



Field report from the journey to North-East Greenland 2012



Nanok and The Greenland National Museum measuring Kulhus

In 2012 the year-long collaboration between Nanok and The Greenland National Museum in planning the preservation of old historic huts and stations in North-East Greenland resulted in a united team. Two architectural experts from The Greenland National Museum joined the expedition in order to measure a number of particularly selected huts and stations as well as inspect other building sites. During the summer other decayed huts were restored by another Nanok team. Read more about this and a lot more in this field report.

Introduction

Nordøstgrønlandsk Kompagni NANOK has completed its 22nd field season and once again been able to carry out the planned schedule more or less as anticipated.

This year's program was a bit different from previous years' as one of the Nanok teams, the North team, was joined by two architectural experts from The Greenland National Museum & Archive. The reason for this was to visit and measure a row of particularly selected huts and stations and to inspect a number of other building sites in order to estimate the need and methods for future preservation. Another aim was to create basis for a re-evaluation of the priority lists from 2006, drawn up jointly by The National Museum and Nanok.

Nanok is extremely pleased that the long and rewarding collaboration with The National Museum in Nuuk now also – thanks to support from Aage V. Jensens Fonde – has enabled a realization of joint field work which hopefully will be repeated in the future.

The North team's report contains some preliminary observations and comments on the sites visited and later in the autumn The National Museum will draw up a separate report and recommendations concerning the future preservation effort. Subsequently, Nanok will start planning the work for future years.

This summer the other Nanok team, the South team, restored three decayed huts and repaired extensive damages caused by polar bears during the winter to huts and buildings in the Ella Ø area, especially the station itself.

Polar bears have so far not caused significant damages to the huts, but

unfortunately the winter 2011-12 has shown a drastic increase in this problem, particularly in the Ella Ø area, where a large number of huts have been damaged in various degrees. This is of course aggravating, but then again one of the conditions in the North-East Greenlandic National Park.



AAGE V. JENSENS FONDE

Nanok wishes first and foremost to express our thanks and gratitude to our main sponsor, Aage V. Jensens Fonde, for their obligingness and for their never failing trust and support. Despite the fact that all work in Nanok is voluntary and unpaid it would not be possible to perform this work through so many years without significant important financial support from a faithful sponsor. Also a warm-hearted thanks to the Sirius men and the MarinBasis team, who once again showed us the greatest helpfulness and hospitality.

We also wish to thank the many private individuals, who each and every one continuously support and show positive interest in our work.

Finally a warm thanks to our many competent collaborators, to expeditions and authorities who with their positive contributions have made our work possible.

On behalf of Nanok

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen

This field report is also available in English and Danish at: www.xsirius.dk/nanok.html

Field report from the North team 2012

Tasks

The North team had the following tasks:

- a) to reconnoitre for possible subsequent preservation/renovation of a selection of the following sites:
 1. Sverresborg [232], Dødemandsbugten [408], Borganes [421], Bass Rock Husene [461], Kap Philip Broke [470], Alabamahuset [518], Villaen, Danmarkshavn [628]
 2. Flemming Dal Hytten [101], Foldvik [327], Strindberghuset [358-3], Røbekstua [369], Villaen, Loch Fyne [373], Zackenberg Base [438-3], Fjordbotten [454], Kulhus [511], Bessel Fjord [601-2], Mørkefjord [641]
 3. Kap Biot [116], Polheim [220] Kongeborg [224-1], Festningen [228], Skandalen [339], Gamvik [343], Bakkehaug [435], Koldewey Observatorium [447-1], Hansa Bugt [457-1], Kap Sussi [520], Jonsbu [521].
- b) to inspect and perform maintenance of Nanok's depot in the North area (Sandodden / Daneborg)
- c) to receive goods for Nanok on Daneborg
- d) stocktake the Nanok depot in Sandodden / Daneborg
- e) to make preparations for the NANOK-expedition 2013.

The North team

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen (Sirius '77), Thomas "Hansi" Hansen (Sirius '03), Inge Bisgaard (Greenland National Museum & Archive), Søren Vadstrup (Greenland National Museum & Archive)

Journey out and the following progress

Thursday 25th July 2012 the seven members of this years Nanok teams met beneath "the clock" in Kastrup Airport. The journey went via Keflavik and Reykjavik to Akureyri in Iceland, where we stayed at Hotel Nordurlands. In Akureyri we met up with Frissi and Kibba, who - as always - had taken care of all our wishes down to the smallest detail.



The North team's routes in 2012 – by rubber boat from Daneborg. In all approx. 960 km.

The following morning we continued by Air Iceland Dash-8-200 to Constable Pynt (CNP) and were received by logistician Aka Lynge, who with his usual care and efficiency had arranged our further trip. Shortly after noon a Norlandair Twin Otter (TWO) brought us to Daneborg (DNB), where we were welcomed and invited to supper by Anders Sejersen (Sirius '05) and Andreas Frandsen (Sirius '04), - accessing and retiring Head of Sirius respectively - as well as the other present Sirius men. Soon after arrival the TWO flew the three members of our South team to Ella Ø, while we – the North team – as in former years were quartered in Sandodden. The rest of this and the following day, 27th July, was spent on preparing our first boat trip. In advance we had arranged with MarinBasis to borrow their Osprey RIB (rubber boat). Our total load proved to be a bit heavy for one boat, so we used two RIBs for our second boat trip. Through the period 28th July – 6th August we made three RIB trips, using Sandodden as base. The days 7th – 8th August were spent on various jobs on Daneborg. During our stay here we had much help and support



Left: Preparations on Sandodden. Right: Søren in the livingroom at Sandodden - already drawing sketches.

from the Sirius men, the MarinBasis team and logistician Henrik Spanggaard.

On Thursday 9th August we left Daneborg and the base was moved to Ella Ø. We were warmly received by the Sirius men there and quartered in Ørnereden, Treårsekspeidens old expedition house.

Through 10th – 13th August we made three boat trips with "Brebøljollen" (aluminium dinghy, product "Buster" with a 50 hp Yamaha outboard motor), which the "Aktiv-ekspeditionen 2011" has kindly given into Nanok's care. Together with the South team we spent the 14th – 15th August on stripping and repairing all the damages polar bears have caused to buildings on Ella Ø during winter.

Around noon on Thursday 16th August Norlandair TWO picked us up and brought

us to CNP. Shortly after we went on to Reykjavik, where we had supper with the MarinBasis men, before continuing towards Keflavik and Denmark, concluding our trip. Through the entire journey we encountered no serious accidents and for the larger part enjoyed fine travel-weather.

