December 29 and 30, 2016

The day started with great conditions leading to the confirmation of flight IL76, which will take us back to Punta Arenas. We had a quick lunch and after getting our things ready, we said good bye to Union Glacier around 7:00 pm.

The return trip took 4 and a half hours. We successfully landed in Chacabuco at midnight. That night we slept in beds with sheets for the first time in 30 days, it was very nice. The next morning we had to run to catch our flight to Puerto Montt and arrived at 2:00 pm. Then we traveled to Valdivia, thus finalizing this new and successful Antarctic campaign.

We would like to thank everyone who followed this blog daily, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Until a new expedition!!!

Wednesday December 28, 2016

Glacier Union "town" is celebrating. Meteorological conditions were very nice today, even a "baby football" match was played by the Chinese delegation and the ALE's team reinforced by our Felipe. Good conditions are also in the forecast for the IL76 flight for tomorrow.

We prepared our gear, what follows now is to arrange our mobile station and get it ready for next winter, also secure and pack the radar antennas, the ice cores box, accessories and tools.

In the afternoon we had a work meeting with Tim the UG representative, to thank him for all his support and share our opinions for improvements and to coordinate other tasks related to our module in order to leave it well prepared for 2017.

Finally, around 8 pm, Andrés communicated with Rothera to know about Alex and Nick from

BAS, we wondered if they had returned from Beamish or if they were still at base camp. Fortunately, they left yesterday for Rutford with their cargo distributed in two twin BAS flights.

Tuesday December 27, 2016

Today we woke up in the town of Union Glacier. It's a western like settlement but in Antarctica, there are more than 20 nationalities that work, eat and sleep in tents within a 500-meter radius.

The people here are mountain climbers, ALE workers, adventure and record seekers and some scientists. Among the last, there is a group from project POLNET, USA. Their leader is Bob Smoley, an old acquaintance who is retrieving data from a huge network of GPS and seismological stations. There are also 3 people from the Brazilian expedition who came from their base Criosfera 1, near Monte Thiels and lead by Francisco Aquino, another old friend and veteran from our South Pole campaign in 2004. Among ourselves we discussed science, what we do and what's coming.



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