

An Inside View of a North Pole Expedition

by C. Jeff Dyrek



2005 Expedition Leader

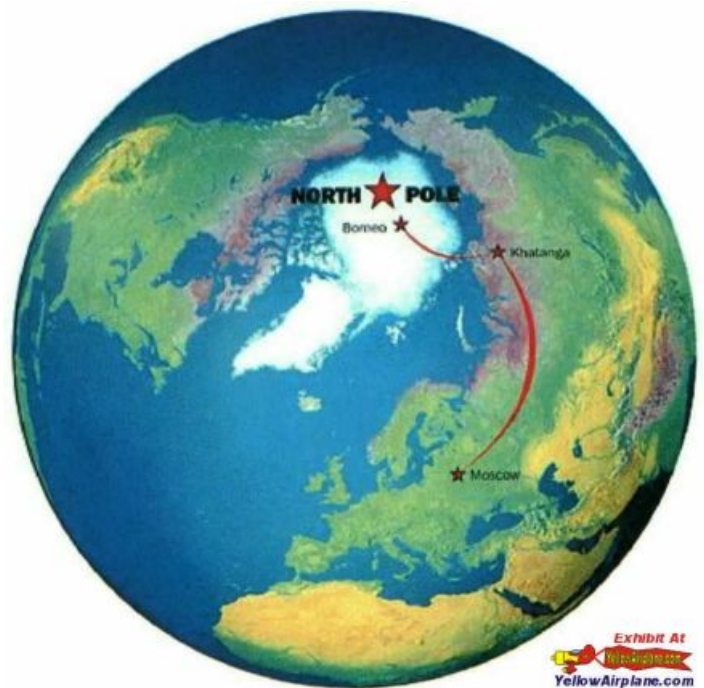
Going to the North Pole is not a trip to Disneyland

Dangers, Hazards and Delays are all part of an expedition to the Geographic North Pole. In this report you will see photos from nine years of working on North Pole Expeditions.

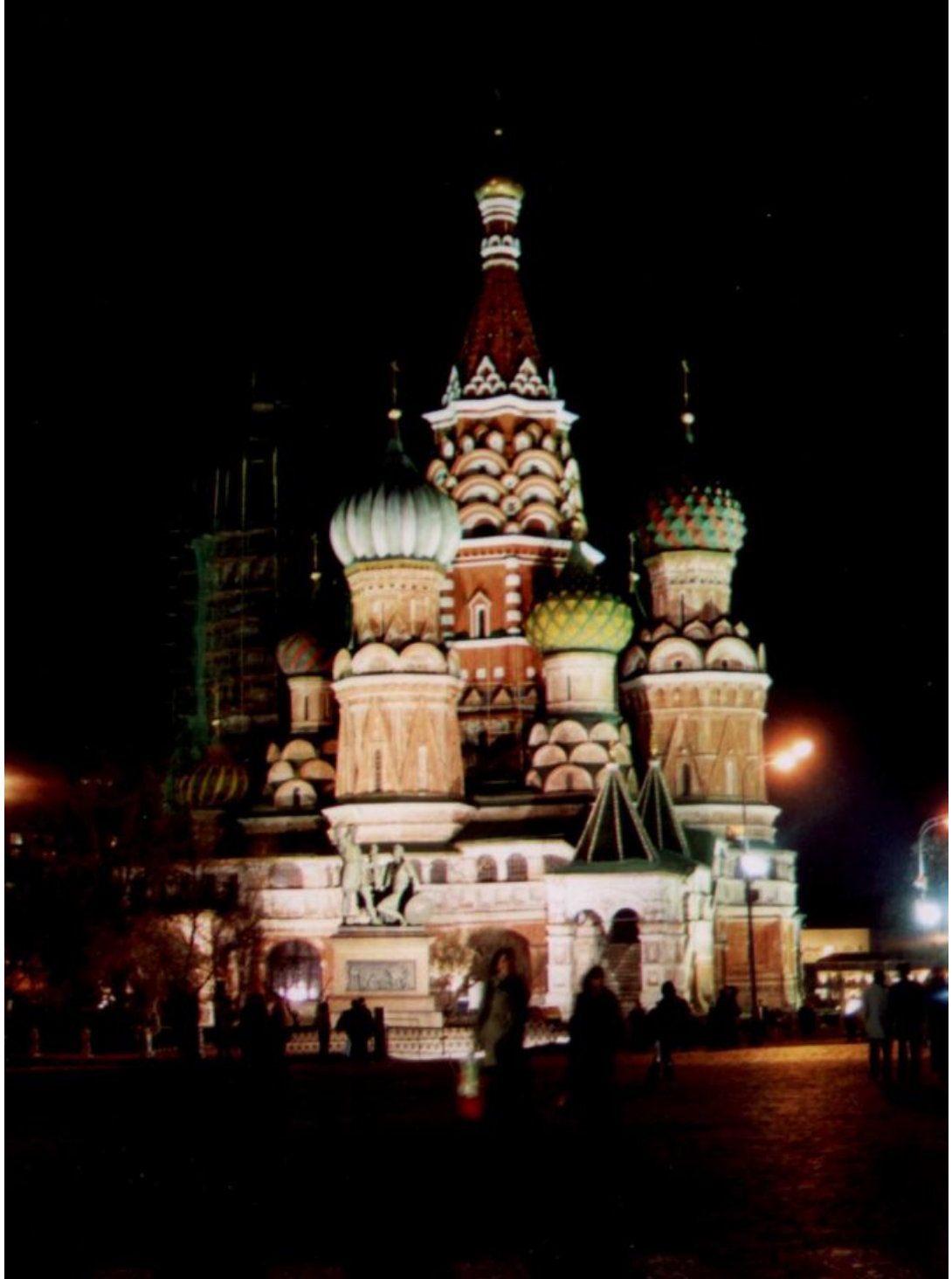
Everything really started about twenty five years ago when I started listening to positive thinking, self help and business tape study courses. This is where everything starts, study and gain the knowledge first, then learn how to meet and network with people who like to make things happen. This comes down to understanding that there are three types of people: Those who make things happen, Those who talk about making things happen and those who don't know what's happening. Learning these principles can launch anyone into a fantastic and adventurous way of life. This report shows only a small part of what these tape study courses have done for me.

