



# **ARCTIC VOYAGE EXPEDITION LOG**

High Arctic Explorer

*Peregrine Mariner*

**12 August – 23 August 2007**



Peter Middleton	Naturalist
Yvonne Cook	Naturalist
Robin Middleton	Guide
Jim Hargreaves	Guide
Zak Shaw	Kayak Guide
Dr Glenn Browning	Consulting Doctor

## The Daily Log

**12 August, 2007**      **Ottawa / Resolute**

Time: 0700  
Position: Lat: 74° 42' N   Lon: 95° 07' W  
Sunrise: 00.25   Sunset: 23.55  
Barometric Pressure: 1017 mbar  
Air Temperature: +6 °C  
Water Temperature: +3° C

***“An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered.”***

***G.K.Chesterton***

Morning came at an extremely early hour as we tumbled from beds and did the final packing prior to our flight. We met the agent and were soon aboard the bus and transferred to the airport. The beautiful sultry summer weather in Ottawa was soon left behind as the plane took off and headed to Iqaluit and the Canadian north. Cloud coverage blocked our view as we passed over Quebec. It also led to a landing in Kujuak, to refuel, before the jump to Iqaluit. On our way into Iqaluit the clouds parted and the landscape opened up below us. Frobisher Bay stretched below us off to the Southwest, the huge expanse of mud flats were an indicator of the extreme tides in the bay. The browns and greys of the tundra and rocks of this harsh landscape were interspersed with clumps of bright red Fireweed and snow-white Arctic Cotton. After our brief touchdown in Iqaluit and crew change, we were aloft again for the final leg to Resolute Bay. Those of us who had window seats sat in awe of the fantastic land and seascapes unfolding below us, increasing our anticipation of the adventure ahead.

We touched down gently on the gravel runway at about 2:45 and had our first taste of the High Arctic as we made our way to the terminal building to be greeted by Jim and the passengers who were leaving. We were told tall tales about what to expect on our voyage and we were not really sure if our legs were being gently pulled. We met those hardy souls who had volunteered to spend a few days in Resolute and they did seem to be a little in shock after their experience. We boarded the entire fleet of the RTC (Resolute Transit Company) and our transfer to the ship began. Quickly togged out in life jackets and boots, we boarded the Zodiacs for our first excursion (some of us with slight misgivings as to what we had let ourselves into). We had a short, and thankfully calm, run to the ship as she sat serenely offshore. The *Peregrine Mariner* would be our home for the next two weeks. Onboard, we settled in. A “light” welcome buffet gave Dutch the opportunity to welcome us aboard. Shortly after this we had our mandatory lifeboat drill. After a short period of free time we had the first





of many gourmet suppers. The ship raised anchor at midnight and our voyage of Arctic discovery got underway. What would tomorrow bring?

**Russian Word of the Day:** *Priv-yet* - Hello!



**13 August, 2007**

## **Port Leopold & Leopold Island**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 74°09'N Lon: 91°34' W

Sunrise: 00.25 Sunset: 23.55

Barometric Pressure: 1019 mbar

Air Temperature: +7° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***“Give me this glorious ocean life, this salt-sea life, this briny, foamy life, when the sea neighs and snorts, and you breathe the very breath that the great whales respire! Let me roll around the globe, let me rock upon the sea; let me race and pant out my life, with an eternal breeze astern, and an endless sea before” –***

### **Herman Melville (1819-1891)**

Yes! Sunshine all night and day and calm conditions; we could not have asked for better weather, sea conditions and visibility for our first 24 hours out of Resolute. As we sailed across Barrow Strait yesterday morning, then between Prince Leopold Island and Somerset Island, countless guillemots, kittiwakes and fulmars were foraging around the ship. Then bingo! We sailed into Port Leopold, Somerset Island and at least one hundred Belugas and two polar bears, a female with a cub, were waiting for us. Four or five small herds of 10 to 20 harp seals also swam nearby.

Before lunch we had a mandatory safety briefing on the use of Zodiacs and an outline of the guidelines for wildlife viewing and safe behaviour in bear country - as prescribed by the Arctic Expedition Cruising Operators (AECO). We then boarded the Zodiacs to see the Belugas close up. Although a little skittish at first, about 200 of them eventually swam near to the Zodiacs, some to within just metres. The pods included white adults and grey calves, and some half-white sub-adults. They appeared to stick to the shallow shoreline where they came to moult by rubbing against the rocks and the sand. The waters “boiled” wherever the belugas went. At times you could hear them breathe; it sounded like, well, a fart... We spent about two hours in the Zodiacs before leaving Port Leopold in late afternoon on a dropping tide en route to Prince Leopold Island, only 15 nautical miles away.

After dinner, we anchored off the grandiose, 300+m cliffs of Prince Leopold Island where hundreds of thousands of Thick-billed murres and Black-legged kittiwakes nest. The conditions were perfect: no wind, no fog, good light and countless birds both in the air and on the water. We saw several baby murres – about 20 days old - with their fathers “at sea” and as a bonus even witnessed a few jumping from the cliffs and gliding, their still growing wings flapping furiously, awkwardly to the sea. They were followed closely by their father. The loud whistling calls of the chicks could be heard almost everywhere. In some cases, the chicks were “high and dry” on their father’s back. The sight of the kayakers paddling among the countless murres on the water near the base of the cliffs was also remarkable. As we returned to the ship in late evening, a light wind started to blow and the prevailing, calm conditions that allowed us to see and hear the birds so well began to dissipate. Wow! What a day! We had definitely begun our voyage with a “bang”.



**Russian word of the day: Dob-raye oo-tra - Good morning!**

**14 August, 2007**

**Dundas Harbour**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 74°19'N Lon: 84°57' W

Sunrise: 00.25 Sunset: 23.55

Barometric Pressure: 1018 mbar

Air Temperature: +7° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***"A large volume of adventures may be grasped within this little span of life, by him who interests his heart in everything."***

**Laurence Sterne**

What a beautiful day it was as we explored the sea, coast and land in the sunshine and warmth of Arctic summer. When the wake-up call went out, the sea was "oily calm" and as the day continued, only a slight breeze was noticeable – just enough to keep the mosquitoes away during the landing. By evening, the breeze had died and we were back to the calmest of seas.

There was not a dull moment this morning as we steamed toward our destination of Dundas Harbour. Jim educated and entertained us with the tale of his time he spent living with an Inuit family in a summer hunt camp. His pictures and descriptions of the Inuit way of living on the land gave us a good basis for understanding the evidence of hunting we are likely to see as our trip continues. Dutch and Alex presented an outline of the proposed trip itinerary along with the current ice charts, in their "Let's Go to the Arctic" presentation. While the presentations were in progress, the local wildlife was going about daily life. Of particular note were the herds of musk ox seen grazing on the distant green pastures. In addition to these exciting sightings, herds of harp seals were playing around the ship and fulmars, kittiwakes and Common eiders were doing flybys. In addition to the animal sightings, the geology of the area changed appreciably from morning to afternoon. The flat, sedimentary landscape that we had been looking at since starting off in Resolute gave way to a sharper, steeper metamorphic landscape that will stay with us until we head to Greenland.

