

Garibaldi Ski Trip 2025

Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund - Post-trip Requirements

Emmet, Sofia and Vincent

| | Amount | calories | Review |
|------------------|----------|----------|---|
| Breakfast | | | |
| Oatmeal | 15 packs | 2400 | Vincent ate oatmeal every morning, Emmet and Sofia would have a packet every few days, usually as dessert. A few more packets would have been appreciated-Vincent |
| | | | |
| Lunch | | | |
| Tortillas | 72 | 9360 | Tortillas were great for sausage and cheese or nutella and sun butter wraps, but we also put them inside the mountain house meals which was a great idea. The quantity made sense and was adequate. |
| Nutella | 2x | 4000 | We loved having nutella, it was a delicious snack or good with a tortilla and sun butter. We got a bit sick of it at the end, but happy with the quantity we brought |
| Sun Butter | 2x | 11200 | Sun butter was a good source of fuel and was usually saved as a supplemental snack, also good in wraps. |
| cheese | 3x 8oz | 2880 | The cheese was a top tier item which we used primarily in sausage wraps, mountain house meals and pastas. We chose a variety of different cheeses which was a great idea and freshened up our diets every few days. |
| Summer Sausage | 6x | 10800 | Similarly to the cheese, the sausage was great in wraps and pasta, but also in our freeze-dried meals. The quantity of this item was definitely good. |
| Poptarts | 48 | 8880 | Eaten as a snack or desert. We had a variety which we all liked. Overall a valuable food item. |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|--|
| Dinner | 11 nights | | |
| frozen meals | 21 | 17150 | We chose mountain house for our freeze-dried meal and couldn't recommend it more. We selected a variety of meals, all of which were delicious. As mentioned above, we also would add extra couscous, tortillas, cheese and sausage, which doubled the volume. Highly suggested method. |
| Pasta Noodles | 2 lbs | 5040 | We made one big pasta dish on the last night which was a fantastic way to end the trip. Pasta was heavy and bulky so this would be the only criticism. |
| Pasta Sauce packets | x2 | 1380 | Good flavorings for pasta, we also added cheese, couscous and sausage. |
| mac and cheese | x6 | 6075 | We ate mac for two nights which was both very easy and delicious. Added the same supplements which made it very filling as well. |
| canned tuna | x6 | 540 | Put in mac and pastas for extra calories and protein, definitely a nice addition to a few meals. |
| | | | |
| Snacks | | | |
| Gels | 24 | 2400 | We each ate about 5 bars per day to supplement throughout the day between meals. We were happy about the types of bars we brought and their respective quantities. Maurten, Huma, Honey stinger, Clif, a few others. |
| Honey Stingers | 12 | 1920 | |
| Clif Bars | 26 | 6760 | |
| Clif protein bars | 18 | 5130 | |
| gorp | x6 gallon bags | 15000 | We made a mix of peanuts, chocolate chips, cereal and seeds. We didn't end up eating as much of this as we had thought but relied more on bars and gels. It was nice to have at times. |
| chocolate | x12 | 3150 | We brought a chocolate bar per day which was definitely a good idea, never a bad |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------|---|
| | | | idea to end the day with some chocolate. (heath bars, chocolove, tonys, etc) |
| | | | |
| Drink Mixes | | ss | |
| Electrolytes | | 1500 | We brought a bag of skcratch which was super great to have, we usually shared a bottle between us each day. |
| hot cocoa | 1 can 22 oz | 2600 | Cocoa was great for some calories but mostly just a warm drink in the morning, after skiing or before bed. |
| tea | 36 tea bags | 0 | The tea we brought was great as a warm drink in the morning, we didn't end up drinking a cup per day, so we had a few extra bags at the end. Also we weren't huge fans of the earl gray |
| | | | |
| | | 136425 | |

• Equipment

PERSONAL CLOTHING

- **Dry-Fit t-shirt x2-** It was nice to have a replacement shirt through the trip, but any more would have been unnecessary.
- **R1 layer - x1** This was our most used layer and was definitely essential. Temps were usually around 30 degrees F so this layer and a t-shirt was adequate in most circumstances.
- **Puffy-** Puffys were rarely used but definitely essential in some moments. Anything heavier was deemed unnecessary.
- **Shell jacket-** A waterproof outer layer was one of the most key pieces of equipment due to the weather. Make sure this layer can handle wetness well.
- **tights/long underwear x2p-** essential on some skins but otherwise nice to have for sleeping or cooking. One pair ended up being adequate.
- **Ski socks - x2** Two pairs was adequate, but it was important to either keep these dry or have a way to dry them. They usually slept in our bags with us.
- **shell pants-** We had a mix of insulated and non-insulated pants, non-insulated tended to be better due to high temps. Having pants that can zip open on the sides was very clutch for all of us.
- **Uphill gloves** A thin pair of gloves to provide warmth and protection was definitely important, these were our most used glove

- **Warm gloves**- These were nice to have on occasion, but were rarely used due to the temperature. Were necessary to have in case of lower temps.
- **Buff x2**- Used as a winter hat and balaclava, this is a great way to protect your neck and face from the sun, wind and cold.
- **Toiletries**- Toothbrush and toothpaste 40g
- **Shorts**- surprisingly nice to have, some days we toured in shorts but otherwise were good for hanging around camp.
- **Camp shoes**- comfy slippers or similar were clutch in camp, provided a homey sense which was nice.
- **Sunglasses**- Debatably the most important clothing item. It would be extremely bright on most days, but they can also protect from the snow and wind. We all walked away with unbelievable sunglasses tans.

