

Quark Expeditions
presents
CLASSIC ANTARCTICA
INCLUDING KAYAKING AND CAMPING OPTIONS
The Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands
Ushuaia, Argentina to Ushuaia, Argentina
aboard the *Professor Multanovskiy*
February 1 – 11, 2006



**QUARK
EXPEDITIONS**

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SENIOR OFFICERS

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Captain | Sergey Nesterov |
| Chief mate | Evgeny Grashenkov |
| Second Officer | Andrey Smirnov |
| Radio Officer | Petr Besh |
| Chief Engineer | Alexandr Gornov |
| Chief Electrical Engineer | Alexey Ryslyayev |

HOTEL & CATERING STAFF

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Hotel Manager | Petula Clarke |
| Head Chef | Kjelle Arvidsson |
| Chef | Daniel Spetz |
| Bar Supervisor | Chris Clarke |
| Stewardess | Tatiana Bolshakova |
| Stewardess | Ekaterina Ushkoya |
| Stewardess | Alla Kuznetsova |
| Stewardess | Yulia Makarova |
| Stewardess | Valentina Molchanova |

EXPEDITION STAFF

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Expedition Leader | Jaclyn McPhadden |
| Lecturer- Marine Biology | Kirsten le Mar |
| Lecturer- Ornithology | Andrew Miller |
| Camp Master / Naturalist | Brandon Harvey |
| Kayak Master / Naturalist | Hayley Shephard |
| Ship Doctor | Rick Kulkarni |

Log Writer- Kirsten le Mar
Log Photographer- Andrew Miller

Publisher: Theme Publishing

Day 1 Wednesday, February 1, 2006

USHUAIA, TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ARGENTINA

Latitude/Longitude: 54°48.6'S, 68°17.9'W

“Of the gladdest moments in human life, methinks, is the departure upon a distant journey to unknown lands; Shaking off with one mighty effort the ether of habit, the leaden weight of routine, the cloak of many cares and the slavery of home. Man feels once more happy...fresh dawns the morn of life.”



Sir Richard Burton 1856

Ushuaia! Who could forget their first glimpse of this spectacular city nestled at the foot of snow clad slopes along the north shore of the Beagle Channel, where the southernmost extent of the Andes Mountains sweeps out to the east through the islands of Tierra del Fuego and beyond. Whatever our first impressions on landing, they probably included relief after so many hours of flying to reach Fin del Mundo, and the chance to stretch our legs at last!

With a rapidly growing population of 50,000, Ushuaia is a flourishing duty free port favored

by many cruise lines whose ships ply the waters of the Drake Passage en route to Antarctica. The fishing industry is famous for its crab, and the main street is lined with Internet cafes, craft shops, electronic stores, native artisans selling their crafts and families meeting friends at all hours of the day and night, presenting a blend of the new and the old economies. In summer, the tiny gardens surrounding the brightly painted houses that march up the hill in untidy rows are filled with poppies and lupins, though the deep gutters are reminders of the long winters, the deep snowfalls and fast thaws that accompany them.

Depending on our time of arrival, many of us took the opportunity for a tour of the National Park or one or more of the three interesting museums. We sampled the local food and beverages, and enjoyed the last chance for a bit of shopping before our ten days onboard ship.

By 1600 we found our way down to the busy dock where we were subjected to a somewhat casual security inspection before being allowed to board our floating home for the next ten days, the *Professor Multanovskiy*. The *Multanovskiy* was commissioned as a Russian research vessel in 1982 and built in Finland, along with three sister ships, all of which are also in the polar expedition fleet. Our ship was named after a distinguished Russian scientist and educator from St. Petersburg, Boris Multanovskiy (1876-1946), who specialized in meteorology and whose spirit, we hope, will provide us with good weather throughout our trip. Tea, coffee and snacks awaited our arrival, refreshing us before the exciting task of finding space to stow our gear away in our neat little cabins, exploring the ship from bow to stern and bridge to sauna, and starting the pleasant process of meeting our fellow expeditioners.

At around 17:00 hrs we were cleared by the port authority to leave Ushuaia. At this time the



lines were brought aboard and we slipped effortlessly from our berth into the calm waters of the Beagle Channel. This channel is named after HMS *Beagle*, the ship captained by Robert Fitzroy that carried Charles Darwin on his circumnavigation of the world, including through the Beagle Channel, during which he formulated his thoughts and theories for *The Origin of Species by Natural Selection*.

As we cruised down the Beagle Channel we got our first look at some wildlife. We saw a



number of new species including: Black-browed Albatross, South American Terns, Kelp Gulls, Imperial Shags, White-chinned Petrels and the odd Magellanic Penguin in the water.

Shortly after this we were summoned to the Bar for a mandatory briefing from our Expedition Leader, Jaclyn McPhadden, on ship safety. We were advised on the procedures to follow in the case of emergency. Following this we enacted a lifeboat drill. During the drill, the officer on watch sounded the “abandon ship signal” and we donned our Mae West life jackets and made our way to the muster station. We were invited to climb inside the lifeboats and learned how the equipment and contents would keep us safe in the case of a real emergency.

At 18:30 we gathered back at the bar for an informal introduction to the hotel and catering staff. Jaclyn introduced herself along with the lecturers: Andy Miller, Ornithology; Kirsten le Mar, Marine Biology; Brandon Harvey, Glaciology and Hayley Shephard our Sea-Kayak Master. We also met our Hotel Manager Tula Clarke; Barman Chris Clarke, Head Chef Kjelle Arvidsson, and Chef Daniel Spetz. Tula and Jaclyn mentioned a few of the facets of shipboard life then Dr. Rick Kulkarni, our Ship’s Physician spent some time going through the safety and medical aspects of the ship and the various remedies for seasickness that were

available. Dinner was called and much enjoyed by everyone now sporting their nametag in response to a request from the expedition staff.

After our first excellent dinner onboard, we dropped our pilot in a boat near the end of the channel, where a pod of Peale's Dolphins were waiting to ride the bow waves of the pilot boat and the *Multanovskiy*. With the last shackles to land released, we headed out into light swells on the infamous Drake Passage to start our adventure, many of us heeding Dr Rick's advice to start medication early to combat seasickness.

