



16 March 2020

To whom it may concern.

Anja Blacha *Southern Solitaire* South Pole Solo Expedition

This is to confirm that Anja Blacha completed her solo unsupported and unassisted ski expedition from Berkner Island to the South Pole in Antarctica in 2019-20.

Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions LLC provided the logistical and safety support for her expedition. She flew from Punta Arenas, Chile to our base at Union Glacier, Antarctica on 06 November 2019 and flew from Union Glacier to her starting point at the northern end of Berkner Island on 12 November 2019. Her drop-off and start point on Berkner Island was at S77°54.450 W047°15.350 and this was witnessed by the aircrew of Twin Otter C-GDHB including Captain Russ Hepburn and First Officer Ethan Paridaen.

Anja telephoned our communications team at our Union Glacier base each day to report her position and we tracked her progress to the South Pole. She also carried a Garmin inReach satellite tracking beacon that provided a second verifiable record of her journey to the South Pole.

Her arrival at the South Pole was witnessed by ALE's South Pole Camp Manager Devon McDiarmid at 17:50 GMT / 14:50 Chile time on 09 January 2020. Anja's solo ski expedition had no resupplies on route and had no support vehicle (unsupported), and made no use of kite-skis or ski sails for wind assistance (unassisted).

The expedition journey started at 23:00 GMT / 20:00 Chile time on 12 November 2019 and finished at 17:50 GMT / 14:50 Chile time on 09 January 2020. This gives a journey time of 57 days, 18 hours, and 50 minutes.

Anja's solo expedition achieved a number of records:

- She is the 5th person to ski solo unsupported (no resupplies, no support vehicle) and unassisted (no kiting / ski-sailing) to the South Pole from Berkner Island.
- She is the first woman to ski solo to the South Pole from Berkner Island.
- She completed the longest solo, unsupported, unassisted polar expedition by a woman
- She is the youngest woman to ski solo, unsupported, unassisted to the South Pole, and the first woman under thirty to ski solo, unsupported, & unassisted to the South Pole.
- She started further North than any past solo, unsupported, unassisted Antarctic expedition.
- She is the 9th woman and 37th person to ski solo, unsupported, unassisted to the South Pole.

- She is the 2nd German to ski solo to the Pole.

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