When I first started, my boss said, "Getting there is half of the adventure." This is absolutely true, so we will start with the 2002 Expedition through Northern Siberia, the very last true expedition to the North Pole and finish with the 2005 North Pole Expedition through Norway with all of the stops in between.

For me the 2002 Expedition started in Chicago, stopped in Milan Italy and then stopped again in Moscow where all of the twenty six members from thirteen countries met up. It was an absolutely fantastic flight passing right over the southern tip of Greenland, over England, the French Alps and on to Milan Italy. There I transferred planes to a Russian passenger aircraft and then headed to Moscow, the capital of Russia. After about forty minutes into the flight the pilot said that we have a problem with the airplane and we have to go back to Milan. It was easy to see that everyone on the plane was concerned about our safe return. The plane was very quiet with no one speaking very much. Luckily we landed back in Milan safely and as soon as we touched down, everyone started to clap their hands and started to let out cheers of relief. The photo above shows our route from Moscow to the North Pole in early April of 2002.



Saint Basil's Cathedral



Saint Basil's Cathedral is located on Red Square in Moscow, Russia. This is the Cathedral of Intercession of the Virgin on the Moat. In Russian it is the Cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God. The Cathedral was commissioned by Ivan IV, Ivan the Terrible, and was built between 1555 and 1561. The photos absolutely do not show the awe feeling that you get when you see this cathedral in real life.

Buildings on Red Square



A Shopping Mall on the opposite side of Red Square from the Kremlin. In the very back of this picture, on the left side, are the Gates to the Red Square.



An extremely rare view of the Kremlin where there are no people on Red Square

Inside the Kremlin



This is the inside of the Kremlin Armory. This was really not an armory as we think, but instead, it was a fantastic history museum of Russian history. You needed to purchase a camera pass and we were not allowed to use a flash.



Here is one of the beautiful coaches used by the Czars of Russia. There were many different coaches here, and after looking at them, I finally realized what the word "Priceless" meant. It isn't all of the gold and jewels, but the history behind the coaches that made them priceless. No amount of money could buy these.



Sitting inside the Kremlin walls is the huge siege cannon which shot the cannon balls sitting in front of it. This canon was never used since the war had just ended when the canon was completed. The huge canon balls weighed several thousand pounds each.

A meeting at the Iranian Embassy



Siamak Hatami, Dr. Sanaie, Jeff Dyrek

As an Expedition Guide, I had to make sure that all of our expedition members were properly equipped, properly trained and had all of the proper paperwork and visas to stay in the country of Russia. This is a picture of the inside of the Iranian Embassy. The man on the left is Siamak Hatami, the first Iranian to go to the North Pole. In the middle was Doctor Sanaie, the Ambassador from Iran to Russia, and on the right is me, Jeff Dyrek. We had to spend two days at the embassy waiting for permission for Siamak to take more than \$2000 out of their country and to convert the money to U.S. Dollars to pay for the expedition. We also had to apply for permission for Siamak to enter Siberia, which is considered "Closed Territory" even for Russians that are not living there. In other words, it was illegal even for a Russian to enter into Siberia without special permission and violation could mean a prison sentence. Any foreigner entering Siberia had to be a registered scientist before they were allowed to enter. Siamak was both a Mining Engineer and Mechanical Engineer. Subsequently, after our return from the North Pole, Siamak and I were both featured on Iranian TV stating that Siamak was the first Iranian ever to go the Geographical North Pole with the help of an American, which was me. This was just shortly after President Bush declared Iran, Iraq and North Korea to be the "Roots of All Evil." This photo was taken in early April of 2002. I was required to be there to sign the release of the money and to transport the money to my boss, Robert Russell the Expedition Leader. Several years later, Siamak came here to the U.S. to visit me and tour the country. This was very educational for both me and Siamak.

Siberia, the Closed Territory



Meandering rivers of Siberia. Notice that this river has many oxbow lakes and remnants of even older oxbow lakes. There is no way to chart a Siberian river because, on a yearly basis, ice jams cause the river to change course many times in just a single year. When I was a kid, we were taught in school that the Nile river was the only river in the world to flow straight north. However, this river, along with the Lena and Khatanga rivers as well as many more Siberian rivers do indeed flow straight north.