PERSONAL SKI EQUIPMENT

- **Boots**- making sure boots fit and won't cause problems is very important.
- **Poles**- we all had poles we liked and were confident wouldn't snap in most circumstances. We also used Vincent's poles as the center pole for our mid.
- **Skis**- We had a variety of ski types but generally lighter and thinner skis which made travel much easier. We used Dyanfit blacklight 88's, Priors and Armadas Trace 88's.
- **Skins**- We all got our skins reglued which made a big difference, we also had ski straps available to hold skins on when they got wet.
- **Avalanche shovel**-required item for both rescue and tent pad building.
- **Avalanche beacon**- must have a 3 antenna beacon.
- **Avalanche probe** - another required item for safety and avalanche hazard.
- **Ski crampons** -we did not end up using ski crampons but we had sources that said they would be necessary when the weather is cold, and were in frequent use up until the week we entered the field.
- **Climbing helmet** 225 g sufficient for skiing and skinning, very light
- **Approach shoes** 500g we were unsure how often we would need shoes, but ended up using them a fair bit when below ~3000ft on approaches, descents and resupply days.
- **harness** 150 g- we each had a light glacier or regular harness that was used with the rad line on ridges and crevassed terrain.
- **Water bottle**- each of us had a bottle and we would share the bottles between us each day.
- **3x locking carabiner** these items below were brought in case of a crevasse rescue scenario, but were never used. We compiled this list from our crevasse rescue course.
- **3x non-locking carabiner** 100g - we used these when roping up with the rad line for technical sections and were a crucial item.
- **1x 120cm runner 40g** - required item for crevasse rescue, however we did not end up using it on our expedition
- **nanotraxion 53 g** - required item for crevasse rescue, however we did not end up using it on our expedition
- **Hollowblock 20g** - another required item for crevasse rescue that we did not end up using on our expedition

- **Petzl Gulley** - snow axe for steeper terrain, staking the tent and could have been used for a t-trench.

GROUP EQUIPMENT

TECHNICAL GEAR

- **Inreach and zoleo**- we used the Zoleo exclusively because it was easy to use and provide updates to our families. Inreach was used as a backup.
- **Petzl Rad Line**- this was a great item to have and was certainly required. We used it in crevassed and ridge terrain.
- **Picket x2** - we did not have to use the pickets but they were nice to have in case of a rescue scenario
- **Ski straps** - these were a top 10 item that we used for everything: A framing skis to strapping gear to our packs. Each of us carried 5.
- **Adventure Medical Mountaineering First Aid Kit**- this was our first aid kit, dialed out to our specific needs and desires.

COOKING

- **Pocketrocket x1 73g** - we thought this worked great and was very lightweight.
- **Large Butane canister x6** - we ended up with 2.5 extra canisters of fuel, in the future would take slightly less but glad to be on the safe side.
- **Spork x3 45g** - necessary and nice to eat with utensils! Especially our freeze dried meals.
- **Small pot and lid** - One for water, one for food, our put was collapsible as well and we loved it.
- **Jetboil** - we loved having a jetboil so that we could make water and food at the same time.
- **Lighter x3** - We each brought a lighter and it was certainly nice to have extras.
- **All purpose mug/cup/bowl x3** - each of us carried a mug/ collapsible cup which was nice for hot beverages and oatmeal.
- **Plate/bigger bowl x3** - we used these for any meal that wasn't a Mountain House Pre-packaged freeze dried meal
- **Aquamira x1**- we didn't end up bringing or using Aquamira and instead stuck to our original plan of boiling drinking water out of snow which worked great
- **1g Ziplock Bags x8** - ziplocks were great for organization in packs as well as trash. Retrospectively we wished we had brought more.

OVERNIGHT / CAMP

- **Mega Snow 3p x1 870g** - The megamid worked very poorly in the conditions we faced. The single layer dripped water in the rain and shrunk to half of its original size in the snow . We would not recommend and awoke soaking wet on bad weather nights.
- **Inflatable Sleeping pads x3** - All three of us had inflatable pads which made sleeping more comfortable however Vincents popped early on in the trip.

- **Foam Sleeping pads x3** - A last minute addition to the list these were essential, kept our inflatable pads dry and were great for outdoor cooking/sitting/drying
- **Sleeping bags x3** - we had a range of temperature bags based on personal preference but overall had no issues with them.
- **Headlamps x3** - each of us carried a headlamp which was primarily used for moving around at camp and on our day 4 during our hike.
- **MSR 3 person Tent**- An unexpected addition to our gear list due to the issues we were having with the megamid. This tent was perfect with space for the three of us and some gear that held up well against weather.

MISC

- **Solar Portable charger x4** - we brought the perfect amount of portable chargers for the length of our trip and opted to not use any solar banks
- **Extra batteries x 10** - we did not end up needing this but necessary to have spares for avalanche transceiver, headlamps exc.
- **Sunscreen x1** - we all shared a sunscreen which worked well since it was typically just our faces exposed but certainly did not eliminate the horrendous sunglass tan we left the mountains with.
- **Books**- The Emerald Mile, Into the Wild, Banner in the Sky
- **Toilet paper** - we had a small amount of toilet paper that we used sparingly
- **Hand sanitizer** - we had a very small bottle of this which was great for bathroom trips
- **Skin repair material** -Due to the wet conditions our skins were frequently having trouble sticking, so having this was key. Ski straps were also used to keep skins on.
- **Good multi-tool**-Part of our repair kit, was nice to have for ski tuning and other random fixes.

• What worked, what didn't, and why

Starting off with what went well, we found that the logistics part of our planning was virtually flawless, both as a factor of planning and a bit of luck. Everything that we planned from leaving Boulder to arriving at the trailhead was made easy by cheap and smooth flights, sufficient time to shop for groceries and pack our bags, and having my friend, Calvin, as our driver. Similarly upon exiting the field, our plan to take a shuttle from Squamish to VYR worked well. We mention the luck aspect of our plan because our resupplier, Adrien, was incredibly kind and flexible which helped us a lot with our changing plans in the field. It would have been very challenging to have succeeded in our trip without his help. With this being said, we found that the community in that area was very welcoming, so we think that anyone would have been similarly kind as Adrien.

