

## **GoNorth! Fennoscandia 2008**

Team Chat

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

### **Welcome!**

Today we are going to have an additional chat with a GoNorth! Team Member.

Now that they are back from their Expedition across Fennoscandia, you can ask all your questions about the Arctic, about the Expedition, about the Polar Huskies...about anything you can think of!!

### **About our Speaker:**

It's a surprise...

who will it be?

Aaron

Paul

Mille

Beacon

You will just have to wait to see!

### **5/6/2008 LIVE Chat with a GoNorth! Team Member:**

**GoNorth! Education Basecamp:** Good Morning Everyone! We are so glad that you could join us today.

**GoNorth! Education Basecamp:** PAUL is here with us today and ready for your questions!!!

**GoNorth! Education Basecamp:** This question was sent to Basecamp by the 1st Graders at Neill Elementary: Why did the path (route) change from the one mapped in white to the one in orange?

**GoNorth! Expert:** It changed due various considerations, time was one factor, conditions, early on we had deep snow and warm weather which got us behind schedule.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** HI PAUL! How did this trip differ for you from other trips that you have done?

**GoNorth! Expert:** For one thing it was warmer and not so stormy, plus it is much more developed (roads, towns etc) than other regions we have visited, which had both good and bad points.

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**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** What is your favorite memory from this trip?

**GoNorth! Expert:** There are many, but the one thing was the fantastic people we met along the way, people were very helpful and interesting.

**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** (there were loud cheers to see it is Paul today~) Did you like this trip

**GoNorth! Expert:** Thanks, yes we liked this trip very much. Lots of variety, terrain, weather and communities.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** Did you eat anything when you were with people that you had never eaten before?

**GoNorth! Expert:** I can't think of anything, we had reindeer and fish.

**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** What do reindeer really look like up close?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Well much like caribou, but they can have many different colors, some all white or various shades of white, gray, their antlers were not as big nor their bodies.

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** We saw the cookie sheet that was used for the dogs to fly to Sweden. Then we heard in the audio updates that the airline wanted to build boxes and then didn't due to cost. Did they do the cookie sheet thing for your flight back home too?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Yes we used the same kennels we flew over in, these are placed on the cookie sheet and strapped to it, I think it was 8 dogs per sheet.

**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** Are the dogs happy to be home? Were the dogs that stayed home happy to see them come back?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Yeah, the first night back I didn't get much sleep as they had to stay up all night and share stories.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** Since you were on land most of the time as opposed to traveling on ice, we thought people might think that this trip was safer than others... but did the roads and bridges make it more dangerous?

**GoNorth! Expert:** There were times that it was dangerous, the time on the river with open water all around us. The roads and bridges caused us many headaches at times, so yeas at times it was dangerous.

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** How has climate change effected your travels over the years. It seems that the Team should be on the news telling people about this because you can see the changes first-hand every year right?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Climate change is not something you can always see directly, the best examples of seeing Climate change is in areas along the coast in Alaska, where the villages are falling into the sea. Many times is what you hear, like the fall was warmer than usual, the snow cam late, there was rain in January, spring came early etc. So it is not always something you can see... We have noticed a great deal of change in 15 years time.

**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** How big are the puppies?

**GoNorth! Expert:** They are looking like big polar huskies and should be ready come fall time to get moving.

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**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** Does your family like your job?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Well after 15 years they have decided I am not going to change and have a "normal" job, I think they like I am doing what I want to do.

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** Last year in the photo journal for week 1 we saw pictures of you fixing and painting the sleds. Are you doing that now? Are you going to use these sleds next year in Greenland?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Wow, good memory. Yes we will be using the komatek sleds, which are basically ready.

**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** What was the reindeer race like? I think it was in Finland???

**GoNorth! Expert:** Very cool, you cant imagine how fast the reindeer are. The racers wear helmets and racing suits like a downhill skiers!

**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** How long did it take Timber to teach Beacon how to talk? Did he start teaching him over last summer or did he start training him on a trip before he retired?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Yes, Timber had classes every Thursday during the summer to teach Beacon the finer points of writing a blog.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** When do you start mapping your route for next year or have you already started

**GoNorth! Expert:** Actually we have been working on the plans for a couple years, so now will start narrowing down the options and work on the permits, logistics of how to get there and back, resupply points etc.

**Lightning Rox:** What was the most scary part of the trip?

**GoNorth! Expert:** For me it was being on the river outside of Karasjok Norway with the water flowing all around us and the dogs and having to cross an ice bridge.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** What made you want to become an arctic explorer?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Well I had always enjoyed being outdoors and the Arctic seemed like a remote and special place that I had to see.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** we learned that Greenland is part of Denmark. we found this very surprising. is it going to be easier to travel, plan and communicate because Mille is from Denmark?

