

# Project Cornerstone

## Newsletter #17:

8 April, 2009 (Wednesday)

Yesterday I received a delightful email from my friend Rick Williams:

“In 1966 we were delayed 5 days at Lake Hazen 90 miles west of Alert when our single engined Otter (piloted by the legendary Weldy Phipps) was stuck in bad weather near Resolute. We had rationed our freeze-dried food based on the scheduled departure date, and we ran out right on schedule. The result - we ate Spam for the 5 days of the delay! We even broiled it with brown sugar on it and it ALWAYS tasted like Spam!

“I am happy to report I have not eaten Spam in the intervening 43 years! “

I thought I would point out to Rick and everyone else that we are fairly well stocked with Kam and sardines should we have to stay here for the requisite five days. Very little changes. Although – in fairness – we eat very well here.

The big news for the day is that the Hercules left Trenton this morning and will overnight at Thule, Greenland. If everything goes well it will pick us up tomorrow morning and will return to Trenton – all in the same day. In other words, we will not be staying overnight in Thule on the way back;

we will be getting all the way south on the 9<sup>th</sup>. I think the main reason for this is that Thule is closed on Easter Friday, and we wouldn't be able to leave. Nothing is definite until we get to Trenton (or Greenwood, or wherever), but we can hope. Supper tonight was much more cheerful than it was last night.

Yesterday, Don Mosher and some of his aids hung the big AUV tent up to dry in the 'Hurricane' Building, a large dry warm storage building that has a high ceiling. Today they folded up this enormous 'blanket' and stored it up.

This afternoon some of the guys were taken up toward the GAW lab. GAW stands for Global Atmosphere Watch, and it is run by Environment Canada. It is placed well away from the main station because they need a particularly clean environment for their work. The guys were taken up by Adrienne Glover in a track-truck, something that looks like a truck but with its wheels replaced by tracks.



To get to the GAW lab one must walk the last 600 metres – again because of pollution, automobile exhaust this time. It was windy today down at the station, and it was rather wild up in the hills where the lab is located. Our guys were not dressed to the nines, so they decided that they wouldn't make the walk.



They got a nice tour, however, and saw some pretty sights. The drop-off on the other side of the cairn is straight down. Building it must have been a hair-raising proposition.

I hope that the next (and last) Newsletter comes from the balmy south.



Pictures today (other than the Kam) were by Darrell Mouland.

Best Wishes, Ron Verrall.  
We'd still like to hear from you. (ronverrall@gmail.com)

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