

MDRS Crew 148
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Commander Report
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Start of the second week. We hope to be able to do more EVAs and astronomy without any weather problems. Our routine is now fully established and everything goes smoother. And today we managed to refill the static tank so it is shower day!!

1 – Base emergency evacuation

I was moderator today and the crew had to evacuate the base in 5 minutes. This was pretty intense and the crew did a good job (in the airlock with all gear in 4 min) but it was noted for the future that an extensive briefing before each simulation is necessary to ensure its success.

2 – EVA of the day

This was a walking EVA. Florence, Tiffany, Duarte, and Nuno went towards the roads junction and performed Nuno's and Tiffany's experiments. They managed to do 3 runs of Nuno's and 2 runs of Tiffany's experiments. On top of it, they all attached some pieces of cloth to their suit which will be used for Tiffany's dust experiment (she cut all of these pieces of cloth yesterday during our day "off"). This EVA was a success, the mud had almost disappeared. The pump still did not work at this point.

3 – Astronomy

Last night our crew astronomer Louise did some amazing photos of Jupiter and of the Moon together with our crew scientist Nuno. They also observed one transit and one occultation of two of the moons of Jupiter. Great progress has been done, it is very positive.

4 – Cyano bacteria

Five pots in the cyano bacteria treatment and three pots in the control treatment have radishes which germinated and are starting to grow!

5 – Pump issue

After requesting a second EVA to attempt refilling the tank once again, which got approved in the first place and then denied when we were offline (so could not see the request rejection), Duarte plugged the pump to another electrical outlet in the lab and both him and Nuno went outside to refill the static tank. It worked and now our static tank is full. The issue came from a line of electrical outlets in the lab which was off. More details in the engineering report.

6 – Mouse incident

We had left all of the candy bars, Cheez-it and cookies in a plastic bag, since we considered this food not as part of a real Mars mission, where each pound is counted. This morning we found a Reese on the floor, half way eaten. And this for sure is not one of our crew mates (at least I hope!) since the plastic wrap around the Reese was also eaten. We've moved all of these candies in the fridge to limit these types of problems.

7 – Crashed cargo

We had the very good surprise to discover a crashed cargo in front of our airlock door this morning after the base evacuation, full of awesome goods. We got turkey, chicken, sausage crumbs, beef, all sorts of cheese, butter and eggs! It made everybody smile and we celebrated with muffins containing butter and eggs, as opposed to last week when we had to find recipe without eggs or milk. Everything got inventoried and stored.

8 – Other

Yesterday morning we woke up with "Stellar" by Incubus, choice of Tiffany and this morning we woke up with "Phonography" by Britney Spears, choice of Florence. Today we were able to put some cheese in our rice for lunch and tonight some lobster cakes are planned. We also have muffins and a chocolate cake (spin off of the muffins dough).