

**GINO WATKINS MEMORIAL FUND  
PRELIMINARY REPORT FORM**

| EXPEDITION LEADER:          | EXPEDITION NAME:        | EXPEDITION DATES:      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Celine Jaccard/Katie Crafts | Sisterhood of Adventure | April 28 – May 11 2019 |

Please complete your *preliminary* expedition report (approximately 500 words)

**Expedition Overview**

The Sisterhood of Adventure kite ski expedition across Greenland was an amazing trip and a wonderful experience. After a 12-day weather delay in Tasiilaq, East Greenland, we spent the following 11 days covering a total distance of 521km to Kangerlussuaq, West Greenland. We journeyed 502km in the first 7 days, traveling rapidly by kite, generally with a favourable following wind. On day 8 we rested during a small wind storm, and on days 9 to 11 we travelled 18k, very slowly on foot, route-finding over bare glacier to our destination at Point 660.

**Dates:** April 28 – May 11, 2019

**Start Location:** Ammassalik, East Greenland

**End Location:** Point 660, Kangerlussuaq, West Greenland

**Distance Travelled:** 521 km

**Method of Travel:** Mostly kite ski. Occasionally skied without kites, and on the last few days walked in crampons over bare glacier.

**Team:** Celine Jaccard (Qikiqtarjuak, Baffin Island), and Katie Crafts (Hood River, Oregon)

**Route**

We chose to do the standard East to West crossing, anticipating that we weren't sure how quickly we would adapt to kiting, so we sought out a route that would allow us to ski in a manageable amount of time (we estimated 26 days) if we were not able to figure out the kiting component.

That said, we were delayed 12 days by weather in Tasiilaq at the start of the trip, which impacted our buffer zone for easing into kiting. It added a huge amount of uncertainty as to whether or not we'd be able to reach our destination within the allotted time window, not to mention some self-inflicted pressure to travel efficiently and put miles in particularly at the start of the trip. By the time we got onto the ice we knew we had committed to a kite expedition just by nature of the timing – we had 17 days before our flight left from Kangerlussuaq; not enough time to ski.

So – we learned and we learned quickly!

**Kiting as Method of Travel**

We both had prior kite ski experience but were still relative novices. As such, we spent a lot of time learning, trying new things, and experimenting with the capabilities of different size kites in different wind speeds over different snow surfaces. We observed that kiting as a method of travel is brilliant – the opportunity to cover ground quickly was exciting, and each day we enjoyed getting closer to our destination.

Kiting also presented several challenges: some of which were expected, and some of which were not. Winds were generally following, but often shifted throughout the day, the nature of which was sometimes disorienting in low visibility conditions despite our reliance on compass navigation.

When wind speeds shifted, we were challenged by the need to re-rig different size kites while still trying to be efficient with our time.

Kites are most efficient when traveling across the wind; since we generally had a following wind, we were pumping our kites in the power zone to maintain a downwind direction, tracking toward our destination. It was intense physical work and required constant focus, but also was touchy in the sense that the kites didn't necessarily want to be in that position, so we had to constantly manipulate their flying to maintain a correct bearing.

Occasionally, when the wind direction was significantly unfavourable, we kited at an angle to our destination and jibed our way downwind instead of following a direct bearing.

### **In Summary**

We laughed every day, we became better kites, we enjoyed heaps of chocolate, we challenged ourselves physically and mentally, we learned from each other, and we were able to experience an incredibly beautiful part of the planet.

Thank you. Final report coming soon.



Evening light around the camp



Celine traveling over sastrugi on the west coast with her 6m Ozone foil kite in the air



The best sunset of the trip



Hauling the sleds one by one on the exit to Point 660

Signed: Katie Crafts

Date: May 29, 2019

**Please return this form within one month after the completion of your expedition, together with 1-2 photographs, to:**

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