In respect to our gear, we were adequately prepared and had most everything that we wanted or needed, and very few things that we did not need. We decided to leave crampons in Squamish and were content with that choice, but brought ice screws and wished we had left them in Squamish. As a result of conditions and prolonged time in the outdoors, our skins were challenging to deal with at times, but we were able to manage quite well throughout. Our gear made us feel comfortable in new terrain and we were content with these choices.

Our general consensus on our food supply was that everything we brought was enjoyable, but we would have been challenged if we had brought any less food. We agreed that we brought the ‘perfect amount’ in the end, but we would have been better off having more extras for peace of mind. A couple more bars here and there, more breakfast foods etc. For a first big trip, we generally thought that our food planning was quite good, and will be fantastic after dialing in a bit more.

The biggest miss on our trip was our tent. While certainly light and easy to use, its dimensions were inadequate for the three of us and all of our gear, and resulted in us getting wet in the snowy, bad conditions. We were fortunately able to receive a better tent at our resupply that made future nights much more comfortable.

When planning our trip, the biggest question mark was how the conditions would be during our trip. We understood that this could’ve made for a very difficult trip but decided that the rewards were more significant than the challenges. Upon entering the field we found an adequate amount of snowpack throughout the route, however the added precipitation during our trip made for very difficult avalanche conditions. While this conditions scenario was very unexpected this late in the season, our plan of safety first was still in place. As a result of these conditions, we were unable to safely make the entire Garibaldi-Neve/McBride Traverse linkup and had to resort to a backup plan that required us to backtrack to the starting trailhead in order to receive our resupply rations. This change of plans was unfortunate, but it did prove to us how spending time in the backcountry is all about decision making; being able to adjust your plan in order to maximize safety and fun. For possible snow trips in the future, we will make sure to expect a wider variety of conditions and have more plan options.

• **Travel logistics**

Our air travel was efficient and smooth. We flew from Denver to Vancouver and got a ride to Squamish with one of Vincent’s friends who attends UBC. The morning after we arrived in Squamish, we got a ride to the trailhead from Calvin, Vincent’s friend. On the departure end of the expedition, we got a ride from our porter, Adrien, from the trailhead that we exited at, back to our lodging in Squamish. From our lodging in Squamish, a bus stop was a few minutes walk north, where we caught our bus back to Vancouver. From the bus terminal in Vancouver, we boarded a train that took us to the airport.

Others planning trips with travel reliant on public transport and air travel should know that it is critical to build plenty of extra time into your transitions. While traveling with expedition gear in new places, things can and will go wrong, so having built in time to negotiate issues that arise is essential.

• **Permitting/government relations**

There were a few things to note that related to permitting and international travel. Garibaldi Provincial Parks required two different types of permits for our expedition; a 10 dollar campsite fee which we paid for nights one and four, and 10 dollars a person for wilderness permits that we utilized for each other night. This ended up being ~240 CAD which we had factored into our budget. One thing to note with currency is that we budgeted many of our international purchases in USD but paid in CAD, effectively spending 27% less on these purchases. As it relates to international travel, Canadian and U.S. customs were both easy going and required no visas of any sort (at this time). Make sure to have your passports!

• **Leadership and group dynamics**

Our team operated in a level headed and collaborative manner. Throughout the expedition, we were faced with a variety of difficult decisions that needed to be addressed in a timely manner. Throughout these challenges we made sure that everyone's voice was heard and respected. Clear communication and regular team check-ins were techniques that we put to work regularly. After poor weather and difficult route finding early on in our trip, as a group we decided that extremely conservative decision making was going to be the key to safety and success as we proceeded.

• **Safety and risk management concerns**

As a group we managed risk in the field by utilizing frequent and precise communication, as well as by keeping a keen eye on what was happening in the environment around us. On days that we encountered poor visibility, we would check our topo maps with slope angle very often, making sure to manage overhead hazard adequately.

We dealt with complex and sensitive avalanche conditions for the majority of the trip. Knowing this, we made cautious and conservative decisions regarding route finding in order to mitigate risk when traveling in and around avalanche terrain. Once again, we made decisions collaboratively. On especially sensitive days, we avoided avalanche terrain all together. We made these decisions based on observations in the field and utilized our past knowledge regarding making decisions in avalanche terrain.

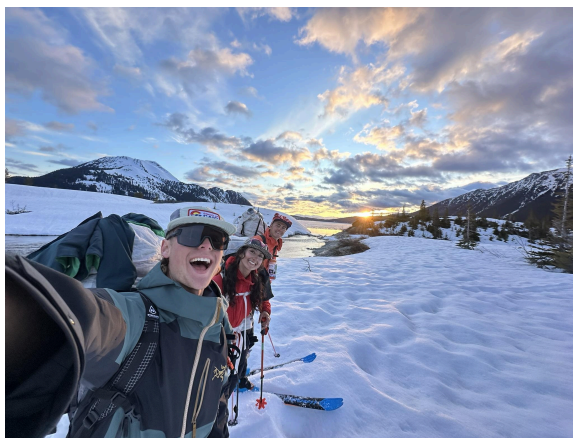
On the day that we crossed Garibaldi lake, we encountered challenging ice conditions. We adapted to the less than ideal conditions by using extreme caution and altering course, retreating to the edge of the lake to find safer ice. We took all necessary precautions in order to cross the lake safely, however, that day was certainly an exhausting one.

• **Specific route descriptions & concerns**

Our initial plan was to execute a direct traverse from Elfin Lakes Trailhead to Whistler Mountain, but due to weather we were unable to complete this planned traverse. On day two we faced both poor visibility and avalanche conditions that we deemed were too unsafe for us to travel through, specifically on the ridge in between the Diamond Head and Diamond Glacier. As a result of us bailing on this route, we were unable to reach our resupply on time. This change of plans was unfortunate but we required it in order to get our resupply in time. The weather forecast was poor heading into day 4. We decided it was necessary to backtrack our route and exit the field to be driven around to our resupply point. While we understood that leaving the field was not ideal, we also knew that it would allow us to reach more terrain and hopefully continue onto our traverse in the Garibaldi Park.

