

Qaanaaq Sea Ice Knowledge Exchange

Trip Objectives and Draft Proposed Schedule

Overall Project Outline: The trip to Qaanaaq is part of a larger project that is studying sea ice, sea ice use, and changes in sea ice, at three communities in the Arctic – Qaanaaq, Greenland, Barrow, Alaska, and Clyde River (Kangiktugaapik), Nunavut. This project builds on a pilot project that was conducted between Barrow and Clyde River in 2003 and 2004. That project was very successful, so we are happy to expand the work and begin collaborating with Qaanaaq as well.

The research team is made up of local experts from each of the three communities and scientists. Sea ice monitors and traditional knowledge researchers hired in each community are also important team members.

The visiting team members to Qaanaaq are listed below. They will be joined by our three team members from Qaanaaq: Mamarut Kristiansen, Toku Oshima, and Qaerngaaq Nielsen (from Savissivik).

From Clyde River (Kangiktugaapik), Nunavut:

Ilkoo Angutikjuak
Joelie Sanguya
Igah Sanguya
Shari Gearheard

From Barrow:

Warren Matumeak
Joe Leavitt
Nancy Leavitt

From Colorado:

Andy Mahoney

From Nuuk:

Lene Kielsen Holm
Yvon Csonka

Absent:

Henry Huntington (Henry is unable to join us in Qaanaaq, but will be at the Barrow exchange trip).

Working together, the research team will examine: (1) characteristics of sea ice and its uses by humans at each location; (2) changes in how humans have used the sea ice at each location over time; (3) changes to sea ice, with particular attention to the features most crucial for human uses; (4) recent human responses to changes in sea ice; (5)

societal impacts from sea ice changes and human responses; and (6) implications for future changes, impacts, and adaptation.

The exchange trips to Qaanaaq, Barrow, and Clyde River are only part of the larger project. The project has three major components for gathering information:

- (1) **Sea ice knowledge exchanges.** These will take place when the research team travels together to each of the three communities. At each location, experts from the three communities will have an opportunity to travel the sea ice together and to share their knowledge and experiences. Also, local experts and scientists will have an opportunity to share knowledge.
- (2) **Sea ice monitoring.** Each community will have four monitoring stations on the local sea ice that will measure sea ice thickness, snow depth, and other parameters over the sea ice season for three years. A local person from each community will be trained to use the equipment and hired to take weekly measurements.
- (3) **Traditional knowledge about sea ice.** Traditional knowledge will be documented during the sea ice knowledge exchanges. Also, a local person in each community will be hired to conduct ongoing interviews with local sea ice experts throughout the project. These may be individual interviews or workshops.

Qaanaaq Trip Objectives:

All of our exchange trips are very flexible in terms of scheduling (except for catching airplane flights!). All of us in the project either live or work in the Arctic, so we understand that it is difficult to plan too far ahead! We usually take one day at a time and work with what the weather and peoples' schedules allow.

Even though we might not be able to fix a schedule, it is a good idea to know what activities we want to accomplish while in Qaanaaq. These are listed below. Afterwards, there is a draft schedule of how we might accomplish these activities with the time we have in the community. Again, this is very flexible, but it might help to visualize what we want to achieve.

List of activities to accomplish:

- spend as much time on the sea ice as possible with our research team; visit sea ice features and places important to Qaanaamiut.
- meet with hunters, Elders and other local experts to hear what they have to say about sea ice; exchange knowledge with them
- set up four sea ice monitoring stations; train and hire local sea ice monitor
- hire a local person to continue traditional knowledge documentation

- allow time for cultural exchange (e.g. sharing skills, art, photos of our communities, music, stories, etc.) and seeing the Qaanaaq area

PROPOSED SCHEDULE IN QAANAAQ

EVERYTHING IS FLEXIBLE

Wednesday, March 21 st	Lene Holm and Yvon Csonka arrive from Nuuk; Qaerngaaq Nielsen arrives from Savissivik
Friday, March 23 rd	All arrive in Qaanaaq.
Saturday, March 24 th	Rest day. Meet local people, look around.
Sunday, March 25 th	Rest day. Meet local people, look around.
Monday, March 26 th	<p>Research group has first working meeting. Introduction of team members. Go over project and trip goals, start initial discussions about Qaanaaq sea ice.</p> <p>Time for the visitors to learn about history of Qaanaaq and Greenland; introduction to Qaanaaq (Yvon and Lene to help; meet municipal officials). Visit Municipal building, school. Perhaps our research team goes on local radio, introduce themselves and project.</p> <p>Prepare and organize for a day on ice tomorrow.</p>
Tuesday, March 27 th	<p>Time on sea ice with local experts. Visit ice features and places important to Qaanaamiut.</p> <p>Evening – Andy and Shari meet with person to be hired as sea ice monitor.</p>
Wednesday, March 28 th	Time on sea ice with local experts. Visit ice features and places important to Qaanaamiut.
Thursday, March 29 th	<p>Open workshop in town. All invited to come meet the research team and share their knowledge.</p> <p>Evening – Cultural event. Visitors share skills and stories from their communities, learn about Qaanaaq culture, sample local food, dancing, etc. Everyone in Qaanaaq invited.</p>

Friday, March 30 th	Break into small group activities: Andy and ice monitor to set up sea ice stations, along with whoever is interested. Shari will meet with a local person who will coordinate ongoing traditional knowledge interviews (Lene to help and coordinate with Sila-Inuk project). Other small groups may go on the ice; sightsee.
Saturday, March 31 st	Time on sea ice with local experts. Visit ice features and places important to Qaanaamiut.
Sunday, April 1 st	Rest day. Free time.
Monday, April 2 nd	Research group meets to go over what has been learned so far. Review collected information and terminology. Continue discussions.
Tuesday, April 3 rd	Reserved for last minute activities or review.
Wednesday, April 4 th	Leave Qaanaaq.