

## Diary 10 – 24 July 2011

### Summerland Zackenberg

When I prepared for my first trip to Greenland, I mostly packed practical and warm clothing, in this last week I have at several occasions regretted that I didn't bring my shorts.

With a few exceptions the weather has been calm and warm all week, or as we describe it several times a day at the GeoBasis team: "0/8 cloud cover, few cirrus clouds, warm, mild breeze from south."

The warm weather means increased snow melting, which means higher water level and water discharge in the Zackenberg River. While this gives us, the GeoBasis team, something to measure here on the eastern side, we can see two flocks of quite annoyed musk oxen on the west side. For weeks, they have calmly walked around close to the river, apparently waiting to cross it and get to the greener vegetation on this side.

Besides, of being a really warm week, it has been another busy and eventful week here at the station.

A lot of people would leave this week, which meant that they had to work hard to finish the data collection before Thursday. Nevertheless, they were all home for photo night Wednesday, so I think they managed to finish in time.

While everybody being busy with data collection, Oriol took a day of his project and set a new record in climbing up and down Dome Mountain. I must admit that I haven't checked it, but from what I've heard, 8 hours to the top and back must be a record. Of course, we had to see pictures from there before we believed him.

Another event of this week was the extra Twin Otter visit. On Wednesday afternoon, a plane arrived to pick up Jeroen and then leave again for Hochstetter. On its way back it brought three French visitors who would stay overnight. The next day another Twin Otter would arrive as usual on Thursdays. Besides the French visitors, six scientists were leaving with the plane, and only one arriving. So now were only 11 people up here. The one arriving was Lars Holst, with him up here Jannik had to give up the supreme power, as scientific leader, and we had to take down our Jannik posters and banners.

Besides the Twin Otter visits, we have had a visit by boat. Friday night we had two visitors from Daneborg: Spanggård and Lauer. A visit the logistics manager, Philip, had been looking forward to all week. You could hear him small talking to the people at Daneborg at Channel 16 all day.

When Spanggård and Lauer left Saturday morning, Lars and Philip joined them, leaving the logistician Søren with the task of finding Philip's seven misplaced coffee mugs, besides of keeping the station running. Not an easy task. It has been a busy week for logistics indeed.

On the GeoBasis team we've had our usual technical difficulties with instruments that don't work, or at least not the way they are supposed to. Luckily the instruments and cameras on Aucella and Nansenblokken work just fine, but that doesn't mean that we can't go check on them once in a while and enjoy the incredible view while we're there.

But that's just another day at the office. What makes this week or at least the weekend, extra busy was that we had a surge in the Zackenberg River lasting from Friday night to Saturday around noon. It was not one of the biggest surges in the history of Zackenberg River, but it was still fascinating to watch the water level rise 6-10 cm per hour until it reach the peak around nine o'clock Saturday morning. Normally this would only mean that we would have to take water samples every second hour, but because of some of our technical difficulties with the instrument that automatically measures the water level, we would go down there and measure the water level manually every thirty minutes. We took shifts so one of us could sleep while the other monitored the surge.

Apparently, it wasn't only the GeoBasis team that had a busy Friday night. At 4 o'clock Saturday morning, Jannik returned from the field. He seemed quite happy after having observed that the eggs in the last of Jeroen's bird's nests had hatched.

While some people here work day and night to keep up, the mosquito people somehow manages to work so effectively a few hours a day, that they can take the rest of the time of, taking naps, watching movies and relaxing. That what they tell us anyway, but I'm sure they're busy when we're not watching.

In the smaller scale of events, a fox came by the other day while I was measuring soil moisture. The fox tried to run off with my rifle, but it was too heavy so it moved on to the radio, but that didn't work either. We managed to work out the situation peacefully.

This is also the week where we had our first "night". Some say it started Tuesday or Wednesday, others that it started Thursday, but the Zackenberg mountain now throws a shadow over the station every night from around 10 o'clock.

A busy and exiting week is ending and another will start tomorrow. I really hope we will have time for a game volleyball or football in the coming week.

Lau Gede Petersen