When planning our trip, the main concerns were the lack of snowpack that late in the season, but we were very surprised to find quite the opposite in the field. While the snow we received was late season snow, it still drastically altered avalanche conditions, which, while we were prepared for, we were not expecting. We were bummed to not have been able to complete our planned traverse, but we were all very happy with our abilities to make challenging decisions in the field in light of safety.

Overall Team Photos!



- **A detailed daily course log**

Day 1 In Field - Rubble Creek to Elfin Lakes Hut

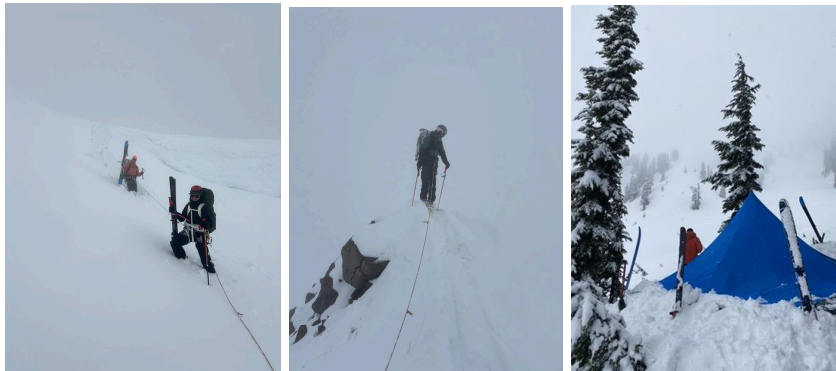
May 17th: we began our expedition at 7 AM at the Squamish Adventure Inn where we had spent the previous night packing and preparing. Having everything ready to go was crucial to our swift departure which had us checked out and on the road at 8:15AM. Calvin, Vincent's friend, who attends UBC and had stayed with us at the inn, gave us a lift to the trailhead and dropped us off around 9AM where we began our trek. As anticipated, we started in our approach shoes with skis on packs but since it was already raining we paused around half a mile in to fashion some makeshift raincovers for our boots and packs. Around 3 miles in we encountered a day shelter with a small stove where we chose to break for a lunch of our allotted tortillas meat and cheese. We headed back out 30 minutes later, donning our skis to finish our mileage on skins. After 3.5 more miles uphill we arrived at the Taylor Meadows Hut where we sheltered from the poor weather, dried all of our soaking gear, and made ourselves dinner. However, since we didn't have a reservation, around 8 pm we opted to skin just a few hundred feet up to a second day shelter where we were able to set out our things and sleep still out of the way of the increasingly worsening weather. After brushing our teeth we passed out around 9 PM.



Day 2 In Field – Elfin Lakes Hut to Diamond Head Base

On day two, we woke up in the day shelter around 9 AM to Vincent's sleeping pad being fully deflated, Emmet being a little cold overnight and Sofia's blisters starting to act up. However, despite some small setbacks we were excited and started off around 10:30 am in high spirits with a short descent before making our way up towards the Gargoyles. At this point the visibility was poor and getting worse as we ascended. However, the precipitation had seemed to come to a pause so we chose to stay close to the trees where the visibility was best and the snowpack was safest. After a while, we made it to the saddle between the Gargoyles, where we stopped to fuel up on bars and strip our skins. Due to the visibility and unfamiliar terrain we decided to rope up with the Rad line and belay someone without skis to probe the edge of where the descent began, to scout where the safest route would be. Emmet and Vincent, tied in at the farther ends of the rope, belayed Sofia as she walked and probed the edge of the descent, discovering a 12 foot cornice along most of what appeared on the map as a safe descent. However, after some more exploration, we encountered a section that had collapsed and after returning to discuss the plan together we were able to bootpack down that section of the cornice one by one while remaining roped up. After the bootpack we traversed below it to a safer zone where we were able to click into skis and descend.

Because we were tied in so close to one another, skiing downhill posed a bit of a learning curve, but we managed just fine and stopped for lunch at the base after removing the Rad line. The weather seemed to be a bit better so after some food we began our trek up the Diamond Head. This uphill was a slog and as we continued to ascend our visibility decreased, at points making it difficult to see more than five meters in front of us. At the peak of the Diamond Head, we roped up and began our attempt at crossing the diamond head ridge that would bring us to the Northeast tip of the Garibaldi Glacier, and our proposed camp spot for the night. However, the ridge was much narrower than we had anticipated and with the poor visibility and unstable snowpack we made the group decision to turn around, descend the Diamond Head and make camp near the base of it towards the Opal Cone. By the time we found a solid place to put up our tent we were exhausted and the snow rain mixture was coming down hard, so we acted quickly, doing our best to stay dry. Once inside the tent we boiled some water and ate an early dinner of Mountain House freeze dried Korean Inspired Beef and Nutella by the spoonful. Our tent had also began leaking at this point, dripping on us as it collected more water but with nothing to be done, we stuffed our sleeping bags in trash bags and went to sleep around 9 PM.



