



# ARCTIC VOYAGE EXPEDITION LOG

Northwest Passage

*Peregrine Mariner*

**23 August – 5 September 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.

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

### *Peregrine Mariner Crew List*

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

### *Peregrine Shipping Staff*

<b>Aaron Lawton</b>	<b>Expedition Leader</b>
Captain Alex Macintyre	Ice Pilot
Hayley Shephard	Assistant Expedition Leader
Carolina Mantella	Program Co-ordinator
Lisa O’Leary	Hotel Manager
Stuart Tidswell	Head Chef
Bryce Hitchens	Sous Chef
James Smyth	Bartender
Scott MacPhail	Guide/Historian
Colin Bates	Guide/Videographer
Jacques Sirois	Naturalist
Lynn Woodworth	Naturalist
Robin Middleton	Kayak Guide



Jim Hargreaves	Guide
Yvonne Cook	Guide/Geologist
Zak Shaw	Kayak Guide
Dr Glenn Browning	Consulting Doctor

## The Daily Log

**23 August, 2007**      **Ottawa/Resolute**

Time: 0700  
Position: Lat: 74° 42' N Long: 95° 07' W  
Sunrise: 01.15 Sunset: 23.46  
Barometric Pressure: 1013 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 our beds and did the final packing prior to our flight. We were met in the hotel lobby by Karen, our cheerful ground agent, and were soon aboard the buses and transferred to the airport. The sultry summer weather in Ottawa was soon left behind as the plane took off for Iqaluit and the Canadian North. The flight was smooth and uneventful, with clear skies and good views of southern Canada. We landed in Iqaluit to refuel the aircraft and then took off for Resolute Bay and the *Peregrine Mariner*. Once airborne, we were flying over true northern tundra that rolled out in gentle grey-gold textured hills below us and added to the anticipation of our adventure ahead.

Finally, we reached 74°40 North and Cornwallis Island, and landed at the small town (large for Nunavut) of Resolute. Resolute was named after one of the ships involved in the final significant search for Franklin in 1854. Five vessels were involved in this last major search and when the vessels were beset by ice in Lancaster Sound, four were abandoned, including The Resolute. All lives were saved by evacuating the four crews onto a fifth vessel *Northstar*, which returned safely to England. Meanwhile, *Resolute* drifted out into Baffin Bay, where an American vessel found it. When England showed no interest in reclaiming the ship, it was converted into furniture, and to this day American Presidents are occasionally filmed giving addresses from behind the Resolute Desk.

After excitedly gathering our things and descending to the small airport, we were transferred to the Polar Continental Shelf Project Office, where we got a good introduction to the history of the project before we had another short bus ride down to the beach. Quickly toggged out in life jackets, we boarded the Zodiacs for our first excursion – a short and reasonably calm run to the ship. We got a brief look at an iceberg just off shore and went up the gangway for the first but certainly not last time.

Offshore, the *Peregrine Mariner*, our home for the next two weeks, sat serenely in the grey waters. We were welcomed on board by Aaron the Expedition Leader and Lisa the Hotel Manager and were directed to our



cabins, where we began to settle in and unpack. A “light” welcome buffet gave Aaron the opportunity to welcome us aboard and introduce his plans for the voyage. Immediately following, Hayley gave us the mandatory lifeboat briefing, with a small break before dinner. During our briefings the Captain brought the anchor up and we got underway, sailing south out of Resolute and turning east in Barrow Strait. Following dinner, we had our lifeboat drill, and then we all retired to our cabins for our first night’s sleep in our new home, looking forward to the adventure continuing in the morning.

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

## **24 August 2007                      Beechey Is./Prince Leopold Is.**

Time: 0700  
Position: Lat: 74°42’N    Long: 91°47’ W  
Sunrise: 01.20    Sunset: 23.42  
Barometric Pressure: 1013 mbar  
Air Temperature: +5° 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."***

### ***Psalm 107***

Calm conditions and increasingly sunny conditions prevailed this morning as we visited very famous but super-bleak Beechey Island, our first stop of the voyage. This small island features exemplary, dry, nearly plant-free, high-Arctic, polar desert conditions. Moreover, it features perfect and highly visible raised beaches created by isostatic rebound. In fact, this island is a peninsula of Devon Island but the small isthmus that unites the two islands is flooded at high tide. Nearly all passengers chose to walk the distance (<2 km) that separates the gravesite where some of Franklin’s men were buried from the ruins of Northumberland House, which was built to assist the search for Franklin. Scott, our historian on staff, was generous and insightful with his comments at both sites. The good weather allowed us to spend all the time needed to visit and take pictures of the significant points of interest. We also saw numerous seabirds in and near the large cliff behind Northumberland House including Black Guillemots, mostly, Black-legged kittiwakes and even adults and fledglings - on the wing - of Thayer’s gulls. The guillemots were busy bringing small fishes to their chicks, which should soon fledge.

Near the end of our visit, we found our first polar bear walking on the shore of nearby Devon Island across the bay. Most passengers had a relatively good look at it through their binoculars or through the spotting scope on the bridge. We decided to wait after an already late lunch to go see it from close with our Zodiacs. When the time came to do so, it was too late as the bear had walked up a large ravine and out of sight. So the outing was cancelled and two lectures were presented instead: Denis on Arctic history and Jacques on Arctic birds. We will have to wait to see a polar bear up close.

In the evening, after dinner, we went for a Zodiac cruise at the base of the very large cliffs (300+ m) of Prince Leopold Island. Over half a million seabirds, including large numbers of four species, breed there. We did see countless Black-legged kittiwakes and Thick-billed murres and some Black Guillemots and Northern fulmars



but our attention was soon caught by a fast-moving polar bear - our second of the day and of the voyage - on the beach below the nesting birds. The bear appeared to be a female and she soon walked off the beach below the bird-nesting cliffs, up a ridge and out of sight. At that point the wind was blowing and the waves were big enough to slow down our return to the ship substantially. It was also past 22:30 and we were losing our daylight quickly. It was time to end our first day - all in all a great start to our voyage through the Northwest Passage, or the Canadian Arctic Passage as some would prefer!

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

## **25th August, 2007      Prince Regent Inlet**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 72°51'N   Long: 91°40' W

Sunrise: 02.00   Sunset: 23.40

Barometric Pressure: 1014 mbar

Air Temperature: +4° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***“I find the greatest thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as it is which direction we are moving. To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it, but we must sail and not drift, nor lie at anchor.”***

***Oliver Wendell Holmes***

We awoke steaming southwards through Prince Regent Inlet having left Prince Leopold Island astern the previous evening.

Our latitude was close to 73° N, a little over a thousand miles south of the geographical North Pole. We had a very strong following sea, boosted by a 30 knot NNE wind that hastened our passage southwards. We were determined to land at Fury Bay, the famous site of the sinking of Capt. William Parry's vessel HMS Fury. In 1824 the crew managed to offload virtually all of the ship's stores. Tools, food, equipment and lifeboats were left on the beach and Parry and the rest of his crew transferred to HMS Hecla and returned home to England. Fury Beach became a site well known to ensuing British Naval expeditions as a place where supplies and emergency boats were stored. This knowledge saved a later expedition led by Captain John Ross.

Unfortunately, our landing was not to be and we continued to steam southwards to make landfall close to Fort Ross. Zodiacs were launched, waves were surmounted and a landing was made at an ancient HBC site which was still operating until 1948 – the question is, what were they trading, and with whom were they trading, in this barren, unoccupied, inhospitable land? Who knows? Another Arctic mystery.