The afternoon started off with a bang. As we landed on the beach near Dundas Harbour, we stumbled across six musk ox by the RCMP outpost buildings, bringing our total for the day to over 40. After a delightful encounter with the animals, watching them as they grazed, we enjoyed an afternoon of exploration in the sun. The buildings themselves served as a sobering reminder of the lonely life many people faced when they were stationed at these outposts. After visiting the RCMP site, several groups split off and enjoyed different levels of physical activity. The kayakers paddled around the point of land and back to the ship. The Chargers summited the small peak overlooking Lancaster Sound and the Medium Walkers walked back to the landing beach. The Peregrinators enjoyed spectacular tundra blossoms, skeletal remnants and scat. The Cruisers took a turn past the Thayer's Gull colony and saw a number of the uncommon birds. No matter which group



one joined, the scenery was spectacular looking out over the calm blue water, dotted with small icebergs that were gleaming in the sun.

To finish the day, Scott told us the tale of Sir James Clark Ross's role in the Franklin saga while Jacques showed a movie on murre colonies, like the ones we experienced the day before. Both evening activities were enjoyed by many of us on board.

**Russian Word of the Day:** *Spa-see-ba* - Thank you!

## 15 August, 2007 Baffin Bay

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 75°16'N Lon: 78°41' W

Sunrise: 00.45 Sunset: 23.53

Barometric Pressure: 1019 mbar

Air Temperature: +3° C

Water Temperature: +2.5° C

***“Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air...”***

***Ralph Waldo Emerson***

Throughout the night we steamed slowly towards an area of sea ice, close to the north-east coast of Devon Island in northern Baffin Bay, in the hopes of spotting Arctic wildlife. We were rewarded by Peter's early morning announcement of a polar bear sighting at 0659hrs. The bow of the ship was more like a pyjama party than an Arctic cruise as everyone, in various states of undress, jostled each other on the fo'castle head for a good view. The early birds were suitably rewarded with a brief but close viewing of the bear swimming and then climbing onto a small floe only a couple of hundred yards away. Throughout the rest of the morning we were entertained by a number of fascinating and expertly delivered presentations including Scotty's passionate telling of the Franklin tragedy and Peter's eloquent and educational introduction to tundra ecology. Captain Alex, our skilful ice pilot, weaved the vessel in and out of the fringe of the pack ice whilst many pairs of binoculars scanned the horizon for any sign of wildlife from the wings of the bridge.

After lunch we changed course to engage the floe ice more closely in order to improve our opportunities of wildlife encounters; with visibility improving, Cobourg Island and the distant mountains of Ellesmere Island came into view to the west. Conditions were perfect so we decided to go on an excursion – Zodiacs were launched and two teams set off to either cruise or go for an ice walk. Cruisers and ice walkers alike had a wonderful time. Sneaking between the floes along narrow leads, the cruisers spotted dovekeys and their chicks which had just abandoned their nests hidden in the scree of western Greenland and were now making their way across Baffin Bay towards Canada – a place they often visit but where they rarely nest. We also caught a glimpse of rare Ivory gulls and even the picked-clean skeleton of a seal – left by a bear after having its fill. The carcass had provided food for other creatures that live in this bleak and seemingly barren landscape but who still manage, interdependently, to survive. The ice walkers landed on an easy angled, stable ice flow. Some



succeeded in making the most northerly snow angels in the world. We had another great day in the High Arctic and were all looking forward to making our landfall in Greenland the following day.

**Russian Word of the Day: *Dob-raye-dyen* - Good Afternoon!!**

## **16 August, 2007      Qaanaaq, Greenland**

Time: 0700  
Position: Lat: 77° 10' N Lon: 70° 25' W  
Sunrise: 00.15    Sunset: 23.52  
Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar  
Air Temperature: +6° C  
Water Temperature: +3° C

***“Live it up, fill your cup, drown your sorrows and sow your wild oats while ye may, for the toothless auld tykes of tomorrow were the adventurers of yesterday.”***

***Tom Patey***

Another bright and sunny day greeted us as we hopped out of bed to witness the massive icebergs set in rows along the shoreline and drifting on the open water as our ship zigzagged between these monsters. Yvonne was on, right after breakfast, to give us an overview on glaciers and the icebergs, which we were observing along our journey. She outlined the processes by which glaciers had formed our landscapes and explained the types of ice and icebergs we were watching. We were heading for the community of Qaanaaq, a northern community of Greenland where very few ships visit. Its history is amazing - less than 200 years ago John Ross was the first ship that visited these shores and met the Greenlandic natives for the first time. They were independent people who were self sufficient due to a meteor that had landed near their community. From this meteor they could make tools to survive in this harsh environment. The Greenlanders were petrified by the visiting people and believed that the ship was a giant bird and asked whether they had come from the moon or the sun. It took some convincing to assure the people they were from the same earth and slowly made friends. The next most influential visitor was Robert Peary during his attempts to reach the North Pole. He hired many of the locals to help him in his quest for the coveted goal. Unfortunately he left the people after having shown them many western tools and ways, and they were now caught in the middle of their old ways and the modern world. It would have been very difficult to survive at this point in time, if not for the arrival of Knud Rasmussen and his helping hand. He enabled the people of this area to adjust and survive to the new way of life. All this in less than 200 years!

We spent the day visiting the town. The hikers ventured high up on the neighbouring slopes, taking in the incredible views of the landscapes and ice. The kayakers headed off along the coast, looking at the scenery from another angle. The birders took a quiet walk along the shoreline looking for any new species to add to their lists, while the rest of us visited the museum, grocery store, and the local gift shop. We all made our way back to our landing area to laugh at the antics of the children as they all had a ball, jumping and playing in our Zodiacs.



Dinner was early tonight in order to allow an evening outing. Sea fog rolled in to spoil our plans. Instead, a night at the movies was offered, with a great documentary on Zak's kayaking trip in Tibet. In the bar, Jacques held an informal talk on the mythical Sedna and the beginnings of this Inuit story, followed by the documentary on the subject. It was another full day, and the memories of Qaanaaq will be one of the highlights of the trip.

**Russian Word of the Day:** *Pa-zhal-sta* - Please!

## **17 August, 2007                      Pitugfik Glacier, Greenland**

Time: 0700  
Position: Lat: 76° 23'N   Lon: 70° 27' W  
Sunrise: 00.18   Sunset: 23.52  
Barometric Pressure: 1014 mbar  
Air Temperature: +5° C  
Water Temperature: +3° C

***"A journey is a person itself; no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policies and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip; a trip takes us."* - John Steinbeck**

The wake up call came with fog and a small delay in our schedule. By breakfast time we were doing 6 knots steaming SE along the outer edge of Wolstenholme Fjord. The thick mist had slowed us down during the night, but we were still on our way to Pitugfik Glacier making enough time for a brief "Let's Go to the High Arctic: Part II", where Dutch shared a few ideas of our itinerary for the next few days. By mid-morning we were anchored off of the snout of the Pitugfik Glacier. Our precise position was 76° 15N, 69° 02W. Despite the fact that we had no views of the glacier, we were all waterproofed and ready to go for a Zodiac cruise that ended up with a short landing and a fantastic close up view of a family of musk ox grazing in verdant Arctic pastures. With GPS assisted navigational, we returned once again to the mother ship and were treated to a much-awaited lunch. The sea air and the fog had made us all absolutely ravenous.

