

RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
ASSOCIATION OF RUSSIAN POLAR
EXPLORERS

THE EXPEDITION CENTER
"ARCTIC"

present

THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC
ROUND-THE-WORLD
EXPEDITION

"POLAR RING"



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Generations of explorers have tried to reach high latitudes. Lured by the magic force of the North Pole, these explorers , Norwegians and Danes, Russians, Americans, Englishmen, Italians, and many others , risked their lives to discover new territories .

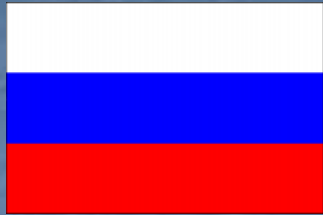
It is our duty to keep these explorers' names in our memory and in the memory of future generations. William Barents, Vitus Bering, Semen Chelyuskin, Dmitry and Khariton Laptyev, Semen Dejnev, Eric Nordensheld, Edward Toll, Vladimir Rusanov, Georgy Sedov, Georgy Ushakov, Ivan Papanin, and hundreds of others, have brought worldwide recognition to their motherland in the study and development of northern territories.

Now a new generation, experienced Arctic travelers, intend to retrace their forefathers' footsteps, a pathway connecting all continents of the northern hemisphere by a single route that passes through the hardest-to-reach Arctic regions in Europe, Asia and America. The route will become a unique bridge between the nations populating the Far North of our planet, the symbol of the Decade of Indigenous Peoples of the North declared by the UN.

*Our Project is dedicated
to the memory of people
who have connected their lives eternally
with Arctic regions.*