Day 3 In Field – Diamond Head Base Back to Elfin Lakes Hut

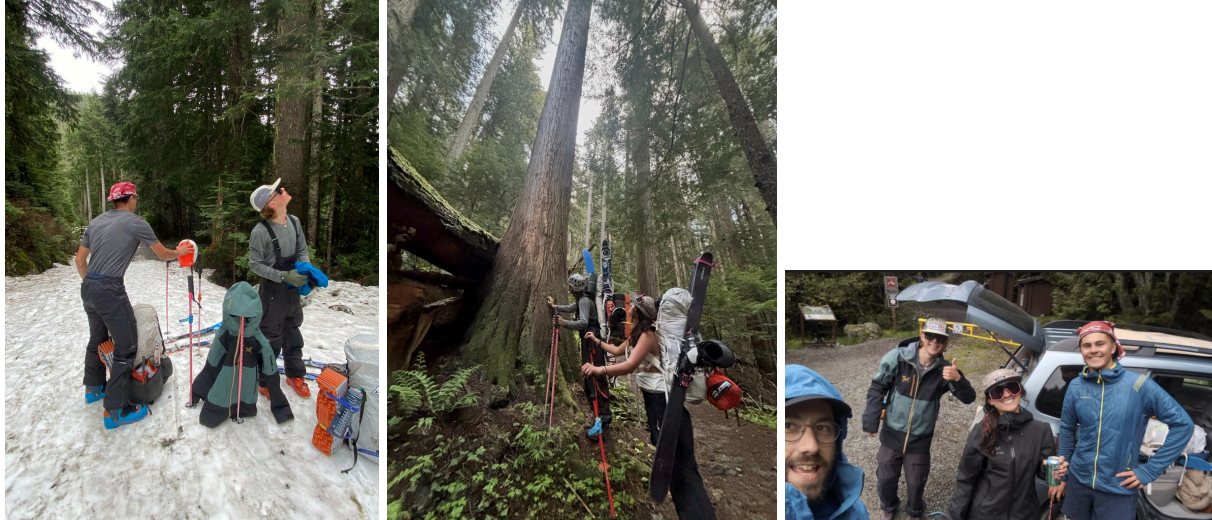
Day 3: We awoke to our sleeping bags completely soaked through in our tent that seemed to have shrunk to half of its original size overnight. Absolutely nothing was dry and with limited space inside and the precipitation continuing outside we got ready one by one before packing up our soaking tent and beginning our day. Since we were behind on mileage from the previous day, our plan was a 7 mile skin, skirting the side of the opal cone and then gaining elevation up onto the Garibaldi Glacier on which we would ski roped up for a few miles before camping near the Sharkfin. However, due to the brutal conditions of the morning we had a slow start and by the time we had our skis on it was 11 AM. After an hour of descending and traversing towards the opal cone and a couple river crossings along the way, we reached a decision point at the edge of the snow cliffs: whether we wanted to continue on past the avalanche slides and onto the glacier with very little visibility, or turn around and figure out a totally new plan for the trip. It was a big discussion and we weighed many factors but ultimately we knew we had to prioritize our safety and opted to turn around and make our way back to the hut from night one. In all honesty it was a difficult thing to turn away from, as we hadn't expected to find any difficulty at this point of the traverse, but we knew it was the right decision and after much uphill and ascent of the cornice from the day before we ended up back at the Elfin Lakes hut around 3 PM where we were able to dry all of our things and began to replan the remainder of the trip. We spent the rest of the day hunkered down, sending

inreach texts to our families and Adrien, our porter who would hopefully pick us up at the Rubble Creek Trailhead the following day, and made ourselves a dinner of Chicken Fajita Mountain House. That night we all slept in a 3 sided square next to the fire and fell asleep to one of the best nights of sleep of our lives.



Day 4 — Elfin Lakes Hut to Taylor Meadows Campground

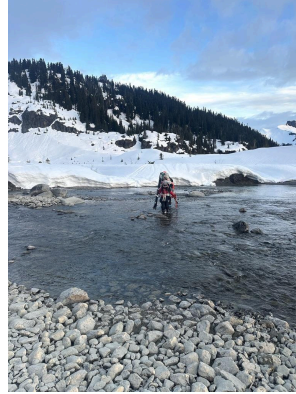
Still awaiting a response from our porter, Adrien, about the change in plan, we had a slow morning in the hut packing up our newly dried gear and reading our books by the fire. Finally, after receiving a response from Adrien around 10 AM that he could pick us up at 4 PM we killed some time playing scrabble before gearing up to face the outdoors again. We departed the Elfin Lakes Hut for the last time around 1 PM and began the 6.5 mile descent back to the trailhead. We were able to move efficiently, skiing down and skinning across the majority of the terrain before having to strip skins and put on our approach shoes at the snow line around 2 miles from the trailhead. Because of the inconsistent snow and intense weather the past few days our shoes quickly got wet but we made it to the meeting point just a few minutes after 4 where Adrien was waiting for us. We loaded up our gear in his Subaru and he drove us back down into Squamish while we recalled our adventure so far. After a quick stop for some carbs at Wendy's we headed to the Squamish Adventure Inn where our resupply was stored which was exactly when Sofia realized she had lost one of her skins on the descent from Elfin Lakes. Being a crucial item of gear for the traverse she and Adrien drove to the nearest ski shop so she could buy a new pair while the boys repacked the bags and did a little more planning regarding our new route. An hour later with new skins acquired we met back up and Adrien dropped us off at Taylor Meadows Trailhead at 7 PM to begin our 5 mile hike back into the mountains. This is also where we picked up the tent that we had been able to order to the trailhead to replace ours since there was more weather on the horizon. The hike itself was beautiful and took us around 3 hours as our packs were the heaviest they had been so far, especially with our skis and boots on them. But eventually we made it to a day shelter at around 10:15 PM utterly exhausted, skipping dinner and crawling into our sleeping bags to sleep.



