



ARCTIC VOYAGE EXPEDITION LOG

High Arctic Explorer

Peregrine Mariner

1 August – 12 August 2007

Ship and Crew Information

Peregrine Mariner

This specially designed scientific research vessel was built in Rauma, Finland in 1989 for the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oceanology. The vessel is designed to carry out scientific research work on the oceans. The *Peregrine Mariner* was specifically designed and built to transmit long distance submarine acoustics and it is capable of “silent ship” operation to assist acoustic research. The purpose of this research is to examine profile, layers and structures of the ocean floor and the physical and chemical characteristics of the sea as well as the radiation characteristics of the ocean surface and meteorological phenomena.

The ship’s Russian name is the Akademik Ioffe, after Akademik Abraham Ioffe, a nuclear physicist with the Russian Academy of Sciences, who went on to head a research institute in St Petersburg. The *Mariner* is able to clear 1 m first year sea ice, and is a Canadian class B, Russian class K ice strengthened vessel. It is now owned and run by the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, which is the primary oceanographic research institution in Russia and chartered exclusively by Peregrine Shipping.

Port of:	Kaliningrad, Russia	Draft:	6.09 m
Built:	1989 in Rauma, Finland	Breadth:	18.28 m
Gross	6,450	Length (LOA):	117.04 m
IceClass:	KM*L1 (1) A2, Canadian Type B		
Engines:	5,000 kW diesel, twin engine, twin propeller, and 600 kW bow and stern thrusters		

Peregrine Mariner Crew List

Name	Rank
Leonid Tatarin	Captain
Valeriy Sedykh	Chief Mate
Mikhail Egorov	Second Mate
Denis Borisov	Third Mate & Navigator
Elena Makeenkova	Passenger Mate

Peregrine Shipping Staff

David “Dutch” Willmott Expedition Leader

Captain Keith Jones	<i>Ice Pilot</i>	Peter Middleton	<i>Naturalist</i>
Hayley Shephard	<i>Assistant Expedition Leader</i>	Robin Middleton	<i>Guide</i>
Carolina Mantella	<i>Program Co-ordinator</i>	Jim Hargreaves	<i>Guide</i>
Chloe Kurts	<i>Hotel Manager</i>	Stephen Spittler	<i>Naturalist</i>
Stuart Tidswell	<i>Head Chef</i>	Zak Shaw	<i>Kayak Guide</i>
Gerardo Maniscalco	<i>Sous Chef</i>		
Bryce Hitchens	<i>Sous Chef</i>	Consulting Doctor	
Lisa O’Leary	<i>Bartender</i>	Dr Colin Lee	
Scott MacPhail	<i>That Guy</i>		
Colin Bates	<i>Guide / Videographer</i>		
Jacques Sirois	<i>Naturalist</i>		



The Daily Log

1 August, 2007 **Ottawa / Resolute**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 74° 42' N Lon: 95° 06' W

Sunrise: 00.40 Sunset: 23.58

Barometric Pressure: 1009 mbar

Air Temperature: +4 °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. Meeting the agent we were soon aboard the bus and transferred to the airport. Summer in Ottawa was quickly left behind as the plane took off and headed to Iqaluit and the Canadian north. A fine breakfast set spirits right. Below, the landscape changed in character as the boreal forest, with its clear-cut rectangles, gave way to the tundra and ultimately the “barren lands” of northern Quebec and Baffin Island. After the brief touchdown in Iqaluit, we were aloft again for the final leg to Resolute Bay. Soon the open Arctic landscape spread below us increasing our anticipation of the adventure ahead.

Touchdown came at about 1445 hours, when transfer to the ship began. Quickly togged out in life jackets and boots, we boarded the Zodiacs for our first excursion – a short and thankfully calm run to the ship, which sat serenely offshore. Onboard we settled into our home for the next two weeks. During the welcome buffet, Dutch welcomed us aboard and Hayley outlined the lifeboat drill expectations. At supper, the staff was introduced and we were then free to relax and prepare for the voyage ahead.

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



2 August, 2007

Beechey Island / Lancaster Sound

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 74°39'N Lon: 92°23' W

Sunrise: 01.00 Sunset: 23.58

Barometric Pressure: 1007 mbar

Air Temperature: +3° 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)

The ship weighed anchor at 0200 hours and we awoke after our first night aboard to find ourselves steaming eastward from Cornwallis Island through Lancaster Sound toward the southwest corner of Devon Island, the largest uninhabited island in the world. Ever in search of new sights and sounds, we altered course northward and explored the southern end of Wellington Channel until we reached latitude 75° N. North of this latitude we would have entered a Zone 5 ice area, which would have required special permission from the Canadian authorities, so we changed course to a southerly heading, aiming to position the vessel off of Beechey Island by lunchtime. We duly dropped anchor in Terror and Erebus Bay, named after Sir John Franklin's two expedition ships that set out in search of the elusive Northwest Passage route from the Atlantic to the Pacific in 1845. Franklin and his crew over-wintered in this bay until the summer of 1846 and during this time three of his crew succumbed to sickness attributed to poisoning caused by food sealed in lead sealed cans. The three crew members, John Torrington, William Braine and John Hartnell, were buried on the foreshore of Beechey Island before Franklin continued with his quest.

After lunch, the Zodiacs were launched and our first excursion was under way. We explored Northumberland House, built in 1852 by a Franklin search party from the spars of a shipwreck, and then two hiking parties set off in atmospherically misty conditions to explore the gravesites. Despite poor visibility, a rare White phase gyrfalcon was seen hunting on the wing as our hiking trails led us over coral-strewn raised beaches to the gravesite. It was impossible to stand beside those graves without imagining what it must have been like for Franklin and his men to have wintered there over a hundred and fifty years ago, fresh and full of optimism, yet not knowing what a tragic outcome their expedition was going to face. The expedition was known to have left Beechey Island some time in the early summer of 1846 and to have initially explored Wellington Channel before turning about and heading across Lancaster Sound to Peel Sound on the west side of Somerset Island. Little is known of what happened to Sir John Franklin and his two ships after that point except that he attempted to enter the passage between the west coast of King William Island and Victoria Island. Wandering Inuit recovered artifacts from several gravesites and traded them with would-be Franklin rescuers and eventually the puzzle was pieced together by a succession of search expeditions. The irony of Franklin's tragic fate lies in the fact that if he hadn't disappeared, the exploration of the channels and sounds by many famous explorers who set out to discover the fate of the expedition (and which eventually led to the key to the



Northwest Passage) would never have taken place. A visit to Beechey Island always leaves so many questions unanswered.

