

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

USHUAIA | DAY 1 | Tuesday, 8 March 2011

AN INTREPID GROUP OF EXPLORERS MEETS AT THE END OF THE WORLD FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

"A journey is a person 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

Welcome to Ushuaia, the capital of Tierra del Fuego and recognized worldwide as "the end of the world". From all corners of the earth, we have all come for the same purpose: to set sail east, and then southeast before finally setting our bearings south, to Antarctica, decisively the last frontier!

As we set sail and navigate our way down the Beagle Channel, we will bid farewell to the lush trees and forest of the incredible Patagonian landscape. Take a moment to be out on deck, *the place to see and be seen*, spotting splendid Magellanic Penguins and boisterous South American Fur Seals.

Just around dinner time, we will pass Puerto Williams on our starboard side, claimed to be the southernmost town of the world, keeping the Chilean and Argentinean rivalry alive all the way to the end of the continent.

On our way along the Scotia Ridge we will have time to relax and gather energy and knowledge, which will prove invaluable upon arrival to our various Southern Ocean destinations. Use these sea days to acquaint yourself with our seaworthy vessel, the *Marina Svetaeva* and her hardy crew, the friendly One Ocean staff and of course, the rest of your fellow adventurers. Please feel free to explore and enjoy the ship and all of her passenger decks and familiarize yourself with public areas.

The One Ocean Team welcomes you aboard and sincerely wishes you the trip of a lifetime!

Drake Passage...

Conditions unknown... we hear it's calm but it never hurts to wish for the best and prepare for the worst!

Wildlife Sightings

Keep your eyes peeled for

- South American Fur Seal
- South American Tern
- South American Sealion

Today may be our only chance to see them!

Hot Tip of the Day

Enjoy the Southernmost Forest of the world as we sail through the Beagle Channel and pass by Puerto Williams the southernmost TOWN of the world on Navarino Island.

Did you know... the Big Island of Tierra del Fuego was "discovered" in 1520 by the expedition of F. Magellan, who named the place first, Land of Smokes and later, "Land of Fire" as he observed what were realized to be the fires produced by the local aboriginals for heat at their coastal camps.

Health tip of the day: Don't let seasickness get to you first! Despite the deceptively tranquil waters of the Beagle Channel, take your medication several hours **before** we're in the Drake Passage.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
1600	Boarding the <i>Marina Svetaeva</i>	All	Gangway
1700	Welcome cocktail and briefing	All	Presentation rm.
1800	Throw the ropes	All	Outer decks
TBA	Mandatory lifeboat drill	All	Muster stations
1930	Dinner is served	All	Dining rooms
2030	Cruising the Beagle Channel	All	Outer decks

Russian Word of the Day

Hello

Pri-viet

the world really is one ocean

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

DRAKE PASSAGE | DAY 2 | Wednesday, 9 March 2011

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME BEGINS! Yesterday was a day wrought with both the anxiety of the unknown and excitement of adventure. After having acquainted themselves with their new home for the next ten days, and having completed the due diligence of the lifeboat drill, OOE friends descended upon the dining room from which there was a distinctive buzz emanating. As the austral summer daylight waned, the crew had thrown the ropes and set sail down the spectacular Beagle Channel on a course for the unknown and a voyage of discovery. Welcome aboard!

Beagle Channel Revisited

Some 150 years ago, Captain Robert Fitzroy, master of the square rigged sailing ship the Beagle, had on board a young assistant surgeon and amateur naturalist. It was the same person that after many years of studying the wild life of the region stunned the Victorian world of the mid-1800's with his "*The Origin of Species*". The Beagle Channel, named for this young naturalist's vessel became our course for our journey of adventure to the Antarctic. As we sailed the Beagle after departing the most Southern City in the World- Ushuaia, we passed on our Starboard side Puerto Williams, the most Southern Town in the World. As the day came to an end, our ship was heading into the dark void of the Drake Passage.

Polar Talk

The oceanic water zone between about 50 and 60 degrees south where cold water from the Antarctic region meets and sinks beneath warm water from the middle latitudes is known as the Antarctic Convergence, sometimes known as the Antarctic polar front.

Wildlife moments recaptured:

- Kelp goose
- Kelp gull
- Dolphin gull
- Magellanic penguins

Where did the word penguin come from anyway?

The origin of the word penguin is unclear, as it may have originated from one of several sources. It possibly reflects the name of an island off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada called Pengwyn, which itself is the combination of the Welsh words "pen" (head) and "gywn" (white) and likely referred to the Great Auk. Not to confuse you, the reader, but its derivation may also simply have been from the Latin "pinguis" (fat).

Things are about to get a whole lot freakier...