The afternoon excursion was underway, with several Zodiacs already launched, when Dutch decided to call off the landing due to the thick fog. The most adventurous amongst the group left for a cruise anyway, while the smart ones stayed behind and enjoyed warm drinks in the bar.

The evening was the perfect closing for our visit to Greenland. Although foggy, our Arctic BBQ out on the stern deck was a complete success thanks to our Hotel Team! Once again Chef Stuart and his team performed their magic and fed us like royalty. Mulled wine, delicious food and great music made for a memorable evening. We were now on our way back to Canada where more adventures awaited us!

**Russian Word of the Day:** *Kak-dee-la* - How are you?



**18 August, 2007**

**Baffin Bay**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 75° 03'N Lon: 71° 36' W

Sunrise: 00.26 Sunset: 23.57

Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar

Air Temperature: +4 °C

Water Temperature: +4° C

### ***"Where there's a will, there's a way"***

**Anon**

The morning started where last night concluded. A call from the bridge let us know that there were dramatic icebergs to be seen outside the portholes. The weather had improved overnight and allowed us to enjoy superb views of these spectacular creations. Soon a monster-sized berg was located about 10 miles away and we steamed toward it. With the morning presentations about to start we debated whether or not it would still be visible between shows - sure enough it was.

Peter presented an overview of Inuit lifestyle and culture as it developed in response to changes in the environment since the last ice age. He concluded with a look at the conflicts that arise when a traditional culture tries to adapt to outside influences.

Jim gave us a fascinating insight into the complexities of organizing logistics for a highly involved expedition to the North Pole and gave us plenty of tips and advice on sled hauling and polar travel – should we ever feel so inclined...

After lunch Jacques and Peter explained how the polar bear has been and will continue to be affected by changing sea ice conditions and how Peregrine Shipping and its passengers are helping to support research to ensure Polar Bear survival through the "Protect Our Poles" campaign. This was followed by a tour of the "hidden and not so hidden" parts of the ship before the Captain guided the ship skilfully past some superb icebergs.

Wildlife that was spotted included thousands and thousands of dovekies; fathers and chicks that had recently left their breeding site and were gathering in flocks to slowly head towards south west Greenland and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland where they will spend the winter. Some non-breeding adults had already moulted and were seen in winter plumage. We also spotted Parasitic Jaeger (the Arctic Skua) and the usual Arctic quartet of Black-legged kittiwake, Black guillemot, Thick-billed murre and Northern fulmars.

Pre dinner entertainment included the auction to raise money for the Protect Our Poles campaign. Some enthusiastic bidding ensued due, in no small part, to the offer of free alcohol. Judgement was not impeded however, and some very generous bids were made for some very unique items, all for an excellent cause. The auction was a great success. Thanks to all who supported the cause so generously.

After dinner the documentary "Journey to the Sea of Ice", was presented. In the bar, tales of nautical nonsense were classically told by Ice Captain Alex. As people headed to bed this evening, beautiful evening light painted the skies and icebergs in a myriad of pastel tones.



**Russian Word of the Day: Gdye too-alyet - Where are the toilets?**

## **19 August, 2007      Bylot Island**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 72° 46'N   Lon: 77° 22' W

Sunrise: 00.35   Sunset: 23.30

Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar

Air Temperature: +7° C

Water Temperature: +1° C

***“A sense of the future is that the present generation is morally responsible to future generations.”***

***Andrei Sakharov and C. P. Snow***

After a smooth crossing from Greenland across northern Baffin Bay, we made our Canadian landfall at Button Point on the southeast corner of Bylot Island. From there we entered the body of water known as Pond Inlet and headed west towards the Inuit community of the same name. Before proceeding to Pond we entered the sheltered anchorage of Albert Harbor, about ten nautical miles to the east. It is well known to the Inuit and eighteenth century whalers alike as a safe haven, when strong westerlies, funnelled by the venturi effect of the narrows, roared between Mount Herodier and the southern coast of Bylot Island. From our protected anchorage we landed and broke into our respective excursion groups and headed off in different directions to explore the surrounding area. Kayakers were intent on circumnavigating Beloeil Island and Hayley set off with a group of chargers to traverse steep sided gorges and scale lofty peaks. Jim and Dutch led two groups of medium hikers up a couple of nearby summits which afforded astonishing views of the surrounding mountains and the permanent snowfields of distant Bylot Island. Peter shared the tapestry of the tundra with those who wished a gentler ramble.

At lunchtime, we repositioned westwards to an anchorage off the Inuit community known as the Hamlet of Pond Inlet. Zodiacs sped between vessel and beach and all 108 passengers aboard were soon exploring the community and meeting the locals. Jacques and Hayley led an interesting beach walk westwards from the town to the Salmon River, where Inuit fish for the superbly flavoured Arctic Char and many new birds were sighted including the Ruddy Turnstone. The rest of us chatted to locals, purchased mementos and were enthralled by the cultural display presented by traditional throat singers, drum dancers and Inuit games athletes. We all felt embraced by the people of Pond Inlet and were sad to leave – what a very special Arctic day.

**Russian Word of the Day: Eta-kraa-see-viy - It's beautiful!**



**20 August, 2007**

**Devon Island**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 74°17'N Lon: 82° 25' W

Sunrise: 00.45 Sunset: 23.51

Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar

Air Temperature: +7° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***“I cannot rest from travel, I will drink life to the lees. All times I have enjoyed greatly...”***

***Tennyson (Ulysses)***

We arrived in Crocker Bay on the south shore of Devon Island under a perfectly blue and sunny sky. The sea was calm and visibility was excellent. It did not take long before we saw two rather large polar bears, of unknown gender - perhaps two large, weaned cubs - near the east shore. A small herd of harp seals swam in front of them, a Red-throated loon flew over them and five snow geese grazed on the tundra behind them. This bay was certainly more alive than it looked at first. Surprisingly, two walruses - a female with a large baby - appeared a few hundred metres away floating on an impossibly small ice floe on the starboard side. With patience and time, the captain carefully manoeuvred the ship, managing to get quite close to them. Awakening, they slid gently into the water and swam away gently with the young on top of the female at one point. Later in the morning, three more bears appeared – a female with a very playful cub on the nearby east shore of a piece of ice. The bay - and an apparent, large male at sea with a strange, unexplained protuberance on his back - appeared on the starboard side again. The bay was also quite busy with kittiwakes and fulmars, and hopefully an Ivory gull will materialize later in the day. What a magnificent and lucky morning of wildlife sightings we had.

After lunch, the unthinkable happened. Very thick fog moved in and the glorious, sunny, morning conditions that we had just enjoyed completely vanished. Nonetheless, we launched our Zodiacs and went to see old fox traps on shore and went cruising along the floating tongue of the glacier. Visibility was minimal at times. Although the fog restricted our movements and visibility, it did not prevent us from seeing countless adult and juveniles – but no young of the year yet - kittiwakes and other gulls, including a Thayer's gull – but no Ivory gull - some fulmars and a few moustachioed Bearded seals. We came back on board for dinner where fresh Arctic Char purchased in Pond Inlet the previous day was waiting for us. The fog lifted during dinner and Devon Island reappeared in all its glory.

After several attempts over the last week, Jacques finally managed to give his bird talk between polar bear sightings in the morning. After dinner, Peter read some poetry from Robert Service in the bar. There were as many passengers as we can fit in there. Peter's mellifluous voice and poems never fail to engage the mind and the heart.