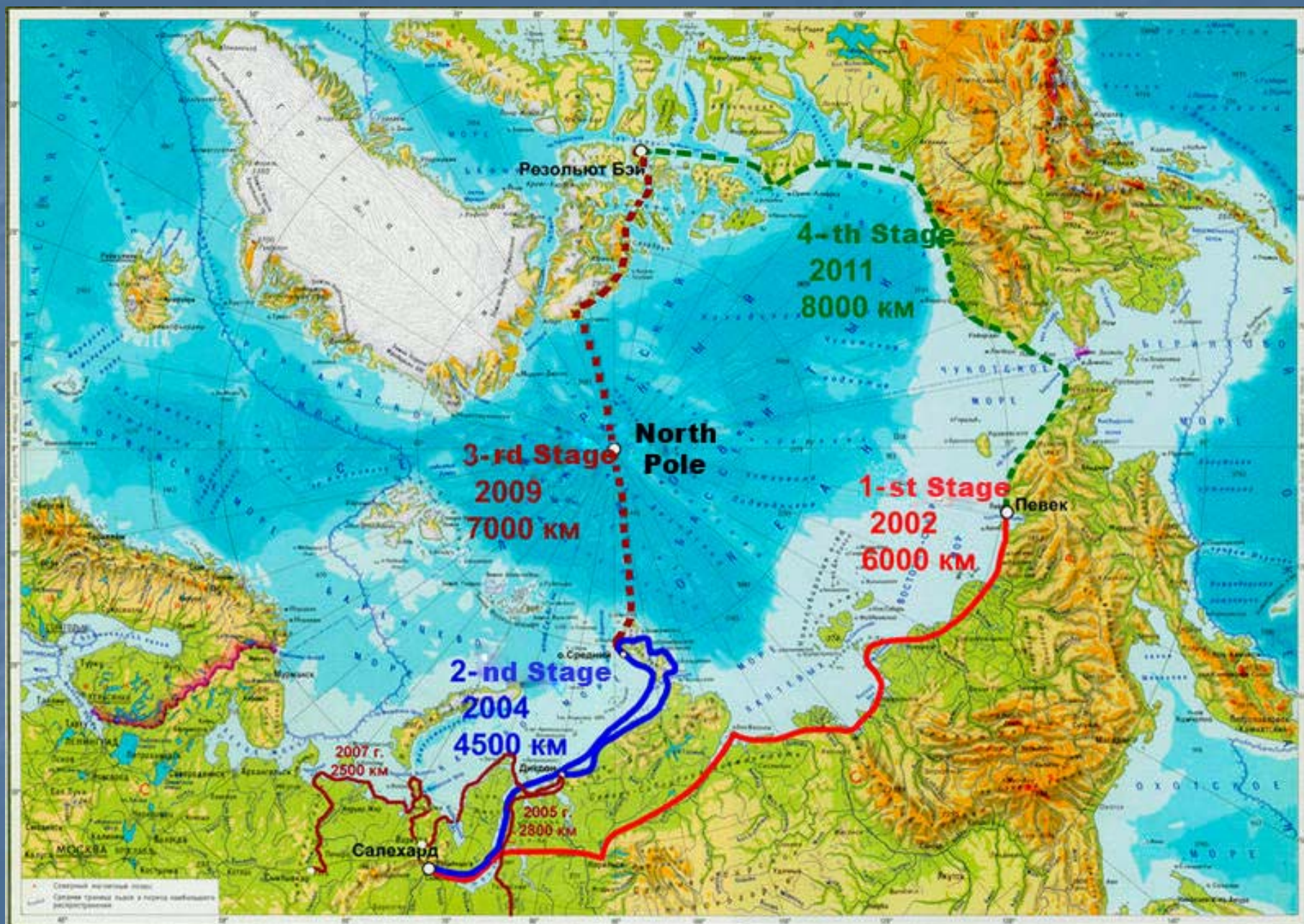
The “Polar Ring” expedition



*Companies and enterprises of
Russia, Slovakia, Belarus, and Canada
are participating in preparation
and realization of the
“Polar Ring” project.*

- *The expedition project is being carried out in four stages - from March 2002 until June 2010.*
- *If successful, the Expedition will become the first round-the-world arctic trip, accomplished by ground cross-country vehicles!*

The "Polar Ring" expedition



*“Polar Ring”
Expeditionary program*

- *“POLAR RING” is part of the Complex International Expedition program “Road to the Third Millennium”, dedicated to a historical event in which participate all the habitants of the planet in this new Millennium.*
- *The organizers of the “POLAR RING” project intend to retrace the steps of the first explorers to link all the northern continents by the thread of one route, that will cross the most difficult Arctic regions of Europe, Asia and America. It will become a sort of relay between millenniums, symbol of a “Dialog Between Civilizations”, a program supported by the United Nations.*



*“Polar Ring”
Expeditionary program*

- *This is a large-scale complex international non-governmental Arctic expedition.*
- *The Expedition is conducted under the United Nation's flag, and it is the practical contribution of the organizers, of the participants and of all those who have supported it, to the program “Dialog Between Civilizations” accomplished by the initiative and under the supervision of the United Nations.*



*The “Polar Ring” expedition project
has the following key objectives:*

- *To make an important contribution in the fields of unique Arctic expeditions, study and developing of Far-North lands*
- *To shed light on the Arctic global problems*
- *To carry out a wide range of scientific observations and experiments on the programs of the Third International Polar Year (IPY) 2007/2009*
- *To draw attention, particularly to youth, to the idea of travel to the Far North, sport, a healthy way of living, and to encourage an appreciation of the environment*
- *To carry out investigations in the field of history and ethnography of the Far North regions*
- *To demonstrate the unique possibilities of a new cross-country vehicle with extra-low-pressure tiers*

The “Polar Ring” project has the following main tasks:

- *Realization of the unique journey – the first in the history of Arctic – along the Arctic Ocean coastline by means of the land cross-country vehicles developed by Expedition Center*
- *Implementing of real-time data and video translations from the trekking vehicles over the satellite and HF radio channels for scientific organizations and mass media*
- *Holding of a large-scale advertisement company in the interests of “Polar Ring” partners and sponsors*

*The “Polar Ring” project has the following main tasks:
(continued)*

- *Accomplishing medical and psychological investigations for theoretical and practical application for human survival in extreme environments*
- *Creation of video series, publication of colorful images and books describing the unique polar journey , the history and present state of the Arctic, the “Polar Ring” organizers and participants, as well as all companies, organizations and people who supported the project*

THE FIRST STAGE OF THE “POLAR RING” EXPEDITION (April - May, 2002)

The first stage of the expedition planned for April - May, 2002 has been successfully completed.