The Antarctic Convergence is not a precise line as it can vary between seasons and/or annually. It normally occurs between the latitudes 49 and 55 degrees south. The Southern Ocean is divided between two hydrological zones by the Convergence, which is defined as a line along which the cold northbound Antarctic surface water sinks beneath the relatively warmer sub-Antarctic southbound water. The Convergence is detected by a sudden change in air and ocean temperatures as well as climatic conditions. These zones thus formed, are significant because they not only influence the distribution of marine life, but also because they control the properties of the air masses above them. The area is also generally marked by a heavy concentration of feeding sea birds and mammals.

Photo tip of the day... When setting up a shot use the "rule of thirds" for composition – divide your viewfinder in thirds – horizontally and vertically – then place your centre of interest at the intersecting lines – this will make your images more visually appealing.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0700	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0800	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
0930	Shackleton's Endurance Expedition	Dave	Presentation Rm
1100	Birds of the Southern Ocean	Derek	Presentation Rm
1230	Lunch will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1430	Penguins of Antarctica	Antje	Presentation Rm.
1600	Afternoon tee will be served	All	Lounge
1830	Happy Hour	Chelsea	Lounge
1930	Dinner will be served	All	Dining Rooms
2100	Sailors' Superstitions	Boris	Lounge / Bar

Russian Word of the Day

Dob - raye oo - tra

Good Morning

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

DRAKE PASSAGE | DAY 3 | Thursday, 10 March 2011

FATAL COLLISION AT SEA NARROWLY AVERTED! Doomsayers and fear mongers sat speechlessly and sadistically satisfied, if only for a brief moment, as pandemonium unraveled on the aft deck early yesterday. OOE friends and crew were mortified by the sight of what appeared to be a Boeing 747 in distress attempting an emergency landing on the aft deck of the *MV Marina Svetaeva*. Amidst the panic, the sun was temporarily obliterated, permitting an ominous darkness to descend and leading believers and nonbelievers alike to accept that a freak celestial phenomenon was upon us and that the end of the world as we know it had come! Like disciples of an unspoken God, everyone in attendance simultaneously dropped to their knees in prayer and repentance. A sickening silence permeated... in the end however forensic experts deduced that in fact we were simply bearing witness to the majesty of a Wandering albatross in flight.

60 degrees south

This latitude defines the geo-political boundary of Antarctica. Congratulations!, Upon sailing south across the 60th parallel, you officially enter Antarctic waters.

This boundary was established when the Antarctic Treaty was ratified in 1961, and not only does it have the significance of being the boundary of Antarctica, it is also a line to the south of which commercial fishing is forbidden as is the dumping of non-biodegradable substances and waste matter into the ocean.

Side effects:

Did you know that penguins have the densest concentration of feathers of any bird in the world? Up to 100 feathers crowd each square inch of surface.

Quote of the day

"For sheer downright misery, give me a hurricane, not too warm, the yard of a sailing ship, a wet sail and a bout of sea sickness" ~ApsleyCherry Garrard

Wildlife moments recaptured:

- Sei whale!
- Southern royal albatross
- Wandering albatross
- Chilean swallow?!
- Black-bellied Storm-petrels
- Penguins (sp.)

Polar Talk

Antarctic bottom water is the cold, very salty water that forms around Antarctica and flows as an endless stream along the floor of all the world's oceans.

NATIONS UNITED UNDER THE BANNER OF OOE

We are proud to announce that the voyage of the *Marina Svetaeva* brought together more nations than the consultative parties that contributed to the development of the Antarctic Treaty of 1961 and the Madrid Protocol of 1991. Collectively, 24 strong we are represented by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Columbia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA and Venezuela. This multi cultural gathering of people enriches our experiences on as we endeavour to explore the White Continent.

Photo tip of the day: If you are finding your photos are a little blurry or soft – it probably means your shutter speeds are too slow – boost your ISO to get a faster shutter speed. (i.e. go from ISO 200 to ISO 500) Generally anything over 1/60 of a second can be handheld except when shooting with long focal lengths (i.e 200 – 300mm).

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0700	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0800	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
0845	Kayaking Fitting Session	Kayakers	Lounge / Bar
0930	My Life in Antarctica	Dave	Presentation Room
1100	Cetaceans...Sea Greek Monsters???	Derek	Presentation Room
1230	Lunch will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1415	<u>Mandatory</u> Zodiac Safety Operation Briefing	Boris	Presentation Room
1445	PFD and boot fitting	All	Hangar
1600	Navigation Pointers	Derek	Chart Room
1630	Afternoon Tea will be available	All	Bar
1715	<u>Mandatory</u> Guidelines of Conduct & Visit Antarctica	Boris	Presentation Room
1830	Happy Hour!	Chelsea	Bar
1930	Dinner will be served	All	Dining Rooms
2115	"The Last Husky"	Film Lovers	Presentation Room

Russian Word of the Day

Pa - zhal - sta

Please

the world really is one ocean

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA | DAY 4 | Friday, 11 March 2011

LAND HO!