**Russian Word of the Day: *Palat-ka* - Tent?**



**21 August, 2007**

**Maxwell Bay**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 74° 41' N Lon: 88° 41' W

Sunrise: 01.00 Sunset: 23.50

Barometric Pressure: 1008 mbar

Air Temperature: +7° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***“This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere. The dew is never dry all at once, a shower is forever falling. Vapour is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and glowing, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn as the earth rolls. And for this I am forever grateful to be alive.”***

***John Muir***

We made good time overnight and sat down to breakfast surrounded by the barren landscape of Maxwell Bay. A polar bear was spotted from the bridge but rapidly disappeared from view over a distant ridge before a general announcement could be made. Anticipating more animal encounters we set off on a wildlife-spotting cruise. We saw a lively Glaucous gull colony, home to several young birds not yet fledged, and a Black guillemot colony where the young were fledged and the adults were in various stages of moult and showing signs of developing their winter plumage. Harp seals were also encountered in the bay foraging for Arctic cod, and there was much admiration of the dramatic rock formations and glaciated landscape. Thinking that all other wildlife had abandoned the area we were just about to sit down for a well deserved lunch when a call went out that Walrus had been spotted lying on shore. Of course, we donned Zodiac cruising gear to go and take a look. The viewing went very well with everyone getting a good look at four walrus lazing in the morning sun. The Walrus barely noticed our presence and when we eventually returned to the ship, we were pleased to leave them snoozing, just as we had found them.

After finally sitting down for lunch, the afternoon found us on a variety of hikes and some people also managed to include a Zodiac cruise along the coast as part of their activities. We set off across the tundra, a true polar desert with exceptionally dry ground. We were rewarded with sightings of Parasitic Jaeger and chicks, a pair of Ravens, caterpillars, a lemmings winter nest, pellets of Snowy owl and Jaeger, foot prints of musk ox and polar bear and the scat of bear, musk ox, hare, ptarmigan and goose. We also found a wide variety of flora including Purple Saxifrage, Arctic Champion, Dwarf Willow in full foliage and going to seed and Mountain Avens. Of course, the rocks provided more highlights with, some good examples of patterned ground, some glacial erratics and several fossil discoveries, including a snail shell, the imprints of ammonite shells and lots of trace fossils – markings that show the passing of an animal over the ancient sea bed. However, the main interest had to be the polar bear skull and skin, probably the result of cannibalisation of a dead bear, and the Narwhal tusk and skull lying up on the raised beach.

The Asian Buffet was a lively affair and well deserved after such a full day. Activities continued with a preview of the video of our voyage and a display of the marvellous art works produced over the course of our voyage



by the very talented artists  
on board.

**Russian Word of the Day: EPree-yet-nava Apet-tee-ta - Enjoy your meal!**

## **22 August, 2007      Radstock Bay / Beechey Island**

**Time: 0700**

Position: Lat: 74° 49' N    Lon: 88° 33' W

Sunrise: 00.25      Sunset: 23.55

Barometric Pressure: 1017 mbar

Air Temperature: +7° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***"My experience of ships is that on them one makes an interesting discovery about the world. One finds one can do without it completely."***

***Malcom Bradbury***

Another sunny day and we believe to have broken the record for 'consecutive nice days' on this trip. We were off to Radstock Bay and Beechey Island to end our excursions for high arctic adventure. Right after breakfast we sped off to our landing site where Caswell towers stands out among the stunning landscape. Peter took us to the Thule sites that remain in excellent shape and described for us how the people of that era lived and hunted under the tough conditions. We were all lost in thought, trying to imagine how we would survive in this environment. Yvonne was walking among the fossils that littered the beach. We were able to look at the 400-million-year-old corals and shells that showed a time when a warm sea covered this area. Then it was back to the ship for the always-exciting account settlement.

In the afternoon we came into Erebus Bay to see the winter site of the Franklin expedition in 1845-6. We made our way by Zodiac to Northumberland House, a supply depot that was set up by Commander W.J.S. Pullen in 1852-53. Constructed from the masts and spars of a wrecked whaling ship, Northumberland House was intended as a supply depot for members of the Franklin Expedition, should they return to Beechey. They never did.

A mile along the beach we came across the graves of John Torrington, John Hartnell, and William Braine. These three men died during the winter of 1845-6 and were buried at this spot. We all stopped to read the eerie inscriptions left on these graves, probably picked by Franklin to be placed on his men's gravestones. Imagine the amount of work and toil to dig these three graves with a pick and shovel in the frozen earth. Beechey is only an island at high tide. At low tide it is joined to Devon Island by a sandbar. It has never been permanently inhabited, nor have Inuit traditionally camped there. In 1878 Captain Young of the Pandora stopped at Beechey and found Northumberland House trashed by polar bears. However a wooden barrel full of rum had not been tampered with. We left the island feeling as though we had just stepped back in time.



The captain's dinner was special and we reminisced about our trip to our new friends and staff. It was time to pack up our gear and get ready for a day of travel back to our homes, and to get some rest after a whirlwind tour of the High Arctic.

**Russian Word of the Day:** *Haro-sho* - Good!

## **23 August, 2007                      Resolute, Lancaster Sound**

Time: 0700  
Position: Lat: 74° 42' N    Lon: 95° 06' W  
Sunrise: 00.40                      Sunset: 23.58  
Barometric Pressure: 1017 mbar  
Air Temperature: +6° C  
Water Temperature: +3° C

***“There are two kinds of men in the world, those that stay at home and those that do not. Of the two, the latter are by far the most interesting.”***

### ***Rudyard Kipling***

The ship's engines came to a stop in the early morning, the anchor dropped and our trip came to an end in the sheltered waters off Resolute Bay. Two weeks ago we had sailed out with dreams and desires. In the intervening two weeks, we had put together a memory bank of uniquely personal images and impressions of the Arctic landscape. Austere, sweeping grandeur had been contrasted with the apparently fragile tenacity of plants and animals that inhabit these latitudes.

Following our last breakfast aboard we were transferred to shore aboard the Zodiacs one last time. There the classic old bus of the Resolute Transportation Commission met us. It would take us to the hotel that would be our base until the arrival of the plane. During the day, we were shuttled to Resolute for a quick walkabout and then on to the restored Thule site. This site brought to life the story of the community's beginnings and provided a fitting and thought-provoking conclusion to our Arctic journey.

With the plane's arrival, everything moved into high gear as the next group of travellers disembarked to begin their own adventure and we climbed onto the plane for our return to Ottawa. The engines roared to life, takeoff soon followed and the Arctic landscape expanded below - now no longer a place of curiosity, but one of familiarity and understanding. Memories are now ours of wild places, superb creatures and an incredible Arctic odyssey aboard the *Peregrine Mariner*.