The highlight of the day was definitely navigating Bellot Strait westwards. Many early expeditions travelled down to the southern end of Prince Regent Inlet looking for a route westwards, not knowing that this route had no opening in that direction. Dozens of ships, steered by the finest navigators of the time, sailed past the entrance to Bellot Strait without realizing that this hidden, constricted channel was the key to entering the



Northwest Passage from this direction. The strait was finally discovered in 1852 by Joseph René Bellot, a young French naval officer, contracted by Captain John Franklin's devoted wife Lady Jane to search for news of her husband's ill fated expedition. We needed good tidal conditions which put pressure on our afternoon excursion but this body of water is notorious, and one of the least frequently navigated passages in the world. Captain Tartarin and Captain Alex kept us safe. Protecting the entrance to Bellot Strait is Magpie Rock, which constricts the fierce tides and produces an intimidating and confusing area of boiling white water, which must be bypassed with great navigational precision. Once past Magpie Rock the narrow passage continued westwards. We passed large flocks of Northern fulmars along the way and marvelled at the change of rock scenery as the sedimentary and metamorphic rocks of Somerset Island gave way to spectacularly folded volcanic intrusions along both sides of the strait.

On our port side we passed the end of the Boothia Peninsula, the most northerly point of the mainland North American continent – theoretically you could step ashore here and walk all the way to the bottom of South America on the same piece of land. We then entered the western end of the Bellot Strait. Drinks were served on the fo'castle head and the number of polar bears, muskoxen and mirages seen were directly commensurate to the number of glasses of mulled red wine consumed. What an amazing Arctic day!

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

## **26th August, 2007      Larsen Sound**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 70°36'N    Long: 96°06' W

Sunrise: 02.50    Sunset: 23.10

Barometric Pressure: 1011 mbar

Air Temperature: +5° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***“The fair breeze blew, white foam flew, the furrow followed free, we were the first that ever burst into that silent sea.”***

***Samuel Taylor Coleridge***

The morning found us setting anchor at the mouth of Pasley Bay and looking out upon the vast, bleak landscape that typifies the central Arctic - quite a contrast to the rugged topography seen on our passage through Bellot Strait. However, our exploration of the northern arm of Pasley Bay told of the richness and diversity of life to be found in such an apparently inhospitable place. During our morning's Zodiac trip to shore we surprised both Bearded and Harp seals, and saw an abundance of sea snails and sea butterflies as we approached the bay. On closer inspection, what looked to be an endless expanse of barren tundra revealed a wide range of plant life, finding shelter and nutrients in the hollows and trenches of the patterned ground and on the well-fertilized ground below glacial erratics – the perfect viewing platforms for predatory birds. The many bones and scat, including that of Musk Ox, lemming and Arctic Fox, confirmed that countless mammals also make the area their home.

The bird life proved to be very abundant and species spotted included Snow goose, Snowy owl, loons and flocks of 200-300 Common eider. We also found remnants of an Inuit hunting camp complete with remains of seal and caribou, and the skulls of polar bear. We learnt how the physical nature of the landscape is influenced



by the type of rocks that underlie the permafrost - the extensive tracts of 400 million year old, flat-lying sedimentary rocks help to give the sweeping landscape its barren appearance. The fact that the land is rising only very slowly in the Arctic, combined with the low strength of the sedimentary rocks, means that steep valleys and dramatic landscapes have not been formed during recent glacial advances.

The richness of the wildlife apparent in this area gave rise to an impromptu, intensive session of bird watching from the bridge after lunch, ably led by Jacques and attended by the serious bird watchers as well as the enthusiastic amateurs. Down in the presentation room Yvonne gave us a very informative explanation of the formation of mirages, the various types that are seen at home as well as in the Arctic, and on the characteristics of polar environments that produces some very special mirages in the Arctic.

The afternoon saw various groups heading off across the tundra that again revealed a surprising amount of life. Birds were particularly abundant with flocks of snow geese including adults and young, huge flocks of Common eider, numerous shore birds, particularly Red Phalarope and White rumped sandpipers and a family of Red Throated loons. Mammals included the familiar Musk Ox and a small contingent of Barren Ground Caribou, the first sighting of these magnificent animals on this voyage.

The evening concluded with a history of seasickness and some humorous tales of the best seasickness remedies presented by Lynn. One of the more unusual cures involved a combination of pure alcohol, cocaine and water to be administered every 2 hours. Scott presented a documentary on Franklin, which provided an excellent visual interpretation of his voyage, to complement the lectures held previously.

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

## **27 August, 2007                  Victoria Strait**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 69° 18' N Long: 100° 47' W

Sunrise: 03.00 Sunset: 22.56

Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar

Air Temperature: +3° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***“This we know, the Earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the Earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”***

### ***Chief Seattle***

We were awoken this morning with the news that ice was nearby and we were planning to cruise the edge to see if we could find an area to take the ship in and move slowly through. This was a day to dress up warmly and look out at the ice from the outside decks, hang out with the officers in the bridge and help them search for the elusive pack ice, or grab a book and catch up on some reading or napping. Aaron and Alex started off the morning presentations with a look at our intended destinations and the routing we were to take on our trip



along Victoria Strait, through Icebreaker Channel, past Jenny Lind Island, into Queen Maud Gulf, and west into Dease Strait for today's travels. At the same time Denis was describing life on the tundra while doing his fieldwork and showing us the beauty and the solitude of the tundra. Once you've walked on the tundra you will never be the same - it's a magical experience. Folks on the bridge spotted a few different species while staring out at the landscape that paralleled our ship as we cruised. Red Throated loons, Snow geese, Red Phalaropes, and Glaucous gulls were all observed during the morning.

We were making great time as we headed west and the presentations just kept on coming. First out was Scott with an in-depth look at the Franklin Expedition and the many mysteries involved in the search for clues. We all studied the one letter that was found by McClintock in King William Island and tried to figure out the meaning behind some of the strange things stated by Captain Fitzjames. We all came out wanting to know what had happened to the men on this disastrous expedition of 1845.

In the dining room, Doreen was describing her father's adventures and accomplishments in the Arctic as he captained the famous Arctic ship the St. Roch, which was the first ship to travel both east and west through the North West Passage and was also the first ship to complete the tricky passage in one year. Henry Larsen was a hero to the Inuit and a tribute to the R.C.M.P. for his brave venture into the high Arctic. In the evening some of us made our way to the bar to catch Jacques' humorous Inuit tale of Sedna and her legend. It was a full day of learning, catching up on some well needed sleep, reading or just staring out at the sea and land.

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

## **28th August, 2007, Johansen Bay**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 68° 34'N Long: 111° 03' W

Sunrise: 04.10 Sunset: 23.00

Barometric Pressure: 1016 mbar

Air Temperature: +3° 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 day started a breezy and grey one, with a wind of 30 knots blowing up a good swell prior to breakfast. Fortunately, in time for gangway, the wind slowed and we donned our layers to go out. A drizzle followed us as we explored, but only served to add to the atmosphere of the excursion.

After a cruise past a small herd of Musk Oxen grazing, we headed for land with exploration on our minds. Johansen Bay proved a lush oasis of vegetation compared to our previous landing sites. The majority of us divided into our usual hiking groups and took to the land, while the kayakers and cruisers took to the water once again. The chargers gained altitude immediately and then enjoyed a quiet encounter with a couple of grazing Musk oxen bulls on the lush grass on the hill top meadow. The medium hikers meandered up the hill



as well and investigated the unusual rock formations we had seen from the water. Along the way the group was lucky enough to encounter Tundra swans on the lake, see Bearded seal in the water and find Qiviet caught in the grass. The meandering peregrinators revelled in the ecosystem that surrounded them – a verdant carpet of birch, willow and blueberries among other things. Countless types of animal scat and bones were evident scattered throughout, speaking of the richness of the ecosystem in this area of the Arctic.

From the water, the kayakers did battle with a persistent headwind and were rewarded with a flyby from a pair of Peregrine Falcons. They also took a moment to stretch their legs on land and had an encounter with a herd of Caribou, grazing on the hillside. The cruisers had great looks at the Caribou herd as well and took the time to enjoy the spectacular scenery of this little bay.