These photos were taken about three thousand miles northeast of Moscow. On our plane ride we stopped in a restricted city of Norilsk which is a huge nickel mine city. The weather was so bad that huge jets, similar to a Boeing 727, were completely covered in snow with only the tail, nose and the wing tips showing. After seeing this as we landed, everyone scrambled to get our heavy boots and equipment on. The temperatures were only about 25 degrees below zero so the situation wasn't as bad as we thought. We had to land in Norilsk because our initial plane was stuck in the Arctic island group called Franz Joseph Land making it necessary for us to take a commercial flight which stopped here. We then arranged for a charter flight to take us to Khatanga, but again the weather kept our plane grounded. It was illegal for us to stay overnight in this city so one of our Russian Guides, a former KGB Agent, convinced the hotel to allow us to sign in as three Russians with twenty three guest.



The last picture is of the trees in the tundra. These trees grow only about two inches a year, making a ten foot tall tree almost a hundred years old.

The City of Khatanga



After a very interesting day in Norilsk, we finally caught a flight to the city of Khatanga, properly pronounced Ha-tin-ga in north central Siberia.

The first picture shown is what they called a road. This is a snowmobile trail across the ice of the Khatanga. There are only roads, as we know them, within the city limits. Outside of the town, there are no roads and there is no way to make a road because of the moving ice under the ground of the frozen tundra.



Khatanga has about fifteen hundred people and the next nearest town is about fifty miles north with about two hundred people. After that, the next nearest city is Norilsk about 500 miles to the West. No one has a car except the authorities in the city. Most people in this city are extremely poor, poorer than you can imagine. It is a shock to me and it saddens my heart to see how difficult life really is for these people.

The second picture is of me with a Arctic Wolf hat. The man wanted to sell it to me for five dollars, but I knew that these hats actually cost about three hundred. I believed that the hat was stolen so I wouldn't buy it even at this super low price. The man standing behind me was in the Russian equivalent of West Point. He was a Russian Military Officer named Andrea. His goal was to jump from 5000 feet over the North Pole on his twenty first birthday.



Below is a picture of a store in Khatanga. they call it a shop. These were actually truck trailers with doors added and the wheels removed.

A Closer Look at Khatanga



This is my friend Yuliya. I met her the first day that I was in Khatanga and we are friends to this very day. She is the head meteorologist in charge of all North Pole Exploration. You would think that the people here would not have a very good education, but it is exactly the opposite. Yuliya studied math, meteorology, computer science and all of this time she studied ballet. She practiced ballet four hours a day, six days a week for eleven years until one day when she did a spin and fell off of the stage and landed in the band area. A music stand went completely through her leg, breaking her leg and a tendon which permanently stopped her ballet practice. She was lucky enough to dance in the world's most famous of all ballets, the Bolshoi Ballet, which, in Russian, means the Big Ballet.



The second picture is a view to the south. Here you can see what the city looks like. But, look at the horizon and you will see a thin line of clouds just above the ground. This is a spiral arm of one of the Arctic Cyclones that plagued this expedition. I don't show the sequence here, but in five minutes this arm was on top of us. I took another picture and then instantly a third picture. In these you can see the storm hitting the town and in the third, you couldn't see the town. The temperature immediately dropped to -45 degrees and it was dangerous to go outside.



The third photo shown here is a police car. It is really an armored personnel carrier from the military, but worked perfectly with the deep snow. The tall building in the background is an apartment building much like the apartments that most people in Khatanga live in.

Life in Khatanga

As I have said previously there are no cars in Khatanga. But people do have snowmobiles



and this man took a 175cc motorcycle and turned it into a three wheeled snow cycle. He made his own wheels and the tires were simply truck inner tubes that were strapped on with reindeer hide. To get the engine started he had to carry a blow torch with him to preheat the engine. You can see the flames in the second picture. I was afraid that he was going to catch the gas tank on fire because the flames from the torch were flowing up right onto the fuel lines.



Most of the people in Khatanga were very nice to me. Some people just didn't like foreigners, but mostly, everyone wanted to meet the visitors from other countries. I was standing in a store and a man came in and bought two quarts of beer. He handed one to me so we could drink together. This was a custom all around the town.



With the storms, we were in Khatanga for a total of fifteen days. I spent every day in town meeting people and I had a fantastically good time. At the hotel, most people were complaining about being stuck there for so long. When I asked my boss about their discontent and said that I was having a great time, he replied saying, "Didn't you see what the others were doing? They were just sitting in the hotel and not meeting anyone. I then realized that having a good time started with how you look at the world.

All around the town there were huge dogs, everywhere. But the interesting thing is that all they wanted to do was to be petted. After staying there for a while and looking at the fur coats that the people were wearing, I realized that if there was a mean dog, they soon turned into a hat or a coat. This may sound cruel, but this is the way people lived in the world's most isolated city.

My friend Yuliya worked as a meteorologist, and because she bought a new computer, she had to work two jobs to pay it off. This is how I met her in the store that you looked at earlier. One day when I was in the store visiting with her, a man was just



standing there for a long time without saying anything. I asked Yuliya what he was doing. She said that he wanted me to look at his boot shop. Here's a picture of the boots that he made. These are ceremonial dress boots for the Dolgan Indians. When he made the boots, he did not put soles on them until someone wanted to buy them. Then he would measure their feet and custom make a sole that fit perfectly. You can see the inside of his shop, this too was a truck trailer with the wheels removed. I am very sorry that I didn't buy these boots, but later I took a number of the expedition members through his shop and he sold more boots in a week than he ever had before.