Wildlife Species sighted today:

Magellanic Penguin*
Black-browed Albatross*
White-chinned Petrel*
Imperial Shag*
Rock Shag*
Kelp Gull*
Dolphin Gull*
Chilean Skua*
South American Tern*
Peale's dolphin*

(* Indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition):

Day 2 Thursday, February 2, 2006

DRAKE PASSAGE – At Sea

Location: 56° 46' S, 63° 47' W
Weather / Sea state: moderate, waves 5 m
Air Temperature: 8°C / 46°F
Water Temperature: 8°C / 46°F
Wind Speed and Direction: 19 m/sec, SW
Pressure: 744mb
Nautical miles traveled since noon: 330 nm

*“The land was gone, all but a little streak, away off on the edge of the water;
And down under us was just ocean, ocean, ocean – millions of miles of it,
Heaving and pitching and squirming, and white sprays blowing from the wave-tops
And only a few ships in sight...and before long there warn't no ships at all,
And we had the sky and the ocean to ourselves,
And the roomiest place I ever did see and the lonesomest.”*
From *Tom Sawyer Abroad*, Mark Twain

The Drake Passage is named after Sir Francis Drake, the swashbuckling English captain of the *Golden Hind*. In his circumnavigation of the world in 1577-80, after threading his way

through the Strait of Magellan to the Pacific Ocean, his tiny ship was blown back east of Cape Horn and south to 57°S in a terrific storm, into what is now known in his honor as the Drake Passage. In so doing, he proved that there was a large body of water between the southern tip of South America and the then still-mysterious unknown southern continent, *Terra Incognita Australis*.

Jaclyn woke us up at 07:30 in anticipation of an 08:00 breakfast. At this time hourglass dolphins were also seen from the Bridge. The Drake had been somewhat lumpy overnight however, so most people slept little during the night and there was a low turn out to breakfast. The day's activities started off with a lecture from Andy about the *Tubenose* flying birds of the Southern Ocean. Here he talked about the entire tubenose family of seabirds that includes albatross, fulmars, prions, petrels and storm petrels. Andy showed us how to identify these birds in flight. We also heard about the tragic slaughter of albatross and petrels that are currently caught as by-catch on the deadly long lines set by fishermen for catching Patagonian toothfish and tuna.



Due to the rough seas, various activities were cancelled. This included the kayaker's first meeting and the afternoon's Wildlife Watch. Instead the afternoon was spent watching the BBC documentary *Life in the Freezer*. This excellent documentary whetted our appetites for wildlife in the Southern Ocean. At 16:00 hrs we followed our noses up to the Dining Room where freshly baked chocolate chip cookies were waiting for us. After this we headed back down to the Lecture Hall for Kirsten's talk *Antarctic Whales – Leviathans of the Deep*. Here we first heard the term "charismatic mega-fauna", which would be used extensively during the rest of the voyage. We also learned the difference between baleen and toothed whales and

how to identify the various species that it is possible to see on our trip.

At 19:00 hrs we met in the Bar for a Re-cap and Briefing. Here Jaclyn informed us of our progress – we expected to cross the Antarctic Convergence at 22:00 hrs later tonight. Brandon explained how the Antarctic Convergence works; Andy summarized the bird species seen to date and used some string to show us the wing spans of the different species; and Kirsten talked about why birds follow ships and satellite tracking of wildlife at sea. All in



all it had been a good day at sea but we hoped tomorrow would bring a calmer ocean. After dinner, a full house watched the first segment of the four-part movie, *Shackleton*.

Wildlife Species sighted today:

Black-browed Albatross

Wandering Albatross*

Royal Albatross*

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross*

Northern Giant Petrel*

Cape Petrel*

White-chinned Petrel*

Blue petrel*

Wilson's Storm-petrel*

Black-bellied Storm-petrel*

prion*

Hourglass dolphin*

(* Indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition)

Day 3 Friday, February 3, 2006

DRAKE PASSAGE – At Sea

Location: 63° 23' S, 54° 26' W
Weather / Sea state: moderate, waves 1 m
Air Temperature: 4°C / 39°F
Water Temperature: 3°C / 37°F
Wind Speed and Direction: 2 m/sec, SE
Pressure: 755mb
Nautical miles traveled since noon: 250 nm

“A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policies and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip; a trip takes us.” -John Steinbeck

We awoke to calmer seas today; everyone was relieved and there were several new faces at breakfast. At 09:15 hrs Andy gave a lecture on *Penguins*. Here we learned how to identify the different species and the phenomenal life history of the Emperor Penguin.

At 11:00 we all gathered for the mandatory IAATO conservation and Zodiac safety briefing from Jaclyn. The briefing covered the safety procedures for using our inflatable craft, the



Zodiacs, as well as the rules governing our conduct while on shore.

Quark is a member of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) and as such is bound by their regulations. IAATO is a self-governing association that is dedicated to keeping tourism in Antarctica as low-impact as possible. IAATO regulations cover everything from boot washing (to prevent cross-transfer of microbes), to numbers of visitors on shore (to minimize our impact on shore), the distances that people should keep away from wildlife (to prevent disturbance) and human behavior around Antarctic wildlife. Observing



these regulations enables ongoing enjoyment of visits to the Antarctic Peninsula by all current and future visitors. People were issued their expedition boots, and soon after, a delicious lunch was served in the dining room.

After lunch, the kayakers met with Hayley and Brandon in the Bar to discuss all aspects of their operation as well as the important safety rules and procedures for their forthcoming adventures amidst the ice and, we hope, calm waters.

The rest of the afternoon was spent watching Wandering Albatross fly around the ship. We finally had blue sky and sunshine and were determined to enjoy it!

By 15:15 hrs Brandon gave his presentation on ice entitled *Ice is Nice*. He talked about the difference between freshwater and saltwater ice, and the potential effects of global warming on sea levels around the world. Following the lecture we returned to the Bridge to search the horizon for some of the elusive whales we hoped to see. Before too long we had a pod of humpback whales off the bow of the ship. The Captain turned the ship so we were able to get a good look at the animals. Not too long after leaving the humpbacks we came across four



other whales, which were significantly larger animals. Kirsten and Hayley debated for some time as to whether they were fin or sei whales, but finally deduced they were fin whales when a patch of white was seen on one animal's face; (a characteristic of fins).

At 18:30 hrs we gathered in the Bar for a Re-cap and Briefing. Jaclyn talked about tomorrow's landings planned for Devil Island and Snow Hill Island. Kirsten then talked about the whales we had seen today. Finally Jaclyn gave us a quick history lecture about the Nordenskjöld Expedition in 1901 and the miraculous reunion at Cape Well Met, of various groups of expedition members after being separated for a winter in Antarctica. After dinner most of us retired for an early night in anticipation of a big day tomorrow, while others watched Part II of the *Shackleton* miniseries.

