



The Ice Scouting trips enabled us to determine the start line spot

X-th edition of Baikal Ice Marathon newsletter

On February, 20, 2014, upon completion of the 3-rd ice scouting trip, after thoroughly examining the ice and having searched for the passage in the wide ice hummock field, the start line spot was determined to be at the northern edge of Tanhoy station (eastern shore of Lake Baikal).

The BIM ice scouting team managed to find the narrowest spot of the hummock field stretching by the eastern shore. Then jointly with the Baikal Biosphere Nature Preserve people (our BIM partner this year) a passage was cut through the hummocks allowing access to the place where the start line spot had been previously sought (see below a photo with coordinates).



The only access from the M55 highway to the Baikal shore at this place at the town site is the rail underpass on the Trans-Siberian Railroad (see left). The height of the underpass will not allow tourist coaches to use it and drive to the shore, so we will have to use smaller micro-buses. With 150 runners admitted to the BIM race this year (over 400 applied) we need to use 15 micro-buses. That's good, on one hand, because instead of only 5 daily jobs for the 6 coach drivers we shall provide now at least 18 to 20 day jobs for the locals who are now mostly unemployed (after the Baikalsk Pulp Mill had been, at last, shut down in December last year). But we will have to prepare parking lot near the start line on the ice, and a safe passage with access to it to prevent the runners from walking long way to the start line under possible "hiss" sharp low wind blowing.



The start line spot the X-th edition of BIM is now fixed about 75 km away from the hotels where the runners stay.

We now also have a clear vision of the X-th ice running course on the Great Baikal, and 4-th GPS trek laid on the traverse of the future footrace can remain nearly same, if the breathing of Baikal and its underwater movements will not significantly change current ice cracks situation. We will continue monitoring of the ice surface situation to ensure smooth BIM holding.

Our major conclusion is that the course of the BIM X-th edition that we are planning to lay on February, 26 (after another ice scouting is made a preceding day), will be mostly on ice, with nearly no snow layer (over ¾ of the entire run course). Only about 9 km of the eastern part of the run course (from the start line) will have consolidated snow cover similar to firm snow. However, some snow fall is expected in 2-3 days which can slightly change the ice cover situation. We shall keep you informed. See the photos below with coordinates.



N 51°33.825' E 105°08.154'



N 51°41.380' / E 104°59.974' - Here or some other place nearby we will need to lay the wooden ramps later



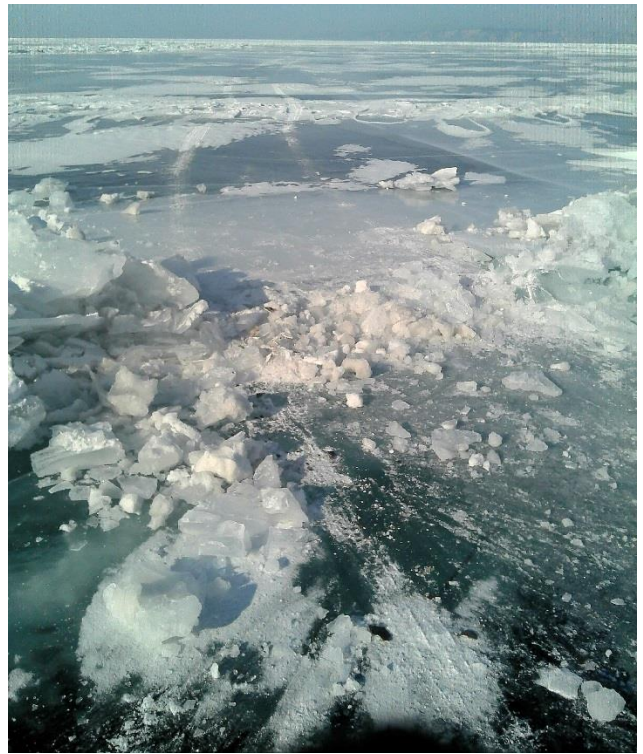
N 51°37.666' E 105°03.154'



N 51°41.383' E 105°59.969'



N 51°41.380'



E 104°59.969'



N 51°43.423'

E 104°51.450'



N 51°42.480'

E 104°56.922'



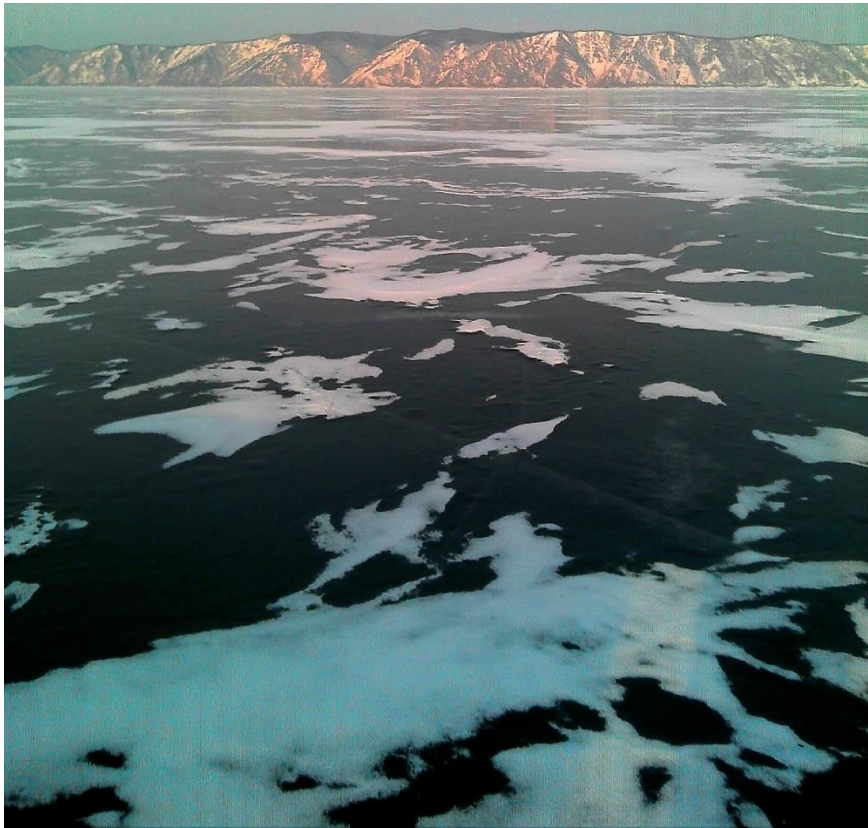
N 51°42.477' E 104°56.920'



N 51°43.424' E 104°51.449'



N 51°43.423'



E 104°51.450'