**Russian Word of the Day:** *Da-svee-dan-eeya* - Farewell



## Wildlife List

August 2007	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>Birds</b>											
<i>(North American English names)</i>											
Red-throated Loon	X	X	X					x	X		X
Northern Fulmar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x	X	X	X
Rock Ptarmigan						H			X	S	
Common Eider	X	X	X			X		x	X	X	
Brant										X	
Snow Goose								X	X	X	
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)		X									
Red-necked Phalarope						?					
Red Phalarope						?			X	X	
Purple Sandpiper								X			
Common Ringed-Plover			X								
White-rumped Sandpiper								X	X		X
Baird's Sandpiper								X			
Ruddy Turnstone								X			
Parasitic Jaeger							X		X	X	
Long-tailed Jaeger		X		X	X		X		X	X	
Pomarine Jaeger		X			X	X			X		
Glaucous Gull	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Thayer's Gull			X						X		
Ivory Gull				X		?					
Black-legged Kittiwake		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arctic Tern	X				X						
Thick-billed Murre	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Dovekie				X	X	X	X	X			
Black Guillemot	X	X	X	X	X	X		x	x		
Common Raven	X				X	X		X	X	X	X
Snow Bunting	X				X	X		x	X		X
Lapland Longspur			X					X			X
Northern Wheatear			X					X			
Gyrfalcon						X					
Peregrine Falcon			X					X			
August 2007	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>MAMMALS</b>											
Harp Seal		X	X	X					X	X	
Ringed Seal		X	X				X	b			
Bearded Seal		X	X			X			X	X	
Walrus									2	5	



Polar Bear		2		1				5	b	
Beluga		200								
Muskox			41			4		s	s	s
Collared Lemming										x
Arctic Hare			X					s		s
Barren-ground Caribou								b		
<b>CODES:</b>										
d=dead; s=scats; f=feathers; b=bones; h:heard; ?=unconfirmed										

## KAYAK LOG

### GUIDE: Zak Shaw and Robin Middleton

#### Excursion 1 – Prince Leopold Island

7431N, 8229W

Date – 13/08/2007

Wind Speed – Light, 2 knots.

Species sighted from the kayaks – Glaucous gulls, Black guillemot, Thick-billed murre, kittiwake.

It's always that much easier if the wind stays away and the sea is calm for the first kayak excursion. With the ship anchored in close to the sea cliffs of Prince Leopold Island we didn't have to travel far by Zodiac to get to the action. Taking our turn we climbed out of the Zodiac and into our kayaks, Zak and Robin providing the necessary stability to the kayaks whilst we stretched our spray skirts on.

Once away from the Zodiac and the ship the, bird noise was amazing. Birds coming and going from the wall of rock in front of us, there was constant movement and activity. The call of young, newly-hatched Thick-billed murre was a particular delight. We were fortunate enough to witness a few making their first flights from the heights of the cliff accompanied by their fathers, their wings beating frantically before landing down in the water. Many do not make the flight out and away from the nest and land on the beach below. Hungry Glaucous gulls clean up most of the deceased to feed their young. Often we just sat in awe in the beautiful evening light watching the birds, immersed in the experience. After two hours of paddling we headed back to the ship for a drink.

#### Excursion 2 - Dundas Harbour

7728N, 6911W

Date – 16/08/07

Wind Speed – up to 7 knots but decreasing in speed throughout the excursion.

Species sighted from the kayaks – Northern fulmar, Husky sled dogs.



Dundas Harbour decided to really turn it on for our visit. The sun was out and visibility unlimited as we towed our kayaks from ship to shore. A peninsula divides Dundas harbour from Johnson bay and makes for a leisurely crossing by foot. Dressed in our kayaking equipment we climbed over a small saddle and were treated to our first musk ox sighting of the voyage. A mob of both young calves and mature adults grazed around the RCMP buildings before heading into the hills.

Robin had transported our kayaks around the coastline from the ship and arrived to meet us on a broad stony beach.

The sea was mirror calm, only the slightest of swell rolled under our kayaks as we paddled effortlessly out of the bay. Many grounded icebergs entertained us as we navigated along the rugged coastline. We were able to see deep into the water below us and admire the rocky bottom in the shallows near to shore.

Our imaginations ran wide as we discussed what each iceberg looked like - "a whale tail", "a loaf of bread"... Rounding Morin point, a light breeze came at us from behind and pushed us towards the now visible *Peregrine Mariner*.

We were entertained by some interesting techniques for getting from kayak to Zodiac but luckily in the end all finished well!

All agreed it was a brilliant day out.

### **Excursion 3 - Qaanaaq**

**7728N, 6911W**

**Date – 5/08/07**

**Wind Speed – 15 knots from the South**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Arctic turn, Little auk**

Four kayaks trailed behind the Zodiac away from the small settlement of Qaanaaq for our third kayak excursion. Qaanaaq was our only visit to a Greenlandic community and so others within our kayak team chose to interact with local people and go hiking towards the ice cap resting over the ridgeline above.

Initially the wind gusted from the northeast at a speed of 10knots and would have proven a real challenge for us. On cue, the wind died away presenting calm conditions and small rolling swells. The paddlers headed directly towards the biggest berg in the fjord. One side had a darker blue, diagonal fresh water dike slicing through it.

Thunder suddenly sounded as nearby, huge chunks of ice calved off an unstable berg. Once all had calmed we approached the debris in the water and paddled through it. The soup like paddling texture was fascinating. The blocks bumped and crashed into our kayaks, we had to place our paddle strokes into a mix of ice and water and the sound of air releasing was magic.

We completed the journey by arriving back at the ship. As we closed in on the gangway a local Greenlandic kayaker joined us in his own homemade craft. The word "Kayak" translates to "hunting craft".

### **Excursion 4 - Pitugfik Glacier**

**76014N, 6900W**

**Date – 17/08/07**

**Wind Speed – Thick fog, poor visibility, and calm conditions.**

**Species sighted from the kayaks - Bearded seals, musk ox, fulmar, Black guillemot.**



With a three-mile distance between the glacier and us, we utilised other Zodiac drivers to transport our kayaks for us to within a mile of the terminal face. We unloaded in two groups as the 2nd half of our team was transported from the gangway to meet us. They climbed into their kayaks and then paddled hard to catch up to us. A stony wall of glacial moraine ran parallel to us and we tucked in beside it as musk ox had been sighted in the area. Right on cue a group of four were visible on shore. We cruised by in shallow water and looked on as they grazed a green slope before moving up and over a small ridge.

Our focus was then back to ice. With only a half mile between us and our destination we continued on, unaware of our exact position. Watching the horizon our eyes strained to see the vertical rising of an ice wall. Soon enough we enjoyed the spectacle of paddling beside the glacier. Blocks of freshly carved ice smacked into our kayaks, our paddle blades making contact as they entered into the water with each stroke.

The encompassing fog created an atmospheric feel to our time out there. Our range of view was never greater than a quarter of a mile so we grouped closely together and maintained visual contact between the front and rear paddlers. Bearded seal surfaced beside us on occasion adding to the experience.

## **Excursion 5 - Nigarfivik**

**7616N, 6920W**

**Date – 17/08/07**

**Wind Speed – none**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Bearded seals, Black guillemot, Common eider and Glaucous gulls.**

The paddling team left the gangway first! The fog had hung around all day restricting our visibility severely. Using the GPS we navigated to a small beach, it was not until we were within a tenth of a mile that land appeared from under the gloom. We arrived at shore to find our kayaks. The fog continued to thicken as we gathered and began preparation to go on a short hike. Due to the hazards associated with poor visibility and wildlife the land excursion was cancelled, a Zodiac cruise was then offered for those interested. The kayakers, well, they just went kayaking.

