

WT 2015 - The Breakfast Club - Ginger Connie & Attempting out second WT –

Friday night after receiving our maps I was super stoked about the course. Having camped many times in the Massassauga, I knew the paddling would be amazing. And the general course looked stellar, only with a slight trepidation regarding the nav from CP 10 to CP11. Finally getting to bed around 11:30.

Saturday Morning, up around 5:30, load up the truck, drop the bikes, and eat some waffles (awesome!). Race start at 8am, we jogged most of this with running not being my strong suit. Connie was quick to point out to each team that every time they passed us they would be required to donate to our Outward Bound Canada fundraiser. On to our bikes, easy going to CP1, we tracked back down the trail on foot until clear wooded area to the lake and handle barred the lake and river, took a bearing south and hit the lake with CP2 in sight. We decided to go north back to trail and take the trail to the swampy river and follow that south to CP4. Sadly at this point my knee started acting up mere hours into the race. Fortunately, back on the bike it was not bothersome and we peddled to TA1 to the canoe.

The canoeing section was great, fairly easy nav, as I had been here so many times before. Portaging the unbalanced beast was well, heavy. The wind picked up and paddle slowed down, with several sing alongs, and strange fishermen singing “eye of the Tiger” to us, more hilarity ensued. We made it into TA2 around 7pm. Noted we were one of few dry teams, opting for canoe paddles this race to save us from getting completely soaked in the cold weather. We may have been slower, but much more dry and warm! I needed medical to look at my knee, had it wrapped up, popped some Advil and hoped for the best... We fueled up on some food, layered up on clothing; it's going to be a long cold night in the woods...

As we started off down Healey Lake Road, we quickly realized... too many layers, so we dropped some layers, and easily found our way to CP9. It was here we met up with Muck Dynasty, and decided to travel together for a bit. We trekked out to CP 10, another familiar location, where we had some food, had my knee wrapped and looked at again, and started the trek to CP11. We took a North East bearing which would match with following the west side of a few lakes and started moving. Slow and steady through the dark. At times there were many questions if we were off course, where exactly where we, so we stopped often and reevaluated our position and progress. It really did feel like we were going in circles. Working with Muck Guys, we trusted our compass. The terrain was tough, up and down near vertical rock walls, traversing the edge of cliffs, and trying to read contour lines, in the dark was exhausting. Did I mention it started snowing? No Matter, the vibe was still positive as usual with The Breakfast Club we keep moving forward. We also ran into The Race for Breakfast on route, sadly they had already called for nav help, but we trekked the last short way to CP11, nearly missing it. Here we said goodbye to The Race for Breakfast as they decided to stay at 11. Now nearing 4am we were short coursed. Which we had intended on anyways as my knee was still rough.

North toward Kapikog Lake we finally found the portage (nearly standing on a rock cairn), we headed north. A minor nav error to the east side of Dunbar unable to cross a river, and unwilling to get our feet wet at 5am, we backtracked slightly and followed the lake west to Kapikog Lake Road, as it started getting light out. At CP 13 we had some warm food, a short nap, and got ready for the final bike leg. Slightly concerned about the knee, I hoped to push through to the end. Out on the bikes, picked the wrong trail and lost a bit of time, the Hydro trail was very challenging in our exhausted state, and took a long time. The Muck Guys headed to the finish, as we were much slower and we trundled on. Finally around 1:45 about 15km from the finish my knee finally gave in. No longer able to peddle we had to call it in. We endured a lot through this race, and analyzing the GPS on the website indicated solid route choices. Looking back on our race, we fought hard, stuck together, and endured, we become stronger as team after every race, and we supported Outward Bound Canada in the process, which in our books is a success in itself.

Sincerely Yours,  
The Breakfast Club  
Tracy, Connie & Ginger