The first boat trip, Gael Hamkes Bugt, 290 kms, 28th – 30th July

Departed Daneborg on 28th July at 1400. We soon learned that our total gear load was so heavy that we could not plane with the boat. We decided however to continue and size up occurrences and fuel consumption along the way. After some brief stops at Kap Breusing hytten [415], Dahls Skær hytten [412] and Elvsborg [407], we reached our first destination, Dødemandsbugten



Left: A brief stop af Elvsborg; Søren and Inge dressed up in complete sailing equipment. Right: Dødemandsbugten.



Windy weather. Left: Tyroler fjord. Center: "Hansi". Right: Peter.

[408], in fine weather at 1700.

Dødemandsbugten [408]. Despite this house is nearly 70 years, it is still intact and in generally good condition. It is, however, rather worn where snow and ice has had free access, causing rot in some of the wooden parts. Not so bad, though, that it cannot be repaired and with its location and accessibility, the site has great potential as Nationalpark Tourist centre. The woodwork on the house is fantastic and it's recommendable to maintain the woodwork on the facade as well as restore windows and panelled doors and roofing felt on the roof. A separate project plan for reestablishing Dødemandsbugten ought to be drawn up.

Our fuel consumption turned out to be more than expected (approx. 1km/ltr fuel), so in the morning of 29th July, while Søren and Peter finished measuring Dødemandsbugten, Hansi and Inge went back to Daneborg with empty load to fetch further 150 litres of petrol. They returned shortly before noon and we all went on to Eskimonæs [405], where we left unnecessary load and continued to Norske Villa [373].

Norske Villa [373]. This log-house is built from driftwood joined together in the corners. Remains of moss or musk ox wool used for sealing, is still visible between the laths. There used to be a small annex but it has been closed off as a small weather porch. The annex ought to be re-established as this little detail highly indicates the style of Norwegian log-house architecture. This can be done by re-establishing roofing felt, windows, door and chimney and by sealing the cracks with moss.

We returned from Norske Villa late in the afternoon and after a brief stop at Krogness [403] we reached Eskimonæs at 21.30 in bright sunshine.

The following morning, on 30th July, we sailed via Stilles Ø to Røbekstua [369] at Kap James, arriving in a moderate breeze.

Røbekstua [369] is a nice little hut, located right up to the Greenlandic sea, yet protected by the island Jackson Ø. The hut is merely 4,5 square metres but with space for a plank bed and a coal oven. The hut is in generally good condition, but lacking a couple of boarding planks in the western wall. It has been covered with roofing felt and is



Left: Norske Villa on a warm day. Right: Røbekstua at Kap James.

surrounded by an earth-bank. The hut can be rebuilt by re-establishing wall, the small window and ledged door and new roofing felt on roof and walls as well as re-establishment of the earth-bank around the hut.

Having measured Røbekstua we crossed the moderate waters of Gael Hamkes Bugt and returned to Daneborg to launch Nanok's own Humber RIB. Now we have two boats for transport, each with a 40 hp outboard motor. This turned out to be the perfect solution as we full-laden could plane and keep a speed of approx. 30 kms/hour and sail approx. 2 kms/l petrol per RIB. With only a small increase in fuel consumption we gained increased speed, comfort and safety.

Second boat trip, Tyrolerfjord, 150 kms, 31st July

Departed Daneborg on 31st July at 10.30 and arrived at Fjordbotten [454] at 13.00 after a brief stop at Bjørnnesstua [437].

Fjordbotten [454] is situated in the head of Tyrolerfjord and 1 kilometre inland and approx. 6 metres high on a rock projection. From here you have a fabulous view to the fiord and the spectacular glacier tongue in the huge river delta. The hut is approx. 5,5 square metres, has "pulttag" in the part where bed and coal stove are placed. To the north and above a rock projection, the hut as been extended by a sloping wall/roof, equal to the entire length of the façade. Above the rock projection you find a ½ metre wide storage shelf. This hut is a good example of

the trapper huts from of old. The interior hold loads of information of a trapper's daily life in NEG and perhaps it ought to be left it as it is, untouched. Only a few spots in the lower part of the façade are rotten. These parts and other damaged wood are repairable and the roofing felt can be re-established with new in order to protect all woodwork from damp. Also re-establish earth-bank, stone foundation and small window in batten door.

From Fjordbotten we continued to Bakkehaug [435] and finished measuring at around 9 p.m..

Bakkehaug [435]. It's amazing this hut still stands, considering the lack of timber frame construction to this almost 10 square metres large hut. The front wall is in 4 bays and is held together by a mere head and still and each bay is held together by a cross-going ledge. The roof is constructed from beam rafters with head and the entire hut has been covered with roofing felt; black on all walls and red roofing felt on roof. It's obvious to renovate Bakkehaug: renovate the vertical wall in the rotten parts and re-establish roofing felt on wall and roof to ensure protection of all woodwork from snow and damp. The earth-bank surrounding the hut should be renovated and re-established in parts where erosion has occurred. The narrow oblong window should be renovated and the batten door re-established. Chimney and coal stove are to be re-established.

From Bakkehaug we returned to Daneborg, arriving around 11 pm after a brief stop at Zackenberg trapper station [438-2] and the



Left: Bakkehaug. Right: Zackenberg Base.



Left and centre: Measuring Bass Rock. Right: Søren drawing sketches at Kulhus.

old Zackenberg Base [438-3].

Zackenberg Base [438-3]. The main building consists of 4 x 2 bay wooden elements with a one-sided slope and an adjacent depot shed. The buildings have no architectural value and it was decided to leave the site to decay. However, it is advisable to carefully remove a larger store of glass wool situated on the north side of the buildings as glass wool may have health related consequences. The site has a cultural- and environmental value and it is therefore recommended that the decay hereof speaks for itself.

Third boat trip, Sabine Ø and Hochstetterbugten, 470 kms, 2nd – 6th August

The new satellite maps Sirius gave us unfortunately showed that the ice north and south of Shannon was unlikely to break within the next few days so – with regard to load issues - we decided not to go to Alabamahuset [518] and Kap Philip Broke [470], two locations with high priority on our list. Luckily the sailing conditions were fine at Pendulum øerne and the entire Hochstetterbugten.

At 9 am on 2nd August we turned our two boats northwards with first stop: Germaniahavn [447-3]. We were accompanied by m/b "Aage V. Jensen" and the MarinBasis men, who kindly carried a large part of our equipment and fuel. Immediately after arrival we continued to Bass Rock [461] that was measured in fine and sunny weather. At 6 p.m. we returned to Germaniahavn for the night.

