



# Nieuwsbrief 23

## Februari 2014

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24 februari 2014

### Drie presentaties

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Drie studenten die de modules *Wetenschap in de Poolgebieden* en *Inleiding* van de Minor Arctische en Antarctische Studies volgden, geven een presentatie van het onderwerp waarover zij een scriptie schreven.

*Alwin Hardenbol: The adverse effect of, mainly, climate change and fisheries on Kittiwake breeding success*

*Joost Hendriksen: Een nieuwe zeeroute naar Azië?*

Een onderzoek naar de toekomstmogelijkheden voor de Noordoostelijke doorvaart als internationale zeeroute.

*Nog niet bekend*

**Wanneer** 24 februari 2014

**Hoe laat** 19:30 uur

**Waar** Arctisch Centrum, Aweg 30, Groningen. Ingang Herman Colleniusstraat

**Toegang** € 2,00, studenten € 1,00.

## Komende Imaka-activiteiten

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**31 maart 2014**

**Simon Troelstra: Invloed van snelle klimaatveranderingen op de bewoningsgeschiedenis van het Arctisch gebied .**

**28 april 2014**

**Jorien Vonk: Onderzoek Siberische permafrost**

**26 mei 2013**

**Linda Nijlunsing: Wildernisjaren. Over haar leven in Alaska.**

Linda Nijlunsing schreef over haar verblijf in Alaska het boek *Wildernisjaren*. Dit boek zal na afloop van haar lezing verkrijgbaar zijn.

**14 juni 2014 (middag)**

**Excursie naar de werf in Harlingen**

Op de werf in Harlingen wordt de replica van het schip van Willem Barentsz gebouwd. Tijdens een rondleiding krijgen we informatie over de bouw van de replica. Louwrens Hacquebord vertelt over de geschiedenis van het schip.

**29 september 2014**

**Michiel van den Broeke [onderwerp wordt nog bekend gemaakt]**

## Overige activiteiten

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14 maart 2014

### Minisymposium Arctisch Centrum

Drie sprekers:

Louise Flaherty, Joke Schuit en Eugenie Stapert.

Definitieve programma volgt in onze volgende Nieuwsbrief.

**Wanneer** 14 maart 2014

**Tijdstip** Vanaf 13:30 uur

**Plaats** Aweg 30, zaal 114

**Opgave** Opgave is niet nodig

15 maart 2014

### Lezingendag Pool tot Pool

De Pool tot Pool lezingendag wordt gehouden in het Volkenkundig Museum te Leiden. Zie voor informatie de website: <http://www.vanpooltotpool.nl>

Opgave vooraf is gewenst. Dat kan via de website.

## Literatuur

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*Jeroen Toirkens, Petra Sjouwerman*

*Solitude. In the Wake of Willem Barentsz*

Jeroen Toirkens en Petra Sjouwerman schetsen een intiem beeld van het Arctische noorden van Noorwegen, Zweden, Finland en Rusland, kortweg de Barentszregio. De laatst overgebleven wildernis van Europa. De Nederlandse fotograaf Toirkens en Scandinavië-correspondent Sjouwerman gaan op zoek naar de verhalen van de mensen in dit gebied. Hierbij laten ze zich inspireren door de reislust en de moed van Willem Barentsz naar wie de regio is vernoemd.

Prijs € 34,99. Verkrijgbaar in de boekhandel.

## Nieuws

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### Statoil considers to leave West Greenland

*Written by Federica | Tuesday, 28 January 2014*

Norway's biggest energy company Statoil is considering quitting west Greenland in an effort to cut costs. The exploration licences are something the company is thinking about giving up as they are extremely expensive. Head of exploration Tim Dodson explained that Statoil plans to be pickier about where it explores in the future because of factors such as cost and risk profile.

If the company opts to exit the region it would come as a blow to Greenland, which wants Statoil help it pump its first crude oil. Greenland has been left disappointed in the past, with Cairn Energy Plc spending in the region of \$1bn in 2011 but failing to make any discoveries.

Statoil revealed earlier in the month that it was looking to reduce its spending in the long-run after outlaying a record \$19bn in 2013. However, Dodson said that the company would spend about the same on exploration this year as it did last year.

