

Ugebrev 5 - den 5. juli 2009

Finally some nice weather!

Yet another week has passed in Zackenberg and this one was blessed with nice sunny weather and almost no rain. "It never rains in Northeast Greenland", some of you might have been told, but this season we have had very "liquid" precipitation in addition to snow. Most times it evaporates before it can soak through your clothes though, so calling it rain may be an exaggeration. A downside to the warm and calm weather is the nuisance of mosquitoes of course, but you can get used to them.

The past week we have said goodbye to Kisser, Guisella, Sharon, Michael and Lea. Newcomers are Toon (the Netherlands), Gunnar (Iceland), Sarah (Denmark) and Kenny (Denmark). Toon and Gunnar are part of Jeroen's Sanderling team and are now fit after running up and down the mountain for almost a week with Lenze, Kirsten and Jeroen looking for nests or broods. Kenny has taken over the responsibility as Logistics Leader for a while, enabling Jakob to finally take half a day off to try his luck at fishing. Sarah has honed her skills with gas flux metering (measuring the photosynthesis of plants) on some of the BioBasis plots and ironed out some technical problems before venturing into her own field work for her thesis. Julie has also struggled and succeeded with technical challenges, as always in the GeoBasis programme.

Even BioBasis has become more electrified and Jannik and I have done the first fully digital supported musk ox field survey. The weather has made roof counts difficult with plenty of low clouds and fog covering the view but hopefully it will improve and the last week has been promising. But this is Northeast Greenland and anything can change like the snap of your fingers - so we keep them crossed.

Young Sund is still ice-covered although it is dotted and lined with big puddles and cracks and can break up anytime soon now. The boats are being checked and prepared so they are ready when it happens. Ice on the small lakes we monitor is gone and the small dams are drying up. Dina continues to spoil us with delicious foods; home made bread every morning and cakes in the plenty. In time of writing, she is exploring the Kuhn Pass with Kirsten. There is hardly any snow left in the valley and BioBasis should be able to begin the search for lemming winter nest anytime now. It will be interesting to see how the lemmings have coped with the small amount of snow during winter but we expect there will be quite few nests to find.

That's about it for now!

Out ZAC!

Lars, BioBasis, Deputy Scientific Leader