After returning to the ship and a hearty supper we weighed anchor once more and set a south-easterly course for Cape Yorke, on the northern tip of the Borden Peninsula on Baffin Island, in search of new adventures on the morrow.

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

3 August, 2007

Cape Joy / East Lancaster Sound

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 73°49'N Lon: 83°40' W

Sunrise: 23.56 Sunset: 23.56

Barometric Pressure: 1009 mbar

Air Temperature: +4° 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

Sunshine, sunshine, sunshine, all day, all night in Lancaster Sound - this was a good day in the High Arctic. Moreover, it began at Cape Joy (Borden Peninsula, Baffin Island) and ended with a polar bear on the ice in the middle of the sound. Morning conditions were calm and serene at Cape Joy and we saw many flowers, the dwarf fireweed among others, and 30 or so long-tailed ducks – half of which were actually flightless as they were moulting. We welcomed the calm conditions as the *Mariner* was anchored quite far (at least 1.5 nm) offshore because of the very shallow coastal waters. Two groups of hikers covered a few kilometres of this vast, wild and clean area, while a group of contemplators managed to cover a few hundred metres looking for signs of wildlife activity, bones (at least one walrus head bone was found), plant microclimates and other features. The kayakers paddled several kilometres along and near the shore, where they found the footprints of a polar bear. Both king and Common eiders were present in the area, including a Common eider hen with her brood of five ducklings. Bearded seals were also foraging here and there along the shore and in the lagoon near the landing site.

After a late lunch, we spent all afternoon sailing through sea ice looking for seals and bears. We encountered a few bearded seals but no bear. Small but steady numbers of guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes kept appearing and disappearing in this grandiose ice-infested seascape framed by Devon Island to the north and Bylot Island to the south. We had to wait until the evening, after dinner, to see our first bear on sea ice in the middle of Lancaster Sound. It was a magnificent, rather large and apparently healthy male, wandering over a



large (1000 m+ in length) piece of ice, which provided a perfect seal-hunting platform. The bear was calm and showed little interest in us. There was no seal in sight.

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

4 August, 2007 East Lancaster Sound

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 75°20'N Lon: 75°00' W
Sunrise: 00.45 Sunset: 23.53
Barometric Pressure: 1011 mbar
Air Temperature: +4° 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

What a glorious day it was. The seas were calm the whole day and the wind was minimal. The skies were dull grey with fog and rain rolling in and away periodically. However, the events of the day proved to be anything but dull!

To start the day off, Scott and Jacques educated and entertained us with their presentations. Jacques illuminated the topic of basic, sea bird biology and shared some tips on the identification of the usual suspects likely to be seen during the voyage. During his presentation he discussed not only the current status and behaviour of many birds, but also compared these to species such as the great auk, which are now extinct.

In the other presentation of the morning, Scott took us back in time, enlightening us on the challenges faced by the men on the Franklin expedition. Not only did the audience get an impression of what life on an old expedition sailing ship would have been like, they were invited into the mystery that surrounds the failure of the expedition and the ultimate demise of every member of the expedition.

The afternoon got off to an exciting start when we spotted a polar bear shortly before our Zodiac cruise was set to begin. Instead of cruising amongst the pans of sea ice, we were treated to a spectacular encounter with *Ursus maritimus* – “the sea bear.” No one could have predicted the display this young bear provided us; watching, smelling, jumping, testing ice thickness, scratching, stretching, swimming and generally delighting us all with a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We cruised along the ice edge in Zodiacs and the bear walked along with us, as curious as he was suspicious, but not stressed with our presence.



To finish the afternoon in appropriate style, we walked on the sea ice! Although brief, the chance to stand on pack ice hundreds of kilometres from Canada and hundreds of kilometres from Greenland was an opportunity for everyone to experience the landscape and habitat of the polar bear in a close and personal way. Those who chose not to try out the experience on ice enjoyed a cup of tea while watching David Attenborough's video on polar bears and polar environments.

The unexpectedly thrilling afternoon left a feeling of wonder and curiosity about what adventures lay around the next corner.

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

5 August, 2007 Qaanaaq, Greenland

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 77° 23' N Lon: 69° 48' W
Sunrise: 00.25 Sunset: 23.55
Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar
Air Temperature: +7° C
Water Temperature: +2° C

“The great hurrah about wild animals is that they exist at all, and the greater hurrah is the actual moment of seeing them. Because they have a nice dignity, and prefer to have nothing to do with me, not even as the simple objects of my vision. They show me by their very wariness what a prize it is simply to open my eyes and behold.”

Annie Dillard - Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

The sun illuminated the surrounding mountains and landscapes, as well as the hundreds of icebergs that spread along the coast, as we woke from our sleep. We were all prepared for our visit to the community of Qaanaaq, the most northerly town in Greenland. The ride in was exciting, as the drivers tried their best to get around the rocks that were set up like a minefield along the shoreline. We gradually made our way to the beach and took off on a stroll around town. The walk was stunning as we climbed the roads and stared out over the beautiful vista. Some of us made our way to the museum, while the rest of us took to the local store to check out the gifts and carvings. It was a great time meeting the locals and sharing our morning with them. White men first visited this area in 1818, when Sir John Ross arrived here in his search for the Northwest Passage. The Greenlanders, having never seen strangers, were naturally suspicious of these people with their massive ship. Reportedly, they asked if the visitors were from the moon or the sun, and were scared when the sails rustled in the wind, as they thought it was a giant bird. This was less than 200 years ago.

A major figure to arrive in Qaanaaq was Robert Peary in his quest for the pole. He used many of the Inuit to help him in his race to the North Pole against Cook and Sverdrup. He left his mark here, having married an Inuit woman and had children, which he left behind. A remarkable history took place in this area.



At lunch we were lucky enough to have some interesting guests on board and to listen to their stories about the man the Inuit called, “our Knud” the explorer, Knud Rasmussen. His granddaughter and his biographer were here to tell us a little bit about the man and their reasons for visiting the area. “The Knud” played a major role in sustaining the Inuit way of life, using western tools and weapons, after being left to fend for themselves.