Rising costs coupled with lower profitability are hindering producers. Last week, Royal Dutch Shell Plc issued its first profit warning in 10 years with earnings in the fourth quarter down from a year earlier. Shell operates two of Statoil's exploration licences in west Greenland, while Cairn Energy operates the 30 per cent Statoil-owned licence in Pitu, where it is currently considering drilling.

Source: *IceNews*

### Polar Code to be released soon?

*Written by Federica | Thursday, 30 January 2014*

New shipping rules are soon to be agreed for the Arctic, where summer sea ice has shrunk by about two-thirds over three decades, opening a new ocean with vast natural resources.

Maritime nations are close to a landmark deal on the Polar Code, aimed to improve safety, lead to lower insurance premiums and help the rise of traffic, industry insiders said.

About a tenth of the world's undiscovered oil and close to a third of its undiscovered gas is thought to lie under Arctic waters. The Northern Sea Route along Russia's edge can reduce the sailing distance between Asian ports and Northern Europe by 40 percent.

A draft of the code could be finalized by members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) this week and go into force by 2016, ending years of delays, Sturla Henriksen, the director general of Norwegian Shipowners' Association said.

Only 71 ships crossed the Northern Sea Route last year, compared to the 18,000 handled by the Suez Canal, but about a 1,000 vessels travelled into the high Arctic, with much of the growth coming from oil and gas activity, particularly in Russia.

The Polar Code will set stringent rules on pollution, safety of life, training, certification and watch keeping. It will prescribe ship properties including required ice class and set uniform rules for all vessels in all of the polar countries.

If the draft is approved this week, it could get a final approval before the end of the year and go into force 18 to 24 months later.

Source: Reuters

## Russian students cleaning up Soviet mess in the Arctic

*16 students from Northwest Russia spent their summer holiday cleaning the Russian Arctic.*

Students from Northwest-Russia spent two months on the Arctic archipelago Franz Josef Land, clearing away barrels and scrap metal from the Cold War era.

*Written by Anja Kristine Salo / November 28, 2013*

“We worked for hours,” says 21 year old Igor Belousov to BarentsObserver in a phone interview. He is a student at the Faculty of energy and transportation at the Arkhangelsk-based Northern Arctic Federal University. “Each day some more garbage from the Soviet period was cleared away.”

This summer Igor spent two months of his vacation at Franz Josef Land. The archipelago lies in the Arctic Ocean north of Novaya Zemlya and east of Svalbard. It consists of 191 ice-covered islands.

“It really is a rare opportunity for me as a student to be able to live in the Arctic for such a long time,” says Belousov. “I saw eight polar bears during my stay there, but the weather was much warmer than I’d expected.”

### Military hot spot

Igor’s basecamp was situated at Alexandra Land, the westernmost island of Franz Josef Land. Today this is an uninhabited island, but during the Cold War this was a key strategic buffer zone between NATO and the Soviet Union. The island was used as military base when training missions were carried out between the archipelago, Novaya Zemlya and the mainland.

It is mainly abandoned leftover equipment from this period that is littering the archipelago today.

Airplanes, tanks, scrap metal and barrels with oil waste are polluting the Arctic terrains.

“The students were facing a tremendous task. Not only should they dig the garbage up from the frozen soil, but also make sure it looked as pure as before the Soviet conquering of the Arctic archipelago began,” says Gregori Kovalev, Coordinator of the Russian students groups in Arkhangelsk.

### Building the empire

The idea of sending students thousands of kilometres away from their home cities to do a job they never did before dates back to the Soviet Union. Back then millions of students made such journeys every year in order to build the Soviet Empire. Today, over 200,000 students make similar journeys in Russia.

Last year the governor of Arkhangelsk Oblast, the county administering the archipelago of Franz Josef Land, suggested that the student organizations could conduct environmental work in the remote and harsh Russian Arctic, far away from modern civilization.

“It was crucial to find the right people, who would manage to live close together for two months and carry out the heavy task of cleaning up 150 tons of garbage,” says Kovalev.

Eventually, the students were accompanied by Arctic specialist from the Northern Arctic Federal University, Russian Arctic National Park and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Arkhangelsk Oblast.

### Twice as much as planned

After eight weeks at the island, the change was highly visible. Instead of cleaning up 150 ton garbage, the crew managed to remove 265 ton.

“In retrospect, it feels good to have contributed to such an important task as cleaning the Arctic is,” says Igor Belousov. “I believe the whole crew would like to go back someday, finishing off the work we started.”