

THE CHAMPS

17HR 44 MIN 33 SEC



The goal Hut Point

The obstacle Fast Ice

On your mark, "Bang", go.

The ground rules for establishing the time to complete the breaking have never been formalized. However, it is generally accepted that the breakin time is the time it takes to break from the fast ice edge to a point at which Hut Point is 800 yards abeam. The distance fast ice extends seaward from Hut Point varies between 10 to 45 miles with 15 to 18 miles being the average. Wind much more so than temperature is responsible for the extent of the fast ice. Storm generated waves move under the fast ice and breaks it up into pack ice. Hence, many severe storms from the north during October through December will make the breakin easier.

Top left: The Goal. Top middle: The Captain sounds the ships whistle as we cross the finish line at Hut Point. Middle right: Capt Kothe is congratulated by Adm Hayes. Bottom right: The USNS Maunee the fuel tanker had almost no ice to trouble her when she reached McMurdo. Bottom left: The USCGC NORTHWIND takes care of the little stuff in the wake of the POLAR SEA.