The city of Khatanga is really a military base with only a small number of military personnel. It is also a weather base, a satellite communications station and an over the pole anti-missile radar station. Researchers come from all over the world to use the airport as a launching point for Arctic studies since this is the major support base for North Pole Expeditions.



After fifteen days here, I started seeing things that were invisible to me before. As I was Walking around the town I found out that there was a separate school for the Russians and Dolgans. Being subjected to years of propaganda led me to believe that this was a discrimination from the Russian Government. But in fact, many of the Dolgan children didn't speak Russian very well and many of them were also behind due to the parents being alcoholics. So having two different schools was necessary and a very good thing.

In Khatanga, temperatures can dip down to -90 Degrees. Yuliya told me that at those temperatures you can see the air swirl and the street lights would reflect off of lower levels of cold air and shine straight up. You must understand that this city is very high above the Arctic Circle and for almost half of the year the sun never comes up over the horizon dropping the temperatures tremendously.

The photo on the bottom is a Russian Orthodox Church in Khatanga.

The Dolgan Indians, Naitives of Siberia



The Dolgan Indians live throughout Central Siberia. They are commonly reindeer herders and craftsman such as the boot maker mentioned earlier. They appear to have a large amount of Chinese or Mongolian heritage. Alcoholism is a problem in their culture which is a problem in most of the Arctic native populations.

Here you can see the reindeer being used to pull a sledge. However the primary reason for the reindeer herd is for its meat. The meat is sold throughout the smaller towns in Siberia as a replacement for beef. Many restaurants in Moscow also served reindeer as an exotic meat.



The reindeer is an extremely hardy animal and can live in this super cold arctic environment where a cow would very quickly parish. The reindeer eat grasses and flowering plants in the summer adding forty or more pounds of fat to their bodies in just a few short months. As the snow falls, the reindeer dig through the snow to eat the grass that is underneath. Their other source of food is the stored fat on their bodies that they gained during the summer.



The effects of Global Warming have a terrible effect on this eating method. What happens is that in the fall, instead of having the normal snowfall, they have freezing rain. The freezing rain creates a sheet of ice that the reindeer are unable to dig through preventing access to their food. In the Norwegian Arctic Island group of Svalbard, for conservation purposes, they throw straw out on the snow in the winter allowing the reindeer to have enough energy to survive the harsh winters.

The Jarkov Mammoth



One of the very well known, world famous, attractions in Khatanga is the Jarkov Mammoth. This is the most intact woolly mammoth ever found. The mammoth was found by a Dolgan family named Jarkov in 1997 when they saw part of a tusk sticking about ten inches out of the ground. After digging around the tusk for a while, they found another tusk in the exact position where they would expect it to be while still attached to the skull. In 1999 a French company named Cerpolex excavated the mammoth and flew it to Khatanga where it is now

located. The Woolly Mammoth is still encased in the surrounding mud that it was buried in 20,000 years ago.

It was interesting because the year before my trip to Khatanga I was watching all about the Woolly Mammoth on the different educational channels. I am very glad that I enjoy educational documentaries. All of a sudden it was like an un-dreamable dream that was way beyond anything that I could have ever expected. Here I was in the actual city of Khatanga and in the very same ice cave where it was stored. Prior to my first expedition I worked for more than two years as an advertizer and promoter of North Pole Expeditions on my website at YellowAirplane.com. During this time I have watched videos of previous expeditions over and over as I made copies to send out to prospective customers. But all of this goes to show a very important principle of success. What you look at or listen to all day long, comes true. This is why it's so important to watch educational TV.

In the pictures you will see our expedition members walking down the bank of the Khatanga River to the entrance of the tunnel storing the Woolly Mammoth. Next is the Russian care taker removing the snow so we can get into the tunnel. The bottom picture is inside the tunnel where the Woolly Mammoth

is stored. Notice that I called it a tunnel and not an ice cave. All throughout the city of Khatanga are tunnels made for access to heating pipes, water pipes, sewage and electric. This is one of the access tunnels which stays at about -15 degrees all throughout the summer making it a perfect place for long term storage of the Mammoth.



As we walked further into the tunnel we came onto a larger area where the Woolly Mammoth was located. There was a wall that was made of clear ice blocks, the rest of the tunnel had a wavy surface which made me think that it was made out of corrugated steel pipe sections. We were allowed to take as many pictures as we wished, but were not allowed to use a video camera. On another side of the tunnel was a row of mammoth tusk in a display manner. I do not know if these were used for research or if it was just part of a collection. The woolly mammoth skull that you see in the next picture was taken at the museum in the city of Khatanga. The museum had many mammoth bones and pictures along with native clothing displays. While I was in the museum, the guide was giving a grade school class a tour and lecture about the mammoths in the area.

The bottom picture shows the actual Woolly Mammoth and the twenty three ton block of frozen tundra. The scientist had a platform made so they could work from the top down using a heat gun to melt small amounts of tundra away at a time. They then looked at the tundra under a microscope to see remnants of pollen, bacteria and plant life at the time of the big freeze that killed the mammoth. The types of minerals and chemicals were also tested for evidence of levels of Carbon Dioxide and ash which may have caused the extinction. As they worked down through the mud, they came onto the skin of the Woolly Mammoth and were taking samples of this in the same manner.