The 6th of April starting from the Salekhard, 10 travelers on four cross-country pneumatic vehicles “Chukotka” made a passage of a total of more than 6,000 km along the Siberian Arctic coastline from Labytnangy to Pevek.

The stage was successfully completed on May 27th of 2002 in Pevek town – the most northern town in the World.



THE SECOND STAGE OF THE "POLAR RING" EXPEDITION (April - May 2004)

The second stage of the expedition planned for April - May, 2004, was successfully completed.

In the spring of 2004 a team of 9 people on four new cross-country vehicles travelled about 4500 km from Salekhard to the most northern part of Russia – Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago.

The trek started in Salekhard , through to Kara Sea and Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago and back to Dikson.

The full-scale test of the new cross-country vehicles was carried out. Travelers covered the hardest way over the drifting ice of Kara Sea, including wide zones of ice-holes, cracks and open water.

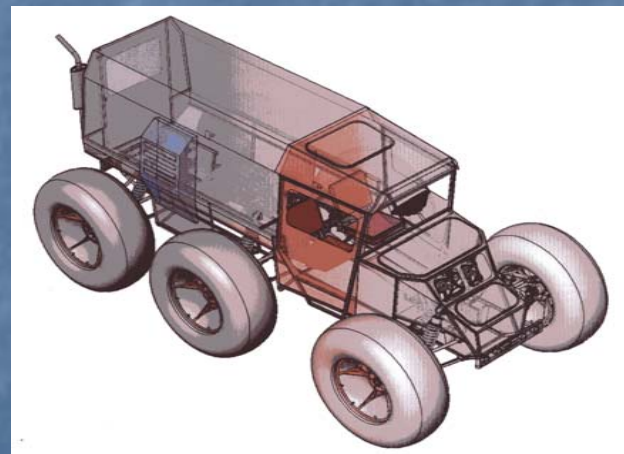


THE THIRD STAGE OF THE “POLAR RING” EXPEDITION (Phase I: 2005 – 2008)

During spring 2005, the full-scale tests of the vehicles have been carried out in Kara Sea on drifting ice again. The tasks of movement tactics in ice conditions, navigation, communication and survival have been covered.

The next stage of vehicle tests was carried out in 2007 and 2008 covering more than 5,000 km along Barents and Kara Sea coastline.

Four new cross-country vehicles named “Polyus” (Eng. “North Pole”) are being built and tested during 2008.



THE THIRD STAGE OF THE "POLAR RING" EXPEDITION (Phase II: February - June 2009)

In February of 2009 a team of 10-12 people on advanced cross-country vehicles again will start in Salekhard to Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago. From here the main team of six people will continue to complete the most difficult stage of the route - this time it will go to Cape Arcticheskiy and further up to the North Pole.



*THE THIRD STAGE OF THE “POLAR RING” EXPEDITION
(Phase II: February - June 2009)
(continued)*

At the North Pole the expedition will meet members of the International Action “Ecology of Planet” dedicated to Global Climate Change, members of the Polar drifting station “North Pole – 2009”, members of the Organizing Committee, and representatives of the expedition’s partners, sponsors, and Russian and worldwide media to highlight the project. The expedition plans to hold the first Arctic Press Conference in the North Pole’s history .



The “Polar Ring” expedition

THE THIRD STAGE OF THE "POLAR RING" EXPEDITION
(Phase II: February - June 2009)
(continued)

From THE North Pole the travelers will go to the coast of Greenland, then to Morris Jessup Cape, and further down to Canada. On the Canadian Arctic archipelago, the route will pass from Alert up to Ward Hunt island and further up to Resolute Bay (Magnetic North Pole), where the third stage of expedition will be completed.



Participants of the expedition will cover more than 7.000 kilometers, including about 3.000 km on drifting Arctic Ocean ice.