Large numbers of Eider ducks with swarms of their young sat in the water ahead and Glaucous gulls nested on the cliffs above. We paddled a mile of the coastline taking our time to admire the amazing geology. The chocolate layers of rock folding and doubling back on themselves was an impressive sight. A narrow slot in the sea cliffs encouraged the adventurous spirit within us to inspect further. As we approached we questioned as to whether the gap was wide enough to paddle through. It was! After some grunting and clinging to the wall of the cave we all made the passage successfully, perseverance being the key! Our Arctic barbeque was waiting for us upon our return to the ship.

## **Excursion 6 - Albert Harbour, Pond Inlet**

**Date – 19/08/07**

**Wind Speed – None**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Bearded seal, Northern fulmar, Glaucous gulls, jellyfish, kelp and one harpoon head.**

We arrived in the early hours of the morning in Albert Harbour, Pond Inlet. The sea conditions were incredibly calm, perfect for kayaking. Within the sheltered bay we began our trip heading west with Baffin Island on our left side and Beloeil Island on our right. We quickly escaped and found ourselves alone away from all Zodiac noise and out of sight of the ship. Rounding the top of the island our view extended across Eclipse sound and



the entire width of Pond Inlet. Bylot Island's lofty summits stretched upwards off in the distance and below us, kelp blanketed the sea floor.

Continuing on we kept close to the interesting rock formations on shore, navigated amongst small islands of exposed rock and gazed at glaciers entering the sea. It was great to be out there, the only noise was that of our paddle strokes entering the water.

Needing to stretch our legs we entered a small secluded cove. A quick walk on shore revealed lots of interesting bits and pieces including a bone carved harpoon head. With time running short we quickly got back in the kayaks and finished our circumnavigation of the island arriving back with the ship at anchor.

## **Excursion 7 - Pond Inlet**

**7242N, 7759W**

**Date – 19/08/07**

**Wind Speed – variable, up to 5 knots, generally calm**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Baird's Sandpiper, Glaucous gull, kittiwake, Northern fulmar, Bearded seal.**

During the afternoon we visited the Inuit community of Pond Inlet. It was a great chance to meet the local people and gain an insight into their culture in a few ways. After the cultural shows were performed our kayaking team met at the beach landing site. Our kayaks were waiting for us along with twenty local kids who desperately wanted to go paddling with us. We set off in the direction of the Salmon River. A light breeze pushed us from behind and helped us to cover the short distance of 1.5km quickly.

Dug-out Thule homes dating back to around 1000 years were of great interest to us. The sight contained the remains of twelve homes constructed originally from whalebones, skins, rocks and sod. Earth was piled up on top of the roof to retain heat and aid the structural integrity of the homes. The doorways always overlooked prime hunting terrain. To finish the day we paddled back towards the ship. It took about forty-five minutes as a strengthening head wind worked against us.

## **Excursion 8 - Croker Bay**

**7448N, 8314W**

**Date – 20/08/07**

**Wind Speed – light southerly up to 5 knots**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Bearded seal, Northern fulmar, juvenile and mature kittiwake, Glaucous gull.**

Entering Croker Bay we experienced a polar bear frenzy. Five bears were seen from the ship along with two massive walrus that had hauled out on a tiny piece of ice. The ship was accurately put in position 100m away from the walrus, it was a good show.

As we sat eating lunch the fog rolled in. In the space of ten minutes our visibility went from completely clear to ten metres. Robin transported us from the gangway one mile to a site on the eastern side of the bay to check out some fox traps.

The fog didn't hold us back though. At 3.30pm we set off following a GPS bearing towards the Croker Glacier 3.5 miles away.



The fog hung low so we travelled close together and maintained eye contact within our group. We noticed the temperature starting to drop off but after forty-five minutes of consistent paddling the glacier was yet to be seen. Then it got really cold and dropped to 3 degrees. The mystical shape of the glacier finally revealed itself.

With half an hour before Zodiacs would arrive to pick us up we paddled parallel to the front edge in calm conditions. Occasionally we paused to look at groups of juvenile kittiwake resting on bergy bits. It was an eerie environment, surrounded by gloom and vague towering shapes. Gradually we moved on towards our waypoint and pick up point. The hum of Zodiacs arriving signalled the end of our journey.

## **Excursion 9 - Maxwell Bay**

**7449N, 8832 W**

**Date – 21/08/07**

**Wind Speed –5 knot southerly**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Bearded seal, Northern fulmar, kittiwake, Glaucous gull, Red-throated loon, Common eider.**

Our kayaking team left the ship fifteen minutes before the majority of the ship's passengers. We used to this time to get our kayaks organized whilst Hayley transported us across the bay towards a massive, sedimentary sea cliff. Carolina joined us with kayaks in tow before we continued on. Once closer to shore we made the transition from Zodiac to kayaks and began our excursion heading around into the neighbouring inlet.

Very little plant life grows in this barren, exposed land of rock and scree, yet we were able to observe small grassy patches and lichens growing below the nesting sites of the cliff-dwelling birds. Raised beaches indicative of sea level change were obvious to us as we moved by. With no Zodiac noise we paddled on alone in the sun. The sweeping desert like environment stretched out before us drawing us closer. It was a great time, nobody felt the need to cover huge distances or paddle really hard so often we just sat and milled around in the sun at the head of the bay and enjoyed the serenity.

A highlight of the trip was the exceptional water clarity. Deep below us the sea floor was clearly visible. At a guess we could see 25 feet. It was a very relaxing excursion.

## **Excursion 10 - Beechey Island**

**7443N, 9147W**

**Date – 22/08/2007**

Beechey Island is a place that's regularly attacked by wind, surrounded by fog and hit by waves that roll from in Erebus bay. This typical weather makes it feel very real and genuine, much like it would have been for Sir James Franklin and his men during their early exploration of the area. On our day however, whilst the wind was strong, the sky was clear. It was a day that felt like the Arctic more so than any other on the voyage. The bay is named after one of Sir James Franklin's ships, which was used for the search of the Northwest Passage in 1845.

After disembarking from the ship we first visited the gravesite in which three of Franklin's men are buried. We pushed off the stony beach and headed for the northern end of Erebus Bay. We gained some protection from the spit of land separating Beechey Island from Devon Island but it was temporary. Once in the open the waves lashed at us and the wind compromised our balance.



With more to see we headed south. A 20-knot breeze helped us along as we crossed the bay towards the Northumberland House site. Occasionally a wave behind us would catch the kayak and surf us towards the massive sea cliffs standing above Northumberland House. We flew by the site and continued on to explore the coastline further. Eventually a 30-knot headwind wore us down and we turned back.

Landing at Northumberland House we stretched our legs and wandered around the old shelter site and graves of those involved in Franklin's rescue parties. With the wind still blowing we all agreed it was time for hot showers so we loaded our Zodiac and headed back to the ship.

## Staff Biographies

### DUTCH WILLMOTT

"This is my fifth year and third Arctic season with Peregrine Shipping's polar expeditions. Melbourne, Australia is my home and it is where I completed my degree in Environmental Science and honed my wilderness and boating skills. I have been boating for over 20 years and in 2002 gained my commercial skipper's licence. I have sailed and raced yachts all over the world and have competed in many ocean races including two Sydney to Hobarts, considered to be one of the toughest races in the world. A milestone Cape Horn rounding was also achieved in March. Some claim my grin can disarm polar bears at 200 metres but I would not bet on it! I'm looking forward to sharing my polar and boating experience with you."