Finally the Russian care keeper noticed that a person was indeed taking videos and, very sternly, said that we must immediately leave and our tour is over, and that was final. Just the one person breaching the rules, hurt the tour for all of us.

Next Stop Sredniy Island, Severnaya Zemlya



It's time to get really serious, a journey into the uncivilized part of the world and one of the most difficult places on the planet to reach. At the time of this expedition, there were less than a thousand people to ever reach the exact Geographical North Pole. As a comparison, there were more people to reach the summit of Mount Everest than there were who have reached the North Pole.



When the expedition members first met more than two weeks earlier, we were trying to be the very first to reach the pole in 2002 and we thought that we had it made. It turned out that we became the very last expedition group to reach the pole.



But look at the pictures of all of the equipment. Boxes and boxes of food and liquids, oranges, camping gear, skis, emergency equipment, cameras, flags, poles and a whole lot more. We needed enough food and supplies to survive total isolation on the drifting ice of the Arctic Ocean. So being the last of this season meant that we were also the very last true expedition to go to the North Pole. Starting in the year 2003, a person can just fly from the city of Longyearbyen, Norway directly to the pole, and have all of the food, tents and everything set up when they get there. But this time, just one year before, we had to take everything with us and provide for ourselves.

But going to the pole meant that we had to fly in this cargo plane to Sredniy (Pronounced Sred-ney) Island to refuel for the last leg to the pole.

On the Island of Sredniy



Finally making it to Sredniy we had to unload everything from our plane and put it into the building that you see in the second picture. We were all totally exhausted, even from a couple of days earlier. The temperature was -35 degrees and everyone wanted to take a nap. After moving everything inside, we found out that the foundation on the building had shifted making it impossible to close the door, so we pushed the door as far closed as we could which left about a one foot gap allowing the cold air to come in. We had twenty six people and the room was really small. It was also filled with old desk and folding beds with no mattresses. The back wall had bare wires on it with a live 250 volts running through them. There was a small electric heater and that's all that we had. We were starting to get hungry and thirsty so we passed out the only food that we had easy access to and those were the oranges and a box of cookies. We each got two oranges and two cookies for our meal, the juice of the orange was our water. I remembered hearing that Tang was made out of orange peels so I tried eating the peels too, and after a few bites I found out that they weren't too bad. The peel has most of the vitamins and nutrition anyway and we are truly in a survival mode. The twin engine plane is an Antonov An-26 Coke and the larger four engine plane is the An-12 Cub. The larger plane was too large to land on the thin ice runway on the pole.

Severnaya Zemlya from 431 miles.



Photo from Google Earth

Sredniy is part of the Archipelago of Severnaya Zemlya which means North Land. An Archipelago is a group of islands. The entire group is about three hundred miles long and over a hundred miles wide making it about a quarter the size of Illinois. The picture here shows the islands, but without the actual sea ice that would reach all of the way to the pole. From Sredniy island, a professional skier will take more than two months to complete the trip to the pole.

The one big danger here is Polar Bears. As I have learned from the people that live in these northern areas is that one out of a hundred polar bears will just all out attack you. So the danger is real and we had to carry a gun for our safety.

Now this is super interesting. These islands are now called the Easter Islands of the Arctic since they found strange wooden sculptures all over the island. There are disputes about the origins of these sculptures so we do not know for sure who made them or why.



Borneo Base



In 2002 the base was set up as we arrived, we carried everything and did all of the work.



In 2003 the base was totally set up with heated tents and a chow hall. Easy Living.

About sixty miles from the pole is Borneo Base. It is a floating, all ice, runway with a few tents and over seven hundred miles to the nearest person. The temperatures were about a -25 degrees so we were quite comfortable.

Borneo Base must be completely reconstructed every April. The polar ice sheets are always moving. I've seen only two tenths of a mile an hour, but experienced professionals have told me that the ice can move up to five miles an hour, a little faster than a fast walk.

The helicopters come from Khatanga as the first aircraft to the base, carrying a bulldozer. Once the runway is completed, Then cargo planes come to the base, next the tourists come. You can see the difference between the 2002 base and the 2003 base. Everything in 2003 is totally organized, like a floating hotel.

Beauty and Danger, Living on the Edge.



The first picture is the runway. Every year the runway becomes more and more unstable. The runway is carved out of solid ice on a stable ice sheet that was pre selected by overflying aircraft before the base was built. However, even a seemingly stable ice sheet still has problems. When we arrived, there was a noticeable crack with a six inch difference in the height of the sheets crossing the runway. Other portions of the runway were breaking up so they extended one end to the very other end of our safe ice sheet. The ice here varies between six and twenty one feet thick and is in a constant state of movement mostly driven by the wind.



Borneo is the last stop before reaching the pole. We set up our equipment here, then we take the helicopter the last degree to the North Pole. There are about sixty six miles per degree.



Here you can see a beautiful snowscape picture. The sun is up about eighteen degrees from the surface and instead of going up and down every day, it just goes around and around. When the sun is this way it's noon, and when the sun is the opposite way, it's midnight. The sun will reach it's maximum height of $23 \frac{1}{2}$ degrees on the first day of summer and then it will slowly fall again until it reaches total darkness and extreme cold conditions in the mid winter.

