

## Diary 22 – 17 September 2012

### Polar bear visit to Zackenberg

Sunday afternoon (16 September) a small 2-year old bear in good condition visited Zackenberg Research Station.

After fresh polar bear tracks had been seen 29 August near the station and 12 September high on the slopes of Aucellabjerg, yesterday a bear was spotted a few meters from the terrace of the main living building (house 9) - probably attracted by the nice odours of an apple pie in the oven. We were only 4 people left on the station after saying goodbye to the cook (Lone), Kirsten Christoffersen and the last CENPERM crew Saturday. All 4 of us were inside the buildings and all got a good clear view of the bear as it got frightened - possibly by a sound from a door - and moved in direction towards the old river delta. As it turned back towards the buildings, we fired a signal pistol and this made the small bear turn away again. When it slowed down it got another cracker shell that convinced it to speed up again away from the station in a south-easterly direction. All in all it was an un-dramatic experience but a reminder to stay alert and prepared at all times. Throughout the history of Zackenberg Research Station, polar bears have now been encountered in June, July, August, September and October and fresh tracks have been seen in April too.

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Polar bear at Zackenberg Research Station 16 September 2012. Photo: Lars Holst Hansen.