The afternoon took us to the icebergs that surrounded Qaanaaq. The Zodiacs and kayaks head off in different directions and checked out all the many shapes and sizes of these ice monsters that drift along the shore of Greenland. The sun was blasting down on us all day as we sat back on the Zodiacs and took in the scenery while acquiring a great tan. It was hard to believe this was the High Arctic!

The evening was spent staring out at the setting sun as the icebergs and mountains glowed in the light. Jim finished off the night with his wild story of the walrus that attacked his kayak during his travels. Most of us hit the hay early, we knew tomorrow would be another day of hikes and travels in this interesting part of the world.

Russian Word of the Day: *At-leech-na* - Excellent!

6 August, 2007

Wolstenholme Fjord, Greenland

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 76° 07'N Lon: 69° 02' W

Sunrise: 00.27 Sunset: 23.55

Barometric Pressure: 1005 mbar

Air Temperature: +12° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

"A sense of the future is that the present generation is morally responsible to future generations."

Andrei Sakharov & C.P. Snow

We awoke to a gloriously sunny morning and found ourselves steaming SE steadily along the outer edge of Wolstenholme Fjord amidst an accompanying flotilla of ice galleons. By breakfast time we were anchored a mile or so off the snout of the Pitugfik Glacier. Our precise position was 76° 15'N, 69° 02'W. Despite the fact that we were less than a thousand miles south of the North Pole, we basked under a cloudless sky in temperatures more common in the Caribbean than the High Arctic – it was simply gorgeous. After breakfast we all set off on a Zodiac cruise along the snout of the Pitugfik Glacier. The glacier is a constantly moving, living being which continuously groaned, creaked and cracked and we witnessed two calving incidents, which sent large tsunami waves crashing ashore. We cruised the entire length of the snout of the glacier – a total distance of over 3.5 miles before returning to the ship for a welcome lunch; the sea air and the excitement had made us all absolutely ravenous.

After lunch we returned to the fringes of the glacier to look for wildlife in the lush green valleys that reached down to the sea shore offering easy access to the high plateau and several little auk colonies housing literally tens of millions of birds. What a spectacle these little dovebies were as they wheeled and dived in huge



squadrons around their nesting areas on the high scree, harassed continuously by scavenging glaucous gulls. Yesterday afternoon Greenland really came up trumps for us – we saw musk oxen grazing in high verdant pastures, Arctic fox cubs gambolling amongst the rocks and a few of us even caught a fleeting glimpse of Arctic hare. The *Peregriners* explored the beach area whilst the advanced hikers tackled the short but steep flanks of the valley before quietly observing the dovekeys as they came and went from their nesting area in the steep screes. The tranquil pasture, where we sat overlooking the bay far below, seemed the most peaceful spot on Earth and we whiled away a couple of very pleasant sun bathed hours watching the comical activities of the dovekeys as they lined up like soldiers in single file along the flat topped rocks, their proud little white chests puffed out in true regimental fashion.

The perfect end to a perfect day was an Arctic BBQ out on the stern deck. Once again Chef Stuart and his team performed their magic and fed us like royalty. Tomorrow we will lay our course for the Canadian Arctic community of Pond Inlet at the northern tip of Baffin Island. One thing is guaranteed - more adventures await!

Russian Word of the Day: **Zaf-tra** - Tomorrow

7 August, 2007 Kap York, Greenland

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 75° 58'N Lon: 65° 08' W
Sunrise: 00.50 Sunset: 23.57
Barometric Pressure: 1009 mbar
Air Temperature: +5 °C
Water Temperature: +3° C

"Let us go gently, gentlemen," said Don Quixote, "for there are no birds this year in last year's nests."

Cervantes

A mystic landscape of ice, mist and low light surrounded the ship as morning slowly dawned. Overnight we had travelled south along the Greenland coast as the midnight sun made its dip toward the northern horizon. We were now south of the Kap York ramparts. To the south, the silhouette of age-old rocks was set against the brilliance of an endless stream of icebergs that stretched as far as the eye could see. Ashore, great rivers of ice descended to the sea from the ice cap that receded into a distant haze. These were the largest glaciers that we had seen so far. The wide and gently curving rivers of ice reached the sea to present a face that stretched several kilometres across.

After breakfast, the captain took us on a magical mystery tour of the field of icebergs that stretched to the horizon. Weaving the ship delicately and skilfully through the field, he provided superb close up views and impressive panoramas of the unbelievable collection of massive icebergs. As if to respond favourably to his efforts, light shone on ice structures as they glowed myriad shades of blue and low-lying clouds shrouded the scene, fading darkly to the indefinable boundary of sea and sky. Throughout the tour, Stephen narrated with a running commentary on the genesis and life histories of individual icebergs. Towers, caves, textures and wave lines were all noted and demystified. Hundreds, if not thousands of images were captured as cameras clicked furiously, in the hopes of catching that one perfect image. The sheer number and infinite variety of the icebergs left us all in awe and more appreciative of the volume of ice which descends from the Greenland ice cap.



Shortly before lunch, we finally left the icebergs and Greenland behind, moving west across Baffin Bay toward Baffin Island and the Inuit community of Pond Inlet. As the fog-shrouded greyness of sea slipped past, Jim recounted his experiences of living in an Inuit summer camp on the shores of Navy Board Inlet. Here he and a BBC film crew spent an extended time recording the life of a modern Inuit summer camp and the progress of the son as a hunter. The need to hunt and the storage of meat taken kept the family employed throughout the summer. Peter gave a presentation introducing some of the ecological principles which create and shape the tapestry of life which has surrounded us in the last few days. For an eager group, the second wine tasting of the voyage took place in the library, with white wines being the focus of the evening. The results of their intense studies were evident in an increased volume of conversation and laughter in the dining room at supper

Following supper, in the bar, Scott brought to life the saga of Knud Rasmussen, whilst in the presentation room, Jacques presented the film, Journey to the Sea of Ice, shot by filmmakers John and Janet, explaining the story of ice which we had witnessed during our visit to Greenland.

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

8 August, 2007 Bylot Island

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 73° 25'N Lon: 74° 26' W
Sunrise: 00.20 Sunset: 23.52
Barometric Pressure: 1014 mbar
Air Temperature: +4° C
Water Temperature: +3° C

“They that go down to the Sea in ships, that do business in great waters, these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep.”