As well as being one of our Expedition Leaders, Dutch is also responsible for safety operations and our fleet of Zodiacs. When not seen around the ship you will find him on the back deck (or on his back on the deck) mixing glue and repairing things.

### COLIN BATES

Colin hails from Bamfield, British Columbia, a tiny fishing village on the west coast of Vancouver Island. He holds a Ph.D. in marine biology and his research focus is marine community ecology. He is an avid naturalist and diver, and regularly teaches about marine botany and coastal conservation. In addition to his scientific work, Colin is a professional photographer and he shows and sells his work across Canada. As an active member of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, he also engages in regular seamanship training, heavy-weather boat driving, and marine search and rescue operations.

### CHLOE KURTS

Chloe comes to us from Melbourne, Australia although, since her teenage years, has found it hard to stay in one place. With a degree in Languages and Linguistics, Chloe's passion for exploration and cultures has taken her far and wide.

This love for travel, languages and wildlife and her many years working in catering led her to one of the most exciting places on Earth – Africa. Chloe spent an incredible four years managing safari lodges in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. Falling asleep to the sounds and snores of the African bush made it difficult for Chloe to return to the city, however, her return to Melbourne introduced her to us.



Now based in Vancouver, Canada, Chloe is the Hotel Operations Manager, overseeing all things 'hotel'. This role sees her on and off the ships assisting the wonderful on board hotel and kitchen team.

With what little free time she has, Chloe is a qualified yoga teacher and can be found giving directions from a yoga mat! Yoga on Ice? You bet!!!

## **BRYCE HITCHENS**

Bryce has been in the hospitality industry for the last 12 years and has successfully completed his Journeyman's Certificate for Cheffing. Cooking isn't just a job for Bryce; it is something that he loves to do and is passionate about. Joining us for his second season, Bryce looks forward to experiencing the High Arctic. In his spare time he loves spending time in the outdoors, fishing, hunting and watching CFL football games. He considers himself a true prairie boy and loves the snow. Hailing from Saskatchewan, it is not surprising that his definition of perfect weather is "any weather that shorts can be worn", and there is rarely a day when you will see him in trousers!

Bryce aims to be a professional first-aider for wildlife and fish response. An advocate for keeping Canadian waters healthy you can find him here providing mouth to Gill AR! Peregrine Shipping is thrilled to have him back as the Sous Chef for this season.

## **HAYLEY SHEPHARD**

Hayley is originally from New Zealand. She went to Vancouver Island for a three week kayaking trip in 1995, fell in love with Orca - and never went home! She is an Expedition Leader for Peregrine Shipping and brings an abundance of experience and knowledge to the role, an eagerness to share her passion for polar regions and of course a woman's touch to expedition leading. She is happiest at sea and when not on board the *Mariner* lives in her little cottage beside the sea on Vancouver Island, or in her sea kayak.

Hayley has a teaching Diploma specialising in Outdoor Education and Environmental Science. This combined with her considerable and varied practical experience adds some real depth to her role.

Hayley has represented NZ in rugby, sea kayaked solo around Vancouver and the Queen Charlotte Islands, published a children's book and guided destinations we all dream about. She has her sights set now on being the first woman to circumnavigate South Georgia - alone!

## **STUART TIDSWELL**

With over 9 years experience on polar expedition vessels, we are thrilled to have Stuart take the helm in the galley of the *Peregrine Mariner*. Stuart has over 20 years experience in the food industry and has worked all over the world in catering, resorts, restaurants and ships. As our Head Chef, Stuart's creativity and flair can be enjoyed every day in our onboard restaurant.

Originally from Papua New Guinea, Stuart has gone from Palm Trees to Icebergs. With the little time Stuart has off during the year, you may find him relaxing on his sailboat in the warm waters of Cairns, Northern Queensland, Australia.



## ROBIN MIDDLETON

This is Robin's second summer in the Canadian Arctic but her first onboard as part of the Peregrine Shipping Team. In her life off the ship, Robin teaches high school Biology, Chemistry and Outdoor Education in Ottawa, Ontario. In the winter, she spends many hours on the ski trails coaching the high school Nordic ski team. Prior to traditional classroom teaching, she also enjoyed working in the Ontario Parks system as a Naturalist, teaching park visitors about the natural wonders around them.

Choosing to live in Ottawa was a deliberate move based on the dependable snow in winter and the close proximity of terrific white-water when the snow melts. When not at work, Robin can usually be found in her kayak on a white-water river or on her cross-country skis, enjoying the local trails.

Robin has a great love of travel and is aboard the *Peregrine Mariner* this summer as a Naturalist and Kayak Guide and is looking forward to exploring the polar seas with the intrepid paddlers and Arctic adventurers!

## ZAK SHAW

Raised in rural NZ, Zak is a farm boy at heart. As one of New Zealand's most qualified kayak instructors Zak travels the globe as a photographer, teacher, expedition paddler and adventure writer.

At just 26 Zak has rapidly established himself as an exceptionally competent instructor and kayak guide. Joining the Peregrine Shipping team in 2006 for the Arctic season he fell in love with the magical far north and so is back again for more.

Having completed first descents of rivers in South America, Africa and China he is no virgin of the adventure experience. In 2005 Zak assisted a New Zealand sea kayak expedition to complete the first circumnavigation of the sub Antarctic island of South Georgia. In Tibet last year he was part of an international team who successfully completed the first descent of Tibet's Parlung Tsangpo a terrifying 12 – day, 210km river journey.

As a current outdoor professional Zak constantly draws on his high level of expertise in order to supply safe and yet real adventure experiences. His next expedition is to India in October so if you have any advice for him or just want to know more about Aotearoa (NZ) just look for the youngest staff member on the ship!

## PETER MIDDLETON

Peter was born in Scotland, in case you wonder about the voice, but grew up in Canada. A career, teaching Outdoor Education in Ontario, was complimented by forty years of guiding experience that started as a Park Naturalist in Algonquin Park in 1963 and has led to worldwide leadership in latter years. Peter has always had a passion for both the sea and the Polar Regions. He has been part of the Peregrine Shipping staff for a number of years, travelling both to Antarctica and the Canadian Arctic.

An Enthusiastic naturalist, Peter has a wide scope of expertise that he loves to share. If you happen to find him lying on the ground at some point waving his hands in the air, don't despair, he is only trying to catch the attention of a passing caribou.



## **LISA O'LEARY**

Hailing from North Queensland and suffering from a severe overdose of sunshine, Lisa decided to move to the UK where she has spent the last three years working and managing pubs and has now based herself in Manchester. During this time she has developed a taste for warm beer, a nuance for regional dialects and an attraction for Chelsea's Frank Lampard.

Apart from a brief stint at university Lisa has been following her passion for music performing in bands beginning with the all girl act 'Cousin Felix' at age 13. After moving to Brisbane her hip hop/funk band 'Chi-Qi' saw popular local support and played the Woodford Folk Festival in 2003, followed by a national tour that same year.

Having already travelled much of Europe Lisa was looking to experience adventure a little further a field when the opportunity to work with Peregrine came by. Not having been to the Arctic before, and knowing what a unique and delicate region it is, she hopes she can also share and enrich the experience with passengers.