The afternoon was spent at sea, making progress through Coronation Gulf. Never a dull moment was to be had as a full schedule of presentations was on offer. Lynn gave us greater insight into the biology of the polar bears and the role they play in the Arctic ecosystem in her presentation. She also discussed the conservation and research efforts that are going into this species at the moment, as climate change impacts the polar bear's world. Bob showed us tantalizing photos from his time spent in the Arctic and discussed a few tricks of the photography trade. His presentation proved to us the value of using a tripod, waiting quietly and that patience will eventually pay dividends in beautiful photos of the tundra and its inhabitants. Yvonne and Denis held a geology workshop, discussing the geological history of this part of the Arctic. They had many different samples of rock that we're likely to encounter on our upcoming rambles, available for close examination.

The day ended with Alex entertaining us in the bar after dinner with “nautical nonsense” – his compilation of sayings and superstitions that rule our behaviour and life at sea. For those in the mood for a film instead, “Nuliajuk – Mother of the Sea Beasts” playing in the presentation room, as a continuation of the story of Sedna that Jacques introduced us to the other night in the bar.

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

**29 August, 2007**

**Bernard Harbour**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 68° 47'N Long: 114° 42' W

Sunrise: 05.35 Sunset: 23.55

Barometric Pressure: 1018 mbar

Air Temperature: +4 °C

Water Temperature: +3° C

Again this morning we were awakened by the melodious voice of Aaron informing us of the day it was and of our position in Dolphin and Union Strait near Bernard Harbour. This was followed by the “Denis rock report” where he suggested that although we had arrived in Rock Heaven, the sky was overcast with occasional drizzle and that there was an obvious need to pray harder. At breakfast it was explained that Bernard Harbour was an important historical site because this is where the Eastern Party of the first Canadian Arctic Expedition had resided from August 1914 until July 1916. Members of the party, including the anthropologist Diamond Jenness, had sailed from Herschel Island on board the North Star along with Chipman, the senior topographer and party chief, Cox the junior topographer, O'Neil the geologist and Johansen the biologist. (Denis had brought 5 copies of Jenness' book: *The People of the Twilight*, which had quickly sold the day before).



Denis explained that this area had been heavily glaciated and that the Postglacial Sea had covered this land up to 160 meters above present sea level. The members of the Arctic Expedition had built their cabin '18 by 12 feet of roughly dressed timber brought from Alaska for that purpose'. For added protection against the cold the outer walls were covered with peat from a nearby meadow. Although the structure was burned long ago the outline is still clearly visible on the ground. The low hill on which the hut was built is a drumlin, which is an elongated hill resembling an overturned soup spoon, that can be over 2 kilometres in length. Drumlins are streamlined features formed at the base of large advancing glaciers. They are excellent indicators of the direction of ice movement.

Southeast of Bernard Harbour are the remains of a Distant Early Warning Building (DEW Line) which is part of a line of radar/radio stations extending from Alaska to Greenland. These stations had been built in the late 1940s to early 1960s during the Cold War to monitor the activities of the Soviet Union. Denis explained that he had used the main building as a camp when carrying out geological mapping in this area. We were taken ashore at 09:00 to the south shore of the drumlin on which the ruins of an RCMP building still stand and we were divided into the usual groups.

One group led by Yvonne, Jacques and Denis walked to the RCMP cabin and admired the remains of a Model A truck that a fur trader had attempted to modify into a snow mobile! We then went along the drumlin to cross a stream and walk up to the abandoned DEW Line site. For some it proved to be somewhat more arduous than expected. The former garage and store room are still in reasonably good shape but the main building which housed the radio station and personnel has been abused to the great dismay of Denis who had left it in excellent condition in August 1989. Many were impressed by how extensive these constructions were and by the quality of the material used. Particularly spectacular was the large steel antenna, which had been cut from its moorings and bulldozed over the south side of the drumlin. A young Arctic hare was grazing amongst the wreck.

The 'Peregrinators' were in deep contemplation around the drumlin visiting the cabin, and the remnants of several other structures. They then embarked on a Zodiac cruise on the bay to see the DEW Line site. The chargers bolted to the northwest and followed the crest of a long drumlin to return along the small river that drains in to the bay at the base of the DEW Line station. They encountered three highly dangerous Sik Siks (marmots). We returned to the ship at 13:00 heading into a 1-metre swell but with the sun poking through the clouds. Inuit elders and young persons from Kugluktuk (Coppermine) came in their boats for a brief visit. The elders were teaching the young traditional knowledge.

In the afternoon a tour of the ship was offered by Scott, Lynn, Hayley and Carolina, visiting the scientific laboratory (a.k.a. mudroom), the engine room, engine control centre and the bridge. Zak presented a slideshow and video called Low Lives in High Places, recounting his recent experiences on a twelve-day kayaking journey down a fast-flowing river in the Tibetan Himalayas. Later on, "to celebrate the return of the sun", Carolina organised a sauna – cold plunge event, which attracted a large crowd of spectators offering loud encouragement to the seven brave souls who took the plunge!

After dinner Jim offered an insight on strange and unusual questions asked by passengers on cruises and Zak showed a 25-minute version of his video on his kayaking expedition in the Tibetan Himalayas.

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



## 30th August, 2007      Amundsen Gulf

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 70° 34'N Long: 117° 22' W

Sunrise: 05.10 Sunset: 22.49

Barometric Pressure: 1019 mbar

Air Temperature: +5° C

Water Temperature: +1° 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. ”***

***Malcolm Bradbury (1932)***

We woke to a gorgeous sunrise in pinks and oranges highlighting the columnar cliffs visible off the stern of the ship. The Captain had brought us safely to anchor by 0300, and the morning was still, quiet and stunningly beautiful. Rock and sea each glowed with dark gold, then gradually lightened to shimmering greys and blues, and thanks to the overnight time-change, many of us were up early to appreciate the show.

After breakfast, we headed down the gangway to explore the Albert Islands, a small group of islands and islets tucked in against the northern shoreline of Prince Albert Sound, on the west coast of Victoria Island. We all set off in different directions, following cliff-lines and ducking around islands, investigating this incredible landscape. The rock itself was very old gabbro, mostly dark-grey igneous rock, full of cracks and crevasses with occasional rusty stains, standing in tall columns crumbling very slowly into the sea. In many places, the rock stood virtually bare, with hardly a lick of lichen, and only the most isolated of hardy little willows to mask its sharp-edged beauty. Around the cliffs, the ocean was full of life – several Ringed seals surfaced and rolled close to the boats, and amphipods and comb jellyfish swirled with the currents, drifting, as zooplankton must, around the base of the rocks. We all found little swards of rich tundra tucked between rocky hills, and landed our Zodiacs to explore our private Eden. The kayakers were out in force, and paddled serenely through the incredible scenery, with Zak leading them through, portaging their boats across a strip of land, and effectively circumnavigating a peninsula by kayak! Musk oxen, Common ravens, Snow buntings, Buff-bellied pipits and big flocks of Glaucous gulls added their furred and feathered presence to the morning, giving the wildlife-watchers amongst us a good show against the background of ice and sea.