Psalms 107

After a beautiful, clear, calm and sunny night during which we re-entered the notably colder Canadian waters, we sailed into thick fog this morning. As a result, the foghorn was blown frequently during much of the morning. As the fog dissipated, we found ourselves within sight of Baffin Island and its majestic mountains, icecaps and countless glaciers. We headed south and searched for sea ice and wildlife, particularly bears. We found fewer large patches of drifting ice than expected – as suggested by the most recent ice chart - and only a few seals, fulmars, kittiwakes and guillemots. The ice also appeared quite rotten and too thin to support polar bears. Thus, in late afternoon we decided to turn around and head for Bylot Island and the seabird colony at Cape Graham Moore. Bylot Island, which is across from Pond Inlet, has been a migratory bird sanctuary since 1965 and was incorporated into Sirmilik National Park in 1995.

After an early dinner, we went out with our Zodiacs to visit the cliffs where as many as 20,000 pairs of Thick-billed murrelets (or Brunnich's guillemots) and 3,000 pairs of Black-legged kittiwakes have been recorded to nest in 1980. There were evidently many more birds at Cape Graham Moore during our visit, suggesting that the colony has been doing well in the last two decades or so. Although numbers were difficult to estimate from a



Zodiac, during our short visit, Peter and Jacques felt that there were a few hundred thousand birds in and near the cliffs, possibly up to 300,000 in total. We also saw six ropes in the cliffs used by the Pond Inlet Inuit to collect eggs. It was unclear whether these old ropes had been used recently. All in all, we had an excellent visit. The sun was out, there was no fog and the scenery, not to mention the smell, was exquisite.

Various presentations were given throughout the day including Stephen's talk on the Wonder Substance (water), Peter and Jacques' lecture on polar bears in a Warming Arctic and Peter's "Nunavut - Then and Now." Just before dinner, Jacques showed us an insightful movie (Seabird Citadels) on murrens, to prepare us for our evening excursion to the nesting cliffs.

Russian Word of the Day: *Eez-vee-nee-tye* - Excuse me!

9 August, 2007 Pond Inlet/Navy Board Inlet

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 72°42'N Lon: 77° 49' W
Sunrise: 00.20 Sunset: 23.52
Barometric Pressure: 1015 mbar
Air Temperature: +6° C
Water Temperature: +3° C

“You never enjoy the world aright till the sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens and crowned with the stars.”

Thomas Traherne (1636 - 1674)

When the wake-up call went out this morning, the ship was positioned in Pond Inlet. Off the bow of our floating home lay the community of 1500 by the same name – our destination for the morning excursion. The adventure to Pond Inlet started with a good old wet landing on the beach and a walk up the dusty road into the town. At the library, a cultural presentation was put on, demonstrating traditional drum dancing, singing, games and throat singing. We were also treated to a tour of the town, including a stop at the co-op, where many beautiful carvings and pieces of artwork were bought. A group of hardy adventurers also donned hiking boots and headed out to the east of town to the Salmon River – a significant archaeological site dating back to the Thule people.

Along the hike to the Salmon River Thule site, the hiking group encountered several points of interest. At the edge of town, evidence of hunting abounded: discarded skins, bones and remains of bearded and ring seals and narwhale or beluga as well as several seal carcasses being stored for future dog food. Once at the site, the group discovered many interesting flowers, a couple not seen to date on the trip – milk vetch and oxytrope. Butterflies and bees were of significant note among the carpet of flowers and sunshine.

During the three hours our town excursion was in progress, a katabatic wind of 40 knots was blowing up and creating a significant swell that made our Zodiac trip back to the ship perhaps the most adventurous part of the



morning! Although swells of a couple of meters and strong winds were stressful for driving staff, passengers arrived back at the ship feeling they had had safe passage back to the ship.

Afternoon was spent sailing with the swell through Eclipse Sound, on the lookout for bowhead and beluga whales and polar bears. None were sighted. There is great hope that we will see some of these species with continued careful sea-watching tomorrow. While in Pond Inlet, Jim visited with some local guides and hunters and got updated information on the latest hot spots for walrus sightings, beluga, bowhead and other marine mammals. Hopefully this information will prove fruitful as we plan our route for the remaining time of the voyage.

For those who preferred the warmth of the ship in the afternoon, Stephen held court in the presentation room with a discussion of Inuit culture. Now that we have had the opportunity to visit communities on both sides of Davis Strait, the group engaged in a lively discussion of Inuit culture and lifestyle, both past and present.

The day ended with an evening excursion to Low Point. This short trip gave us the opportunity to experience an excellent 1000-year-old Dorset site and hike to an inukshuk at a summit overlooking Navy Board Inlet. Flowers, scat and bones abounded along the way, providing many interest points on the route. The golden sun illuminated the skies and hills providing excellent scenery for the Zodiac ride back to the ship. The wind began to blow up again as the excursion got under way, but fortunately abated before we finished. The Zodiac ride home was much less adventurous than the one at lunchtime.

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

10 August, 2007 Devon Island

Time: 0700
Position: Lat: 75° 02' N Lon: 70° 05' W
Sunrise: 01.57 Sunset: 23.58
Barometric Pressure: 1007 mbar
Air Temperature: +4.5 °C
Water Temperature: +3° C

"Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean - roll! Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain; Man marks the earth with ruin – His control stops with the shore."

Lord Byron

Overnight we steamed northwards up Navy Board Inlet and by the morning we had entered Lancaster Sound heading for Dundas Harbour on the SE corner of Devon Island. A stiff easterly had sprung up during the night creating a large swell on our starboard beam – our sea legs were certainly exercised as the ship pitched, rolled and yawed its way across the sound. We were off the entrance to Dundas Harbour by breakfast time but a band of ice was blocking our way into the bay itself. With only a day of sea time left, and fearful of getting trapped by the wind-driven pack, Dutch set a new westerly course for Maxwell Bay, an area that was known to be ice-free and had provided good wildlife sightings in the past. Our new destination was 120 nautical miles away so we had ten hours to kill before arriving around dinnertime. A new itinerary was produced out of thin air



by Carolina with all sorts of entertaining talks, presentations and discussions to pass the time at sea. Zak kicked off with tales of his daring exploits making first descents of wild whitewater rivers and this was followed by Scotty's passionate account of the life and times of Dr John Rae, probably the greatest unsung hero in the history of Arctic exploration.

