

Zackenberg Research Station: Diary 1 – 8 May 2015

Spring 2015 – Franky's Rise and Self-Sacrifice or the Year the Scooters died!

First impressions from the new GeoBasis assistant (Anne Thane Christensen, ed.): It was just amazing!

Back to the start: On 15 April, we were opening the station. There was a lot of snow. The fox was always around. In the first week, every morning the house number 10 session was on. I was shovelling snow out from house number 10, but shovelled a little too much, so the legs were hanging. Watch out for the step!

In the beginning, it was white. There was only Jørgen, Spanggård, Michele and myself. We landed on skies! We took down the shutters of the windows. Hinduism is a mess. There were some nice days. We could start the A. P. Olsen fieldwork immediately. Henrik and Jørgen started the work on the runway, so the plane with the GeoBasis team could land two weeks later. The weather was fine, for the first days. The GlacioBasis stations and ablation stakes were maintained, the scooters were fine. Some little troubles, but they worked, you know..?!

Yeah, but then, bad weather moved in. There was a snowstorm. In between bad weather days, we had one day of fieldwork, but the storm lasted for almost a whole week. The scooters were in their cover... CUTE!! It got nice again. Unfortunately, one of the scooters did not recover after the bad weather. We went to the summit of the A. P. Olsen Ice Cap, the conditions were not perfect, but a new weather station was set up.

The day after, during the snow radar survey, the second scooter broke down and we spent the night in the proximity of the glacier terminus. And so we settled the cold camp. It was OK, but we would rather have gone for the warm, warm room at ZERO. The GEUS sleeping bags turned out to be pretty good, so we had a long sleep. Meanwhile the GeoBasis team (the Commander with his two girls, ed.) arrived. They were eager to meet their glacial friends. But first several hours of digging out masts had to be done. Sirius came by to pick up automatic vehicle toys and the weather was fine, fine, fine.

At 10 o'clock, the following day, the rescue team with Jørgen and the Argo were approaching. The Argo saved us. The Argo is the shit! We were going back to Zackenberg. When we were back, both scooters were broken, so we started to test the brand new weather station for the Freya Glacier. Jørgen disappeared for two days in the workshop. We only heard strange noises. On the morning of the third day, the doors of the workshop opened and the new Frankenstein scooter appeared. We called him Franky ;-)

Nice and bright again! GeoBasis had the honour of testing Franky going up on Aucella with

equipment for a new repeater station. Michele used the opportunity to measure all of the houses of the ZERO station for some Danish remote sensing thing. Unfortunately, the new weather station on Freya was never installed, because Franky never got up on Freya. He wasn't strong enough for her. Franky died on the last day during the M7 polar bear combats serving the Commander.

Writing or dancing, that's the issue..?!

Daniel Binder, Austria

Acknowledgements: I especially want to thank one of the GeoBasis girls (KS!) for helping me during this creative process in the middle of the last night in Zackenberg and for making sure that Hindus are not offended by the mess. This piece of whatever would have never seen the daylight without the perfect leadership of the Commander and Franky's self-sacrifice - R.I.P. good old friend!



Photo 1: Yes, we really were landing on skies ;). Photo: Daniel Binder.



Photo 2: Little foxy chilling in the sun with its still pretty winter fur. Photo: Daniel Binder.



Photo 3: After days of white, the sun is fighting back again. Photo: Daniel Binder.



*Photo 4: Nice ZERO wind cornice.
Photo: Daniel Binder.*



*Photo 5: Michele doing the fine-tuning at the APO summit
station. Photo: Daniel Binder.*



Photo 6: Franky lives! Photo: Daniel Binder.



Photo 7: Franky R.I.P. Photo: Daniel Binder.



Photo 8: The Commander reminiscing. Photo: Daniel Binder.