Back on board, while we enjoyed our burgers and chips, the Captain repositioned the ship 15 miles west to the small hamlet of Holman. Nestled into the rocks and tundra and curling along a sheltered gravel beach, the houses of Holman blend surprisingly well into the Arctic landscape. This little town (population 429) was either named after a British naval officer or a doctor, depending on who you asked. We landed while school was still in, and set off to discover how people live in the Northwest Territories. We were directed to the local printmaking and artist's studio, where we all admired (and many of us bought) art and handicrafts made by local artists. We also did quick tours of the two main shops, the Northern store and the Co-op, and then headed off to the school to find out more about life in town. Many of us got a chance to speak with the locals, who were very welcoming. Not long after we arrived school was let out, and suddenly the beach was full of small (and not-so-small) children. Talking with the locals was a real highlight – the kids were energetic and full of mischief, while their elders were quietly welcoming and very happy to share their knowledge of town and anything else we might be interested in. Many of us learned directly about how the Inuit harvest and utilize the



local wildlife, including Arctic char, Musk oxen and caribou. After exploring the confines of town, many of us headed out to walk into the tundra and up the hills for views and a little exercise. After working off at least part of our lunch, we finally had to farewell Holman and return to the ship. Dinner was even more noisy than usual, as we shared anecdotes over the buffet, and things got going in the bar with Robin and Haley's bar quiz of literary quotes. We finally slid into a quiet, gently purple and gold evening as we sailed west, with some planning to stay up to watch for the northern lights while others simply enjoyed the chat and company in James' bar.

**Russian Word of the Day:** *Ya-nee-pa-nee-may-oo* - I don't understand

## 31 August, 2007 Banks Island

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 71°10'N Long: 120° 41' W

Sunrise: 05.20 Sunset: 23.00

Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar

Air Temperature: +6° C

Water Temperature: +3° C

***“At the same time that we are anxious to explore and learn all things we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable.”***

***Henry David Thoreau***

We awoke to a glorious Arctic morning. Ice Pilot Alex used his years of experience to find us some eight tenths coverage and Aaron's earlier than normal wake-up call found us cruising slowly westwards along the floe edge towards De Salis Bay on the south-east corner of Banks Island scanning the pack for wildlife. After breakfast we launched the Zodiacs and went for an exploratory cruise amongst the ice. The conditions were perfect and all kinds of sculpted shapes, including ice bears, were reflected in the mirror calm waters. There was already a thin new layer of frazil, or grease ice, on the surface – the beginning of the long winter freeze is well on its way. In just a few weeks these very same waters will be covered in an impenetrable layer of ice that would make a journey like ours impossible. All passengers waxed panegyric about the experience under a still clearly visible waning moon.

After a really enjoyable cruise amongst the floes we returned to the ship and at noon, on the fo'castle head we sipped champagne and celebrated reaching the eastern end of the Beaufort Sea, at 71°11.5N, 120°55.1W, the most westerly point of our journey. In a tongue-in-cheek ceremony Denis and Jacques claimed the Canadian Arctic Passage on behalf of Canada and a weighted national flag was dropped overboard to symbolically establish sovereignty over the ocean bed below. The afternoon gave us plenty of onboard entertainment – Lynn's 'Blubberfest' talk proved really popular and Yvonne's presentation on ice left her audience frozen with admiration at her slick verbal skating skills.

Our sail plan now had Cambridge Bay as our next destination. Our route lay southeastwards from the edge of De Salis Bay on Banks Island towards the Wollaston Peninsula on the southwest corner of Victoria Island and thence the entrance to Dolphin and Union Strait. With a brisk 10-knot NE wind astern we pushed ahead towards Coronation Gulf. Everyone on board was exalted after our special ice experience today – we had



been unlucky with the weather thus far into the trip and the warmth of the sunshine and the silky calm seas gave new energy to passengers and crew alike. We all know that the weather and the appearance of wildlife are unpredictable and can never be guaranteed but when we are fortunate enough to see the Arctic and its inhabitants in their best light it seems to turn those few grey days into a worthwhile investment. All in all, a wonderful Arctic day that more than fulfilled expectations.

**Russian Word of the Day:** Spak-oy-n-iy vach-tee - Have a good watch

## **1 September, 2007      Dolphin and Union Strait**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 68° 35' N   Long: 113° 27' W

Sunrise: 05.15   Sunset: 23.00

Barometric Pressure: 1011 mbar

Air Temperature: +5° C

Water Temperature: +4° 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)***

It was clearly demonstrated today that a day at sea is not necessarily a rest day, despite the extra half hour of sleep allowed before breakfast. As we arose we found ourselves at the eastern end of Dolphin and Union Strait, just about to enter Coronation Gulf. As we turned into the Gulf, we followed a relatively well-charted northerly route avoiding the shoals and intricate network of islands comprising the Duke of York Archipelago.

The overcast sky gradually cleared during the morning, affording us good views of the DEW site perched above a broad, flat plateau of igneous rock on Edinburgh Island. Keen eyes also spotted the associated helicopter activity. We also encountered our first shipping traffic, other than the friendly visits of local Inuit, in the form of three large barges being towed in the direction of Johansen Bay.

For those not out in deck in the very mild weather or watching the Arctic pass by from the Bridge, Scott told us the little

known story of Dr. John Rae, the Scottish/Canadian explorer who first discovered the fate of Franklin's expedition, but who

was snubbed by Lady Franklin and her influential associates for revealing some unpalatable facts about the demise of the expedition.

This presentation was followed by a light hearted look at “Arctic News” presented in the humorous style unique to Jacques.

We remained at sea during the afternoon, entering Dease Strait and making good time to Byron Bay. We spotted our second vessel of the day, the Nunakput, travelling west along the strait, hugging the coast of



Victoria Island. The course of the Nunakput suggested that the vessel would be calling at a small coastal site providing access to our second DEW station of the day. The prevalence of DEW sites in this area probably reflects the relatively easy access for re-supply and maintenance of the sites via Dease Strait.

We were kept entertained by Jim with a presentation on a kayaking expedition that left from north Baffin Island. The attempted circumnavigation of Bylot Island by Jim and his companions was thwarted by persistent winds and generally bad weather, but was certainly a testing and invigorating experience. There then followed a presentation on glacial ice by Robert, ably assisted by grandfather Denis who directed a discussion of the effects of global climate change in the Arctic. The afternoon concluded with a second session by Jacques who provided more amusing lessons in the Inuktituk language in preparation for our visit to Cambridge Bay tomorrow.

We celebrated our arrival in Byron Bay with a very sociable BBQ in the fresh conditions out on the stern deck before retiring to the warmer and less breezy environs of the lounge and bar. Altogether a very interesting day with many people taking the opportunity to reflect on the voyage so far, to sit and chat with new found friends and to anticipate the remaining few days of the voyage.

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

## **2 September, 2007      Cambridge Bay**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 69° 04' N   Long: 104° 58' W

Sunrise: 05.10   Sunset: 22.45

Barometric Pressure: 1013 mbar

Air Temperature: +7° C

Water Temperature: +5° C

***“Come fill the cup and in the fire of spring the winter garment of repentance fling.***

***The bird of time hath but a little way to fly and lo the bird is on the wing.”***

***Omar Khayam***

Yesterday we dropped anchor early in the morning in front of Cambridge Bay (pop. 1500) or Iqaluktuutiaq ‘the fair fishing place’ as it is known in the local Inuinaqtun. This is the language spoken in this region (Kitikmeot) of Nunavut and it is written with the Roman orthography. It is slightly different from the Inuktitut spoken on Baffin Island, which is written in syllabics. Cambridge Bay is the largest community along the Northwest Passage, or Canadian Arctic Passage as proposed by some, and is bound to become more important as the Passage opens up to commercial navigation.

We were welcomed on the beach by a flock of Greater White-fronted geese and snow buntings and Vicky from the Arctic Coast Visitor Centre. This centre had nice displays on the area’s culture, archaeology, wildlife (e.g. skull of Grizzly Bear and skin of Wolverine) and history (e.g. piece of rope and canvas from John Ross’ ship), some art (e.g. prints from Holman) and a small gift shop. We also visited the new (2002) and truly magnificent



Kiilinik High School where the Kitikmeot Heritage Society and its displays, library and archives are also housed. This brilliant, new and very large building is one of the most spectacular in Nunavut and the Canadian Arctic. Local students demonstrated some of the Arctic sports (e.g. High-Kick) in which they excel.

