

Icewalk 89 – Summary by Wayne Emond

Sponsored by Amway International - Icewalk '89 - North Pole and Student Expedition - was a multi-faceted was an expedition from Cape Columbia to the North Pole. There were eight (8) trekkers from around the world - Two UK, one each from Canada, USA, Russia, Australia, West Germany and Japan - led by Robert Swan a British explorer who had walked to the South Pole in 1986 (I believe). On their way to Cape Columbia (83 06 41N 069 57 13W, the northern most point of land of Canada) they would have passed through Eureka for fuel. They would have left Cape Columbia in mid-March, as the sun was beginning to rise and the days began to get longer. They successfully reached the North Pole in mid-May and were picked up by Kenn Borek Twin Otters. The planes would have left from Eureka and returned to Eureka the same day then overnighted and refueled. The trekkers got their first warm shower, fresh clothes and big meal on their triumphant arrival back in Eureka. I recall a few of the trekkers - Robert Swan, Richard Weber (Canadian) and the youngest Darryl Roberts (23 year old Black American). I recall Richard Weber as he was part of the Polar IceBridge '88, a group of Russians (9) and Canadians (4), that had walked from Russia to Canada across the North Pole in 1988.

- In late April 1989, 22 students from 13 different countries, along with their chaperones, came to Eureka for a '14 day expedition'. The idea of this field trip was to understand some of the affects of mankind on the atmosphere - climate change, the ozone hole - and the earth itself. This too was sponsored by Amway International. Eureka hosted the students and numerous professionals and presenters for the expedition. The first week, there were numerous news outlets as well as AES communications staff (Heather MacKay if I recall correctly). At one point, we had a total of 81 people living at Eureka, when our normal winter/early spring staffing level was 8. During the time, we never missed an observation nor an upper air ascent, though with the four BBC staff sleeping in the GMD building, they may have wished we did, as it got noisy when the dish was tracking the balloon.

- Some of the presenters included:
 - Dr. Ian Sterling - Polar Bear biologist and expert
 - Parks Canada Wardens - talked about the new national park on Ellesmere Island - Quttinirpaaq National Park and the Inuit. As one warden was Inuit, he brought some local foods and guided our station cooks to make

seal meat stew and muskox roast for dinner that night

- Dr. Neil Trivett - Principal investigator at the Alert GAW (Global Atmospheric Watch) lab. He talked extensively about what the lab does, its importance in the global atmospheric monitoring, spoke about the ozone hole in both the Antarctic and the Arctic and finally some discussion about climate change.
- A number of others, but I don't remember them all.
- Overall these presentations were amazing and very informative and attended by our staff whenever possible. On their initial arrival, I made a presentation to all visitors about what Eureka Weather Station is, what we do, its history and the fact that it is actually not a hotel so there are limitations - water being one of them.