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May 2011

Newsletter

ARCTIC WATCH LODGE

Arctic Watch Lodge will not open in 2011

Arctic Watch will not be opening this summer as the world economy is still recovering and adventurous travelers do not explore in such unstable times. For the first time in almost 20 years our family is not going north. It is a bit of a shock for all of us. We will taste the “summer heat” of the south and endure the mosquitoes and black flies. This will be especially new for the boys, Nansen has more experience dealing with polar bears than with mosquitoes! We will miss the 24-hour sun of the Arctic. We will miss the vast open spaces and the tranquility. Most of all we will not witness the great beluga whale migration to Somerset Island.

There is always concern when no is at Arctic Watch for the twenty-two month span. One of the biggest issues are curious polar bears. We spend a lot of time ensuring the place is bear proof and wash away the smell of all the delicious food that was prepared for guests and family during the summer. Pots of diesel are put outside to create a potent smell and mask any “good” aromas. All dry goods are packed into a heavily secured freezers and vehicles are winterized and stored inside the Great Room. In addition to that, linen has to be put into waterproof bags to prevent mildew and metal sheets are bolted over all the doors and windows.

On the positive side, this summer gives us the opportunity to better prepare for the 2012 season. Our plan to bring scientists to study the beluga whales is progressing well (more about this in the next newsletter). The Youth Leadership Program is also looking positive.

For the latest information, please follow our blogs on the web site <http://arcticwatch.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=24abf468fe6595e57038ff680&id=d1ccdbd5fe&e=eb45e06101> and Facebook fan page <http://arcticwatch.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=24abf468fe6595e57038ff680&id=62c872e75f&e=eb45e06101>.

WEBER ARCTIC

The new Weber Arctic web site made by our friends at bv02 should be live in early June.

Winter 2011 – 2012

This winter we embraced kite-skiing as the latest trend in arctic travel.

In February a group of adventurers went to Finse, Norway to learn kite-skiing under the tutelage of famed Antarctic kite-skier Ronny Finsas. Finse was a wonderful place to learn kite-skiing and is considered to be the

world capital of this sport. The hotel was comfortable, the weather warm (-5C) although a bit too windy! Ronny is a wonderful instructor. To see more click [here](#).

In March a small group of very keen skiers headed up to Great Slave Lake in Yellowknife to sharpen their skills. The team completed three days of skiing and five days of kite-skiing, pulling their sleds and all their gear along with them. The team covered sixty kilometers one day. Top speed was almost forty kilometers per hour! We were well received with northern hospitality. A local fisherman pulling in his nets through the ice gave us a huge fish. We cooked it over our little camping stove and it was unanimously decided that it was the best fish anyone had eaten, even better than the fish at the famous Bullocks Bistro in Yellowknife! The trip concluded with a pickup from volunteers at the Great Slave Snowmobile Club who drove us back to Yellowknife. Yellowknife residents are so very friendly and helpful. To see more click [here](#).

Tessum's Trip

Tessum is currently on Baffin island in Auyuittuq National Park. Together with a group from the UK they are crossing the Akyeshuk Pass. This is Tessum's first winter trip as head guide! Travelling in this area is a family tradition. Tessum's grandfather was a pioneer and explored this area and summited many of the mountain peaks. His mother and grandmother have both skied across the Penny Ice Cap. We wish him all the best!

Weber Arctic has supported numerous expeditions and organizations this winter with ski bindings, boots, tents, and food.

Tessum and Richard made a short video demonstrating the Weber ski binding <http://arcticwatch.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=24abf468fe6595e57038ff680&id=fe5aa4f4bc&e=eb45e06101>

A partial list includes: the Canadian Military, RAF North Pole expedition, Catlin Arctic Survey (<http://arcticwatch.us1.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=24abf468fe6595e57038ff680&id=6ae5073461&e=eb45e06101>) Extreme World Races (<http://arcticwatch.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=24abf468fe6595e57038ff680&id=59748bed8a&e=eb45e06101>), Mike Horn Youth Project (<http://arcticwatch.us1.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=24abf468fe6595e57038ff680&id=c2e5c555dc&e=eb45e06101>) (<http://arcticwatch.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=24abf468fe6595e57038ff680&id=0fedb95cbb&e=eb45e06101>) and a Japanese expedition.

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