Tanya Tagaq, a young, emerging artist with an international reputation, surprised us with her revolutionary and eclectic throat singing, a very traditional activity that she has reinvented. She also demonstrated traditional throat singing with another young woman. Then, two elders, Mary and Tommy Kobligina and some dancers, entertained us with their traditional songs and dances. The school principal and some teachers also prepared snacks of char, caribou and musk ox for us; a task certainly beyond the call of their normal duties...early on a Sunday morning of a long weekend.... Thanks folks, it is appreciated.

We also had a chance to see the ruins of the Maud, Roald Amundsen's old research vessel, and of the old Catholic stone church. Some passengers had time to visit other sites like the Co-op store where a wolverine skin could be had for \$700.00. Wolverine is an expensive but well sought after fur for the furry trim sewn around the hood of a parka. It does not let the frost produced by breathing in the winter to build on it. No wonder this fur is more popular in Nunavut at -40C than in Australia at +40C... Last but not least, we also found out that premium fillets of Arctic Char can be purchased for \$15.41 per kg and Musk Ox tenderloin for \$18.99 per kg at Kitikmeot Foods Ltd., a good deal if you come from London or Sydney.

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

## **3 September, 2007      Victory Point**

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 69° 33' N    Long: 99° 51' W

Sunrise: 05.00              Sunset: 22.48

Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar

Air Temperature: +4° C

Water Temperature: +4° C

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

***Andrei Sakaharov and C.P. Snow***

Aaron was up very early, supervising the bridge officers as they navigated us through a surprise field of sea ice. Overnight, we had come through Icebreaker Channel and were now sailing North through Victoria Strait. The ice that had been up in McClintock Channel had moved South, and we were encountering it to the East of Admiralty Island and off the coast of the Collinson Peninsula at the Southern end of Victoria Island.

Robyn's Flora presentation was bumped, yet again, this time because we were all out on deck or on the bridge, spotting Ringed seals, Bearded seals, Glaucous gulls, Northern fulmars and eiders while enjoying the amazing icescape all around us. The seas were flat calm, and the ice was sitting quietly all around us, glowing gently in white and turquoise. The stillness of the sea meant that we could see clearly into the depths, where fantasy shapes of ice and swimming seals disappeared down into the dark blue water. Above water level,



sunshine made some parts of the pack ice glow golden and molten grey, while in other directions it was bright, flat white, with the occasional point of grey-brown where algae stained the sea ice.

We spent the early part of the morning navigating through the ice, on constant lookout. We noted that the Ringed Seals seem to preferentially choose tiny little pieces of ice that hardly floated with their weight on them, and the Glaucous Gulls do find the *Peregrine Mariner* a curiosity worth investigating. Later in the morning, Colin presented his Voyage DVD on the big screen down in the presentation room, and we had a good laugh at ourselves while being stunned at how long ago the fire drill was.

The ship turned northeast, and we headed across Victoria Strait towards the northern end of King William Island. After an early lunch, we piled into the Zodiacs and headed ashore to Victory Point, probably the most important location in the mystery of the Franklin Expedition after Beechey Island. We were blessed with good weather, and very fortunate to land on this special place, which none of the staff had yet succeeded in doing. In 1859, Hobsen found a cairn erected by the Franklin Expedition, complete with an odd and very confusing note. There was also about ten tons of material from the Terror and Erebus including cooking pots, a medicine chest, navigation equipment like sextants and compasses, and huge piles of clothes and books. From the note found in the cairn, the crews from the Terror and Erebus made an orderly evacuation to Victory Point in 1849 after being beset by ice, but an addition to the message one year later makes clear that the Franklin Expedition was by then in big trouble.

On the beach, we all set off in different directions at our selected pace (the new categories of potterer, medium slow, medium fast and charger working well) to see what we could see. We all found great old shattered limestone moraine, which was our walking surface, but each group discovered its own special finds. Regurgitation pellets full of bits of ex-lemming, goose and ptarmigan droppings and broken eggs seemed to be a common link between the groups, and most found tent rings, ancient Thule food caches and bits of old wood. The paddlers, who had headed North from the landing beach, also found Baird's Sandpipers and a big tree root on shore, while Aaron's group has almost made it back to the landing site when they found a recently deceased Ringed seal on the beach.

Back on board, we pulled up the anchor and turned north, aiming for Peel Sound. While we were all making our way down to see James for Happy Hour, Aaron announced from the bridge that there was a polar bear in the water off the Starboard side of the ship. The Captain washed off some of our speed by doing a sharp turn, and we passed the bear a couple of times, getting a good look at him as he swam through the ice for shore. Following a very noisy dinner, many of us moved on to the bar, where Scott's trivia quiz kept us amused with some tricky guessing games.

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

## 4 September, 2007      Peel Sound

Time: 0700  
Position: Lat: 71° 36' N    Long: 96° 38' W  
Sunrise: 04.55            Sunset: 22.30  
Barometric Pressure: 1017 mbar  
Air Temperature: +3° 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)***

This morning found the *Mariner* heading north along Peel Sound towards the community of Resolute. It was fascinating to travel along the same waters that Franklin had sailed in 1846 on his quest to complete the Northwest Passage. The same landscape that the men of the *Erebus* and *Terror* stared out at as they ventured into the unknown passageway took us back into time to imagine what they were experiencing.

Resolute got its name from the search and rescue ship that searched in this area for any signs of the expedition. The leader of the 5-ship mission abandoned all the vessels in the ice and sailed back to England after searching for one year. The *Resolute* drifted through Lancaster Sound into Baffin Bay where it was spotted by an American ship and taken back to the states for repair and later presented to the queen as a gift. This embarrassed the British and they disassembled the ship, made a desk of it and presented this back to the president of the United States. It sat in storage for many years until President Kennedy moved it into his office where it sits today, the Resolute Desk.

Accounts settlement and Jim’s talk on his co-coordinating of the North Pole expedition were on the schedule this morning as we motored up the Sound and stared out at the wind and waves and the snow covered hills as we pressed on north. This was a great time to start on our packing or work on finishing up the journals as well as completing the maps before our return journey home. In the afternoon Robin’s much awaited presentation on the amazing adaptations plant life takes on to live in these harsh climates was first on board. Aaron followed with a look back at our trip and the places we visited, the wildlife we saw as well as the historical significance of each area. Soon we were ready for the Captain’s Dinner and we all looked forward to our last evening on the ship to share our stories and say our goodbyes to the staff and crew of the *Peregrine Mariner*. We were able to show our thanks to Captain Tatarin who explored this fabled passage along with us.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to sail the waters that so many had sought for so many years. This was the passage that took so many lives and created a legend.

**Russian Word of the Day:** Pra-stee-tye - Sorry



## 5 September, 2007      Resolute

Time: 0700

Position: Lat: 69° 33' N    Long: 99° 51' W

Sunrise: 05.00                  Sunset: 22.48

Barometric Pressure: 1012 mbar

Air Temperature: +4° C

Water Temperature: +4° 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 desires. In the intervening two weeks, we had put together a memory bank of uniquely personal images and impressions of the Arctic landscape and the Northwest Passage. 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 of the Resolute Transportation Commission. 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, take-off 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 through the Northwest Passage aboard the *Peregrine Mariner*.

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



## Voyage Presentations Summary

### 24 AUGUST

#### **AECO GUIDELINES & POLAR BEAR SAFETY BRIEFING (MANDATORY) BY AARON**

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 polar bears and ourselves.

#### **ZODIAC SAFETY BRIEFING (MANDATORY) BY HAYLEY**

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

#### **AN OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE ARCTIC BY DENIS**

This is an overview of the history of the Arctic since the arrival of the first human migrants from Siberia 4000 years ago. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the deglaciation of North America in population movements from Asia to North America. The role of explorers in charting the arctic islands is also emphasized, as is the impact of whalers on Inuit culture.

