

# Project Cornerstone

## Newsletter #13:

4 April, 2009 (Saturday)

All the experiments are now done, and the major clean-up will start tomorrow. Garry and his group finished the long-range beacon measurements last night, and they finished their measurements of the AUV's noise just after supper, and at about 2100 the last measurements with the AUV were finished. In the morning the AUV can be taken apart, and the whole camp can be brought back to the Spinnaker building for cleaning, drying and packing. Dan and Don look like they are already in going-home mode. They are wearing their tin party hats to keep the little green men from reading their brain-waves.



Down at the AUV tent today Richard, Ron and others tested a number of techniques designed to help us find the AUV once it is up against the ice and once we know approximately where it is (within a kilometre, say). As anticipated, the radio devices having the higher frequencies did not work as well as those with lower frequencies.

The Station Commanding Officer (CO), Major Scott Murphy (Right), and the Station Warrant Officer (SWO) MWO Kevin Clayton paid a visit to the AUV camp today. They were given a 'show and tell', and I am told they went away impressed.

Yesterday, Peter King, Alban Bouchard and Alex Forrest went out to North Camp (latitude 85° 30') to test their Inertial Navigation System (PHINS). They spent the night there, and were expecting to come back to Alert today. However, it looks as if they will have to spend another night there since their



Twin Otter taxi has a problem with its hydraulics. The Twin had to get special permission just to fly back to Resolute so that it could be repaired in a warm hangar. I understand that our boys will be picked up tomorrow by another Twin Otter. Perhaps they will be pleased to get more time to test their PHINS. And perhaps they won't.

We are getting very close to the day when the sun stops setting. According to my calculations we will be able to see the top rim of the sun peeking above the horizon at midnight on 8 April. I've been told, however, that Environment Canada says that this will happen on the night of 6 April. I suspect the difference is because the refraction of the atmosphere tends to make the sun seem higher than it 'really' is. I'm not allowing for this, and, presumably, they are. Regardless of the exact date, the nights have not been very dark recently.

I have a couple more pictures for the rogue's gallery. This is Jim Milne. He knows everyone in Alert, and everyone knows him. He is our interface with the Station. If you want something done, go see Jim. The impossible takes only a little longer.

Leslie, his wife, told me in unmistakable terms that, so far, she hasn't seen any pictures of him. I aim to please, Leslie.



This is Dave Wheaton in the big tent. He was one of the intrepid souls who made the big hole and set up the camp before the rest of us arrived. It was cold then. Now he helps keep equipment running, and he does all those things necessary to the camps ticking over smoothly.

After we leave he and several others are scheduled to go off north of Greenland and set up a large camp on the ice. I wish them clear weather and solid ice.



Names are not coming in as fast as they once were. The peak seems to be over. I do have a few new ones however:

**Fuddle and Duddle**

**Holmes & Watson** – they're always out looking for clues to solve a mystery.

**Beluga and Nanook** -- creatures of the sea and ice.

**Tofino and Kedgee**, which ties in west and east.

**Snooper and Trouper**

You can download any newsletters you may have missed. Go to:

[http://a76.dk/expeditions\\_uk/spring\\_2009/index.html#cornerstone](http://a76.dk/expeditions_uk/spring_2009/index.html#cornerstone)

Some of today's pictures were contributed by Richard Pederson. Some were mine.

Best Wishes, Ron Verrall

We'd like to hear from you. (ronverrall@gmail.com)