## **GERARDO DANIEL MANISCALCO**

Gerardo Maniscalco is 23 years old and from the province of Cordoba in Argentina. He began studying cooking at 17 years and received the title of professional gastronomic at the age of 19. In 2003 he travelled to Mexico in a cultural Exchange and worked at a five Star hotel called "Quinta del Rey" for nine months learning "high Mexican kitchen".

At the end of the year 2003, he returned to Cordoba and took a baker's course. He moved south to the most southerly city in the World, Ushuaia, and became the head chef of the well-known "Club Nautico" for a year.

Mexico beckoned again and Gerardo travelled north to the city of Toluca , were he worked as head chef at the popular "Casa Nogal" restaurant for a year.

A sponge for knowledge, Gerardo returned home again to take more courses, this time as a pastry chef. He has spent the last 2 years working as head chef in the best restaurants in Ushuaia and on board the *Mariner* as Sous Chef. Gerardo's family lives in Cordoba, the capital of Argentina, and he enjoys sports, physical activities and driving racing cars with his brothers.

## **JAMES HARGREAVES**

Jim has been instructing adventure activities and organising expeditions all over the world for more than thirty years. He was a member of the First British Grand Canyon Expedition to the Colorado River in 1971 and went on to lead expeditions to the Bio-Bio in Chile, the Zambezi in East Africa and several rivers in Nepal. He has also paddled in Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize and Japan. Jim has worked as a professional mountain and river guide in the Canadian Rockies and the French Alps and was Head of Department at the prestigious National Centre for Mountain Activities in North Wales in the UK. He is also a very accomplished sea kayaker—he was a member of the team that made the first kayak circumnavigation of Cape Horn.

In 1986 he was a member of the British K2 Expedition to the Karakorum Himalayas and he has also climbed extensively in Britain and the Rocky Mountains as well as in Africa and the European alps.



Recently, Jim settled in Canada in 1992 after organising 'Icewalk', a North Pole expedition, and since then he has travelled extensively in Canada's northern Arctic regions. Jim has worked as a technical advisor on a number of BBC documentaries including 'Coming of Age', the story of an Inuit boy's first hunt, and very recently 'The Great White Silence' a documentary about climate change and how it is affecting the northern Baffin community of Pond Inlet.

## ALEX MACINTYRE

Alex is a 3rd generation sea captain presently working in Halifax, Nova Scotia as a ship's harbour pilot. He commenced sailing on ships while in high school and university. Upon graduation he joined the Norwegian Merchant Marine on vessels trading world wide for the princely sum of \$80,000 per month. On his return to Canada he joined the Canadian oil tanks, eventually becoming Captain. During this time he participated in numerous Arctic "sea lift" operations as well as oil exploration and drilling programs in the Beaufort Sea. During winter months he also serves as an Ice Advisor and VLCC crude oil tanks transiting the ice covered Gulf and rivers of St. Laurence.

Alex is always keen to share his enthusiasm for the Arctic and ships as well as thought provoking discussions with one elbow in the bar!

## CAROLINA MANTELLA

Carolina adds some diversity to our English speaking team. She is fluent in Spanish, Italian and English, helping her to communicate with our international clientele. Six years ago after completing a master in Hospitality and Tourism, Carolina joined Peregrine Shipping as our ground representative in Buenos Aires. She very quickly became an integral part of our team, and has now completed over 45 Peregrine Shipping Polar Expeditions as well as extended scientific charters on both the *Peregrine Mariner* and the *Peregrine Voyager*. Carolina knows the intricacies of both of our ships and all their working mechanisms, so if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask her. An avid swimmer and traveller, Carolina finds adventures above and below the water – most recently in SE Asia where she obtained her Rescue Diving Certificate. She likes trekking and mountain biking and is learning to handle a camera like a pro.

During the off-season she presented her first photo exhibition in Buenos Aires and joined a 60 ft motor yacht around South Georgia for a petrel and albatross survey. Living in the UK now, Carolina enjoys taking care of her vegetable garden and mountain biking in the High Peak District, where you can find a pub at the end of every trail!

## JACQUES SIROIS

Biologist, naturalist and educator, Jacques has nurtured a life-long interest in natural history and wildlife conservation in general, and in marine and freshwater ecosystems and polar matters in particular. Birdwatcher since childhood in his native Québec City, he worked for nearly two decades for the Government of Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic regions of the country. His duties included surveys and studies of migratory birds, as well as the delivery of public education and wildlife management programmes. As a result, he has authored numerous technical papers, reports and educational publications. He has also done dozens of interviews on public radio.



Avid outdoorsman, skier, kayaker, cyclist and practitioner of an environmentally friendly lifestyle, Jacques is usually found where there is water, snow and ice. His Norman ancestry and a youth spent wearing (Harp) sealskin boots – he still owes and wears one pair - may explain his passion for cold, damp places. He currently resides in landlocked Edmonton, where he works as a consultant. Naturalist on small, polar expedition ships only since 2000, he has participated in a wide variety of both Arctic and Antarctic voyages over the last 5 years.

## **SCOTT MACPHAIL**

Beginning his eighth year of polar travel Scott has worked in all areas of operation on the ship from Hotel Manager to Polar Historian on our educational team. Scott also works on board preparing equipment and organising logistics for the positioning and re-positioning cruises, so everything is “ship-shape” when the rest of the staff and passengers arrive. All in all he can spend up to 8 months of the year on the ship! In his off time, Scott will be found relaxing at his cottage and working on his golf game.

## **YVONNE COOK**

Yvonne is from New Zealand; she has a general interest in natural history and a broad background in earth sciences, which has included many years working in glaciated country. Yvonne has a PhD in Antarctic geology and specialises in the formation of mountain ranges. She has been leading expeditions to Antarctica since 1990 where she has worked in various roles including as a research geologist and as a guide & safety officer for university teams. She works part of the year at the centre for Antarctic research at the University of Canterbury (in the beautiful south island of New Zealand) and is responsible for leading the university's educational programme in Antarctica.

In her spare time she has been a leader of various trekking and kayaking groups at home and overseas, and when she is not working she can be found in the New Zealand mountains, gathering information for a mountaineering guide book, or combining her interests in mountaineering and photography in some far-flung area of the globe.

Peregrine Shipping is delighted to have Yvonne for her first Arctic Season on board the *Peregrine Mariner*. Her knowledge and experience are greatly appreciated by the team and passengers aboard!

## **DR GLENN BROWNING**

Glenn comes from Canberra, Australia, where he has worked in Emergency Medicine, Anaesthetics and Intensive Care for the last 20 years. He considers himself very fortunate in having an understanding boss, who lets him take off 2 to 3 months a year to work aboard ships. His first job as ship's doctor was on an Antarctic trip in 1998 and he well and truly caught the bug. He has returned to Antarctica every year since, and has recently included the Arctic in his schedule to help balance out the year. Wanting to experience the whole polar year, from one extreme to another, Glenn joined the Australian Antarctic Division and spent a year at Casey Station in 2002, with his 16 best friends ever. He plans to return for another winter in 2009.



Glenn would love to meet you to share his passion for travel to remote wilderness areas, but would prefer to do it socially rather than professionally.

## Voyage map