Day 5 – Taylor Meadows to Burton Hut

Day 5: We awoke and discussed our plan for the day given our decision to bail on the first half of the traverse. We were up and moving by 10 am again, exhausted from the previous day and after making hot drinks in the day shelter we sat down and attempted to make a plan for the rest of the trip. With our hearts still set on the second half of the McBride traverse it was difficult planning, especially having witnessed first hand how terrifying the weather could be. However, in the end we decided to head towards the Garibaldi Day shelter, just 2 miles from our current location, and make an informed decision there once we got a better picture of the landscape. We packed up and headed out towards the lake around 11. The skin was mostly a descent scattered with roots, rocks and sections of dirt that we had to walk over but we made it to the shelter in good time. The Shelter was right on the edge of the lake that we had originally planned to cross in the opposite direction but had been told it was no longer crossable. However, for as far as we could see the ice looked solid. So after another team meeting we decided the smartest thing would be for us to attempt to cross the lake and spend the night in the Burton hut, directly on the other side of the lake. We began our crossing at 2 PM, trekking one by one in a single file line across the ice. At first, everything seemed fine, the lake was solid enough and although the top layer frequently gave way to wet slush, it was still the most efficient option and kept us out of runout zones. However, after making it 3/5ths of the lake's distance, the ice completely changed leaving the other half of the lake nearly uncrossable and a totally different color due to the massive water patches. We opted to take a sharp left, try to reach the shoreline and walk the rest of the distance on the rocky beach. However after two failed attempts that ended in open water we were forced to try the middle section yet again. At this point we had spent hours on the lake and were not only physically exhausted from skiing through 6 inches of slush, but also mentally exhausted from being so stressed about the ice. We tried twice more to find a way through the middle of the lake and both ended in us deeming the conditions too risky to continue safely. It was incredibly frustrating and when we eventually were able to make it to the right shore with 4 miles of shoreline to go, we were ready for the day to be over. This was probably the lowest point in the trip for all of us, the route finding was frustrating and difficult and we kept finding ourselves at dead ends. But after refueling we set off again onto the ice where it was thicker and finally made it to the opposite shore. Our

boots were completely soaked at this point, so we trekked right through the final obstacle, a river, and collapsed at the door of the hut. Our small victory was that after 6 hours on the lake we had made it right in time to catch the sunset. We all dropped our packs and sat down to enjoy a few minutes of peace after a brutal day before cooking up some dinner, taking full advantage of the “help yourself” bin, and went to sleep absolutely destroyed.



Day 6 – Burton Hut Ski Day

After the previous day's adventure we were more than ready to finally get some fun skiing in, and day 6 seemed like the perfect opportunity. We woke up early to put our liners out in the sun and spent a slow morning together cooking lots of food and enjoying being warm and dry. However, after a while we grew restless and decided it was time for a few laps up the glacier behind us. We emptied our packs, filling them with only the day's essentials and set off behind the hut towards the Sphinx glacier. We opted to not re-cross the river and instead stay to the left of it and skirt the pond further upstream bushwacking through trees and shrubs and taking our skis on and off to cross particularly wooded sections. We called it “The Thrash”, laughing as we crossed fallen trees with our skins on and jumping across the small streams that stood in our way. Eventually we made it back to snow and were able to put our skis on again and start up the glacier. The views were incredible, the sun was shining and as we ascended, we felt light without the weight of our usual packs. After a ways, we began traversing left in search of fun low angle turns, encountering a set of bear tracks from a few days prior, and eventually made our stop just a hair under 1000 ft. from the top of Sphinx pass. Here, we stripped skins and got stoked for our fun first ski descent. It was everything and more to say the least. If there were people nearby they would've heard our whoops and hollers all the way down as we party skied the first section and then went one by one back down to the base. After avoiding “the thrash” by skirting the other side of the lake, we attempted to cross the river again—an endeavor which was mostly successful except that Sofia fell in—and after a relaxed afternoon of reading, lounging outside and making a new plan for the rest of the expedition, we made a huge Mountain House and cous cous dinner and fell asleep after a wonderful, wonderful day.



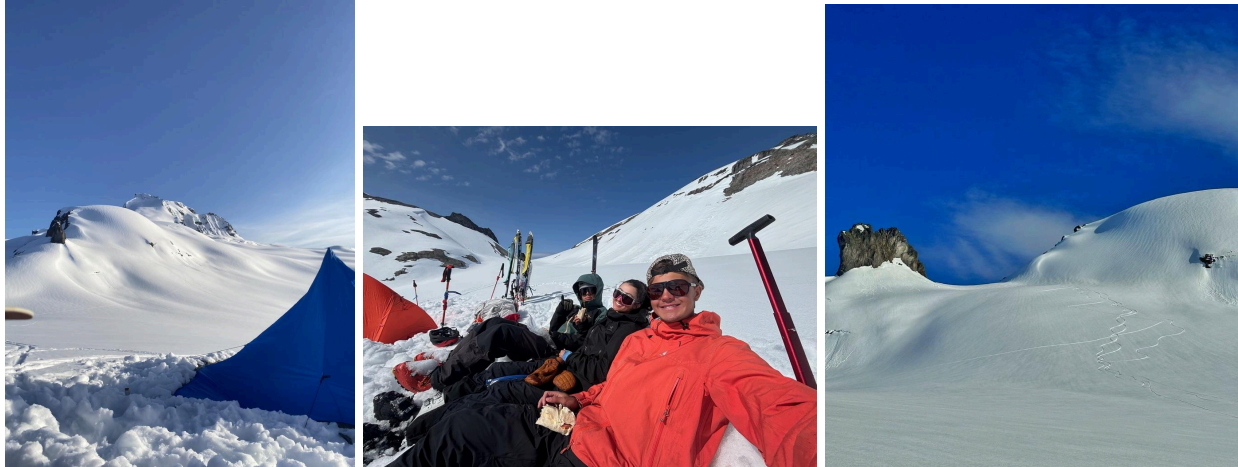
Day 7 – Burton Hut to Glaciology Shelter