After lunch Jacques entertained a group of devoted fans in the bar with his latest Arctic tales while downstairs in the presentation room Zak gave a seat-edge gripping account of paddling in Tibet. This was followed by Colin's presentation of a demo version of the voyage DVD that served well to remind everyone how much we had packed into the past ten days. The shots were awesome, and just to prove how talented the guy is, the background music for the film was composed and played by Colin himself. Sales were brisk at the end of the show.

Next on the program was the Protect Our Poles auction – auctioneer Hayley fired everybody up and bidding was generous and brisk; at the end another \$2000 had been raised for the polar protection coffers. It was a lot of fun.

By dinnertime we were anchored in Maxwell Bay out of the rough swells of Lancaster Sound and scoping for polar bears. A couple was spotted on a nearby island so the Zodiacs were launched and we went off in search but the bears had decided not to put on a performance and had made a swift retreat. Undeterred, we headed over to the west side of Maxwell Bay and landed on an ice covered beach where the group divided into various hiking groups and set off to explore the raised beaches. The fall was already creeping across the tundra – dwarf Arctic willow leaves were turning yellow, a reminder of how short the summer season is in the high Canadian Arctic.

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

11 August, 2007

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

"It's blowing so many knots it's almost a macramé."

Sir Rod Ledingham

We heard the word at the wakeup call that not only had a polar bear been spotted, but a couple of walrus were seen swimming in a bay not far from the ship. We quickly ate our breakfast and took off in all directions in search of some wildlife. It did not take long until Peter, the eye in the sky, called out that walrus were close to a beach and preparing to pull themselves up. At the same time, Dutch had spotted and was following a polar bear along the beach. Each driver had to make up his mind for which way to travel and we made our decisions and sped off to the areas. We all had a great show with three polar bears and two huge walrus swimming just off shore. It's amazing to see these massive animals in their natural habitat, curiously staring at us, as we stare



at them. There are many species of whales, seals, and bears, but there is only one species of walrus. These massive creatures can be as much as 13 ft. long and 4,500 lbs. Both males and females have the distinctive tusks, which can grow up to 2ft. in length. Their hide is the thickest and toughest of all the Arctic marine animals and they have an exceptionally thick layer of blubber. The polar bear is the largest carnivore on earth. Their favourite food is ringed seal. Their massive furry paws act equally efficiently as snowshoes on land and as paddles in the water. We were finally being rewarded for our endless efforts in our search for wildlife. Everyone came back with the same smile and we all agreed that this was one fine morning. Rushing back to the ship we were welcomed by Chloe, Lisa, and Robin for the always-exciting accounts settlement. The back slapping laughs that occur during that event is something special.

We had a quick lunch and then it was off again to hike the nearby hills or cruise the waterways leading off in all directions around Maxwell Bay. The hikers had a super view of Lancaster Sound, and stared off in the distance, taking in the serenity and vast expanse of the Arctic, while the Zodiac cruisers sat in the nearby bay watching the gulls and fulmars in their feeding frenzies, and having a number of visits by both bearded and harp seals. It was a great day to just lie back and stare out at the majestic scenery.

Everyone was looking forward to the Captain's dinner and a night to reminisce and say our goodbyes. This will be our last supper together before our day of travel, what a great way to end the expedition.

Russian Word of the Day: *Dob-rye vyech-yeer* - Good Evening

12 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, our journey was at its end. Two weeks ago, we had sailed out with dreams and images. 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 we were met by the classic old bus that would take us to the hotel prior to 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 beginnings and provided a fitting and thought-provoking conclusion to our Arctic journey.

With the planes arrival, everything moved into high gear as the new travellers disembarked and we boarded 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 a wild place and an incredible Arctic odyssey aboard the *Peregrine Mariner*.

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



Voyage Presentations Summary

2 AUGUST, 2007

AECO GUIDELINES & POLAR BEAR SAFETY BRIEFING BY DUTCH

Peregrine Shipping, being part of the Arctic Association of Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) ascribes to the guidelines for its operations in the Arctic regions. As part of the requirements, all passengers must be informed of these guidelines.

Additionally operating in polar bear country, passengers must be made aware of the precautions and behaviours necessary to protect polar bears and ourselves.

ZODIAC SAFETY BRIEFING BY HAYLEY

For safety while operating our Zodiacs, all passengers are required to attend this briefing session. Learn how to wear the lifejackets, to enter and exit the Zodiacs and respond whilst travelling in the Zodiacs.

BAR TALK - THE STORY OF SEDNA WITH JACQUES

Jacques will tell us the Inuit story that narrates where the seals and the whales come from.

3 AUGUST 2007

TUTORIAL: MULTIMEDIA INTRODUCTION BY CAROLINA & COLIN

Learn how to download your photos and burn CDs and DVDs in our multimedia facilities.

LET'S GO TO THE HIGH ARCTIC: PART I BY DUTCH AND KEITH

With this Arctic adventure just beginning many will want to know what lies ahead in our voyage. Our Expedition Leader will outline some of the sites that may be visited over the next few days, emphasizing the uncertain nature of Arctic travel and ice conditions.

4 AUGUST 2007

ARCTIC BIRDS 101 (FOR THE UNINITIATED) BY JACQUES

After a brief explanation on the Arctic and North Atlantic context of Nunavut and West Greenland and various aspects related to habitat and migration, Jacques will present some of the birds of particular interest, including auks, gulls, fulmars, eiders and snow geese. Particular attention will be paid to the auks, which are among the most typical and abundant Arctic seabirds.

FRANKLIN EXPEDITION 1845 BY SCOTT

This is an in depth look at the Franklin expedition where the 129 men from the two ships, the Erebus and the Terror disappeared in the frozen Canadian Arctic never to be seen by Europeans again. We follow the route of the ships and where the clues were found that the 40 search parties found over the years. The one message



discovered by the search parties is studied and the many theories are considered in this mystery. It is left to the individuals to come to their own conclusions as to what occurred during these terrible times.

BAR TALK - WHAT IS THAT? WITH STEPHEN

This little quiz centers around identifying two animals based only on their skeletons. It's not as easy as it looks!