Bass Rock [461]. The octagonal huts are constructed on the upper part of a stony bay below the characteristic basalt cape and protected from the open sea by a smaller cliff peninsula. The huts are in generally good condition though one of the roofs has blown off years ago. Parts of the triangular roof elements can be found on location. It is recommended to renovate the most intact hut and leave the other untouched. The inner room, however, must be emptied. Intact wood work and other material can be reused on the other hut. Windows and doors are to be re-established and rot in wooden parts replaced and chimney and coal stove re-established.

We left Germaniahavn on 3rd August at 9.30 am and went to Hansa Bugt [457].

Hansa Bugt [457]. The site from the old German weather station tells its own story and the historic and cultural-historic evidence is secured through clauses regarding stays on this location.

From Hansa Bugt we returned to Germaniahavn, loaded all the remaining gear and sailed across the bay to the nearby Germania Havn [447-1] (the Koldewey-ruin)

Germania Havn [447-1]. Only one of the stone huts that were built by the German Koldewey-expedition, remains today. The ruin is a cultural-historic evidence of this location. Secured through clauses regarding stays on this location.

We then went on through Claveringstrædet to Berlin Stua [459], leaving a couple of fuel barrels for our return trip. We crossed Hochstetterbugten in perfect ice- and weather conditions, making a brief stop at

Sigurdsheim [468]. At Hochstetter [510] we were warmly received by the GREA-expedition, who camped at the natural runway one km north of the station. We spent the night here and on the following morning, 4th August at 9 am, we sailed to Kulhus [511], where we worked in sunshine (see front page).

Kulhus [511]. Lauge Koch's old expedition house is beautifully located on the west side of Hochstetter Forland and the house is identical with Nordfjordhuset on Strindberg Land, yet Kulhus has an annex with sleeping department split up in 5 small cabins. As

Nordfjordhuset is in better condition than Kulhus and furthermore a fine example of the building design, Kulhus will probably be changed to a list B-hut. In the renovation process the facade boarding ought to be retained with "1 på 2" boarding. Also restore the fine barred windows and panelled doors. Rot damaged wood is to be renovated and the roofs covered with roofing felt. The two chimneys and heating ovens should be changed. Reusable tables, chairs, cupboards, shelves and doors to be repaired. Equipment such as zinc tubs, jugs, kettles, boxes and old barrels and so forth to be retained.



Berlin Stua. Yes, it really is that askew!

From Kulhus the trip went on across Peters Bugt to the ruin of Jonsbu [521], which was also measured.

Jonsbu [521]. Today the old Norwegian trapper's station is just a ruin. This location's historic and cultural historic evidence is secured through clauses for stays on site.

We concluded the day by sailing from Jonsbu to Ny Jonsbu [514-2] to stay the night.

The 5th August became a long travel day. At 9 am we started from Ny Jonsbu, setting the course for the fuel depots we left at Berlin Stua. On route through Fligely Fjord we made a brief stop at Arnljotstua [509], Nordlige Fligely hytten [474] and Blåbærhytten [469].

Søren wished to measure Berlin Stua and while doing so, we received a short visit by three Sirius men, who had come from Daneborg by rubber boat to see how we were doing.

Berlin Stua [459]. Although Berlin Stua was not on our list, we surveyed and measured it. The hut seems to be on the brink of collapse, but it is more or less intact. The simple half-timber construction and nailing combined with the dry air keep it all together; at the same time, the terrain closest to the coast has sunk a bit due to sea erosion. The hut is a fine example of how landscape- and weather conditions through half a century preserve as well as erode woodwork. The hut ought to be secured in

its present condition.

We had planned to go to Germaniahavn for the night, but unfortunately, shortly after leaving Berlin Stua, one of the outboard motors stopped. We sailed to the nearby Falkberget [448] in order to check out the problem. The damage was not that easy to fix (at Daneborg later we learned that the piston had got stuck). We had two choices: either to sail by our small reserve motor or be towed by another RIB. We chose the latter as it provided us most speed, approx. 15 kms/hour. Due to this unexpected situation and the extremely fine weather, we decided to go southwards, towards Borganes [421-1] at Kap Borlase Warren, where we arrived in the evening.

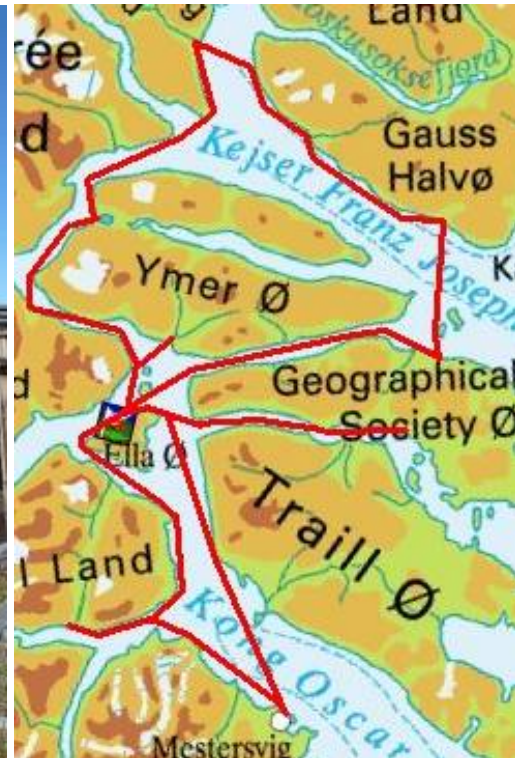
Borganes [421-1]. This small, fine Norwegian hut is built from rocks found on the site; but today it is more or less a ruin. Until recently the hut had a double-pitch roof of wood, wooden house ends and a dug-in floor. 2/3 of the stone walls are covered with turf and rocks on the outer side. The hut has a relatively short history of usage but its distinctive character compared to the other trapper's huts makes it quite unique and it ought to remain as it is.

Around midnight we finished measuring Borganes and as the weather was still great, we decided to go on to Daneborg and arrived here at 2 am on 6th August.

The decision to go on had been the right one. The next couple of days were rather foggy, windy and cloudy so we spent them on



*Left: Inge makes an entry in the diary at Djævlekløften.
Right: Ready to leave Ella Ø in Brebøljollen.*



Left: Sverresborg in Vega Sund.

Right: Sailing routes for the North team 2012 - from Ella Ø with "Brebøljollen". In all approx. 780 km.

stripping Daneborg and a trip to Sandøen, Djævekløfthytten [427] and a visit to Zackenberg research station [438-5]. With this and the three other trips to Daneborg we had sailed in all approx. 960 km.