After two nights in the Burton hut we were ready and excited to start moving again. Although we wouldn't be able to complete our initial traverse plan, we decided that in the next few days we would instead head back towards the sharkfin, try our hand at Garibaldi, and eventually end down the Brohm Ridge Trail where we later arranged for pickup. For day 7, our plan was to head up the Sphinx glacier that we had ascended yesterday, cross the Sphinx pass and spend the night at the Glaciology Shelter. However, when we awoke at 7:30 to the entire pass covered in a thick layer of clouds, we reassessed, and slept an extra hour in hopes of clearing. The weather didn't improve so we decided to tackle skirting the lake again by taking a higher, more wooded route. By 8:30 AM we were packing up and listening to music, which was incredible, and by 10AM we heaved our big packs on and started skinning towards the stream. Since we would be away from a heat source for the rest of the trip it was imperative to stay dry in the crossing. However, luck was not on our side and unfortunately Emmet's heel slipped, soaking his right boot, which was frustrating but helped motivate us to finish the day as quickly as possible. We skinned up through the trees above the cliff band that surrounded the lake. The snow was more leaves, rocks, and trees and was hell for our poor skins as we tromped over bushes and branches. In Sofia's journal we described it as "the Thrash on steroids" but after a couple of hours of laughing at each other as we fell into or off of various trees, it was time to descend towards the lake shore and the inlet. This section was extremely steep and heavily forested so we all took off our skis and post holed down to the shore, skis in hand. It was slow going but by the time we reached the bottom it was only another couple hundred feet to the shelters. The shelter was great and appeared as if it didn't get much use as everything was falling apart and it seemed precarious perched on a rock. However, we all squeezed in just fine on the two benches and cooked up some warm drinks and eventually dinner, each endeavoring in their own personal activity. Sofia drawing on the walls and journaling while Emmet and Vincent both read. Dinner that night was Mountain House Mexican adobo style rice, which we devoured before going to bed. No one got the best night of sleep but no one complained either.



Day 8 – Glaciology Shelter to Sharkfin Camp

Day 8 was pretty fantastic. As the weather continued to improve the quality of our days also seemed to be on the up. We all woke up at slightly different times in the glaciology hut, and spent some time reading, writing and journaling in the warmth of the shelter. After some hot drinks to motivate us, we packed everything up, had a short dance party, and started up the uphill terminus of the Pike glacier. We had a decent amount of vert to gain before we crested and were greeted with the most breathtaking view of the mountains surrounding us. We then traversed to the right, staying high where you could hear the energy releasing from the snow with every footstep. We had made our way up onto a ridge where the only option to our destination for the day was to ski a slightly steeper section down to a small saddle. So we got in ski mode, did a quick radio check and Emmet took first tracks, skiing down first to a small rock outcropping and then cutting left at an angle to the saddle to avoid any potential sliding snow behind him. Sofia went next, and then Vincent. The sun was fully out at this point and with high spirits we skinned a mile until the saddle opened up to a whole new view of Garibaldi's NE face, the glacier and the Sharkfin. After a quick low angle descent into the open valley we considered a few different campsite spots before settling on a slightly higher point away from the sharkfin with spectacular views of all angles and out of run out zones. Here, we took off our packs and began work on our home for the next two nights. With two tents now in our possession we decided to set both up and delegated tasks. Emmet and Sofia teamed up to dig out and flatten a spot for our new orange MSR tent, where we would be sleeping, while Vincent set to work on the Black Diamond Megamid by digging down 2.5 Feet. Once the spot for the orange tent has been flattened Emmet and Sofia set it up and staked it down into the snow before taking turns helping Vincent flatten his area and strap his poles together for the center pole of the BD cooking and gear tent. After everything was set up and camp was looking deluxe, the three of us sat outside in the sun on one of our foam pads to eat lunch before ditching the big packs to do some skiing for the fun of it. Following Emmets skin track we skied up just below the right side of the Shark fin before stripping skins and skiing the most incredible untracked snow to the bottom. Our tracks looked pristine and perfect and with the sun shining and smiles on our faces we trekked back to camp together in the highest spirits. After utilizing our BD tent to make dinner and boiling some water for the morning we headed to bed satisfied and excited for more.



Day 9 – Sharkfin camp and Garibaldi Attempt

Waking up warm and dry in our tent around 7 am, we all rose quickly with the hopes of being able to ski the NE face of Garibaldi that we had been dreaming about. We scarfed down a breakfast of champions, Poptarts and oatmeal, packed day packs, and set off efficiently towards Garibaldi. Although the weather was still not working in our favor, with big clouds beginning to engulf most of the mountain, we skinned up as far as we could, gaining 1700 vert in the bitter cold before losing visibility around where it started to get steep. In a total white out, after an hour and a half, we decided to turn around, ski what we could and not put ourselves at risk since everything above us was shrouded in clouds. We encountered a party of mountaineers as we began our descent with ice axes and helmets who also seemed to be turning around without much luck of their own; it was our first human sighting since we had left the Taylor Meadows trailhead. Although it wasn't exactly what we had wanted, the ski back down to the base was amazing, with great snow and unbelievable expanses of open area to ski, and 3 minutes later we transitioned to walk back up to camp. However, a quick ski lap and the discovery that the small dirt flecks in the snow were actually worms gave us a good laugh and we set off. Back earlier than expected, we sat around and partook in various different activities such as reading, writing, rating cheese, and even building a toilet. We watched the clouds come closer until they had completely engulfed the sharkfin before calling it a day and heading into the tent for the remainder of the daylight hours, what we didn't know would be the beginning of our tent marathon. Over the next few hours we would take turns missioning out of the tent for dinner supplies or the bathroom and after some good warm food and a million rounds of 20 questions we called it a night.