#### **ARCTIC BIRDS (FOR THE UNINITIATED) BY JACQUES**

If you know nothing or next to nothing about Arctic birds, this talk is for you. After a brief explanation on the Arctic and North Atlantic context of Nunavut and West Greenland, and various aspects related to habitat and migration, I 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.

### 25 AUGUST

#### **LAND SEA AND POLES**

Why is the Arctic so cold, and what makes it special? How does the wildlife cope? This talk will be a broad-ranging discussion examining the unique features of both poles as well as comparing the Arctic and the Antarctic. Come along and discover just how different our two poles are, why, and why it matters. This talk looks at the special characteristics of the Arctic region, focusing on what it means to the wildlife that survives here and how the Arctic interacts with the rest of the planet.

#### **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 outcamp, 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 travelling and hunting skills in order to pass them on to the young people of their community.

#### **TUTORIAL: MULTIMEDIA INTRODUCTION BY CAROLINA & COLIN**

Learn how to download your photos and burn CDs and DVDs in our Multimedia Facilities.

#### **BAR TALK - SIR JAMES CLARK ROSS BY SCOTT**

In this talk Scott goes over the accomplishments of the explorer, looking at his many expeditions into the Arctic as well as the Antarctic. J.C. Ross is a name that should be recognized by his daring to enter parts of the world never explored by Europeans.

### **26 AUGUST**

#### **OPTICAL ILLUSIONS (OR - YES, WE CAN SEE AROUND CORNERS) BY YVONNE**

A brief explanation of how mirages form. Yvonne will follow her explanations with a general description of the most common mirages seen in the high latitudes of the Arctic.

#### **BAR TALK – SEASICKNESS STORIES BY LYNN**

A humorous look at the history, symptoms and treatments of seasickness.

#### **FEATURE DOCUMENTARY - NORTHWEST PASSAGE: FRANKLIN PRESENTED BY SCOTT**

A look at Franklins failed attempt to complete the passage, with in depth analysis from today's scientific community looking at the evidence to try and understand what occurred in 1845-8.

### **27 AUGUST**

#### **LET'S GO THROUGH THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE BY AARON**

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 while attempting the Northwest Passage, emphasizing the uncertain nature of Arctic travel and ice conditions.

#### **THE BEAUTY OF THE TUNDRA BY DENIS**

This presentation prepared by Denis and Robert consists of spectacular photographs of the tundra accompanied by a song by Susan Aglukark. The second part gives two examples of how geologists read the rocks in order to recreate the history of the earth.

#### **THE MYSTERY OF FRANKLIN EXPEDITION (1845) BY SCOTT**

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

### **THE LIFE OF HENRY LARSEN BY DOREEN READLE LARSEN (GUEST PRESENTER)**

Doreen's presentation is on her famous father. We cover the life and times of Captain Henry Larsen and his famous Arctic ship the St. Roch. These men completed the first Northwest Passage crossing from the west to the east, and again completed the passage returning to the west, for the first time in one season. We look at the work and assistance the men of the St. Roch gave to the Inuit communities as they visited by both ship and dogsled in the vast Canadian Arctic. The St. Roch and Captain Henry Larsen are legendary in the history of the Inuit.

### **BAR TALK - THE STORY OF SEDNA BY JACQUES**

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

### **FEATURE DOCUMENTARY - SILA ALANGOTOK: INUIT OBSERVATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Come to see and hear about what the Inuvialuit of Banks Island are experiencing in their own Arctic backyard. A must see documentary that will clearly illustrate how climate change is affecting the daily lives of the locals.

## **28 AUGUST**

### **PHOTOGRAPHING THE CANADIAN ARCTIC BY BOB TAYLOR (GUEST PRESENTER)**

### **PROTECT OUR POLES: CONSERVATION IN THE ARCTIC WITH POLAR BEARS BY LYNN**

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 on how and why climate change will affect polar bears, followed by information on the current polar bear project we support. The money raised by the onboard auction directly assists this conservation work!

### **GEOLOGY WORKSHOP WITH YVONNE AND DENIS**

Yvonne and Denis will be discussing general geology with keen enthusiasts interested on learning a bit more about the rocks and geological formations.

### **BAR TALK – NAUTICAL NONSENSE WITH ALEX**

Join Alex in the Bar for a brief and funny review of mariners' superstitions!

### **FEATURE DOCUMENTARY - ALIUJUIK: MOTHER OF THE SEA BEASTS**

## **29 AUGUST**



## **SHIP TOUR WITH CARO, LYNN, SCOTT & HAYLEY**

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 to discover more about the history of the ship and, in more recent times, the science conducted aboard.

## **“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 their incredibly successful Tibet expedition.

## **BAR TALK – MOST PROFOUND PASSENGER QUESTIONS WITH JIM**

Jim will read the most hilarious and mischievous questions asked by passengers on board the *Peregrine Mariner*, including:

“What happens if the water gets higher than my boots?”

“Is the water shallower near the beach?”

“What nationality is the Russian crew?”

## **FEATURE DOCUMENTARY – SEVEN WEEKS IN TIBET PRESENTED BY ZAK**

Zak will play the award winning documentary filmed during his white water kayaking expedition in Tibet.

## **30 AUGUST**

### **BAR TALK – SEAFARING QUOTES WITH ROBIN & HAYLEY**

A nautical quiz where we give you the answers first.

## **31 AUGUST**

### **THE BLUBBERFEST: ARCTIC SEALS AND WHALES BY LYNN**

These amazing animals are land mammals that have returned to the sea. What does it mean to live in frigid Arctic waters? This talk looks at the pagophilic seals that thrive in the Arctic, covering everything from how to identify them through to why they are so special. Other aspects of Arctic seals we’ll look at include how body design is shaped by lifestyle and some physical adaptations to extreme cold conditions. Behavioural adaptations in feeding techniques and tricks for managing the ice and the winter will also be examined, as well as breeding in the extreme conditions of the north.

### **SEA ICE BY YVONNE**



A brief discussion of how sea ice forms followed by an outline of the significance of sea ice and why fluctuations in sea ice extent has implications beyond the Arctic.

### **BAR TALK - ARCTIC VOCABULARY LESSON BY JACQUES**

Learn a word or two of Inuktitut with Jacques!

### **LISTENING EVENING - HENRY LARSEN INTERVIEW RECORDINGS**

## **1 SEPTEMBER**

### **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 used by the Cree Indians in this harsh climate. 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 artefacts left behind by 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.

### **KAYAKS TO BAFFIN – A PADDLING JOURNEY**

Follow Jim Hargreaves and his team on a month long sea kayaking journey around mountainous Bylot Island, one of the most spectacular islands in the Canadian High Arctic. Starting from Pond Inlet, the most northerly community on Baffin Island, the team faced wave tossed sea crossings, ice covered beaches and hungry polar bears during their twenty six day unsupported journey.

### **ADVANCED ARCTIC VOCABULARY LESSON BY JACQUES**

Join Jacques for his second session of Inuktitut for keen and enthusiastic learners!

## **2 SEPTEMBER**

### **OPEN FORUM WITH OUR TEAM OF ARCTIC EXPERTS**

A question and answer session with Aaron, Jim, Alex, Jacques, Denis, Lynn and Yvonne.

### **BAR TALK - A KNOTTY NIGHT WITH JIM**



Join Jim in his pursuit to find the most efficient and easy knot!

### **FEATURE DOCUMENTARY – NORTHWEST PASSAGE: AMUNDSEN PRESENTED BY SCOTT**

A look at Amundsen's successful and historic first completion of the Northwest Passage. This is a modern day documentary showing his route and how his understanding of Inuit ways helped him to survive in this harsh environment.

### **3 SEPTEMBER**

#### **BAR TALK – ARCTIC TRIVIA WITH SCOTT**

It is a fun trivia game about our adventures, the passengers on the ship and the ship itself.