Arriving Ella Ø

On 9th August at 7.30 am a TWO brought us from Daneborg to Ella Ø via a short stop in Mestersvig [209-1]. On Ella Ø [235] we were warmly welcomed by the Sirius men and met a group of geologists from the CAMP expedition, who camped on Ella Ø. Having safely arrived and been well quartered in Ørnereden, Søren and Inge immediately began measuring the building. In the meantime Hansi and Peter prepared the next trip and made a short test trip in the new Buster dinghy, the so-called "Brebøljolle". It sailed like a dream; about 40 kms/hour and 2 kms/ltr with full cargo.

Ørnereden [235]. Lauge Koch's old main station on Ella Ø stands today almost as it did when built and with a fantastic view over Kong Oscar Fjord. The house is very well preserved and it is recommended to carry out a thorough restoration as well as decide

on the right of use for guests and expeditions in order to secure the culture history and preservation.

Fourth boat trip, Vega Sund, 150 kms, 10th August

We left Ella Ø at 9.15 am and two hours later we reached Sverresborg [232] in Vega Sund.

Sverresborg [232]. It's apparent that Sverresborg is built according to Norwegian tradition for fishing houses. There has been no heating in living room or attic. All heating has come from the kitchen. The hut has a rather neat "range hood" in wood with exit in the eastern house end. The living room was a genuinely neat best parlour with pink coloured walls and fine décor along the ceiling with white painted frames showing a red rose with leaves on each side. The house has been red and later covered with roofing felt. The primary view from the living room is towards west, where the largest barred window is placed. It is recommended that Sverresborg is restored which means: all wood is repaired, rot damages fixed and lacking boards re-established. Windows and

doors are to be restored and new roofing felt welded on the roofs. Chimney, coal stove and ventilation re-established. Colour and décor of the interior should be repainted in identical colours and pattern. Bookshelves, cupboards, beds and other inventory equipment remain as far as possible.

Yet another beautiful and sunny day and on our way back we paid a short visit to Maristua [236].

Fifth boat trip, Strindberg, 340 kms, 11th-12th August

We left Ella Ø at around 9 am and arrived at Strindberg only six hours later. On the way we even made brief stops at Bjørnheimen [310] to install a new stove pipe; at Varghytten [324] in Blomsterbugten, where we had lunch and at Kap Ovibos hytten [340], beautifully restored by the South team. Both Nordfjordhuset [358-2] and Strindberghuset [358-3] were measured.

Strindberghuset [358-3] - approx. 20 square metres – is in generally good condition. There used to be a small annex on the northwest side. Apart from the porch, the house today holds a large kitchen, a living room and a smaller room, probably sleeping annex. This house has an interesting history, as it was here - during the summer of 1938 - attempted to produce canned salmon, directly on site. Some places show rot in the wood in the lower part of front panelling. It is recommended to re-establish the roofing felt on front and roof and to secure that all woodwork is protected against snow and damp. It is also recommended to re-establish an earth-bank around the house. Windows and doors to be repaired and white painted

window- and door borders re-established as the original and with white borders on roof and façade. The indoor equipment should be maintained as it is today.

Nordfjordhuset [358-2] is in good condition. There ought to be established a fascine half filled with coast stones along the entire house in a depth of 20-25 cm in order to protect the lower part of the facade. The house should be repainted in its original “Swedish-red” colour and the interior should be maintained in its present shape and colour.

At Strindberg we met the Nanok South team. We did some fishing and caught six tasty trouts.

At around 9 the following morning, 12th August, we left Strindberg and set course for the south coast of Gauss Halvø. The plan was to measure Foldvik [327] and visit Myggbukta [335]. Unfortunately we encountered rough sea and headwind, so after some short visits at Dalheim [336] and Smedal [320] - recently renovated by the South team - we decided to head for home. We made a brief call and had lunch at Laplace [301] and reached Ella Ø at around 17 pm.

Sixth boat trip, Kong Oscar Fjord, 290 kms, 13th – 14th August

Left Ella Ø shortly before 9 am and enjoyed a fine trip to Kongeborg [224-1]. We measured it and repaired a door and shutter in Kongeborgen [224-2].

At first glance **Kongeborg [224-1]** looks like a fox cage. The hut consists of drift wood poles and shores and a roof made from



Hand-catching, preparing and totally enjoying trout at Strindberg.



Measuring the distinctive Kongeborg hut in front of the magnificent Kongeborg mountain. While Inge is on top with her GPS-equipment, Søren is busy doing sketches.

a hull. It has probably been covered with either musk ox skin or canvas and an earth – bank along the entire hut. The characteristic hut should be maintained as it is.

From Kongeborg we made a flying visit to Nyhavn [209-2], where we had lunch before continuing to Polheim [220] via a brief stop at Kap Peterséns [218]. Close to Kap Peterséns we met three Norwegian kayakers, who were on their way to Mestersvig.

Construction-wise **Polheim [220]** looks a bit like Kongeborg hut with wire netting for walls and originally with a sawn off boat as roof. The hut ought to be maintained as it stands today.

Our return to Ella Ø passed off in sunny weather and calm sea. The route through Narhvalsund and along the foot of Bastionen was one of the highlights this summer. We reached Ella Ø at around 9 pm.

The following day, 14th August, we visited Maria Ø [239-2] and Eli Knudsens hut [239-1] on Maria Ø, closing off with a brief visit in Namdalshytten [305].

On these three Ella Ø trips we had sailed approx. 780 km in the Brebøl-dinghy.

