nov 17 – Livingston Island**

Eric & Jackie, Andrea, Mark (waypoints 26 - 30)

Started out with tricky beach landing with some brash ice and surf which succeeded in getting most of us wet and not getting ashore. Regrouped and retreated, then found another equally wet but usable landing. Got a full wave into my glove gauntlet which made for a few hours of very chilly touring.

Skinned up and around a rounded ridge, traversed a headwall at the top of a bowl and then did a short booter to a gorgeous summit. Amazing 360 degree views with sea stacks, peaks, snow, waves, birds, etc., all around. Skied back down the way we came up and had some of the best powder of our trip in the shady, sheltered gully.





Traversed around, then booted up another peak which we had skied in 2009. Had a great ridge climb right near the top with safe, but overwhelming exposure straight down to the Wedell Sea. Lots of wind and classic Antarctica ambiance. Skied down a beautiful couloir with not so beautiful blue ice in it.

Skinned up a short shot with led to a low angle slope which wasn't much for turns, but set us up beneath another couloir. Skinned, then booted up the couloir and dug some launch pads at the top. The back-side had such huge gut-wrenching exposure it hurt to even look at it. This couloir was a few hundred feet lower than the ridge tops and had at least grippable snow, although each skier took it down to blue ice. Jackie lost a few brain cells on this one, so it became "Jackie's Couloir."



Skied back to the beach on the perfect ramp leading out of the bay.



GPS Data: Format= DegMin, NAD83, Elev = Feet

Waypoint	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation
002	-64,49.010	-63,30.213	0
003	-64,49.093	-63,29.430	290
004	-64,49.004	-63,29.029	341
005	-64,49.004	-63,29.029	343
006	-64,48.690	-63,28.613	717
007	-64,49.512	-62,51.312	39
008	-64,49.703	-62,50.588	412
009	-64,49.701	-62,49.667	952
010	-64,50.003	-62,50.067	788
011	-64,29.428	-62,33.334	74
012	-64,29.632	-62,34.456	1617
013	-64,28.035	-62,29.970	192
014	-69,45.472	-63,47.518	184
015	-64,27.364	-62,26.032	2516
016	-64,27.364	-62,26.032	2514
017	-64,27.364	-62,26.032	2514
018	-64,25.325	-61,33.865	46
019	-64,25.608	-61,32.898	643
020	-64,25.785	-61,32.025	826
021	-64,25.769	-61,31.496	951
022	-64,25.740	-61,31.277	979
023	-64,25.629	-61,30.444	948

024	-64,25.530	-61,30.749	2139
025	-62,08.933	-58,31.794	49
026	-62,05.591	-58,30.020	-14
027	-62,05.704	-58,29.795	690
028	-62,36.669	-59,49.333	40
029	-62,36.939	-59,49.399	993
030	-62,37.162	-59,51.371	538