### **4 SEPTEMBER**

#### **ICEWALK – A JOURNEY TO THE NORTH POLE**

Join Jim Hargreaves on a pictorial journey to the geographical North Pole. Jim was Operations Director of one of the largest expeditions to the North Pole in modern times. We will start by tracing the history of Robert Peary, the first successful explorer to reach the North Pole in 1909 then we will follow a contemporary team of international adventurers as they ski from the northernmost point of Canada to the top of the world.

#### **PLANTS OF THE FAR NORTH:**

This presentation will present an overview of plant life we find in the Canadian high Arctic. Focusing on the conditions which determine which plants can grow in the harsh northern environments, adaptations which they have developed and the most common types of communities in which they may be found will provide a frame within what is seen may be understood. Slides will be used to illustrate this presentation.

#### **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 whilst sailing through the Northwest Passage with the help of 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/September 2007	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<b>BIRDS</b>													
<i>(North American English names)</i>													
Red-throated Loon				x	x	x	x	x				x	
Pacific Loon				x									
Northern Fulmar	x	x	x									x	x
Rock Ptarmigan				x		s						x	
Common Eider		x		x									
Brant						x							
Snow Goose				x	x								s,f
Canada Goose								x		x		x	
Greater White-fronted Goose											x		
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)						x	x					x	
Tundra Swan						x						x	
Red Phalarope		x		x			x						
White-rumped Sandpiper				x									
Black-bellied Plover												x	
Parasitic Jaeger		x											
Long-tailed Jaeger		x		x		x							
Pomarine Jaeger													
Glaucous Gull	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x
Thayer's Gull		x	x								x		
Great Black-backed Gull												?	
Black-legged Kittiwake	x	x	x										
Arctic Tern				x									
Thick-billed Murre		x	x									x	
Horned Lark								x			x		
Black Guillemot	x	x	x										
Common Raven	x		x	x			x				x		
Snow Bunting			d								x	x	
Lapland Longspur						x	x				x	x	
Gyrfalcon													
Peregrine Falcon						x							
Snowy Owl				x								x	
Merlin						x							
<b>MAMMALS</b>													
Harp Seal		x											
Ringed Seal				x			x		x			x	
Bearded Seal	x		x	x					x			x	



Walrus													
Polar Bear		2	4	b								1	
Bowhead Whale			x										
Muskox			4	12			s,w					s	
Arctic Fox				s		b	d					s	
Collared Lemming				s								s	
Arctic Hare							x					s	
Barren-ground Caribou				5		b	t						
Barren-ground Grizzly							t						
Arctic Ground Squirrel							x						

**CODES:** s=scats;d=dead;f=feathers;t=tracks; b=bones; h=heard; w=wool; d=den;  
?=unconfirmed



## KAYAK LOG

GUIDES: ZAK SHAW AND ROBIN MIDDLETON

### Excursion 1 – Prince Leopold Island

7431N, 8229W

Date – 25/08/2007

Wind Speed – 10 knots.

Sea Swell – Lumpy and irregular swell to one metre.

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

It's always much easier if the wind stays away and the sea is calm for the first kayak excursion! On this visit to Prince Leopold Island we weren't so lucky. In variable fog the ship anchored in close to the sea cliffs we didn't have to travel far by Zodiac to get to the action. The sea swell rocked our Zodiac and made for a tough first test to get from the Zodiac into the kayaks. We unloaded five of our paddlers. Zak and Robin provided the necessary stability to the kayaks whilst we stretched our spray skirts on.

By this time the swell had become more considerable and so the decision was made to not unload anymore kayakers. Caro and our remaining team stayed in the Zodiac and admired the prolific numbers of sea birds flocking to and from their nests in the towering sea cliffs.

On the water our kayakers battled away and fought hard in the disturbed water. The sea conditions continued to deteriorate so we abandoned the trip and headed back to the ship. Looking at the positives, we experienced how the kayak program runs and logistically what happens when we get out there. It also provided an insight into what it would have been like for the early explorers when they ventured into this unknown region.

### Excursion 2 - Fort Ross

7200N, 9414W

Date – 25/08/07

Wind Speed – 20 knot northerly.

Species sighted from the kayaks – Northern fulmar, Glaucous gull.

With the ship anchored two miles off the site our kayaks were transported by Zodiac. We arrived in a small shallow bay overlooking a rustic old Hudson Bay company building. Fort Ross marks the entrance to the famed Bellot Strait. Mc Clintock wintered over here during his valiant search for Sir James Franklin.

Our landing site was hounded by a persistent wind that pushed the kayaks towards the shore and other Zodiac's that were at anchor. In twenty knots of wind we struggled to get our kayaks on track. After a lot of persistence everyone was ready to go. The hard work was done by this point; once we had cleared a small point of land the wind took control. With a brisk breeze at our backs we cruised along the shoreline towards open water.



A female polar bear and her two cubs had been sighted from a high point above the landing beach so our kayaking team explored the nearby bays in the hope that our line of sight would allow us to spot the bears high on the ridge above.

Occasionally larger sea swells would roll through and catch our kayaks and surge them forward. We made it all the way back to the *mariner* at anchor.

### **Excursion 3 - Pasley Bay**

**7037N, 9605W**

**Date – 26/08/07**

**Wind Speed – 15 knots but decreasing in speed throughout the excursion.**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – caribou, Snow geese, sea butterfly, Northern fulmar, Arctic willow, Arctic poppy, Ringed seal, and Glaucous gulls**

In the shallow waters of Pasley Bay the ship was anchored 1.5 Miles offshore. Utilising the Zodiacs we travelled to a landing beach and began our kayaking from there. Heading north around a small point our kayak team was quickly separated from the land based hiking groups.

We headed into a persistent wind that came at us from the north and slowed our progress into the head of the bay. We enjoyed the amazing water clarity below our kayaks. Various jellyfish were visible on the surface. After an hour of paddling we felt the need to stretch our legs so we climbed a short distance from sea level up towards a rocky terrace.

Along the way we walked around fragile tundra and found many interesting things including Lemming holes, various plant species and Musk ox scat. A group of Snow Geese passed overhead and off in the distance we spotted three caribou. The caribou coats were grey in color and blended in with the stark barren landscape. On a prominent ridgeline off in the distance we also spotted a four-metre high cairn. It was erected over the body of Frenchy Chartrand, a member of crew on board the St Rock, a vessel that was captained by Larsen from 1928 until 1948.

Back at the beach we got back in our kayaks quickly and headed back down the coast. With the wind now helping our progress we quickly covered the return distance back to the meet the hikers. We all agreed it was a great trip; good paddling along with interesting things discovered on shore.

### **Excursion 4 - Johansen Bay**

**6834N, 11102W**

**Date – 28/08/07**

**Wind Speed – a maximum of 25 knots from the NW**

**Species sighted from the kayaks - Musk ox, caribou, Glaucous gulls, Peregrine falcon, snow bunting, and Common loon.**

Johansen Bay was a Dew Point system post. Scattered on the hillsides are various buildings equipped with antenna. Hunting huts and fuel drums on the surrounding slopes convey activity in the area. Our trip began with a great Musk ox sighting. The small herd lay downwind of our team and we managed to float to within a few hundred metres of them resting on the lush hillside. The flora blanketing the rolling hills was green, yellow and red and more mature than any other sight thus far. The bright red of the net veined willow and Mountain Cranberry stood out and added lots of colour to the tundra.



Heading towards the river mouth we passed by caribou cast antlers. Then suddenly we had a short unplanned stop whilst Joan emptied some water from her kayak! In the rock cliffs above us a Peregrine falcon soared past, it was an amazing sighting.

Back on the water we paddled for another forty-five minutes into a steady headwind. It was a long slog for some of us but eventually we made it to a small sandy bay. Our legs welcomed the opportunity to stretch. Robin had spotted caribou over the small ridge above us so we went to check it out. The mob numbering eight was initially unaware of our presence. Once we attempted to get closer they set off running. I suspect hunting pressure in the area has them wary of all human activity.