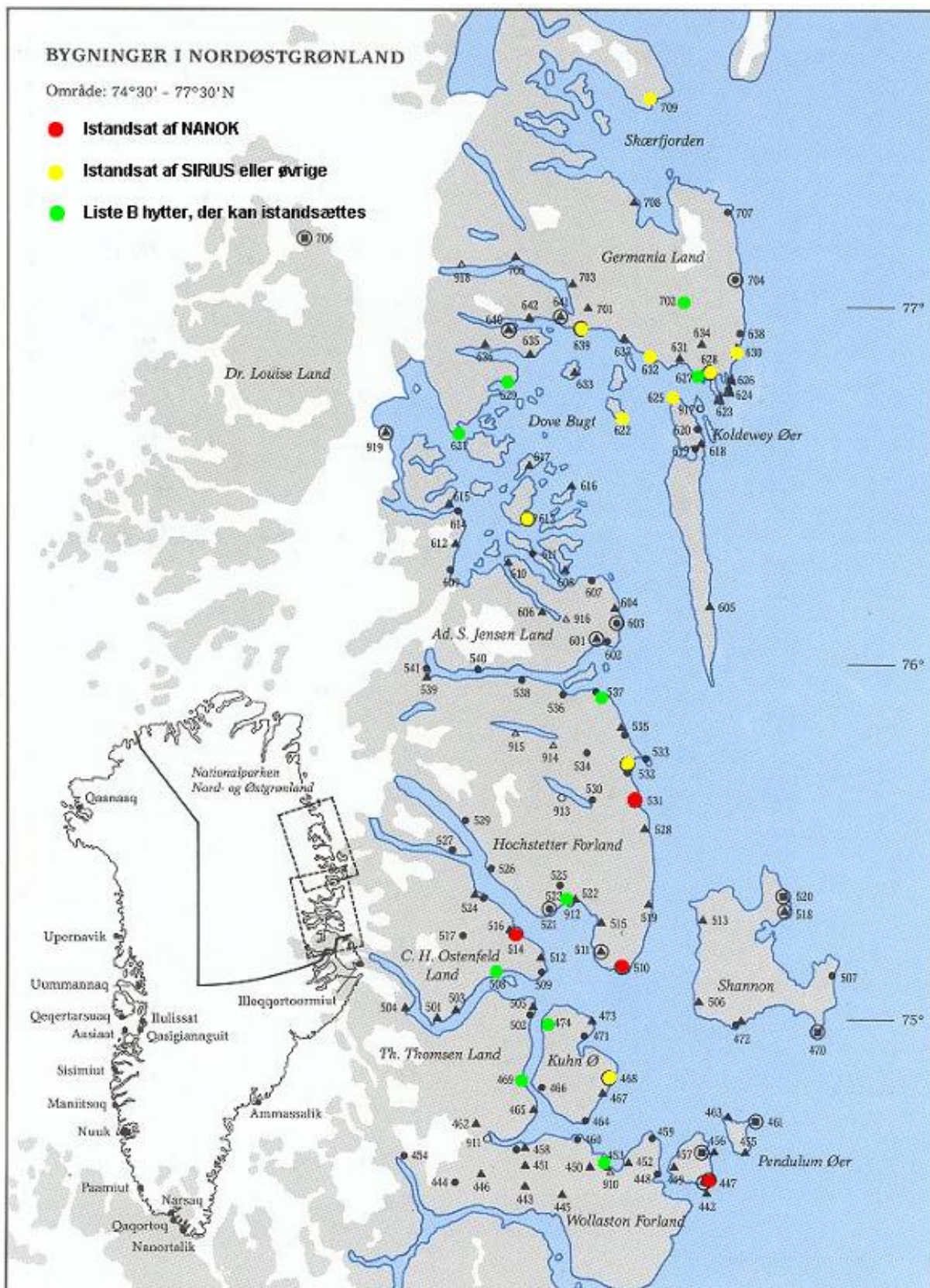
Closure

The remaining days on Ella Ø were spent on stripping, various jobs and of course a cheerful barbecue with the Sirius men, before we - around noon on 16th August - were picked up by the TWO

Prior to the journey we had had no hopes to be able to visit all list-A sites; only as many as possible, depending on the circumstances. Unfortunately ice conditions hindered our trip to Alabamahuset; but we managed to visit 16 of the 28 list-A sites as well as a number of other list-B, -C and -D sites. All in all we gained much experience, knowledge and many impressions, which will influence the re-evaluation of the priority lists and the planning of future work. Furthermore we enjoyed three weeks of countless and fantastic experiences, good fellowship and high spirits.

The North team thanks all those, who have made this possible.