Wildlife Species sighted today: black-browed albatross

Wandering albatross

Gray-headed albatross*

Northern giant petrel

Southern giant petrel*

Cape petrel

White-chinned petrel

Prion

Blue petrel

Wilson's Storm-petrel

Black-bellied Storm-petrel

Brown Skua

Chinstrap Penguin*

Humpback whale*

Fin whale*

Antarctic fur seal*

(* Indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition):

Day 4 Saturday, February 4, 2006

ANTARCTIC SOUND, DEVIL ISLAND, BROWN BLUFF

Location: 63° 47' S, 57° 17' W

Weather / Sea state: moderate, waves 3 m

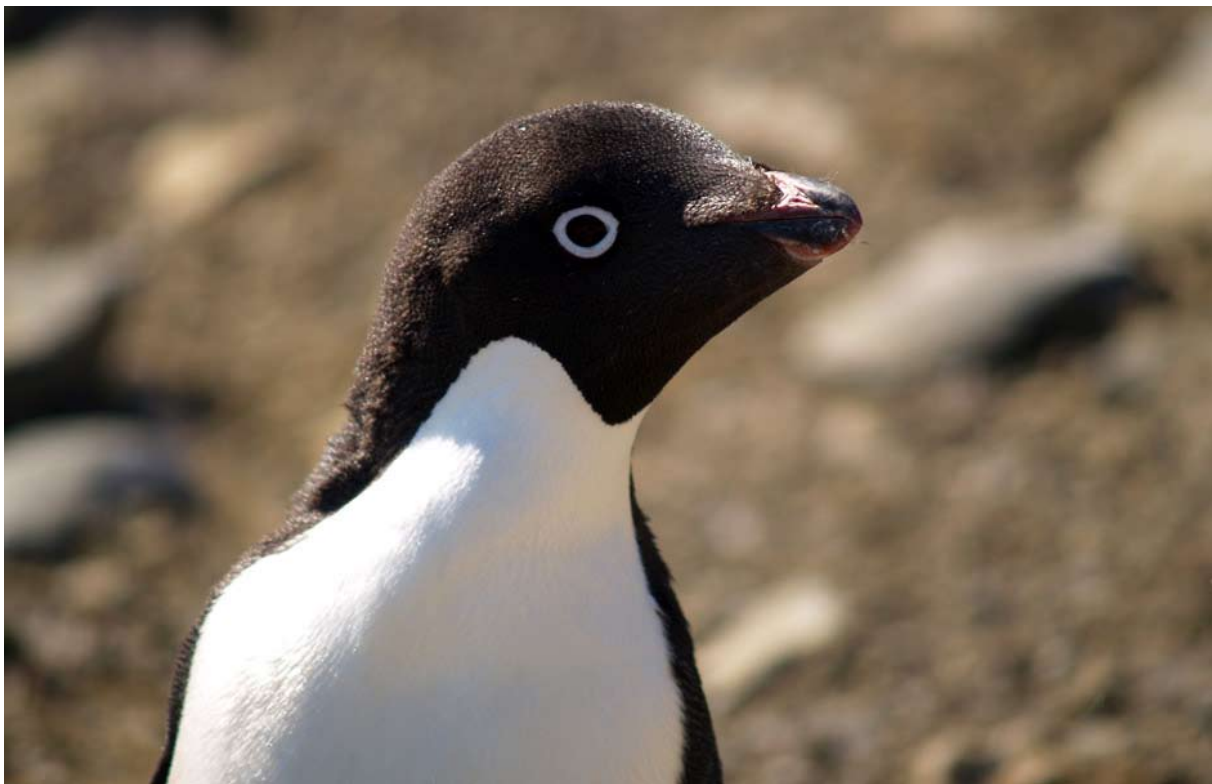
Air Temperature: 5°C / 41°F

Water Temperature: 2°C / 36°F

Wind Speed and Direction: 3 m/sec, NE

Pressure: 753mb

Nautical miles traveled since noon: 162 nm



“Who would believe in penguins unless he had seen them?”
Conor O’Brien.

Some of us had an early morning; up to see the tabular icebergs of the Antarctic Sound. Jaclyn woke the rest of us up at 06:30 hrs in anticipation of a 08:00 landing at Devil Island. As we progressed south there was a lot of ice around the ship. This slowed our speed so



we anticipated a late arrival to Devil Island. In the meantime we donned our gear and went out on deck or up onto the Bridge to enjoy the views as we weaved our way through the ice. From this viewpoint we were able to see numerous sleeping seals, hauled out on ice floes. The vast majority of these animals were crabeater seals but the occasional Weddell seal was also seen. We also managed to see a few Minke whales but they quickly moved on. Snow Petrels were also seen flying about in the icy landscape, in their constant search for food.

At 10:00 hrs we started our landing at Devil Island. The weather conditions could not have been better; there was blue sky and glorious sunshine, to the point where many of us were applying sunscreen in an effort to avoid sunburn! The beach at the landing site was covered by molting Adélie Penguin chicks; their adult coats were coming through but their chick down was still apparent; usually in a Mohawk or under their arm. Once ashore, we climbed a small slope up to a point behind the colony where we had a great viewing area of not only the birds but the entire landscape, including the *Multanovskiy* and the bay itself. Those of us that felt like stretching our legs joined Kirsten for a walk up to the highest point on the island – one of the horns of Devil Island. From the lookout we could see the ship, and on the southern side we could see Cape Well Met. We took lots of photos and after a while descended the hill so we could spend more time with the Adélie Penguins and their chicks.

The kayakers also had their first session on the water today. What a perfect start to their kayaking adventures. With calm seas, brash ice to paddle around and stunning scenery it was ideal. By 12:45 hrs it was last Zodiac time so we piled into the boats and returned to the ship for another delicious meal.

During the afternoon we made steady progress towards Snow Hill Island. Along the way

we saw some magnificent tabular icebergs, many crabeater seals and Adélie Penguins on ice floes. As we approached Seymour Island, however, it became apparent that icebergs blocked any further progress, as there was literally no water to be seen between them! At this point the Captain declared we could go no further south so he turned the ship around and we headed north toward Brown Bluff, our next destination. Soon we could see Paulet Island on the horizon.

At 18:30 hrs we gathered in the Bar in our finery to be formally and most graciously welcomed aboard the *Professor Multanovskiy* by Captain Sergey Nesterov, who answered many questions about his career and adventures on the ship. Following this we had a delicious meal and at 20:15 hrs we were dressed and ready to go ashore for our first landing on the Antarctic continent.