5 AUGUST 2007

BAR TALK - CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH WALLY THE WALRUS BY JIM

Jim will tell us the story of his close encounter with a male walrus and his sinking kayak while paddling in the cold waters of the High Arctic

7 AUGUST 2007

LET'S GO TO THE HIGH ARCTIC: PART II BY DUTCH AND KEITH

With this Arctic adventure on its way many will want to know what lies ahead in our voyage. Our Expedition Leader will outline some of the sites that may be visited over the second half of our expedition.

NUNATSIQ – LIFE IN AN INUIT HUNTING CAMP BY JIM

With the culture and traditions of the Inuit people in the High Arctic regions of Canada under threat from climate change and the mounting external pressures of life in the 21st century, some elders are opting out of community life and going back to the land. Jim Hargreaves will share his experience of an extended visit to an Inuit out camp, set up by the most experienced hunters from the northern Baffin hamlet of Pond Inlet, and see how they are struggling to preserve their traditional traveling and hunting skills in order to pass them on to the young people of their community.

TUNDRA TAPESTRY (Arctic Ecology) BY PETER

This presentation will provide an introduction to Arctic ecology. Beginning with the shaping of the land and the climate which exists, the presentation will develop a picture of the life which defines the Arctic. It will touch both on terrestrial and marine environments and the Inuit culture. It will be illustrated with slides.

BAR TALK - KNUD RASMUSSEN BY SCOTT

This bar talk is a quick description of Knud Rasmussen's travels and his accomplishments among the Inuit of both Greenland and Canada. It is followed by a reading of an exciting story of an encounter he had with a polar bear.

MOVIE NIGHT - THE JOURNEY TO THE SEA OF ICE PRESENTED BY JACQUES

This documentary follows one of the great annual spectacles of the northern hemisphere. Immense icebergs that were born in Greenland thousand of years ago sail slowly past Newfoundland's coast. John and Janet traveled from the Labrador Sea to Disco Bay to document their fantastic and mystic journey.

8 AUGUST 2007



WONDER SUBSTANCE BY STEPHEN

This talk is a review of the qualities of water which make it the most important compound in this world –and perhaps in the whole universe!

We consider the nature of the bonds in water and see more clearly why this compound is so versatile –and of course, essential to life.

PROTECT OUR POLES: CONSERVATION IN THE ARCTIC WITH POLAR BEARS BY JACQUES AND PETER

This presentation is an overview of the conservation support that Peregrine Shipping is providing in both the Arctic and Antarctica. The “Protect Our Poles” project supports research for the conservation of polar bears and Wandering albatrosses. Details will be provided about the current projects that we are undertaking. The money raised by the onboard auction directly assists this conservation work!

NUNAVUT: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE BY PETER

The presentation will provide an overview of Inuit pre-history, including the major cultural periods which have defined the settlement of the Arctic by humans. Peter will discuss the creation of Nunavut, outlining the geographic, economic and sociological challenges which face the Nunavut Assembly today.

9 AUGUST 2007

INUIT CULTURE

In this discussion we broadly consider important aspects of Inuit life in Canada and Greenlandic life in Greenland. We look at family, work and employment issues as well as social customs in Inuit and Greenlandic society.

10 AUGUST 2007

“LOW LIVES IN HIGH PLACES” BY ZAK

During September and October of 2006 an international team of six whitewater kayakers travelled to the Himalayas and the country of Tibet. The mystical country contains the headwaters of some of the world’s biggest river catchments. One of them is the Parlung Tsangpo.

On October 14th Zak and the team began their attempt at being the first people to kayak the rivers entire length, a distance of 210km. After 12 harrowing days of massive class 5 whitewater the team completed the first descent.

During the presentation Zak will share his passion for kayaking and the team’s incredibly successful Tibet expedition.

DR. JOHN RAE 1813-1893 BY SCOTT



We cover the life and times of one of the most impressive arctic explorers during the search for the Northwest Passage and the fate of the Franklin expedition. Arriving at the Hudson Bay factory at the bottom of James Bay, the 19 year old doctor established himself as an excellent hunter and explorer by studying and applying the ways of survival in this harsh climate used by the Cree Indians. He was the first European to successfully survive the winter in the Arctic regions by living off the land. He mapped huge amounts of new land in his travels across Canada, and went on to find the first artifacts left behind by the men of the Franklin expedition. A true hero, he was never knighted or given the proper recognition he deserved for his amazing efforts.

THE LATEST HOTTEST ARCTIC STORIES BY JACQUES

Come hear the funny and not-so-funny stories about climate, seals, birds, fish, people and whatever has caught Jacques' attention in the last year or so. Jacques will also present his point of view on these matters and may challenge yours. No bland Arctic dialogue here. Jacques was actually hired because of his views...and may also be fired because of them.

SEVEN WEEKS IN TIBET PRESENTED BY ZAK

Zak will present the documentary filmed during his whitewater kayak expedition to Tibet. This documentary has been presented in several international film festivals. This amazing footage will raise your blood pressure and have you clinging to your seat!

11 AUGUST 2007

SHIP TOUR BY SCOTT AND STEPHEN

The guided tour of the *Peregrine Mariner* incorporates the bridge, the engine room and the antenna room, better known as the mud-room, where science onboard the vessel is discussed. The tour helps our passengers discover more about the history of the ship and, in more recent times, the science conducted aboard.

VOYAGE RECAP AND THE BEST OF SLIDE SHOW

In so many ways this trip has been the trip of a lifetime. Our Expedition Leader will help us recollect the incredible places we have visited through maps and photographs. The BEST OF photographs taken by our group of adventurers and photographers will be shown in a slide show that is bound to take our breath away!



Wildlife List

August	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
BIRDS											
Red-throated Loon	x								x	x	x
Northern Fulmar		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Rock Ptarmigan			x			x					
Common Eider		x	x			x			x		x
King Eider			x				x				
Snow Goose			x						x		x
Cackling Goose										s,f,?	
Red-necked Phalarope						x	x				
Red Phalarope										x	
Purple Sandpiper									x	x	
Baird's Sandpiper											x
Ruddy Turnstone									x		
Parasitic Jaeger	x	x								x	x
Long-tailed Jaeger		x							x		x
Pomarine Jaeger								?	x		
Glaucous Gull	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x
Thayer's Gull			x								?
Ivory Gull				?							
Black-legged Kittiwake		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Arctic Tern	x										
Thick-billed Murre		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Dovekie				x	x	xxx	xxx				
Black Guillemot	x	x	x		x	x		x		x	x
Common Raven					x	x			x		x
Snow Bunting						x	x				x
Horned Lark									x		
American Pipit	x										
Gyrfalcon		x									
MAMMALS											
Harp Seal		x		x						x	x
Ringed Seal						x				x	
Bearded Seal		x	x			x					x
Walrus											6
Polar Bear			1	1						1	3
Muskox						x					s,b
Ringed Seal						x					
Arctic Fox						x					

d=dead; s=scats; ?=unconfirmed; c.=(circa) approximately



KAYAK LOG

GUIDES: Zak Shaw and Robin Middleton

Excursion 1 – Beechey Island

7443N, 9147W

Date – 2/08/2007

Wind Speed – light northerly breeze

Species sighted from the kayaks – fulmar, glaucous gulls, black guillemot

Beechey Island is a place that's regularly attacked by wind, surrounded by fog and hit by waves that roll in from 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.