Inge – Søren - Thomas - Peter

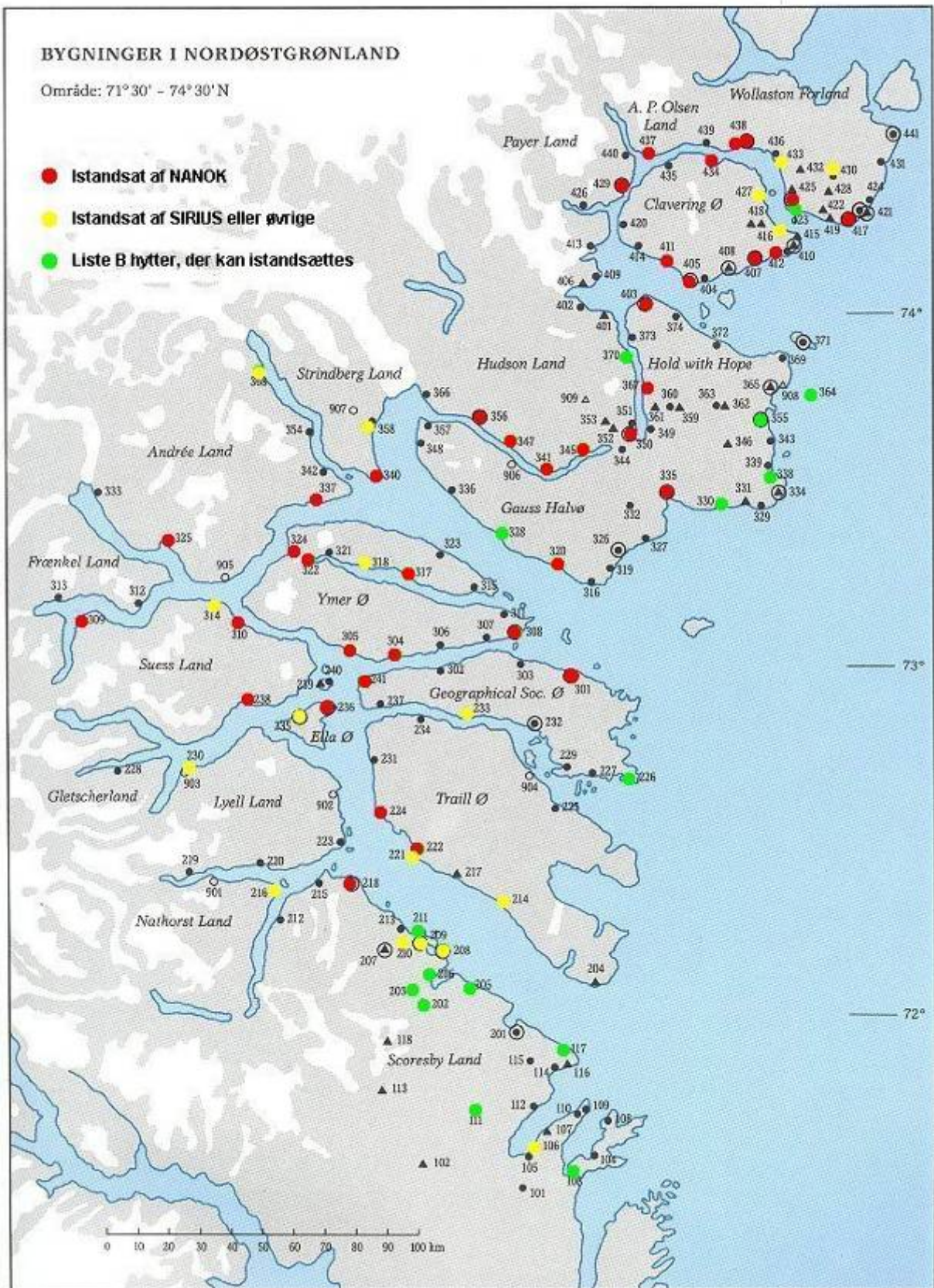


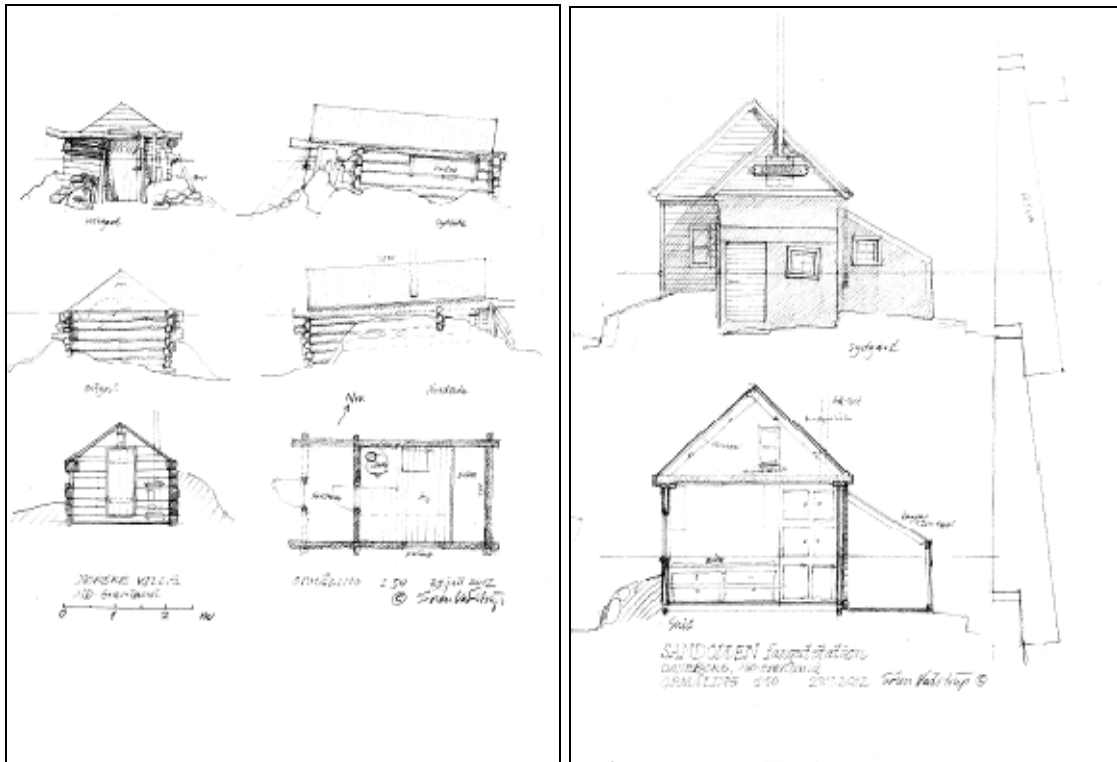
The maps on this and opposite pages show the maintenance status for the old huts, houses and stations in North-East Greenland. The sites marked red or yellow can be expected to be in reasonably usable condition. Other sites, however, can not be expected to be usable. Sites marked green are other huts with the classification B, which Nanok may renovate and maintain in the coming years

BYGNINGER I NORDØSTGRØNLAND

Område: 71° 30' - 74° 30' N

- Istandsæt af NANOK
- Istandsæt af SIRIUS eller øvrige
- Liste B hytter, der kan istandsættes





Left: Norske Villa. Right: Sandodden
 Examples of measurements done by Søren Vadstrup



Ørnereden, Ella Ø.
 Watercolour painting by Søren Vadstrup. Søren not only performed detailed measuring but he also painted many of the sites visited in watercolour.

Field report for the South team 2012

Tasks

The South team had the following tasks:

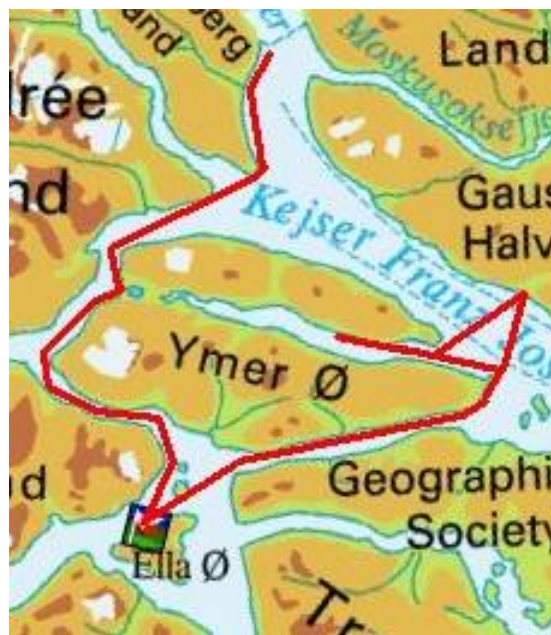
- a) to renovate 3-5 huts in the South area:
eg: Villa [117], Jostein [205], Hamna [208-2], Brøggers hytte [317], Smedal [320], Von Krogh [328], Kap Ovibos hytten [340]
- b) to inspect and maintain M/B "Agsut"
- c) to receive goods for Nanok on Ella Ø / Mestersvig / Nyhavn
- d) to inspect, count and maintain Nanok depot at Ella Ø / Mestersvig / Nyhavn
- e) to prepare for NANOK-expedition 2013.

Participants

Anders Bjerregaard (Sirius '00), Birger Bjerregaard (Sirius '97) and Lars Kaas Nielsen.

Journey and the following progress

On Wednesday the 25th July two Nanok summer teams met at CPH. A fine mixture of "old crowd" Nanok'ers and novices. All excited in view of the challenges and experiences they were to encounter during the summer. The flight went well, first to Keflavik and then to Akureyri, where we enjoyed a meal together with some familiar faces from DMU, whom we met on Iceland, also on their way to NEG. The following day the entire group flew to Constable Pynt, and shortly thereafter to Daneborg, the base for Nanok's North team. To the South team



The 2012 South team's sailing routes with "Agsut". A total of approx. 660 kms.

this was a welcome opportunity to revisit the station with all its improvements. The South team stayed at Daneborg about 5 hours before going to Ella Ø. Sirius invited us all to supper in Sirihus, and we talked about our plans for the summer and the winter's sledge trips. On Ella Ø the South team faced some extra work as the station once more had been visited by bears during the winter. Walking through the terrain, we observed more signs of intrusions. During the following three weeks we found several huts that had been visited by uninvited and violent guests. This year the South team concentrated on the huts Brøggers [317], Smedal [320] and Ovibos [340]. Brøggers and Smedal in particular are



Preparations on Ella Ø. Launching and loading Agsut.