Named in 1946 by the Falkland Island Dependencies Survey (later known as BAS or British Antarctic Survey) Brown Bluff has a brown volcanic cliff that reaches 745m (2,444ft) high and dominates the landscape. On shore we were met by Antarctic fur seals sound asleep and no doubt suffering from the cold. The cobble beach was lined with fledging Adélie chicks, while areas in shore were occupied by molting adult Adélie and Gentoo Penguins with their chicks of various sizes. Due to all the animals lining the beach there was little distance to travel so we tended to sit and watch the penguins and admire the stunning landscape in pink evening light. Due to the cold temperature most of us opted for an early return to the ship and a hot shower.

Hayley and Brandon took the kayakers around the glacier face and various bergy bits where numerous Adélies could be seen on icebergs with the stunning landscape of the eastern Peninsula in beautiful evening light. The kayakers didn't return until it was almost dark,





reluctant to stop paddling. After a short time ashore to see the penguins, they too returned to the ship.

Back on board, several people adjourned to the Bar for an evening drink to celebrate a magnificent day; our first day in Antarctica. We were all looking forward to tomorrow and what that would bring.

Wildlife Species sighted today: Southern Giant Petrel

Cape Petrel

Snow Petrel*

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

Kelp Gull

South Polar Skua*

Brown Skua

Antarctic Tern*

Adélie Penguin*

Gentoo Penguin*

Minke whale*

Antarctic fur seal

Weddell seal*

Leopard seal*

Crabeater seal*

salp*

(* Indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition)

Day 5 Sunday, February 5, 2006
HOPE BAY, GOURDIN ISLAND

Location: 63° 13' S, 56° 04' W
Weather / Sea state: calm, waves 1 m
Air Temperature: 3°C / 37°F
Water Temperature: 2°C / 36°F
Wind Speed and Direction: 6 m/sec, N
Pressure: 751mb
Nautical miles traveled since noon: 123 nm

“Glittering white, shining blue, raven black, in the light of the sun, the land looks like a fairy tale. Pinnacle after pinnacle, peak after peak, crevasses, wild as any land on our globe, it lies unseen and untrodden.”

Roald Amundsen, after discovering the Queen Maud Range in 1911



Hope Bay has two claims to fame. Firstly, in 1903, three men from the Swedish Antarctic Expedition (Gunnar Andersson, S.A. Duse and Toralf Grunden), spent seven winter months in a small stone hut before they were able to re-join their shipmates, led by expedition leader Nils Nordenskjöld from the vessel *Antarctica*. Nordenskjöld had set up a research base on

Snow Hill Island, 150 km (93mi) southeast of Hope Bay, in February 1902. The *Antarctica*, under the command of Carl Anton Larsen, was sunk after being crushed in ice in Erebus and Terror Sound. Captain Larsen, 19 crewmen and the ship's cat were able to reach Paulet Island, north of Snow Hill Island, after the ship sank. They were reunited at Cape Well Met with Nordenskjöld and his party and the three men from Hope Bay, who had walked the 150 miles over ice and snowfields. The entire ship's crew (except for one man who had died of a heart attack) were rescued in November 1903 by the Argentine vessel *Uruguay*, which collected the rest of the crew on Paulet Island on the way back to Argentina.



Hope Bay's second claim to fame comes from the station located here; the Argentine base called Esperanza. There are currently 45 scientists and Army personnel stationed here and their research includes studying both the local Adélie Penguin population and freshwater algae in the bay. Together the two studies are investigating how global climate change is reflected in the abundance and health of these diverse organisms. In February, at the end of the summer, the staff of Esperanza will be joined by 20 spouses and children, and two teachers for a year. Esperanza has the distinction of being the location of the birth of the first Antarctic, Emilio Marcos de Palma, born on January 7, 1978. Since then, six more children have been born at Hope Bay.

Jaclyn woke us up at 06:15 hrs this morning. After a quick breakfast we gathered on the bow to start our action packed day. First the kayakers disembarked for their morning paddle. Due to the lack of land in the area, paddlers embarked their kayaks from Zodiacs, which added to the excitement of the morning. From the bay the kayakers paddled through newly formed frazil ice towards the shore where freshly fledged Adélie chicks, and those contemplating their

first venture into the sea, were gathering on the shore in great numbers. After paddling up the bay, the kayakers disembarked on a small beach and were taken to Esperanza station by Zodiac.

The rest of us enjoyed a Zodiac cruise to explore along the glacier face and various icebergs out in the bay. In the mild weather conditions the 1.5 hr Zodiac cruise was over all too quickly and we were taken to shore.

We were given a tour of the base by station personnel, all of whom spoke excellent English, and then adjourned to the cafeteria where we were treated to tea, coffee, orange juice and biscuits and had the opportunity to buy a variety of souvenirs and stamp our passports with the base stamp.

Back onboard the *Multanovskiy* we quickly changed and went to the Bridge to admire the stunning scenery as we departed Hope Bay. Following this we had an early lunch in anticipation of our next landing site of Gourdin Island.

As we approached Gourdin Island the wind picked up and the sky was gray. Clearly there would be no opportunities for sea-kayaking this afternoon! Jaclyn and the expedition staff scouted the landing site to see what the sea conditions were like as well as conditions onshore. We soon got word back that the landing was a go and we piled into the Zodiacs that moved swiftly in the heavy seas. Despite getting a little wet on our way in, we made it and were greeted by a magnificent site of some very busy penguin colonies. On the landing beach we saw some Antarctic fur seals at close range. Gourdin Island is renowned for the fact that





there are three penguin species breeding in close proximity at this site: Adélies, Gentoos and Chinstrap Penguins. After an hour and a half onshore it was time to head back to the ship. Luckily the wind had died down so the trip back to the ship was far less exciting than the trip to shore. For the rest of the afternoon we steamed south towards the Gerlache Strait and our next site at Astrolabe Island.

At 18:30 hrs we had a Re-cap and Briefing in the Bar. Due to the unabated wind, Jaclyn announced that the evening Zodiac cruise scheduled for Astrolabe Island was cancelled and we would continue steaming south for our morning's visit to Enterprise Island. Given the white caps seen through the porthole we were all happy to remain onboard for the evening. At Re-cap Jaclyn talked about our busy schedule for tomorrow; Andy talked about snowy sheathbills and Kirsten talked about the history of Esperanza station and the seals we had seen to date. After another delicious dinner, some people went to watch Part III of the *Shackleton* miniseries while the rest of us had an early night.

