

## Blog and Pics of the general events during legs 1 and 2 of IPY-KINNVIKA

By Veijo Pohjola



Kinnvika Field School. Since we were plagued by frequent snow storms during the first week we took the opportunity to learn more about polar bear safety, and how to handle guns and snow mobiles. Janne is giving a lecture on shot guns and slug shots (left), and Piotr is giving away many of his secrets of how to best preserve a snow mobile in hard Arctic conditions (right). *Photo: Veijo Pohjola.*



IPY-KINNVIKA 2008 leg 1 participants, minus the drill team. From right: Janne Johansson, Lasse Tano, Alun Hubbard, Veijo Pohjola, Gerit Rotschky, Rickard Pettersson, Poul Christoffersen, Olli-Pekka Mattila. *Photo: Olli-Pekka Mattila*



Rickard and I went out to make tracks to Vestfonna, and build up fuel depots along the way. Before the storms the ground had too little snow, and where so rocky that we have to meander between the spots where snow covered the ground. After the storms it was too much of fluffy snow, and we continuously got stuck. One distance was especially tough; we got stuck 10 times on a distance of 300 meters. Sometimes the snow was so loose and deep that one almost got buried from top to toe when jumping out of the snow mobile. With such amounts of loose snow it was no wonder the tracks of the snow mobiles lost traction. 1. Oh no, stuck! Shuffle! 2. And again, just to pick up the ol' shuffle again, and sweep all loose snow away beneath the machine. 3. Darn, really stuck, and the track does not move. Broken gear box? 4. And, stuck again. Better to cool off for a while, it gets pretty hot to shuffle in a thick overall. *Photo: Veijo Pohjola.*



When weather settled we got the ice coring team on the snow mobile train to the Vestfonna drill site. Lots of gear to shift up. In the mid-left the train engine was formed by Piotr dressed in his red Kombinator leading the "pack". Mid-right show the depot at Weasel Lobe, which was the ramp up to Vestfonna (below the BAB-line in the LANDSAT map). Loose snow was also a problem for a few days on Vestfonna. In the lowest pic Janne ponders how to get the AWS out of the snow trap. *Photo: Veijo Pohjola and Emilie Beaudon.*



Visiting Camp Ahlmann and leaving provisions one of the better days in leg 1. Drillers and a snow mobile shuttler poses. From left: Mike, Sakari, Laura, Emilie, Rickard and Piotr. *Photo: Veijo Pohjola.*



With heavy loads and a first with loose snow, and then hard and bumpy conditions due to large snow sastrugis (snow ripples) the snow machines worked hard and had to be maintained continuously. Except shifting drive belts, and getting loose icing around the rig, the largest problems were hooks mounts that fell apart, and suspension systems that got fatigued and broke. In the upper right Piotr, Bartek and Venkata is powering on to shift steering rods on the skis, while Adrian is marveled by the exercise. In the lower right Sakari as a leader of the ice drilling team is doing his first drilling action, not in ice this time, but in aluminum. Lasse in the lower left is happy since he just adjusted the carburetor and got the machine over 70km/h. *Photo: Veijo Pohjola.*



When the Ice coring team was driven up we awaited better weather to get up to manage our tasks on Vestfonna. After two weeks of gales and storms we got loose, but meanwhile we hung out in the Kinnvika Mess. Janne and Lasse installed an oven, and made up a table and benches, which made the old kitchen very cozy. With the facilities going, we had endless workshops waiting for the weather to turn, relaxed, snacked and had loooong snoozes in the dormitory. It felt like the old station bloomed up again after 50 years of sleep, which was a satisfying feeling for us who have worked with the IPY-KINNVIKA project for at least four years by now. Upper left to right: Olli-Pekka and Rickard hammering on, and on the other side Adrian, Bartek and Veijo are focused on different issues. Lower left to right: Lasse is firing up the Finnish sauna stove that we temporarily installed in the Mess. Useless stove was Olli's comment, since it barely warmed the fingers when having them around the stove pipe. Despite this, Alun and Poul was warm, and Alun for a time preferred to sleep in the Mess than enjoying the cold crisp concerto in the Meatlocker. 2. Photo: Veijo Pohjola and Emilie Beaudon.



When weather permitted the Yard outside the Main House was the meeting place. Here is from left Alun, Janne, Lasse and Poul having some sun. Another of the steaming meeting places was the Sauna. When fired up properly we managed to get it as hot as 50 °, and it was nice following the old Finnish code to roll in snow afterwards. At one of these occasions, when Lasse ran out for a roll, as the gods created him, a bear approached. We assume it was a binna (female) – at least it was a cub attached. When Lasse jumped the snow it seems like she turned away (see next pic). Was this a sign of a complex relationship? Or the fact that PO got his gun out, and got ready for a warning shot? *Photo: Veijo Pohjola.*



Polar Bear? In the Nordic countries we usually enjoy a beer after Sauna , but enjoying a bear after sauna was new for most of us. But I guess Lasse as a seasoned hunter from Lapland was pretty used to such thrills. *Photo: Veijo Pohjola.*



IPY-KINNVIKA 2008 leg 2 participants. From right: PO Edvinsson, Lasse Tano, Bartek Luks, Adrian McCallum, Olli-Pekka Mattila, Mike Gerasimoff, Veijo Pohjola, Piotr Glowacki, Rickard Pettersson, Sakari Kankaanpää, Emilie Beaudon, Laura Arppe, Venkata Gandikota. *Photo: Olli-Pekka Mattila*