After disembarking from the ship we first visited the gravesite in which three of Franklin's men are buried. Jim provided an informative talk on the site's interesting history whilst we waited for one more kayak. We pushed off the stony beach and headed for the ice. Hundreds of small bergs sat in the northern end of Erebus Bay, some grounded in the shallow waters. Picking the wider channels, we paddled throughout the sculptured ice formations. Sea birds sat happily in the water around us unfazed by our presence.

With more to see, we headed south. A light breeze helped us along as we crossed the bay towards the Northumberland House site. Massive sea cliffs rose abruptly before us and we watched glaucous gulls soaring high above us.

Landing at Northumberland House, we stretched our legs and wandered around the old shelter site and the graves of those involved in Franklin's rescue parties. It was then time to load our Zodiac and head back to the ship.

Excursion 2 - Cape Joy

7340N, 8311W

Date – 3/08/07

Wind Speed – light

Species sighted from the kayaks – bearded seals, king ailer ducks, fulmar, black guillemot, polar bear tracks.

Conditions were as good as they ever get. The body of water known as Aqjaruinak Bay shimmered below us; our kayaks and body shapes reflected on the water's surface. We unloaded from the safety of the Zodiac into our individual kayaks and set off for Cape Joy. Quickly we dispersed to enjoy the freedom and space of being alone on the water.

Barren, fragile rock escarpments rose up on our left side with recent landslide paths clearly visible. Bearded seals occasionally surfaced at a distance, their black heads sat just above water level as they observed us glide by.



After an hour of continuous paddling, we negotiated in between a few grounded bergs before landing ashore. Needing to stretch our legs, we clambered over a rocky berm onto a vast outwash fan where a small creek entered the ocean. Upon some investigation, we discovered huge polar bear prints stamped into the silty mud. They really are quite a sight and surprise most with their overwhelming size. Dried-up ponds beside the creek may have provided bear in the past with an accessible food source before they dried up.

With spray skirts on, we crashed through the small waves lashing the beach and made our way back across open water to the ship.

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 intrepid paddlers joined the mission this morning in sunny Qaanaaq. The Greenland weather was warm but windy and as the group set off from the beach, a large number of locals gathered to watch us go (and get great comic relief at the same time). The group battled their way against the waves toward the distant goal of some large and enticing icebergs. After a valiant attempt, the wind seemed to increase as we neared the headland and decided to turn around and paddle with a tailwind. Just as we approached town again, the wind died down and while two of us decided to finish on the beach, two of us continued onwards to the north end of town.

Taking a break to enjoy the scenery (and the lack of wind), and take some pictures, the remaining group was treated to the spectacle and excitement of a group of sled dogs being fed on shore.

We then rode the swells back to the ship for lunchtime, past a spectacular and large iceberg. The intrepid two paddlers are able to say they paddled “home” from Greenland!

Excursion 4 - Qaanaaq

7728N, 6911W

Date – 5/08/07

Wind Speed – Variable winds, up to 7 knots.

Species sighted from the kayaks - arctic turn, little auk

In the afternoon the lighting in the fiord of Qaanaaq prompted Dutch to schedule a Zodiac cruise of the towering icebergs. For us, as kayakers, we take any opportunity to get in the kayaks and get a little closer to water level and twelve of us climbed into our dry suits once again. Our system of getting out of the Zodiac and into our kayaks has developed. Our slick and efficient style ensures we are quickly on our way paddling into the light breeze towards the glistening formations.

Keeping an equal distance between two massive icebergs, we cautiously made our way between them. Their sheer size is overwhelming, even more so when we stop to consider how much of their overall size lies below the ocean’s surface.



Our journey was focused on getting around as many bergs as possible. It's great to compare the different shapes and curves. One in particular had a wide hole and a fragile arch that was just waiting for the inevitable. To paddle fast through the opening, under the arch to the other side was incredibly tempting but we restrained ourselves and admired from a distance.

The "paddle like s##t" technique was then quickly replaced by "lets sit still and do nothing." Taking a few minutes to relax we kept quiet, gazed around us and listened to the sounds of the arctic.

Excursion 5 - Pitugfik Glacier

7609N, 6858W

Date – 7/08/07

Wind Speed – 0-5 knots

Species sighted from the kayaks – bearded seals, harp seal, dovekies, black guillemot, common aider, thick billed murre, and glaucous gulls.

The ship's captain positioned the ship in as close as possible. The terminal face of the Pitugfik Glacier stood abruptly in front of us, its front edge a vertical wall of ice under strain. Looking ahead brash ice and freshly carved chunks lay before us. Our kayaks crashed into each block and our paddles pulled against a mixture of ice and water. Keeping a safe distance we travelled parallel to the glacial edge, ever wary of carving ice and the waves that could form as a result. Waves are one thing - when the waves contain compacted ice boulders, things get a lot more serious.

Aligning our kayaks, we formed a raft and smiled for the camera. The glacier acted as an amazing backdrop and the sun beamed down on us.

Splitting again it was time to paddle. Crossing in front of the last of the glacier a huge ice chunk broke free. A thundering sound reverberated towards us; the noise magnified by a cave in the ice edge brought excitement to our faces and really was quite dramatic. Venturing along the coastline and towards open water, we entered into seal territory. One particular bearded seal put on a great show jumping and splashing its tail with each dive. It would resurface not far away, bobbing only its head above the water checking us out.

Overall, it was an incredible kayak excursion. We experienced a tranquil arctic day, crashed through brash ice and were out there when sea conditions were nothing short of stunning.