Inspecting and repairing damages caused by polar bear. Right: Birger Bjerregaard.

threatened by ravages of time and elements. After repairing the huts we thoroughly tidied up and repaired the damages on especially Ella Ø.

Preparations on Ella Ø

Ørnereden was not the only hut to “have gotten it in the neck”. Our boat Agsut and even the aluminium dinghy from Brebøl were scarred from a close encounter with a nosy, powerful and sharp-clawed bloke. Some of Agsut’s tarpaulin was ripped. This was also the case with the alu dinghy, in which the bear furthermore had assaulted all the seats. At Ørnereden the bear had broken 24 windows. Indoors he had tasted all the goods and – contrary to last year’s favourite: two-stroke fuel – his preference this year seemed to have been an even more toilsome choise: syrup.

While Birger was fixing the windows in Ørnereden, Lars and Anders began preparing Agsut. The rubber boat took in quite a lot of water; we found and sealed the hole. The

launching of Agsut went as planned and on 28th August we took our first test-trip, during which we observed that Agsut took in water. None of us had sailed with Agsut before, but we knew that, being an elderly lady, she might take in water when at sea; the big question was: how much? We bailed out approx. every 15 minutes but agreed that *this* was too much. Lars spotted a couple of leaks by the stern pipe. He managed to seal them with a small plate and brass nails from the inside and so we started packing for the first trip with destination: Brøggers hytte in Duséns Fjord.

Meanwhile, Anders was busy in Tolvmandsbarakken, where most of both Sirius’ and Nanok’s provisions had been exposed to bear-terrorism. The intruder had actually destroyed Sirius standard depots to an amount of around 65.000 Dkr! But “one man’s loss is another man’s gain” and Nanok got free hands to dive into the numerous sacks of provisions that Sirius had discarded.



Brøggers hytte in Duséns Fjord before and after renovation.



Relocating Smedal hytten.

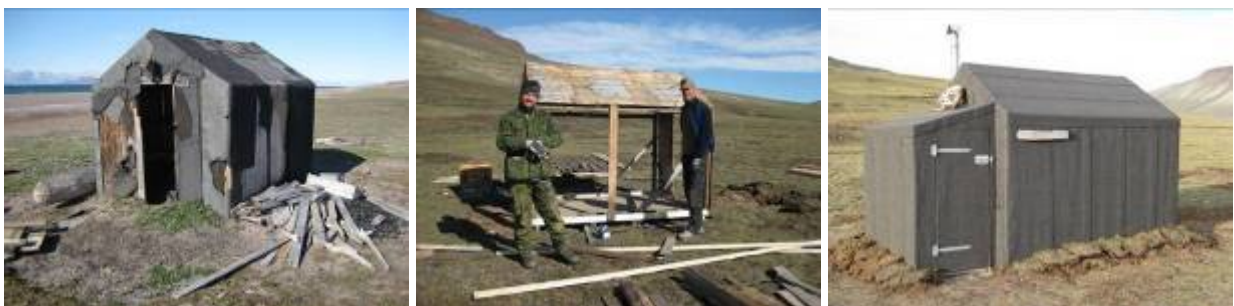
First trip – Brøggers [317] and Smedal [320] huts

We finally set off with full load on 30th August. We sailed into Sofia Sund in calm sea and made a brief stop at Svedenborg [241]. This site had also been visited by bear and we spent a couple of hours re-mantling the door, put in a new window and cleaning up after a naughty teenage bear. Further on through Sofia Sund, stopped briefly at Arentz hytten [304] that fortunately had not been on the bear's calling list and then – met a bear. He was playing further inland, only a few hundred metres from Arentz hytten. We managed to take some good photos before he jogged along further away into the hinterland.

We arrived at Brøggers hytte the next morning and immediately began working. We started out by removing all old felt and dismantling the floor to simply make a new

foundation for it. Some of the woodwork was rather worn and therefore changed. The hut was just big enough for the three of us to sleep next to each other. The following day we installed a new Nanok stove. We began putting felt on the hut and supplied it with two new buffers. The work on Brøggers hytte was concluded on 2nd August. The same evening we sailed towards Smedal – the weather was fantastic and the sea totally calm. We inspected the hut at 02.30 am. The driftwood clearly showed that some times the water reaches far beyond the hut, leaving the hut in water for a longer period which is not healthy.

We slept on the boat and were awakened as a heavy south-east wind set in. We went ashore but had to give up landing the material as the surf was far too heavy. Instead we began preparations for the relocation of the hut, which was to be about 100 metres further inland. The hut itself was



Smedal hytten on Gauss Halvø before, during and after.

loosened from the floor and we tried to lift it – but forget it! So we dismantled both walls and were now able to lift the hut and place it on a new solid and even foundation in a proper distance to the highest water level. House ends and roof were mounted first, then the walls. We shored up during the entire process. Things went swiftly now; new under-felt and finally over-felt. Lars created a fine name plate from a piece of drift wood. Through the entire period at Smedal we had visits from both musk ox and hares.

Afterwards we set course for Ella Ø. On crossing Kejser Franz Josheps Fjord we had a heavy eastern wind, so in order to avoid too much bumping during the two-hour trip we had to cross all the way. When reaching Kap Humboldt, however, we found shelter and as the current was “going our way” through Sofia Sund, we sailed like crazy: 14 kms/hour in stead of the approx. 10 kms/hour we did on the way out! A noticeable difference! Returned to Ella Ø in the morning of 6th August.

During the next couple of days we repaired the bear damages, sorted out a lot of discarded Sirius provisions and got ready for the next trip. But we also got time for a “mik” with the Sirius men and 3 Norwegians who kayaked from Strindberg to Mestersvig.

Second trip – Kap Ovibos hytten [340]

On 8th August we set off from Ella Ø again. After 5 hours we landed at Bjørnheimen [310], that also had been visited by bear. Having cleaned up here we went on to Varghytten [324] in Blomsterbugten, which fortunately was unharmed. Spent a couple of hours fixing a few damages on the felt and

stove. Just before midnight we took a stroll to Noa SØ where we had a front-row view to a battle between two musk oxen which took place on a small plateau above us. The sound of skulls banging against each other echoed in the mountains.

