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EXPEDITION SIBERIA 2004

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Latest Dispatch

Magadan, a sunny and very hot day

27/7 2004

The positive aspect of life during these last days of planning before the true Expedition start, is that there's no room for neither the joys nor sorrows of life. Therefore I haven't had time to long for my beloved Titti.

For the first time since we arrived in Magadan, we've slept more than five hours. It's been a major problem adjusting ones body to Magadan time. Until this past night we've awoken at 3 am every morning, after merely 3-5 hours sleep. We aunt complaining, but that's a fact. So when waking up at 7 am this morning, we hit the Russian studies immediately for two hours, followed by an interview by the biggest local TV-station here in Magadan. An interview which we've just seen on a black-and-white TV. We came third on the headline news. Just after the problem that the city is experiencing with garbage all over the town and the creation of a spa on the outskirts of town. But before the weather report. This was our second appearance on Russian TV since our arrival. It is an interesting way to study the ways of life. There are two different types of journalists. One older journalist from the Soviet times and than a younger variety from the new Russia. They're, like the Russian society as a whole, split in two parts. The Soviet era ones, they ask questions like: Why do you do it? Are you aware of the major problems that exist in Magadan and our society? Do you understand the dangers facing you along the Kolyma River? And they never question your motives. The younger ones do. And they think it's exciting and they wish they had the guts to do the same. We noticed another curious occurrence during our press conference in Moscow. For example, when the young journalists asked us a question, we noticed that the older ones didn't write down the answers, and it worked the same way when the old ones asked ask questions, the young ones ignored the answers!

After the interview, Wes continued working out the logistics together with Dr Arkady Maximov how to get transported to the source of the river Kolyma. No easy thing. It is at least 450 km:s of extremely poor roads and we have no idea yet where we will end up. And we've realized that we've probably undervalued the true distance we have to paddle until the arrival of the winter ice will make paddling impossible, since we have to start far up a parallel river which eventually will end at the source of the river. On top of that, we've gone through the logistics of how to be rescued if something happens. Utterly boring subjects for us, but since none here believe we will make it all the way, we have to suffer...

We've spent the rest of the day exploring the shops in Magadan together with Natasha Maximova. We've searched for frying pans, plastic cups and barbecue wire. One thing is for sure, one is never too old to learn! Even though we always make the same mistake, believing in people living far from the actual place, we figured people in Moscow new what they were talking about when it regarded Magadan and the possibilities to find decent gear in town. They said that Magadan was falling apart and that it would be impossible to find anything modern. The truth is that you can find anything needed for an explorer here! Digital cameras, lithium batteries,



Johan, or Ivan, as he's called is interviewed by TV Magadan.



Most people in we've met in Magadan seems to miss the orderly times under the Sovietregime.



Working out the logistics with Dr Arkady Maximov, how we will be transported to the source of the Kolyma River. No easy thing...We still don't know where we will end up.

medicine, axes...name it, you'll find it in Magadan! Even cheaper than at home. The problem is finding non modern things like plastic mugs..they only have Teflon mugs and such...and steel wire..... Every day is another lesson in the hard school of life!

Magadan, den 27:e juli, en mycket solig och varm dag

Fördelen med det här livet i startblocken, är att det sällan finns utrymme för vare sig någon större glädje eller sorg. Det är en blandning av arbete och oväntade saker som händer hela tiden. Därför har jag knappt hunnit sakna min älskade Titti.

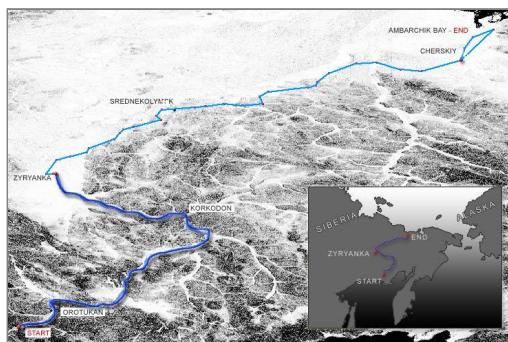
Visserligen sov vi för första gången sedan ankomsten till Magadan, mer än fem timmar den gångna natten. Annars har det varit ett elände att ställa om kroppen till Magadan tid och varje dag har vi vaknat i tre tiden på morgonen. Nu vaknade vi sju, följt av två timmar ryskastudier, så klockan tio kom lokal-TV och gjorde ett inslag vi nyss beskådat. Vi kom trea av alla nyheter. Efter problemet med strejkande sophämtare och skapandet av ett hälsohem i stadens utkanter. Det var vår andra intervju sedan ankomsten. Även här märks den nya och gamla tiden. Journalisterna från den gamla Sovjettiden är äldre och de präglas av frågor av typen, känner ni till alla problem i som finns i vårt samhälle idag, i Magadan också? Och alla faror som väntar längs Kolyma? De ifrågasätter heller aldrig våra motiv för att göra Expeditionen. Det gör de unga journalister. Dessutom tycker de att det är spännande och önskar de kunde göra samma sak själva. Ännu en kuriosa iakttagelse var under presskonferensen i Moskva. Där märkte vi att de unga journalister noterade ingenting av de svar vi gav på vad de äldre frågade oss och likaså tvärtom. Märkvärdigt!

Därefter gick vi genom möjligheterna för hur vi skall transporteras ut till Kolymaflodens källa. Inte enkelt. Minst 45 mil urusel grusväg. Kostnaderna höga. Vi vet ännu inte vart vi hamnar. Och vi inser att vi grovt räknat fel på avståndet, eftersom vi förmodligen måste börja i en biflod till Kolyma för att komma till starten. Likaså gick vi genom hur vi skulle göra om en olycka inträffar. Ingen tror att vi ens kommer att klara av paddlingen....

Eftermiddagen har vi ägnat åt att åka runt Magadan och med Natasha Maximovas hjälp leta efter saker som stekpannor, halster och plastmuggar. En sak är klar, tänk att man aldrig lär sig! Även om det är alltid lika, så valde vi att tro på vad en massa stadsbor trodde sig veta om Magadan. Vi har helt förlitat oss på de rykten vi hört från folk i Moskva möjligheterna att hitta utrustning i Magadan. Inget fanns här av modern utrustning. Allt finns! Alltifrån digitalkameror, lithiumbatterier, medicin, yxor, sågar, ja, allt! Till billigare priser. Vi räknade ut att vi hade sparat 30 000 kronor i övervik om vi skaffat alla prylar som finns här och inte i Sverige. Problemet är att hitta icke-moderna saker som plastmuggar och ståltråd....Varje dag är en livets hårda skola!

Expedition Tracking Center

[CLICK MAP TO ZOOM]



Previous Dispatches

Magadan, 26th of July, 2004 Sunny, but emotionally chaotic. 26 Jul 2004

Titti is presently on her way to Moscow. I feel a profound emptiness, sadness and I didn't even get time enough to say how much I love her!

I just can't comprehend that she won't continue to



Everything at once, the decision and all impressions 25 Jul 2004

Johan Ivarsson:

We're all in some state of shock, since we've all agreed that Titti won't join us anymore. I personally think she's taken the right decision. To carry on not knowing whether a



[**A big shock have hit the Expedition!**](#) 24 Jul, 2004

Titti Strandberg:

It's with great disappointment and anger that we now have to face this fact:

I can't continue with the expedition!

The problem is my heart. It just can't



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