THE FOURTH STAGE OF THE “POLAR RING” EXPEDITION (February - May 2011)

- *The fourth and final stage of the expedition will begin in the Russian town of Yakutsk heading north along the Lena river to Zyryanka, then to Pevek and Uelen. Here the expedition will cross the Bering Strait to Point Hope and then along the Alaskan and Canadian coastline to finish in Resolute Bay in Canada again.*
- *The route take the travelers around the borders of the Arctic Ocean: along the Russian coastline, the shores of Alaska, along the Islands of the Canadian Archipelago, along the Glacier shield of Greenland, crossing the point of the North Pole.*



The “Polar Ring” expedition

- *The 25,000 km route will link the eastern and western hemispheres, crossing from Europe to Asia and then to Northern America through one of the most forbidding points of the planet - the North Pole.*



The High-latitude Technological Expedition

- *The “Polar Ring” Expedition is the first practical example of a complex scientific-practical program, named “the High-latitude Technological Expedition” (HTE). This program is a new technological method for exploring the Arctic, and is intended to bring improved capabilities, based on practical experience, to expedition activity in Arctic regions and Antarctica. The Expedition Center “Arctic” of the Russian Geographical Society has more than 20 years of expedition activity in Arctic regions and Antarctica.*



The “Polar Ring” expedition

In cooperation with Expedition Center "Arctic" our partners, such as the research institutes, the organizations and the enterprises which are carrying out the activity in remote regions of our planet, both large and small manufacturing companies, funds and movements etc., receive a unique opportunity to achieve their targets via:

- *accomplishment of scientific programs on the subjects of researches;*
- *gathering the statistical scientific data and other information during the expedition;*
- *carrying out of tests of products in real conditions of high altitudes;*
- *obtaining expert judgments, conclusions, and recommendations for using such products in extreme Arctic region conditions*



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- *testing actions in emergency situations in Arctic region or Antarctica;*
- *testing conditions of educational programs for action in extreme climatic conditions of Arctic regions and Antarctica;*
- *decision of marketing problems for more successful production promotion to the world market due to a wide advertising campaign, such as large expedition projects;*
- *drawing public attention to universal problems such as drug addiction, terrorism, ecological disasters etc.*



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- *The movement on the route will be accomplished by pneumatic cross-country vehicles developed and made by Russian research and production company “X-Trans” (Expedition Transport Facilities). The prototypes of these machines X-Trans-102 “Chukotka”, “Chukotka-2” and “Toros” were successfully tested in 1999 - 2007 in Antarctica, on a route ending on the point of the South Pole, and in the Arctic region. The new advanced cross-country vehicles “Polyus” will be used to cross Arctic in 2009.*
- *All the equipment is constructed using the latest technologies and materials, and results of many years of experience accumulated during numerous arctic trips and expeditions.*

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- *To determine of their exact location and coordinates the travelers will use the modern global positioning system (GPS) navigational equipment.*
- *For safety the group will use the global satellite rescue system COSPAS-SARSAT.*
- *The radio station of the Expedition Center "ARCTIC" with call-sign R3CA/0 will be active in all HAM bands.*
- *For the first time in the history of polar expeditions the expedition will use a special satellite communication system for translation of real-time on-line video from the trek.*



*Participants of the "High-latitude
Technological Expedition" program*

- *Research-and-production company "X-Trans", Moscow, Russia*
- *"Rover Computers" , Moscow, Russia*
- *"SICOM" (Radio communication equipment), Moscow, Russia*
- *" 3M – Russia", Moscow, Russia*
- *Group of companies "EURASIA", Moscow, Russia*
- *"BASK" (sport and outdoor clothes), Moscow, Russia*
- *"TRANSMEDTECH", Moscow, Russia*
- *"Technoimpex", Vladimir, Russia*
- *Association "Vostok-Service Spetskomplekt", Russia, Moscow*
- *Research-and-production association "ESMA", Russia, Troitsk*
- *Ministry of the Russian Federation for Emergency Situations*

Information support of the Project is carried out by

- *Press-Center of UN, the Russian representation;*
- *The Broadcasting company ORT, the program "Traveler's Club", Russia;*
- *The Broadcasting company "Novi Production", France;*
- *Magazines "Around the world", "The Vertical world", "Club 4x4", "Za rulem" (eng. "Behind the wheel"), "Moscow today & tomorrow", "Energy of East", "Northern expanses" and others;*
- *Many central and regional newspapers;*
- *Radio station "Mayak" etc.*