Wildlife Species sighted today:

- Southern Giant Petrel
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel
- Cape Petrel
- Snow Petrel
- Southern Fulmar*
- Kelp Gull
- Brown Skua
- South Polar Skua

Antarctic Tern
Snowy Sheathbill*
Adélie Penguin
Gentoo Penguin
Chinstrap Penguin
Antarctic fur seal
Weddell seal

(* Indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition)

Day 6 Monday, February 6, 2006

ENTERPRISE ISLAND, CUVERVILLE ISLAND, DANCO ISLAND, ERRERA CHANNEL, NEKO HARBOR

Location: 64° 32' S, 62° 17' W
Weather / Sea state: calm, waves 1 m
Air Temperature: 4°C / 39°F
Water Temperature: 1°C / 34°F
Wind Speed and Direction: 2 m/sec, SW
Pressure: 754mb
Nautical miles traveled since noon: 115 nm

“Believe me my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing half so much worth doing as simply messing around in boats.”



Water Rat to Mole from "Wind in the Willows"

Jaclyn woke us up at 06:45 hrs to begin another busy day. We were positioned at Enterprise Island; outside there were calm seas and an overcast sky. As we were eating breakfast the Captain announced that there was a humpback whale off the bow of the ship. This created quite a dilemma; it would be a long time until lunch and we had little time before the morning's Zodiac cruise would begin. As a result most of us continued to eat our breakfast with the hope that the whale would remain in the area. Due to the presence of the



whale, Jaclyn announced we would begin the morning's activities earlier than scheduled. Consequently the kayakers quickly disappeared to put on their dry-suits.

The kayakers disembarked first, transferred into their boats from the Zodiacs and soon joined the humpback whale that was still circling the ship. The rest of us quickly loaded into the Zodiacs and were taken over towards the humpback whale. The staff positioned the Zodiacs near the whale and turned the engines off so we could hear the whale blows and wait for the whale to approach us. Before long, the whale came up to breath very close to each of the four Zodiacs, as well as the kayaks. From this distance we could see the barnacles on the animal's dorsal fin and tail. Many people got some excellent photos of the whale with either Zodiacs or kayaks also in the shot. At least three other humpbacks were also seen in the area but they were logging (sleeping) so we did not approach them.

At around 08:00 hrs, having had a good look at the whales, we decided to head up the coast and try and find the wreck of the whaling boat in a neighboring bay. We landed on a small

island to have a look at some wooden boats that were high and dry on the land, also left over from the whaling period. From there we headed north and found the bay with the remains of the shipwreck *Guvenoren*, a Norwegian whaling ship that caught fire early in the twentieth century. Tied alongside the wreck was a boat “Ice Lady Patagonia”. There were several crew still onboard and scuba divers in the water. Consequently, we waited for the divers to finish their excursion and then circumnavigated the wreck. From here we waved farewell to the *Ice Lady* and her crew and headed back towards the *Multanovskiy*. The kayakers also circled the wreck and were then transferred by Zodiac back to the ship. As we pulled up anchor and set under way for our next destination of Cuverville Island, the humpback whale that we had been with all morning continued to feed very close to the ship. This enabled us to see the pleated throat grooves fully extended as the animal took in huge mouthfuls of krill and seawater.

Following lunch we went ashore at Cuverville Island and were joined by an IAATO representative and some British Marines who had accompanied them ashore. The IAATO representative, Kim Crosbie, was present to monitor our land operations. We spent some time with Gentoo Penguins and their chicks; many adults were also seen molting along the cliff edge, indicating the end of the breeding season. Beyond the penguin colony was a large club of skuas that were interesting to see.

By 15:45 hrs we were back in the Zodiacs returning to the *Multanovskiy*. The Captain repositioned the ship to Danco Island in order to collect the kayakers and their boats. Upon their return the kayakers told us all about their frenzy of charismatic mega fauna sightings, all within a period of 10 min. In this time they saw crabeater, Weddell and leopard seals, along with both humpback and Minke whales. Needless to say they were buzzing with excitement upon their return. The chefs had prepared hot chocolate cookies for afternoon tea so the





Dining Room was packed with everyone munching on these delicious treats, discussing the latest animal sightings.

From Danco Island we traveled through the Errera Channel towards Andvord Bay and Neko Harbor. This was our evening landing: another continental landing. Once onshore we had a toast to our voyage with some hot chocolate (mixed with rum), served by Chris and Tula and Andy took a group photo of everyone on the beach. Following the photography session of the staff, we all trudged up the icy slope to admire the spectacular view. From the peak we could see the ship drifting in the bay amongst brash ice, and the base of surrounding mountains that form the Antarctic plateau, which was shrouded in cloud. There was not much snow on the slopes so the descent was somewhat tricky in parts with many people sliding down on their backsides in an effort to not fall over on the steep slope. By 19:45 hrs we were loaded up into the Zodiacs back to the ship for another delicious meal. During dinner, Jaclyn gave us a quick re-cap on tomorrow's activities. After dinner some of us watched the final episode of the *Shackleton* saga while the rest of us tried to get an early night in anticipation of another big day tomorrow.

Wildlife Species sighted today:

Cape Petrel

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

Snowy Sheathbill

Kelp Gull

Antarctic Tern

Brown Skua

South Polar Skua

Antarctic Blue-eyed Shag*

Gentoo Penguin
Humpback whale
Minke whale
Antarctic fur seal
Weddell seal
Crabeater seal
Leopard seal
Krill*

(* indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition):

Day 7 Tuesday, February 7, 2006

**GERLACHE STRAIT, PARADISE BAY, PORT LOCKROY,
DAMOY POINT**



Location: 64° 56' S, 63° 35' W
Weather / Sea state: calm, waves 1 m
Air Temperature: 4°C / 39°F
Water Temperature: 2°C / 36°F
Wind Speed and Direction: 2 m/sec, NW
Pressure: 749mb
Nautical miles traveled since noon: 49 nm

“To dine with a glacier on a sunny day is a glorious thing and makes feasts of meat and wine ridiculous. The glacier eats hills and drinks sunbeams.”