Excursion 6 - Cape Graham Moore Bird Cliffs

Date – 08/08/07

Wind Speed – light wind from the West

Species sighted from the kayaks – Thick-billed murre, Black-legged kittiwake, Black guillemot, Glaucous gull, harp seal

This excursion was the first evening paddle of the trip. The group of ten paddlers headed out towards the cliffs at 9:00 pm as the sun was beginning to dip toward the horizon, shedding a soft light on everything.



Starting at the southern end of the cliffs, we were treated to spectacular views of the geological formations – 150m cliffs of metamorphic rock with interesting erosion patterns at eye level and melt-water waterfalls tumbling from the heights. All was quiet on the cliffs and soon the group began to wonder where the 40,000 pairs of nesting murre were. After a further paddle past a small nesting colony of glaucous gulls, we knew we must be close – the ambient sound started to increase and the activity of flying birds in the air was obvious against the sky.

All of a sudden we rounded one last headland and found ourselves in the thick of biological activity. Thousands of birds were on nesting ledges, flying in the air, swimming in the water and popping up from diving missions, beside our boats. The air was alive with the sounds of thousands of birds and the smells of their biological processes! The colony consisted of 40,000 breeding pairs of thick-billed murre and kittiwakes along with a few pairs of black guillemots. The kittiwakes had chicks that were quite obvious when one was looking at the nests; the murre chicks were less obvious to the eye.

The sun continued its progress toward the horizon and the group finished their excursion with the golden-yellow light of an “almost sunset” and an ominous grey sky in the distance. The soft light only added to the experience of the sounds, sights and smells of this unique location we were lucky enough to experience in such an up-close manner.

Excursion 7 - Maxwell Bay

7449N, 8835W

Date – 11/08/07

Wind Speed – up to 5 knots, generally calm

Species sighted from the kayaks – bearded seal, fulmar, black guillemot, and glaucous gulls. Polar bear x 3, ailer ducks, and walrus were also sighted from Zodiac.

Dutch often talked about PBT or Pre Bear Tension. Today it was more like PWT as we searched far and wide for our first walrus. Initially we waited in the Zodiac, pausing to listen to the radio conversations of staff as to a location of a sighting.

A huge unstable rock escarpment stretched out above us as we headed into the wind and explored the coastline. Once we had gained enough distance into the wind we then turned west and aimed for a small island where we found a few glaucous gulls nesting. The breeze at our backs was a welcome contribution to our progress.

Other Zodiac crews, two miles from our location, had sighted polar bears. With time running short, we climbed into our safety Zodiac and tied our kayaks up to drift. Colin transported us to the head of the west arm of Maxwell Bay to view three polar bear wandering on the barren hills and tundra.

Leaving the bay, we moved slowly, as many ailer ducks and their chicks were close by. Our last point of call was to try and get a brief view of the walrus; in the nick of time we located two massive beasts and watched them surface several times. It was an incredibly lucky excursion in that somehow we had managed to do it all!



Excursion 8 - Maxwell Bay

Date – 11/08/07

Wind Speed – none

Species sighted from the kayaks – bearded seal, fulmar, kittiwake, glaucous gull, parasitic jaegar, naked sea butterfly, sea butterfly

The afternoon was sunny and warm, the wind was nonexistent and the water was glassy and calm. Six paddlers headed out in their boats to explore an inlet off Maxwell Bay. The trip started with a feeding frenzy of fulmars, kittiwakes and gulls on naked sea butterflies and arctic cod in the water. We paddled into the midst of it and had birds swirling around above us.

We then headed through the shallows against the tidal current to get into an inlet, and explored its length. As we turned around, Dutch had found a musk ox skull on shore, so we pulled up and had a look. On shore we found not only the beautiful skull to look at, but also an old campsite and a pair of parasitic jaegers with their young.

The paddle ended when we reached the Zodiac where Zak was patiently waiting for us. One intrepid paddler decided to paddle all the way back to the ship in the evening sun.



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 Peregrine.

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 onboard 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 whitewater when the snow melts. When not at work, Robin can usually be found in her kayak on a whitewater 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, where 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 onboard 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 'Icwalk', 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.

KEITH JONES

According to our expedition leaders every expedition ship should have at least one (one, no more.....please!) "Salty Sea Dog".

In 2004 Master Mariner, Capt. Keith Jones (Keith), celebrated with us his 40th year in the Shipping & Offshore Exploration Industry. This has included 35 years in the Arctic in various roles and programs including: Chief Officer, Ship's Master, Fleet Manager, Marine Consultant and Ice Pilot to the Shipping, Offshore and Passenger Industry as well as regulatory agencies (CCG/TC/GNWT etc). He particularly enjoys his Ice Pilot role with Peregrine Shipping as the Master, Officers and Ship's Crew are Russian, all with their own extensive ice experience in the Russian and Canadian Arctic as well as the Antarctic. Also, our ships are ice strengthened.....this is "A HAPPY!!" This enables Keith to spread his time and duties between Bridge, Ice Charts/Analysis, Routing, Regulatory Communications, Lectures (on Ice/Arctic Shipping) and sharing his experiences and videos with Passengers and Crew. In 2004/2005 he also joined Peregrine Shipping in the Antarctic. Keith has also been seen (on occasion) in other such places as the dining room, lounge, sauna, swimming pool, library etc - he considers this to be an essential part of his extraordinary responsibilities! When not Ice Piloting or Marine Consulting he can be found either golfing, boating or camping in Campbell River on beautiful Vancouver Island, BC. After all, someone has to do it!!

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 owns 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.

STEPHEN SPITTLER

Stephen Spittler grew up in central California. After earning his degree at Stanford University he studied at several German universities and worked on research projects at Stanford Medical School. He began his teaching career at a high school in Santa Barbara, California where he taught English, Biology and History. He earned his MA in Literature at Wesleyan University.

After a sabbatical year as a Fulbright Fellow in Germany, he moved to Berlin where he was head of the English department at a bilingual, bicultural German-American high school. After seven years in Berlin he moved to Palm Springs, California to become principal of a new high school, which he led for eight years.





On another sabbatical leave he began lecturing on ships in the Antarctic and the Arctic. In his seven years working in the Polar Regions he has served as a lecturer, academic coordinator and expedition leader. He currently lives and teaches in Seattle, Washington.



Voyage map

