

AUGUST FRIDAY 13TH

Luis came in to our barrel at 3.00am and gave us 5 reasons why we would be not going for the summit today - we have a little more time, seans ankle would be able to rest for one more day, we wouldn't have to break trail etc etc. i have to confess i didn't really listen beyond that. I feel a little more stressed out about obligations to sponsors so i really have to bite my lip and be patient when told good advice... patience is crucial in mountaineering and i really have to work on this aspect as I'm completely impatient in my day to day life, i expect everything to be done yesterday (a trait that was generally fulfilled when i lived in hong kong) We all went back to sleep having had to witness Gregor and Seanie do a mister universe, parading through our barrell flexing their muscles en route to the loo! We woke up again at a much more sociable hour of 7.30am and it was a bluebird day... Its frustrating seeing other people going for the summit when u are hanging out in barrel land not doing much! however luis's decision not to go for the summit today proved right when some really bad weather crept up the valley and soon we were all in a white out again and it began snowing heavily again. We packed up our barrel and prepared to move a thousand feet higher up the mountain to a hut where the accommodation was inevitably taking a sharp decline! A snow cat was meant to take our huge duffel shuffle up the mountain - once we had ferried the bags at least a little bit of the way - wouldn't be the same without lifting some of it ourselves! Luis has busted my ploy of going to the bathroom as soon as the bags need to be lifted, so I'm reluctantly fully involved in helping shift the bags to the snow cat. The snow cat was broken and we watched a hugely fat woman in a bikini posing around in front of the snow cat whilst her boyfriend tinkered away underneath it. Eventually the snow cat started up and we loaded all our gear and all the boys except Luis into the cat and they headed off up the mountain to the hut. Luis then took the 3 girls up to the hut, hopefully slow enough so all the bags would be all offloaded by the time we arrived!! It was good to get some exercise as we made our way up the mountain, the weather was still with very limited visibility.

We are now in two small dormitories in the hut, sissel, luis and i are crammed in with vladimir and lena our cook in one room and the rest of the crew were across the other side of the hut. We packed and organised all our gear again in case we were going to go for the summit tonight which I'm really really hoping we do.

We had our usual lunch consisting of dill soup, stale bread and biscuits and luis provided all sorts of other stuff from the states which went down really well! We are now taking a siesta, given that i didn't sleep a wink last night i am now quite tired and anxious to rest prior to tomorrow when i hope we are going to give it a go.