

The Journey - Camp 5

DATE: 15th May 2009
LOCATION: 6606446, -40.48279
HEIGHT: 1901m
WEATHER: SUNNY
TEMP: 3°C DAY

Diary entry

The day started with Nicola's regular BBC Radio Wiltshire slot. You can listen to the broadcast. What questions would you ask? If you can think of some further questions why not email Nicola at Arcticteacher09@yahoo.co.uk. Alternatively you could email the teachers going on the latest Fuchs Foundation trip. Explore the website to see what exciting things are taking place. Convince your teacher to set up a live satellite link to teachers in these extreme places. (Go to 'Soundbyte 2 - Radio Interview')

Despite it being the Arctic it can get quite hot. All it takes is for the sun to start melting the surface snow for it to become impossible to ski. The best way to describe the feeling is like running through sand, or skiing through treacle. Progress was slow and even the dogs were struggling. There was a slight change of tactics. We pitched our tents at midday after 3 hours of skiing and rested, then started to ski again at 8pm. The problem with this is that the sun is now dipping in the sky and the winds pick up. Nice at first but after a couple of hours I had a mild panic that my bottom had gone numb! We had all been skiing in our thermals but now there was a mad panic to put our windproof sallopette and jackets on before we got frostbite in place we didn't want it.



Picture 15 - Katabatic winds



Picture 16 - Katabatic winds

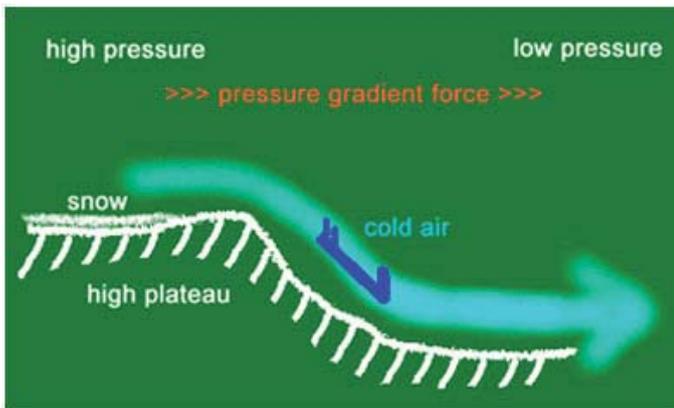
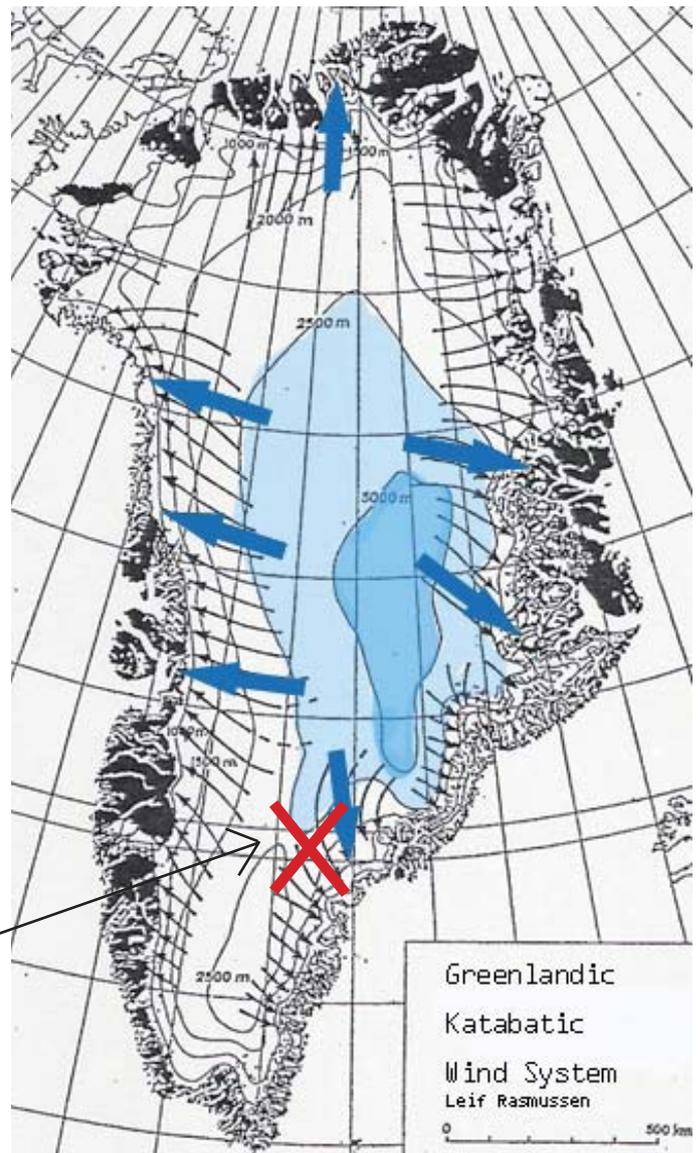


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WHAT ARE KATABATIC WINDS?

Most katabatic winds are more or less the result of air in contact with upper level ground which is cooler, increasing its density, then it flows downhill and along the valley bottom. This effect is enhanced during winter over snow covered surfaces and after dry, clear nights. These types of winds can reach velocities of up to 4 meters per second. The rush of cold air down the slopes rapidly decreases the surrounding air temperature as it speeds down the topography to the valleys and plains below it.



Picture 17 - Katabatic Wind formation

Our location

Picture 18 -Greenlands Katabatic Winds

REFERENCES

<http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/reports/wind/Katabatic-winds.htm>