-John Muir

This morning started with a Zodiac cruise in Paradise Bay, along the Petzval Glacier. Once in the bay, we had a look at a Blue-eyed Shag colony, where many large chicks were seen wandering around the nests. Snowy Sheathbills were also present, keeping a vigilant eye out for any feeding opportunities. From the shag colony we continued around the corner where we came across a couple of crabeater seals in the water. Beyond the seals we approached the glacier face where large, partially detached 40m (131ft) high sections of ice looked like they could carve at any second. In fact, during the cruise, two small chunks fell off various areas and although not very spectacular they did generate impressive waves. As we made our way out of the bay we came across a leopard seal in the water, circling bergy bits and after an hour and a half, by which time most of us were drenched from the rain (yes, rain!) we rejoined the ship. Once back onboard we all headed for a dry change of clothes and cup of something hot. Many of us returned to our cabins in a furious postcard writing frenzy in anticipation of our afternoon landing at Port Lockroy.

After a quick lunch, the kayakers were dropped off in Peltier Channel for a one-way kayak to Port Lockroy. The rest of us disembarked upon arrival at Goudier Island. Half of us went ashore at Jouglia Point to see a whale skeleton spread out along the shore and some fluffy Gentoo chicks. From the shore we could also see a yacht moored in a local bay. Having spent some time at Jouglia, we transferred over to Port Lockroy station (or vice versa). The base at Port Lockroy was first established by the British during the Second World War as part of a secret Operation Tabarin, designed to detect any attempts by German forces to make a naval base in Antarctica. It was subsequently taken over by the British Antarctic Survey, which today maintains it to study the effects of visitors on the Gentoo colony on tiny Goudier

Island. The three-person staff runs a Post Office, museum; Rick Atkinson, Mairi Nicolson and Graham Gillie. By 17:30 hrs we returned to the ship in time for dinner. The original plan of a BBQ on the bow was thwarted by inclement weather (it had been raining most of the day), so we ate inside instead. Joining us for dinner were Mari, Graham and Rick.

At around 20:00 hrs, Brandon, Andy, Dr Rick and 21 campers were taken to Damoy Point to camp for the night. On the way there we passed a southern elephant seal that was hauled out on the beach to molt. This was a most unexpected sighting for the campers but the kayakers had found the animal earlier in the day. There was much activity on shore as everyone set up their tents among what little snow remained on the site. Soon the Zodiacs were leaving the beach. The ship anchored around the corner out of sight and could not be heard thus leaving the campers to their Antarctic wilderness experience!



Wildlife Species sighted today:

Southern Giant Petrel
Cape Petrel
Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Antarctic Tern
Arctic Tern*
Kelp Gull
South polar Skua
Snowy Sheathbill
Antarctic Blue-eyed Shag
Imperial Shag
Gentoo Penguin

Leopard seal
Weddell seal
Crabeater seal
Southern elephant seal*
Jellyfish

(* Indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition):

Day 8 Wednesday, February 8, 2006

LEMAIRE CHANNEL, PLÉNEAU BAY, MELCHIOR ISLANDS



Latitude / Longitude: 64° 59' S, 63° 31' W
Weather / Sea state: calm, waves 1 m
Air Temperature: 3°C / 37°F
Water Temperature: 2°C / 36°F
Wind Speed and Direction: 6 m/sec, SE
Pressure: 756mb
Nautical miles traveled since noon: 157 nm

“For in the end, we will save only what we love, we love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught”

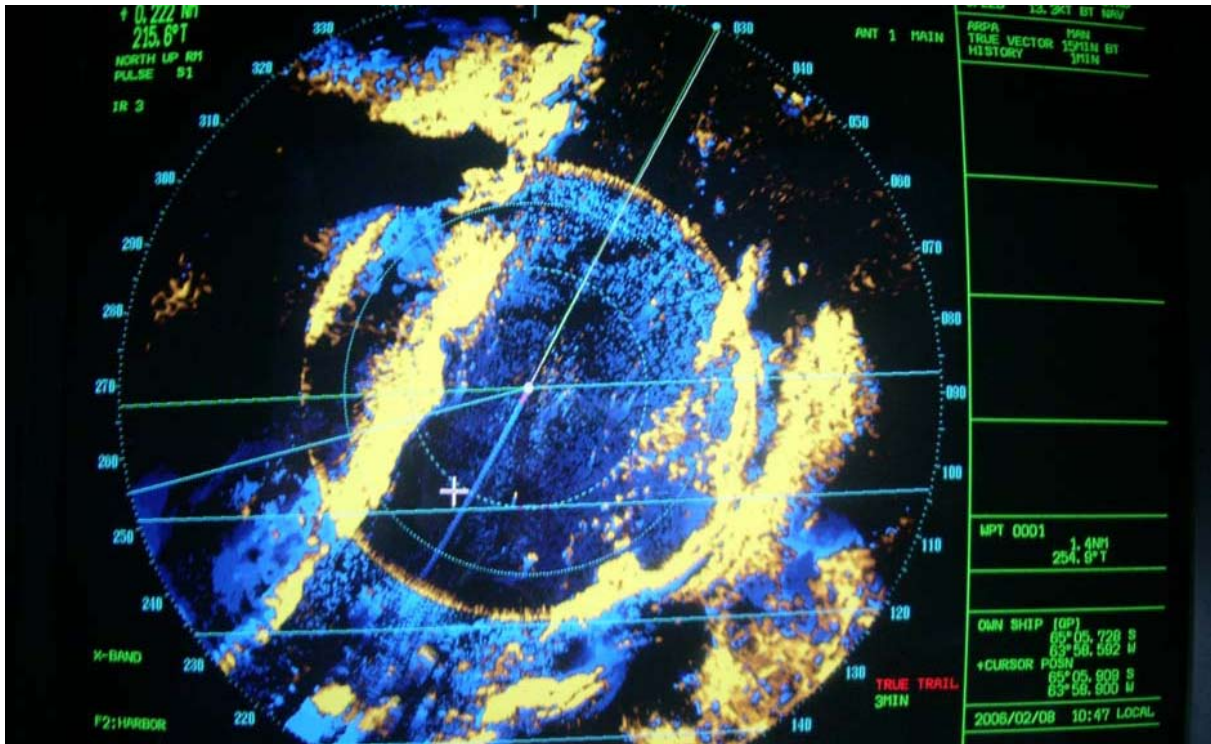
Baba Dioum-Senegal

The campers were awoken by Brandon at 04:30 hrs and despite being reluctant to leave their warm sleeping bags, everyone was eager to return to the ship for a shower, coffee and perhaps another short nap. By 05:00 hrs, Jaclyn, Hayley and Kirsten had come ashore to pick up everyone and the gear. Shortly after this, the *Multanovski* weighed anchor and set off south towards the Lemaire Channel.