*About the authors and organizers
of the "POLAR RING" expedition program*

- *The non-governmental Expedition Center "Arctic" (ECA) was set up on the basis of a scientific and sports expedition in 1982. That expedition involved preparing and carrying out trips in the most unreachable regions of Russia's Far North, including the Central Arctic. The Center was established by the Russian Geographical Society and the Russian Pole Explorers Association.*



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The Center's origins began in 1979, when a group of people of great endurance and physical strength carried out ski trips in the northern part of Russia. These trips emphasized a maximum autonomy of the group. During each trip, all members could only rely upon themselves, food stocks and equipment carried with them. Since 1994 the Center organizes annual complex international expeditions to the North Pole .

In 1994 a team of eight skiers managed to reach the North Pole absolutely unaided from beginning to end. In other words, there were no reinforcements, air support, evacuations, etc. and the entire group started and finished the trip as one.

This was the first time in the history of polar trips that such a feat was accomplished.



The “Polar Ring” expedition

(continued)

Since then, these ski trek teams have covered more than 30,000 km along the Arctic coastline, islands, and drifting ice. About 150 people have taken part in expeditions of the “Arctic” Center.

Twenty four people reached the North Pole during the ski polar expeditions. Some of them were on the Pole twice and one three times.



The “Polar Ring” expedition

(continued)

In 1998 “Arctic” made the next big leap – a ski team successfully covered the most difficult polar trek from the Russian coastline to Canada through the North Pole point. That became a new world achievement of members of Expedition Center “Arctic” – estimated by specialists in extreme trips and world sports society as one of the most unique expeditions of the XX century.



The “Polar Ring” expedition

(continued)

Expedition Center “Arctic” has been developing a new kind of vehicle— all-wheel drive cross-country vehicle with extra-low-pressure tires – “snow bugs” – since 1997. These vehicles were successfully tested in large-scale Arctic and Antarctic expeditions between 1999-2003 and began to be widely used in other projects.



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- *The first in Antarctic history, large-scale complex international non-governmental Antarctic expedition, called “Meeting XXI Century”, was organized and carried out by ECA in December 1999 – January 2000.*
- *During that expedition a whole series of world records was made, such as a mass sky-diving in Antarctica near Patriot Hills, the first in Antarctica history balloon flying, a high-speed 10-days roundtrip of “snow bugs” from Patriot Hills to the South Pole, the first balloon flying over the South Pole point, etc.*



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- *The results of the "Meeting XXI Century" Antarctic expedition was highly marked by UN General Secretary Mr. Kofi A. Annan.*
- *In December 2000, the UN presented a flag of the United Nations to the Expedition Center "Arctic" .*



The work on the project is being conducted by:

- *Association of Russian Polar Explorers*
- *Russian Geographical Society*
- *Fund of polar researches*
- *Nautical Arctic Complex Expedition*
- *The Russia Chapter of "The Explorer's Club" (USA)*
- *Scientific research institute of the Arctic and Antarctic*
- *Ministry of the Russian Federation for Emergency Situations*
- *The Russian Scientific research institute of a cultural and natural heritage*
- *Russian agency "Arctica-Geenex"*

Partners:

- *Canadian Association “ACAR”*



The “Polar Ring” expedition

The “Polar Ring” expedition team members:

- *Oleg Kazharski (Russia) – Radio Chief, navigation, IT*
- *Dmitri Kutalo (Russia) – mechanic*
- *Alexander Borisevich (Belarus) - Mechanic Chief, photographer*
- *Serguei Fenev (Canada) – mechanic, photographer*
- *Ilia Frejdovich (Russia) – mechanic, doctor*
- *Vladimir Chukov (Russia) – Expedition Director*

The "Polar Ring" expedition

*The Expedition program is directed by
Vladimir Chukov,
the President of the Expedition Center "ARCTIC",
current member of the Russian Geographic Society,
member of "The Explorer's Club" (USA),
Honored Master of sports*



*117246 Moscow,
P. Box 40, Russia
phone/fax: +7 (499) 122-6154
+7 (916) 062-0404
ec-arctic@yandex.ru
www.ec-arctic.ru*