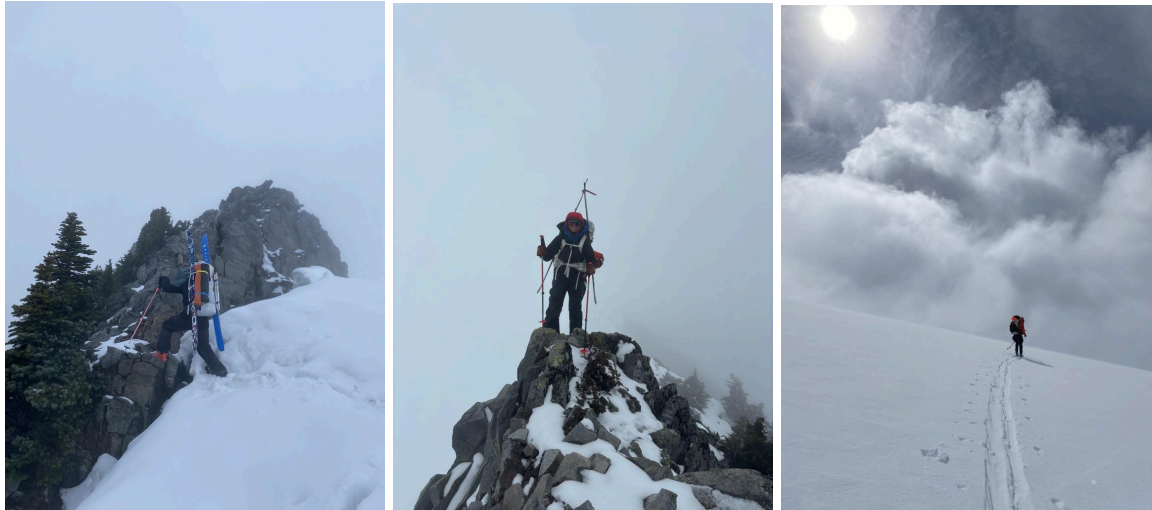


Day 10 – Sharkfin to Brohm Secret Hut

This was the day we actually went insane. In more than a few ways.

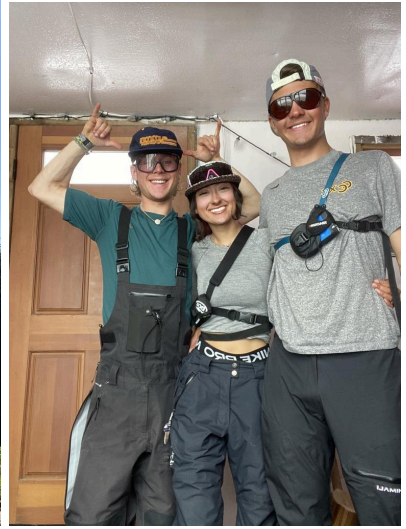
With weather continuing to move in overnight and throughout the day we all awoke in our tent, to our delight still warm and dry, to the sound of snow and rain combination and decided to go right back to bed. However, with the previous day being a bit of an impromptu rest day, we were already restless and by 9:30 we were all very awake and itching for something to do. We picked up our tent activities to kill some time, Sofia watercolor painting while Emmet and Vincent swapped books back and forth. We didn't know it yet but this would be our last time in a tent together, which would've been a sweet time to reminisce, but after close to 24 hours in the same enclosed space that smelled pretty bad, we were ready to get moving again. After waiting on the weather we finally got out around 1:30 pm and packed up our campsite, heading off following yesterday's skin track within the next hour. We stayed right, peeling off of the previous day's track as it headed up Garibaldi's face and continued straight towards what we thought was Brohm ridge. After some elevation gain and increasing wind and cloudcover, we traversed until we found the correct ridgeline. With almost no visibility, we traveled close to one another, closely following our map on a short descent. The lack of sight made this section difficult and stressful as we had never seen the ridgeline with our own eyes and were worried about potential overhead hazards. However, we worked well as a team and eventually, after traversing under a short steep section found bare rock, hauled our skis onto our packs and walked the ridgeline in single file. The wind was incredibly strong and we put on every single layer we had with us as we walked up and over the rocky sections before finally reaching snow again and putting on skins for a small downhill once the ridge had widened. Our end goal was to get to “the secret hut”, where our porter Adrien had recommended we stay. He had sent specific coordinates but we instead looked on our map for any listed huts on the Caltopo, which we found with ease. Here was when we made the mistake of not cross referencing our Co-ordinates from Adrien with the Caltopo Hut we found and instead plowed ahead, excited to be skiing again. The descent was around 1600 ft of vert and it was mediocre snow as we primarily followed the snowmobile track, with some slight detours through the trees. But after a small uphill section we made it to three large, fully furnished buildings. We knew instantly this wasn't the “secret hut” Adrien had described to us, and after consulting the co-ordinates he had sent, realized that amid our descent we had skied right past it. It was around 5:30 pm when we began the gruelling ascent up the thousand feet we had just come down. As a team, we were

utterly exhausted but after around an hour or so of painful skinning we made it to the bright red, converted shipping container that we would call home for the night. Once we arrived we got to work making dinner and a huge fire in the stove that kept us more than toasty, and after some correspondence with Adrien, realized that the only way we could receive a pickup from the Brohm trailhead would be to leave the field the next day. With that decision made we did some reminiscing on our experiences and went to bed satisfied.



Day 11 – Brohm Secret Hut to Squamish

Our last day in the field we awoke in our converted shipping container and made breakfast together while Emmet started up another fire, chopping kindling for our own use and also as a thank you for the snowmobile club that maintained the hut. With pickup arranged at 4pm we packed up all of our things and took a last few moments outside pointing out all of the places we had been over the past 10 days. Once we had cleaned our hut and eaten our fill, we donned ski boots for the last time and started our descent again. It didn't take long for us to reach the Snowmobile hut again, where we veered right, following the clear road. We had a good deal of skiing before we finally hit rock again, when the road turned south. With the last of the skiing behind us we strapped skis and boots to our packs and walked the remainder of the mileage down the road together. The sun was very strong and the weather had fully cleared. After a couple miles, we were at the pickup point with hours to spare. After a quick lunch, we had nothing better to do so we decided to continue walking down the road so Adrien wouldn't have to drive so far up to pick us up. At the time it was just a kind gesture, but it ended up being the best thing we could've done as we later received a text that Adrien had hit a drainage ditch in the road and could not continue the drive up to the pickup point. Luckily, because of our headstart, we stayed on schedule and met Adrien only shortly after intended. After loading the back of his Subaru with all of our smelly gear and skis he drove us back into Squamish and kindly dropped us off at the Squamish Adventure Inn, marking the end of our field days.



Thank you!
Sofia, Vincent and Emmet