The Lemaire Channel runs for about seven miles and narrows to three cables (3/10 of a mile) at its narrowest point, with steep mountains on both sides rising to more than 1000m (3,280ft). The channel was discovered by Dallman's German Expedition in 1873-74 and named fifteen years later by Adrien de Gerlache, rather oddly, for the Belgian explorer Charles LeMaire, who explored the Congo (could there be a greater contrast than the Congo and Antarctica!). We reached the entrance of the Lemaire Channel at around 07:40 hrs. Unfortunately there was little to see due to the low cloud cover. The foggy conditions gave the channel, renowned for its scenic beauty, an eerie appeal. Several bergy bits within this narrow passage were littered with crabeater seals that were exciting to see. Numerous seals could also be seen in the water, swimming between the ice floes.

Upon reaching our anchoring position we boarded our Zodiacs for a cruise in Pléneau Bay. This was our most southerly point for this voyage, 65° 07' S, 64° 01' W. There was rain throughout the morning activity, and gray sky but this appeared to bring out the blues in the ice. As we cruised around some beautifully sculptured bergs we saw pockets of fluorescent violet and turquoise that were impossible to catch on film. Numerous crabeater seals were also found on bergy bits, sleeping. After an hour, long enough for us to become wet and cold, we returned to the ship and were soon cruising north back through the Lemaire Channel and heading towards our afternoon's destination at the Melchior Islands.



The Melchior Islands were first seen by Dallman during the German Antarctic Expedition of 1873-74, but remained unnamed until they were charted by Charcot during the 1903-05 French Antarctic Expedition and named for Admiral Melchior of the French Navy. Upon reaching the Melchior Islands, Jaclyn was called to the Bridge to answer a radio call from a nearby Argentinean station. Following this conversation, Jaclyn announced we would drop in for a quick visit at their station during the afternoon's Zodiac cruise. By 16:30 hrs we were in the Zodiacs either cruising the huge iceberg in the bay, or visiting the station at the Melchior Islands. Here the base personnel, most of whom spoke excellent English, greeted us. We were escorted inside where we could buy caps or get our passports stamped. By 18:00 hrs we were back onboard the *Multanovski*.

Following dinner, we had a Re-cap and briefing in the Bar. We could feel the movement of the Drake Passage already so it was an early night for most while those of us that were up to a movie watched *March of the Penguins*.

Wildlife Species sighted today:

- Black-browed Albatross
- Southern Giant Petrel
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel
- Brown Skua
- South Polar Skua
- Kelp Gull
- Antarctic Tern
- Snowy Sheathbill
- Antarctic Blue-eyed Shag

Gentoo Penguin
Chinstrap Penguin
Minke whale
Humpback whale
Orca (killer whale)*
Antarctic fur seal
Weddell seal
Crabeater seal

(* Indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition):

Day 9 Thursday, February 9, 2006

DRAKE PASSAGE – At Sea

Location: 64° 21' S, 64° 30' W
Weather / Sea state: moderate, waves 5 m
Air Temperature: 5°C / 41°F
Water Temperature: 4°C / 39°F
Wind Speed and Direction: 13 m/sec, N
Pressure: 755mb
Nautical miles traveled since noon: 255 nm

“Strange, there is always sadness on departure. It is as if one cannot after all bear to leave this bleak waste of ice, glaciers, cold and toil...”

Fridtjof Nansen 1912

After a night of some big waves we awoke to a relatively calm Drake Passage. Breakfast was later than usual, starting at 08:30 hrs, allowing us to sleep in. The morning activities began with a slideshow from Kirsten about being a biologist *Living and Working on an Australian Antarctic Base*. Here we learned about the challenges of living and working with one other person, in a confined field hut for months on end. Also of the joy of being a field biologist in such an extraordinarily beautiful place where you can follow the breeding cycle of animals for an entire cycle.

At 11:30 hrs we returned to the Lecture Room for a documentary about sea kayaking entitled *This is the Sea*, introduced by Michael Cockerill. The scenes of boats taking off through big surf made everyone gasp. Who knew you could surf waves with a kayak?

Following lunch, the afternoon’s documentary was *Life in the Freezer* parts III and IV. At 15:30 hrs Hayley gave a slideshow about her *62-Day Solo Sea Kayak Journey Around Vancouver Island*, followed by a *Photo Exhibition* of kayaking on this voyage. It was mind-blowing to think someone would chose to circumnavigate Vancouver Island given all the physical and mental challenges it entailed. We then learned that since this trip Hayley has also successfully circumnavigated solo around the Queen Charlotte Islands and is planning

other even more challenging trips in the future.

At 18:30 hrs we had our final Re-cap and briefing in the bar. Brandon played some Weddell seal calls and explained how the acoustic data was being used to survey seal populations. Soon it was time for dinner followed by the evening movie, *South – Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition*, which is the original film of the 1914-1916 expedition, restored from 35 mm archival material.

Wildlife Species sighted today:

Black-browed Albatross

Minke whale

Day 10 Friday, February 10, 2006

DRAKE PASSAGE – At Sea

Location: 56° 57' S, 66° 21' W

Weather / Sea state: moderate, waves 3 m

Air Temperature: 9°C / 48°F

Water Temperature: 7°C / 45°F

Wind Speed and Direction: 7 m/sec, NW

Pressure: 766mb

Nautical miles traveled since noon: 265 nm



“An Antarctic Expedition is the worst way to have the best time of your life.”

Apsley Cherry-Gerrard (Member of Scott’s 1910–13 Expedition)

This morning we awoke to an even calmer Drake Passage. We were making good time towards Cape Horn and there was a good turn out at breakfast.

Andy started off the day’s activities with his lecture *Living and Working on a British Antarctic Base*. Andy talked about the various British bases on the Antarctic Peninsula and discussed some of the science projects conducted during his stay at Rothera. He also talked about some of the recreational activities carried out to retain the personnel’s sanity through the long winter.

Later in the morning, Hayley and Brandon had a debriefing and re-cap session for the kayakers in the Bar. After lunch, we watched another installment of David Attenborough’s *Life in the Freezer*. In the afternoon, Jaclyn hosted a DVD presentation on *Polar Adventures*



with Quark Expeditions that whetted our appetite for further polar travels. By late afternoon land could be seen in the distance. Jaclyn quickly gave us the *Disembarkation Briefing* and a lesson on *Parka Packing* so we could quickly return to the Bridge and the sight of Cape Horn.

Cape Horn was first rounded in 1616 by Wilhelm Schouten, a Dutchman who sailed from his homeport of Hoorn and lent the town’s name to this imposing geographic feature.