**GoNorth! Expert:** We hope so. They speak Danish and Inuktituk in Greenland. Mille's great grandfather opened the first Arctic Research station 100 years ago on Disko Island so we hope all of that will help us.

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** will it be easier to travel and carry stuff with the komatek sleds?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Those sleds are wider and longer than the sleds we used this year, so yes the load rides lower and less likely to tip.

**cres team Choko:** Was this the best weather you had on an expedition?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Snow-wise it was at the end in the mountains, we had a lot of wind, but that packs the snow and makes for faster travel.

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**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** are the other dogs jealous of Beacon being the one who gets to talk to us?

**GoNorth! Education Basecamp:** oops! Ms Havey ... can you resubmit that question? sorry!

**Lightning Rox:** What do you think is the most fascinating thing on the Fennoscandia culture?

**GoNorth! Expert:** I think to look at how the Sami have adapted to live in the region, how they built their homes, they invented skiing, the use of materials to make clothing and of course the 4 winds hats.

**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** Ms Havey Wilson WI: are the other dogs jealous of Beacon being the one who gets to talk to us?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Some are, but many are glad they don't have to stay up at night and make the report which takes time.

**Bonnie of LIGHTNING:** how many hours where you on the trail total?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Actually I am not sure, but we averaged 9 hours per day travel.

**Bonnie of LIGHTNING:** Paul, in your opinion what was the most exciting and fun part of the expedition this year?

**GoNorth! Expert:** I think it was all the people we met and the Ice Hotel was very interesting.

**Guest:** Witch dog performed the best on the expedition?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Honestly since we only had 16 dogs total they all did incredible.

**Lightning Rox:** How many dogs are retiring this year?

**GoNorth! Expert:** For now we are thinking Lipton, Freja and we will have to see next fall if anyone else.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** do you like chatting with us?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Yes you have great questions.

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** is it hard for the Polar Huskies to adjust from being in the cold to now being in warm weather?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Very much, just like me, we have to adjust, so I make sure they have plenty of water all day to drink and shade to rest in.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** would it have been easier if Domino and Ginger and Xena were able to go?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Yes, we really missed their power when we were really heavy.

**GoNorth! Education Basecamp:** WOW! Time flies when you are having fun! These are fabulous questions! We have about 10 minutes left.... enough time for a few more questions.

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** what do you like least about going to the Arctic?

**GoNorth! Expert:** By now for me it is trying to deal with all the permits, paperwork to get the dogs in and out countries.

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**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** do you become a couch potato for a few weeks now that you are home?

**GoNorth! Expert:** I took a couple days to recover, but now back in full swing, cleaning repairing all the gear, making the dogs yards ready, working with the pups, planning for next year and I also have started training for some Adventure races 24 and 30 hours long races this month and next.

**Lightning Rox:** Do you think that the trip could of been any better?

**GoNorth! Expert:** No it went pretty much as we hoped, I wish we could have reached the top of Norway but could not make it work out time wise.

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** what is an adventure race? is it like a marathon?

**GoNorth! Expert:** It is a multi sport event, these combine orienteering, running, biking, paddling a course where you have to find checkpoints along the way.

**Bonnie of LIGHTNING:** what town did you find most developed and greatest population?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Kiruna Sweden, they have a large mine, a space range area, and a developed tourism Ice Hotel.

**Mr. Clay's class:** Which dog improved the most on the expedition?

**GoNorth! Expert:** Kodiak did a great job, he ran in the front team the entire trip, Lightning did well in Lead.

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** what is your favorite thing to do when you are not in the Arctic?

**GoNorth! Expert:** I like just playing with the Polar huskies.

**GoNorth! Education Basecamp:** While Paul is answering his last question, we want to thank you for joining us today. We had so much fun and we hope that you not only enjoyed yourself, but learned a lot too- Be sure to check the Q & A on Friday. We'll get some of the questions answered there for you!

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** what do you like most about going to the Arctic?

**GoNorth! Expert:** I really like the people we meet and the incredible beauty of the Arctic regions.

**GoNorth! Education Basecamp:** Let's thank Paul for answering our questions!!

**Mr Kroeger 6th MPS:** thanks Man you ROCK!

**Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen:** Paul this was fun thank you

**Ms Havey Wilson WI:** Thank you. We love Paul and the Polar Huskies!!!!

### **Thanks!**

From all of us at Team GoNorth!, Thank You for joining us today! Join us again next Thursday the 15th of May at 11 AM CST for another chat with a GoNorth! Team Member!