Now what's this? This is a dog sound asleep on the north pole. The teams owner was actually named Dag himself. He would put hay down for each dog to sleep on and here they are covered in snow keeping them warm.

Standing on the Geographic North Pole From Here, Every Direction is South



The only footprint in 700 miles

Large cracks form in the ice and can extend for hundreds of miles. These cracks are called "Leads" They will take about eight hours to freeze over and will be safe to walk on in about ten hours.



Peter Baker with The first Malaysian Flag on the North Pole



This was the actual Geographical North Pole. The block of ice that I'm standing on is part of a pressure ridge. A crack is a lead and is formed when ice sheets move away from each other. A pressure ridge is just the opposite, it is formed when two ice sheets are forced together and have no place to go but up forming jagged forms, like shown above, from twenty to even as much as fifty feet high. The clear blue ice is called multi-year ice. After

years of being frozen, the air is pushed out making it perfectly clear. Instead of being just blue, this ice has a milky appearance. This ice recently came from a "Lead" which had frozen over and as the winds changed, the ice plates were again pushed together breaking the ice at it's weakest point, where the thin ice had just frozen over. Notice that the piece of ice that I'm standing on is only about two feet thick, where the multi-year ice sheets vary between six and twenty one feet thick.

Being the First on the North Pole

It's always good to put your mark in the history books. When we reach the exact geographical north pole, the first thing we do is to set up the North Pole marker and the flags representing the country of all of the members.



The next thing is to drink a glass of Champagne. When mine was poured, by the time I got it to my lips I had a frozen glass of champagne ice.

Next comes the photo shoot. The guides are super busy taking pictures of everyone and their flags and other things that were brought to the pole.



Above is a picture of me holding the McDonough County Banner on the Pole. This photo is in the McDonough County Court House right now.



The middle picture is Siamak Hatami, the first Iranian person to reach the North Pole, holding the Iranian flag. After the expedition, Siamak was featured on Iranian TV and in many newspapers and magazines. He told me that the TV news said that he was the first Iranian person to go to the North Pole, with the

help of an American and that was me.

I was also a member of the EAA, the Experimental Aircraft Association, so I was the first person to take the EAA flag to the North Pole.

More Polar Activities

The top picture is the Worlds First Hot Air Balloon to be flown on the North Pole. The



next picture is another balloon flying over the pole in the first Hot Air Balloon Rally on the North Pole. and the bottom picture is the first golf game to be played on the North Pole.

Only a few years ago even going to the North Pole was a huge difficulty. Now with modern technology and the Russian expertise, an individual can go to the pole even if they are elderly or disabled. So far there has been a man in a wheelchair and a 76 year old woman to visit the pole.



I am disabled myself and anything that I do is extremely difficult, yet I was the first Disabled Veteran to ever lead a North Pole Expedition. With technology, disabilities can be overcome. With the will to do things disability can be overcome also. The most difficult of part of any expedition or endeavor is the first step.



Going to the pole is still extremely difficult, very dangerous, and tremendously expensive.

In most of these pictures the expedition looks like it was always a beautiful sunny day, but looks are deceiving. At times the winds are very high and temperatures are extremely low. Equipment fails, tents blow down, the runway cracks and breaks up and life can go from a nice day in the sun to life being very close to an end.

The Worlds First North Pole Marathon



The idea for a marathon was originally conceived by Curtis Lieber and Richard Donovan while they were on a South Pole Expedition. Just thinking of the idea was the first step, however, making it happen was a massive amount of work. I was a promoter, advertiser, organizer, guide and videographer for this event. I was on radio talk shows around the country, in magazines, newspapers and on multiple web sites prior to going to the pole. This event was a marathon and a super marathon combined together. As with all expeditions, it takes a year of hard work to make it happen. An expedition like this one really took three years of effort before it could become a reality.

Photos from the 2005 North Pole Expedition



I was the leader of this expedition and it may have been the most elite expedition to go to the pole. We had eleven people who climbed the highest mountain on every continent and one of the world's top rocket scientist shown on the top picture.

The second photo shows the Chinese Ski Team preparing to ski the last degree to the pole. A degree is about sixty six miles and it takes about ten days of more than extreme effort. Going on a last degree ski trip is like running ten miles a day for ten days straight, with only minimum food and enduring temperatures exceeding minus forty five degrees. W



e started forming ski expeditions by using the thought of "What does a person do when they have climbed the highest peak on all continents." So, we called this, "The Grand Slam Club" which still has less than twenty people who have attained this title.



Frostbite occurs very quickly in these conditions and usually happens on the toes, fingertips, lower part of the chin and on the sides of the nose where you breath in.

Falling in the water is now a common occurrence since global warming is making the ice so unstable. The difficulty of making a ski trip like this is increasing more every year, and falling in the water at these temperatures is very, very serious..

The bottom picture is a man pulling his sledge across a pressure ridge.

Skydiving on the North Pole

We usually have at least three skydivers every year. This is not a jump for the beginner. Temperatures at altitude can hit a minus seventy degrees. For the



smaller groups we use the Mi-8 helicopter, larger groups like shown here used the Antonov An-74 jet aircraft for the jump.

With the exception of a tube jump, every skydiving event has been done, so there's still room for a first in this area.