The Nakyaktok river mouth was our next point of interest so we set off before we all got too cold. The ridgeline above gave us some protection from the relentless wind but it was still hard going for our tiring team. With lunch about to be served we turned back for the ship.

## **Excursion 5 - Bernard Harbour**

**6847N, 11442W**

**Date – 29/08/07**

**Wind Speed – 10 knot northerly**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Pacific loon, Canadian geese, Rough legged Hawk.**

During 1913 and 1916 the first Canadian Arctic expedition was carried out. A land-based team positioned themselves on the shores of Bernard Harbor to gather information about the area. Another team explored further north by ship with limited success. The RCMP hut was constructed in the early fifties and equipped with antenna and radio communication equipment. Nowadays an automated radar station rests on the skyline.

Teddy bear Island was our nearest point of land from the ship so once the kayaks had been dropped on a protected beach Zak then returned to pick up the kayaking team. The paddling conditions were a lot better on the leeward side of the island. Initially we paddled downwind towards the RCMP hut; we spread out at this time and gained a real sense of freedom and space.

A rusty old tractor, stovetop and a wind battered shack are all that stand at the RCMP site. It must have been a miserable existence for those men who were stationed at these High Arctic posts.

After we had managed to free Peter from the mud our journey continued on into the nearby bays! Gary decided the time was right and followed through on his promise to attempt rolling his kayak. All went well until he took his hand off the paddle during celebrations after a successful first attempt. Suddenly he was back over and swimming free in the icy water. Gary was dragged into a Zodiac before we headed back to ship.

## **Excursion 6 - Albert Islands**

**7034N 11732W**

**Date – 30/08/07**

**Wind Speed – light.**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Bearded seal, Northern fulmar, Glaucous gulls, jellyfish, Common loon and raven.**

Waking to calm glassy sea conditions our days got off to a wonderful start. The wind had played a big part in each excursion up until this point and so it was a welcoming sight to see. Jim assisted with our logistics leaving the ship early to clear a landing beach and deliver kayaks.



To start we paddled alongside an amazing set of rugged rock cliffs. It appeared that at any given point unstable pillars of stone would release and fall free into the depths below. Raven soared overhead as we passed by the towering cliffs and sporadic patches of Arctic willow changing into its autumn colors.

Our excursion plan had highlighted the idea of portaging the kayaks over a low-lying ridge that divided the open water from Shoal Bay. Our first glance revealed a greater distance than initially expected! An exceptionally low tide being the cause! Enthusiastically we moved the kayaks over a 600m section of tundra fondly known as the “kayaker’s gap” Once we had regathered on the other side we paddled hard and covered considerable distance reaching the entrance to Shoal bay at 12.15.

Zodiacs arrived shortly after to assist in the transportation of our kayaks while we cruised back to the ship for a well deserved lunch!

## **Excursion 7 - Prince of Wales Strait**

**7110N, 12058W**

**Date – 31/08/07**

**Wind Speed – None**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Bearded seal.**

Overnight Alex our ice pilot onboard had worked hard to find sea ice. We woke to a stunning morning, surrounded by ice, twenty miles off the shores of Banks Island. The slick ocean surface glistened with a thin film of new ice. In open water we efficiently unloaded into our individual kayaks before setting off into the intricate maze of narrow leads and secluded calm channels. Due to our low profile as paddlers close to water level, we constantly lost sight of each other. Hiding behind ice flows we explored and admired the sheer beauty of ice formations above and below the surface. These wonderful sculptures are fascinating; a kayak is certainly the best way to get up close personal with the Arctic.

We moved deeper into the ice flows. Sheets of ice cracked and disintegrated upon contact with our kayaks. It was an incredibly calm environment to be in, our only sounds were that of the smashing and crunching caused by our kayaks and paddle blades forcefully puncturing the ice. Each paddler created their own path discovering the unique sensation of breaking through new ice crusts.

On our way back to the ship, several members of our team decided to give their drysuit a real test by taking an arctic plunge!

Robin and Zak demonstrated their rolling routine with perfect accuracy and timing, completing not one but two synchronized kayak rolls!

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 - Victory Point, King William Island.**

**6940N, 9819W**

**Date – 03/09/07**

**Wind Speed – 10 knots**

**Species sighted from the kayaks – Baird’s sandpiper, Common loon**



As a result of poor weather and testing sea conditions, the *Peregrine Mariner* had previously not had the privilege of visiting Victory Point. The historical significance of Victory Point is comparable to Beechey Island, a location that has provided insight into the timeline and fate of the Franklin expedition. Resting on the curved coastline of King William Island a plaque rests as a memorial to their passing.

After a brief stroll on shore to check out the site, our kayaking team headed north out around the coast. An exceptionally clear, turquoise-coloured ocean made for enjoyable paddling conditions as we paddled into a slight breeze. Within our small team we covered a distance of two miles quickly along the western bays of King William Island. Stopping briefly at a draining tidal slope where we found Baird's sandpiper, mounds of seaweed, bones and windswept tundra. Of interest was a large, exposed tree stump. Its journey to be positioned high above the current tide line really was quite intriguing.

We paddled for another thirty minutes before being joined by Scott and Jacques who offered their assistance in transporting our kayaks back to ship. The Zodiac cruise to the ship was freezing. As the weather continued to deteriorate the icy wind cut into our faces and numbed our extremities. We raced back to hot showers and beer to finish the day in style.

## Staff Biographies

### AARON LAWTON

Aaron hails from Nova Scotia, Canada and has guided or instructed sea kayaking, canoeing, hiking, climbing or rafting trips on five of the seven continents. He is a private pilot and a trained forest fire fighter, a tree planter and an instructor in wilderness first aid. Aaron has worked in the tourism industry since the age of 15, starting as a historical animator at a national historic site in Nova Scotia and moving on to guide and manage a sea kayak and canoe outfitting business in northern Ontario.

Aaron has worked with our polar program both on and off the ships since 1999 and has been Kayak Guide, Assistant Expedition Leader or Expedition Leader on numerous Polar expeditions. Aside from being on the ships, Aaron has worked with our operations team to develop safety and environmental guidelines that have helped to establish Peregrine Shipping as an industry leader in the Antarctic and Arctic tourism industry.

Moving into his 8th year in polar travel and his 7th year with Peregrine Shipping, Aaron is a main stay for Peregrine Shipping. When not sailing with Peregrine Shipping, Aaron is studying forestry at the University of British Columbia.

### 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.



## 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.

## 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!

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. Lawrence.

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!

## 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.



## 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!

## 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!

## 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.

## 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!

## 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!

## 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.

## 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.

## LYNN WOODWORTH

"I grew up on a lake in the interior of Canada's British Columbia, then moved to Sydney, Australia in my late teens. Rather than get a real job, I attended university, starting with an honours degree in genetics and concluding with a PhD in genetic diversity in endangered species. Somewhere along the way I convinced the university to pay me to be there, and have studied everything from an equine herpes virus to kangaroos, plus a lot of things in between.

From my first Antarctic voyage in 1995, I was completely hooked on the ice, and I've been south every year since in various roles including Assistant Expedition Leader, naturalist guide and wildlife lecturer. I love extreme conditions, and seeking wild and woolly places has taken me trekking and rafting around the world – and diving and snorkelling to explore the rest of it. While it was wildlife that first drew me to the Antarctic, the ever-fascinating ice-scapes provide much of the allure that keeps drawing me back. I've now completed more than 50 trips to the polar regions, and it isn't enough!

Between polar seasons, David McGonigal and I wrote the bulky "Antarctica – the Complete Story" and the smaller, more accessible "Antarctica – The Blue Continent". More recently, I have been focussing on animals, studying zoo keeping, and working in biomedical research and the care of orphaned marsupials."



## Voyage map

