

MDRS Crew 148
Lucie Poulet
Commander Report
02/03/15

Today was a cloudy day. Luckily no rain but this might ruin our astronomy plans tonight.

1 – Base emergency evacuation

We had a fire level 2 this morning, with Nuno as moderator. After 10 minutes of intense search, the crew did not manage to locate the fire so we had to evacuate the base. From that moment, it took us 12 min to suit up, wait 5 min for depressurization, exit the airlock and reach the MAV. We are making progress on the procedures but also on performing them. I'm very proud of my crew and happy to be working with such talented individuals.

2 – EVA of the day

Today's EVA was an ATV EVA. We went to site 161 and performed two runs of Tiffany's loss of coms experiment as well as three runs Nuno's PED study.

3 – Backpack#1 issue

Backpack#1 had an issue on EVA yesterday so we opened it this morning to figure out where the problem came from. Our EVA specialist Tiffany quickly found out that it was a battery charging problem: the electrical connection from the charging plug to the battery is disconnected. We will need to solder it in order to fix it. Request has been made to mission support who approved it during our EVA so we will proceed with this tonight or tomorrow morning. In the meantime, we used a spare battery but connections probably went loose during the ATV ride to the EVA site and the fans did not work.

4 – Cyano bacteria

Radishes grew quite a lot since yesterday. All 10 pots in the cyano treatment have one or two radishes coming out. 9 of the 10 pots in the control treatment have radishes coming out.

5 – Grow tent mounting

Our crew engineer Duarte has started investigating how to install equipment in the grow tent (i.e. ducts and fans). Tonight we got Nick Orenstein's instructions to go further with the mounting and will proceed accordingly.

6 – Mid mission video

Our crew journalist Florence showed us the great video she did for the first week of our mission. We watched it almost entirely on Sunday night, she finished it on Monday morning and last night we watched the additional parts. It was awesome! She did an amazing job. Too bad the file is too bad to be uploaded to YouTube from Mars. We tried it last night but after 9 hours of upload it was only 32% uploaded!

7 – Other

Tiffany made a great chocolate/almond ice cream over the weekend that we've been eating since then. This afternoon, Duarte and Flo baked a very good basil and oregano bread. This morning we woke up with "Cataloupe Island" by Herbie Hancock, choice of Nuno. Florence did another video for her web-series "Comment ça Mars?" and it's awesome and really funny.