The picture on the bottom is Thomas Trautman the first Wing Suit Jumper on the pole. At home, he is one of the world's top neural network scientist.



After looking at the pictures so far there is one important thing to notice. Do you see anyone that looks like they are cold? You would think that it would be a terrible feeling just freezing and freezing and freezing. But, this couldn't be farther from the truth.



On the pole, the biggest problem is trying to stay cool. Unlike a cold day here where we are wearing a coat and pants as we normally do, on the pole you would be wearing three pairs of long underwear, two sweat shirts, a sweater, a two piece snowmobile suit and then the outer EXP (Extreme Protection) Equipment.

You want to stay a tiny bit cooler than being comfortable. The reason for this is that if you are comfortable or snug as a bug in a rug type of feeling, you will be sweating a little and when you stop being active or go to sleep you will become very cold which may put you in a life threatening condition.

Scuba Diving on the North Pole

These photos were taken by Christopher Pala who wrote the book, "The Worlds Oddest Place" Chris is a friend of mine and allowed me to use these photos. There has been a



number of dives on the pole already but for an educated guess, there have been less than twenty.

The ice varies from a couple of feet thick to more than twenty feet thick. Salt water freezes at zero degrees Fahrenheit and at this temperature, adding more salt doesn't change the freezing temperature. So the water here is at just about zero. According to the water survival courses that I took in the Navy, the water will drain the heat from your body at about twenty one times faster than the air.



These divers avoid this problem by wearing highly insulated dry suits. But even then, their faces are exposed and the initial contact with the water is very painful.

Before 2001 there was no open water on the North Pole and all dives had to be made by cutting a hole in the ice. The year 2001 was the first year that there was any open water on the pole. In 2002 I did not see any open water. In 2003 our base cracked in half and split apart with about a twenty foot crack between the main base and the Russian helicopter section. But after walking over the pressure ridge behind the base, there was about a thousand foot stretch of open water. By 2005 the entire North Pole was covered with open patches of water. What does this mean? Global Warming is truly real and is affecting the Arctic Regions in a dramatic way.



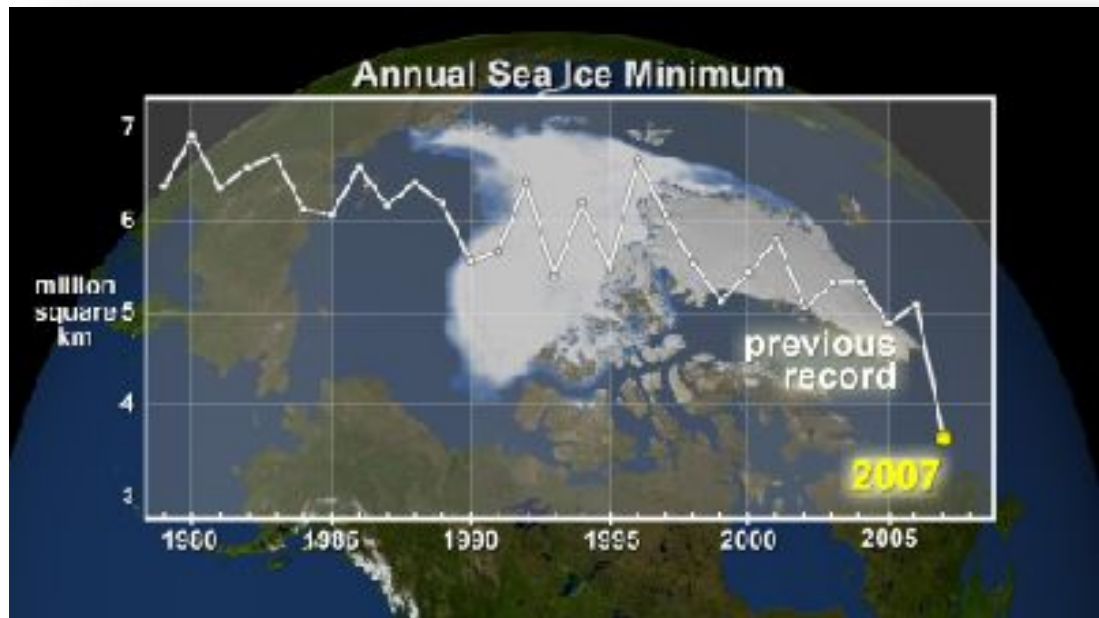
Global Climate Change Exposed



Global Climate change is very real. These two photographs show the difference between the ice surface on the pole from 2002 on top, to 2005 on the bottom. Look at how the ice is broken up exposing all of the open water leads shown in the bottom photo. The solid ice portions of the ice cap reflect about 90% of the heat from the sun back into space. The open water leads in the bottom picture absorb about 85% of the sun's heat

causing the temperature of the water to increase at a much more rapid rate. In addition to this, in 2007 we lost three million square kilometers of surface ice more than any previous year and this ice area has never recovered. The 2008 ice forecast is already predicting that we will have another record loss in ice. Global Warming is real and we will see the effects in our lower latitudes in the next several years.