The Captain brought the *Multanovskiy* in within three nautical miles close to the cape before making an abrupt turn to starboard and a new heading for the mouth of the Beagle Channel.

Those of us with good binoculars could see the famous Albatross memorial to sailors lost rounding Cape Horn and the tiny Chilean coast station. With the wind and swell behind us now, the ship's motion quieted down and more of us emerged.

At 18:30 hrs we had the *Captain's Farewell Cocktail Party* in the Bar. The Captain expressed his thanks to us all for sailing with Quark Expeditions, and presided over the distribution of certificates to commemorate our first landing on the continent of Antarctica. Soon we were invited to the dining room for the chefs' *Farewell Dinner* in the blissfully peaceful and scenic Beagle Channel. As we dined, we reflected on our experiences on the Drake and the Peninsula – the whales, dolphins, seals, penguins and seabirds, the good weather, the kayaking and camping adventures, and the numerous landings and Zodiac cruises we completed. We remained quietly at anchor for the rest of the evening. With cabins once more stable, there was a fevered flurry of packing, exchanging addresses and goodbyes before settling down for our last sleep aboard the *Professor Multanovskiy*.

Wildlife Species sighted today:

Black-browed Albatross

(* Indicates species recorded for the first time on our expedition):

Day 11 Saturday, February 11, 2006

USHUAIA, TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ARGENTINA

Location: 54° 48' S, 68° 17' W

Total distance traveled: 1,694 nm

At 02:00 hrs this morning the pilot came aboard and the *Multanovskiy* proceeded westward towards our final destination, the beautiful city of Ushuaia, glistening in the early morning sunshine. We were all tied up to the pier by 07:00 hrs, the luggage was ashore and then it was time for our final farewells to our comfortable floating home, our shipmates and new friends, and to make our way to the airport or more adventures on land or our journey home. Thus ended another chapter in our lives, one enriched by the beauty, grandeur and evocative peace of Antarctica, a place that in its own way has spoken volumes to us.

"Tell me," wrote the poet Mary Oliver,

"what is it you plan to do with your once and wild life."

WILDLIFE

BIRDS

Gentoo Penguin
Adélie Penguin
Chinstrap Penguin
Magellanic Penguin
Macaroni Penguin
Wandering Albatross
Royal Albatross
Black-browed Albatross
Grey-headed Albatross
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross
Northern Giant-Petrel
Southern Giant-Petrel
Southern Fulmar
Cape Petrel
Snow Petrel
White-chinned Petrel
Rock Shag
Imperial Blue-eyed Shag
Antarctic Blue-eyed Shag
Prion sp
Blue Petrel
Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel

Pygoscelis papua
P. adeliae
P. antarcticus
Spheniscus magellanicus
Eudyptes chrysolophus
Diomedea exulans
D. epomophora
Thalassarche melanophris
T. chrysostoma
Phoebetria palpebrata
Macronectes halli
M. giganteus
Fulmarus glacialisoides
Daption capense
Pagodroma nivea
Procellaria aequinoctialis
Phalacrocorax magellanicus
P. atriceps albiventer
P. bransfieldensis
Pachyptila sp
Halobaena caerulea
Oceanites oceanicus
O. tropica



Diving-Petrel
Snowy Sheathbill
Dolphin Gull
Kelp Gull
Antarctic Tern
S. American Tern
Arctic Tern
Chilean Skua
South Polar Skua
Brown Skua

Pelecanoides spp
Chionis alba
Larus scoresbii
L. dominicanus
Sterna vittata
S. hirundinacea
S. paradisaea
Stercorarius chilensis
S. Catharacta maccormicki
S. c. antarcticus

MAMMALS

South American Fur Seal
Antarctic fur seal
Crabeater seal
Weddell seal
Leopard seal
Southern elephant seal
Peale's Dolphin
Hourglass Dolphin
Minke Whale
Fin Whale
Humpback Whale
Killer Whale

Arctocephalus australis
A. gazella
Lobodon carcinophaga
Leptonychotes weddellii
Hydruga leptonyx
Mirounga leonina
Lagenorhynchus australis
L. cruciger
Balaenoptera bonaerensis
B. physalus
Megaptera novaeangliae
Orcinus orca

PASSENGERS

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Gerry Archibald | Tokyo, Japan |
| David Bluhm | Oregon, USA |
| Jeff Bluhm | Oregon, USA |
| Barry Buxton | Wilmslow, Cheshire, UK |
| Yo Buxton | Wilmslow, Cheshire, UK |
| Ian Castle | London, UK |
| Michael Cockerill | Ketton, Rutland, UK |
| Joy Irene Cowen | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| Robert George Cowen | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| Lena Dahlkvist | London, UK |
| Nils Dahlkvist | London, UK |
| Bruce Engle | California, USA |
| Alisa Fiddes | London, UK |
| Hazel Funnell | Horning, Norwich, UK |
| Len Funnell | Horning, Norwich, UK |
| Chris Green | Great Missenden, Bucks, UK |
| Jill Green | Great Missenden, Bucks, UK |
| Dolphin Greenspace | Pennsylvania, USA |
| Naomi Gross | Maryland, USA |
| Ben Hext | Buckley, Flintshire, UK |
| Mary Hext | Buckley, Flintshire, UK |
| Anne Hughes | Darlington, Durham, UK |
| Stuart Hughes | Darlington, Durham, UK |
| John Hunt | Cardiff, NSW, Australia |
| David Kelly | Connecticut, USA |
| Kevin Kelly | Arizona, USA |
| Sherrie Kelly | Arizona, USA |
| Ani Kessler | Cape Town, South Africa |
| Brice King | Maryland, US |
| Mark Langston | Alabama, US |
| Erik Laurent | Perth, WA, Australia |
| Nancy Lemay | Maryland, USA |
| Betty Marsh | California, USA |
| Shona Nicolson | London, UK |
| David Penton | London, UK |
| Penny Penton | London, UK |
| Nicola Price | Beaconsfield, Bucks, UK |
| Georgia Randall | Tokyo, Japan |
| Charles Rowlatt | London, UK |
| Penelope Rowlatt | London, UK |
| Robert Sargent | New York, USA |
| Bill Shamick | Michigan, USA |
| Chris Smith | Washington, USA |
| David Smith | Cape Town, South Africa |
| Dru Walters | Maryland, USA |
| Dorothy Watson | Eastcote, Middlesex, UK |
| Hamish Watson | Eastcote, Middlesex, UK |
| Rachel Wicks | Innisfail, QLD, Australia |