Reached Kap Ovibos, which sloped markedly northwards so we decided to provide it with a new and even plateau. Having removed all felt and the porch, we pushed the hut to the new plateau right next to this one. Furthermore we sloped the hut down - about 50 cms - in the northern front. No wonder, it felt like you were gliding off the seat. Porch back in place. The woodwork on Ovibos was in good condition so there was no need to replace much of it. New felt and stove and Lars produced yet another fine name plate.

Having spent a couple of days on Kap Ovibos we sailed towards Strindberg, but first we turned to Waltershausen Gletsjer in the head of Nordfjord. What an activity! We were surrounded by close to 20 seals and above us the air was filled with terns. We took some pictures and sailed on to Strindberg, where the North team had just landed. We caught some fish and all had supper in Strindberg hytten. The next morning the North team sailed on along the coast, while we went up to the lake to try our fishing luck there. Enjoyed some fabulous hours on Strindberg and more excellently cooked fish and later in the evening we set course for Ella Ø. The water was calm but when we got a bit south of Blomsterbugten it started blowing and continued to do so until Ella Ø. A good swing with an almost empty boat!



Anders Bjerregaard and Lars Kaas Nielsen

Closure

Landed at Ella Ø in the morning on 13th August and immediately began the preparations to haul Agsut ashore. We positioned the cradle in low tide to be ready. The North and South teams were now gathered on Ella Ø - which rarely happens - and Ørnereden was buzzing with life, activity and high spirits. Agsut was easily hauled ashore at high tide. The outboard engines were preserved and all fitting dismantled Agsut. Everything was washed and prepared for winter. Birger produced and mounted new shutters to Ørnereden. The weather on 15th August was just as excellent as it had been through practically the entire period. Lars and Birger climbed Bastionen, while Anders started counting up - finishing in the afternoon. In the evening it was time for a gathering with the Sirius men. On 16th August around noon, the TWO landed on Ella Ø and set off soon after, carrying both Nanok teams. A fantastic summer on the coast was hereby at an end. A huge thanks to Sirius for their great assistance and hospitality; and a huge thanks to the board of Nanok for their amazing work.

Lars – Birger - Anders



The NANOK team 2012 in front of Ørnereden on Ella Ø. From left: Lars Kaas Nielsen, Thomas Hansen, Søren Vadstrup, Birger Bjerregaard, Inge Bisgaard, Anders Bjerregaard and Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen.

On NANOK

Nordøstgrønlandsk Kompagni NANOK (NANOK) is a private, non-profit organisation founded in 1992 upon the former *Østgrønlandsk Fangstkompagni NANOK A/S*, founded in 1929.

The aim of NANOK is a.o. to contribute to spreading knowledge of North-East Greenland and its cultural history and to contribute in securing the cultural monuments and buildings in the area.

NANOK consists of a board of seven persons. These are: Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen (dir.), Jens Erik Schultz, Tommy Pedersen, Palle V. Norit, Søren Rysgaard, Fritz Ploug Nielsen and Jesper Mølbak Stentoft. Accountant is Aka Lynge. Besides the board a number of individual persons – "NANOK'ers" – participate actively in NANOK projects. All work in NANOK is voluntary and unpaid.

Each summer NANOK sends an expedition of typically 6-10 persons divided on 2 or 3 teams to work in North-East Greenland for 3 to 5 weeks. Result of this work is documented and published in a field report. The expedition participants are chosen by the board. In the years 1991-2012 a total of 133 NANOK'ers – or more than 60 private individuals – has been sent out to North- East Greenland.

To perform its tasks, NANOK controls a considerable amount of expedition equipment; however NANOK possesses no property in Greenland.

NANOK projects are financed by the Aage V. Jensens Fonde. The organisation is furthermore supported by a number of private contributors. Among NANOK's many, supportive partners are Royal Arctic Line (RAL), Norlandair, Air Greenland, Danish Centre for Environment and Energy (DCE), Greenland Self Government, The Greenland National Museum & Archive (NKA), Greenland Institute of Natural Resources/ Greenland Climate Research Centre, Greenland Command (GLK), Polar Logistics Group (POLOG), The Sirius Sledgepatrol, Defence Guard Mestersvig and Logistic Centre Greenland (LCG).

Since 1991 NANOK has repaired and maintained approx. 45 cultural historic buildings and has for this effort gained considerable recognition from a.o. The Greenland Self Government and The Greenland National Museum & Archive.

Encouraged by The Greenland Self Government NANOK in the years 2003-2007 has worked out a new, unique structural survey of all cultural historical cabins and stations in North-East Greenland. The records are available free of charge for The Greenland National Museum & Archive in Nuuk. Extensive material from these surveys, incl. photos and GPS positions, is published in the book *"North-East Greenland 1908-60. The Trapper Era"* (Mikkelsen 2008)



List of North-East Greenlandic stations and huts restored by Nanok 1991 - 2012:

Nr.	Navn	Istandsæt år	Nr.	Navn	Istandsæt år
201	Antarctichavn	2001 (knust 2002)	345	Bråstad	2011
218	Kap Peterséns	1998	347	Petrahytten	2011
224-2	Kongeborgen	2001	350	Loch Fyne	1993, 2007
222	Holm Bugt hytten	2001	356	Hoelsbu	1999, 2000, 2007
236	Maristua	2008	367-2	Mellemhuset	2010
238	Mineralbukta	2010	403	Krogness	2010
241	Svedenborg	2011	405	Eskimonæs	1998
301	Laplace	2009	407	Elvsborg	2007-2008
304	Arentz hytten	2008	411-2	Norma hytta	2010
305	Namdalshytten	2010	412	Dahl Skær hytten	2010
308	Kap Humboldt	1997	417	Kap Herschell	2002
308	Bjørnheimen	2008	425	Sandodden/Karina	1994-2000, 2007, 2009
309	Rendalshytten	2010	429	Moskusheimen	1994
317	Brøggers hytte	2012	434	Leirvågen	2008
320	Smedal	2012	438-2	Zackenbergt	1991, 1992
322	Noa Sø hytten	2008	438-4	Fiskerhytten	2008
324	Varghytten	2002, 2007	437	Bjørnesstua	2008
325	Renbugt hytten	2010	447	Germaniahavn	1999
335	Myggbukta	1999, 2002, 2011	510	Hochstetter	1996, 1998
337	Ragnhilds-hytten	2008	514	Ny Jonsbu	1995
340	Kap Ovibos hytten	2000, 2007, 2012	531	Ottostrand	2009
341	Halle	2011	---	Kap Moltke /Brønlundhus	2001

Kilde vedr. hyttenumre og -navne: Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen: North-East Greenland 1908-60 The Trapper Era. The Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), University of Cambridge (2008).