A Closer Look at Global Warming



Above is a graph from NASA showing the annual sea ice growth and melt. Notice the ice loss during the summer of 2007. This is super significant and the 2008 loss is expected to be even more than this. One huge unexpected event is that the ice is flowing out of the Arctic Ocean and down into the warmer waters of the Atlantic Ocean. This could never happen before because the ice cap was previously a solid piece of ice, where in the past few years, the ice has thinned and broken up as you see on the lower picture of the previous page. With the smaller pieces of ice, there is no structural integrity of the previous ice cap which held the ice captured and stationary during the summer. Now the ice just flows through the smaller channels leading into the Atlantic. It is currently possible that in a summer, all of the ice can be flushed into the Atlantic almost completely clearing the Arctic Ocean of its ice.

One factor that I have never seen any references to was the effect of ice breakers on the Arctic Ocean. After many hours of looking at ice charts and actually traveling on an ice breaker, I realized that spring and summer ice breaker activity can cause huge portions of ice to become separated further reducing the structural integrity of the cap and even accelerating the degeneration of the polar ice sheet thereby increasing the ice loss problem and global warming even more..

Factors Affecting Global Warming

What are the factors affecting Global Warming?

1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Carbon Dioxide and Methane from cars and industry.
2. Excessive Logging
Trees are mostly made up from carbon taken up from the air. Trees are carbon storage objects and we are cutting them down at an ever increasing rate..
3. Reduction in the Quantity of Winter Ice and Snow Cover
The white snow reflects about 90% of the heat from the sun.
4. Natural Temperature Cycles
There are natural cycles in the Earth's temperature and we are in a natural warming trend in addition to man's created greenhouse problem.
5. Increase in the amount of open water
This problem comes in three parts. 1. Loss of Ice. 2. More open water because of rising sea levels. 3. More open water due to coastal erosion, as much as thirty meters a year in the Arctic Regions. Open water absorbs most of the sun's heat.

Other Global Warming Factors that are Virtually Unknown and Not Often Reported.

1. Ice Breaker Damage to the Ice Cap
Destruction of large plates of ice allowing more light adsorption and a speedier melting of the ice.
2. Increase in Methane Production due to the Permafrost Melt
The permafrost layers of the Arctic Tundra are build from tens of thousands of years of grasses and plants growing and dying, then becoming frozen and preserved. With the melting of the permafrost, this biological material is no longer preserved and is being attacked by bacteria which emit methane and Carbon Dioxide. The amount of biomass in these permafrost areas is greater than all of our oil and coal reserves. The permafrost melting can start a chain reaction which we cannot stop and can emit more greenhouse gasses than man is capable of producing, and all in a short time.
3. Coral Reef Bleaching, Dying of the Coral due to Current Ocean Warming
Coral Reefs are made from Calcium Carbonate or Limestone. This is a huge carbon storage mechanism and it is already dying all along our equatorial regions.
4. Overgrazing
Overgrazing is by both man and animals. This is also removing carbon storage mechanisms and is increasing the size of the deserts dramatically, every year.
5. Sea water warming. As water warms, it loses it's ability to hold Carbon Dioxide., This action is currently increasing the amount of atmospheric CO2
5. Chemical Pollution
Chemical Pollution are creating dead zones at the mouths of many rivers world wide. It is also increasing the fertilizer content of the water causing such a large increase in algae and plankton which absorb all of the dissolved oxygen in the water, killing the oxygen producing plants that normally grow in this habitat.

Summary

For a quick summary, we have traveled around the world, through the Kremlin, met an Ambassador, traveled across Siberia to the city of Khatanga, seen the Woolly Mammoth, visited an Arctic Island group, stayed in a floating ice base and stood on the Geographic North Pole. Most of the photos in this paper were pictures of the World's First. The pictures in this document covered many years of travel to the North Pole both through Siberia and Norway.

While these pictures of the North Pole make traveling there seem to be relatively safe, conditions can go from a sunny sky to intensely cold and windy storms causing huge cracks or pressure ridges in the ice in just minutes. With the closest safe haven being about seven hundred miles away, any injury can become life threatening.

Travel to the North Pole is a fantastic place to meet people. On the 2005 Expedition, our team had eleven members who climbed the highest mountain on all seven continents. We had one of the top rocket scientist a medical doctor, and just about any top of the top scientist and professional in the world.

We have looked at the causes and effects of Global Warming and have discussed huge concerns that are rarely talked about on television.

What about Jeff Dyrek? I'm just a person just like anyone else. I enjoy any kind of documentary on television and I really don't care to watch soaps, games, or any of the movies that are filled with foul language, violence or useless information. As a kid, I loved to build models and watched travelogs.

To make it more simple, there are three kinds of people in the world: People who make things happen: People who talk about making things happen: and people who don't know what's happening. This is the most important thing for all of us to remember when we are thinking about our futures.

I'm a disabled vet and have spent six years in the U.S. Navy and six years working for the Department of the Army all in electronics, aviation and electronic weapon system repair and design.

I love the mountains, climbing a mountain is the most difficult thing that anyone can ever endure, yet it is the most gratifying. I love to go SCUBA Diving, Skydiving, Flying, and anything that involves travel, education, and adventure.

How does anyone become an Expedition Leader? The true definition of success tells it all. Success means change, not money. Success takes 10% Inspiration and 90% Perspiration. Look at what you want to do every day, and it will happen.

As a final statement, I would like to thank my Cousin and his family or all of the help they have been throughout all of these expeditions.

Thank you very much. C. Jeff Dyrek