Even having never laid eyes on her, it was the Greek that first theorized that a southern continent must exist in order to provide balance for the Earth. After 48 hours of an endless sea, some of you probably had your doubts. Welcome!...the journey is only beginning...

SHOCKING REVELATION REVEALED! "What was originally thought to be a Piñata Petrel, turns out to be a Cape Petrel (aka Pintado Petrel)!, proclaims bird befriender, Derek Kyostia. In addition, Dr. Kyostia went on to concur that sightings of both Wilson's AND Black-bellied Storm-petrels, Grey-headed AND Black-browed albatross as well as White-chinned AND Soft-plumaged petrels and several other species of 'hyphenated birds' had been confirmed by friends and staff of One Ocean Expeditions. Incredible, but true!

Wildlife moments recaptured...

- Orca (Killer whales)
- Hourglass dolphins
- Dark morph soft-plumaged petrel
- Light-mantled sooty albatross

LINE DANCING JEOPARDIZES SVETAeva STABILITY!?

Reports from 'higher authorities' confirm that the mass line dance that unfolded on the bow of our mother ship, the *MV Svetaeva* yesterday actually compromised the ship's stability. In a seeming celebration of rebirth following two days of calm seas and sunshine, hoards of people participated in a rhythmic sun-salutation of sorts shifting from port to starboard and back again in an effort to bear witness to the endless squalls of wildlife that relentlessly battered the ship upon having reached the Antarctic continental shelf. One woman was overheard proclaiming "...it was like *Jurassic Park* in a weird Hitchcockesque-meets *Free Willy* kinda, type way", her tears of joy forever immortalized in spontaneous haiku. But for others it circumvented the emotional realm and instead proved a test of brute force, strength and endurance. Having sprinted from bridge to bow, pole-vaulted from bow to dining room, leaped from dining room to bow, raced from bridge to bow to washroom and back to bow again, their hypothermiated, calorie-negative remains, barely having made their afternoon tea refueling...

BIG, BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL. BLACKFISH AT LARGE!

It ain't always easy at the top. For *Orcinus orca*, the largest member of the dolphin family, the uber-charismatic mega-fauna we commonly refer to as the killer whale, it's been a struggle to stardom. In fact it wasn't until the late 1960's/early 1970's, as we continued to gain a better understanding of these magnificent creatures, that we gave them the respect they deserve. Until that time, they were regarded as blood-thirsty, wanton killers of the sea, to be avoided at all costs and, if need be, 'dealt with'. Ironically, it wasn't until we made habit of holding them hostage in captivity and subjecting them to mindless circus tricks that we recognized their mental capacity and cognitive ability. Today, any encounter with them in nature is regarded as a blessing to be cherished. Yesterday was no exception...

Quote of the day

"This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere. The dew is never dry all at once, a shower is forever falling. Vapour is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and glowing, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn as the earth rolls. And for this I am forever grateful to be alive."
~John Muir

SOME CALL IT STRANGUALTION, WE CALL IT LOVE!

If you happen to have found yourself anywhere near the Presentation Room Thursday morning you may have overheard giggles of pleasure, fits of laughter, or perhaps even moans of ecstasy! Whoa! Now, before your mind runs wild, allow us to explain. It's not a hip new fad taking place by unruly teenagers in your hometown, nor is it something you should consider hiding from your children, and when I say that nearly *everybody's* doing it, it's true... we're talking about kayaking! Yeah! The paddling posse had their first taste of adventure yesterday when we tapped the 'Tickle Trunk' and began custom fittings for drysuits. Ooooooh! These sheik, waterproof membranes are made from Gortex© and used to protect one from the elements. As well these suits can be...how would you say, really, REALLY tight! Attempting a solo-assault on the suit can prove both time-consuming and labour-intensive. Fortunately, Lead Kayak Guide, Keith Thompson was on hand to assist with what is likely the single most difficult part... the head gasket. Actually, it closely resembles childbirth when a paddler attempts to don the latex over their head! In the process of our fitting we'd like to add that no one was injured and we're very excited to get on the water.

PHOTO TIP OF THE DAY: Make sure when you go to shore or on any zodiac cruises bring an extra memory card and batteries. Digital cameras in the cold can have the batteries drained a lot faster than in warm temperatures.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0600	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0645	Rise and shine...cruising the Lemaire Channel	All	Bridge & Outer Decks
0730	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
0900	Expedition Landing	All	Petermann Island
1230	Lunch will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1430	Expedition Landing	All	Pleneau Island
1830	Happy Hour	Chelsea	Lounge / Bar
1930	Dinner will be served	All	Dining Rooms
2100	Blockbuster Movie~Life Aquatic	Night Owls	Presentation Room

Russian Word of the Day

Spa - see - ba

Thank You

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA | DAY 5 | Saturday, 12 March 2011

BEWARE! 'BERG'LARS AT LARGE!' Rumors circulating by mid-morning yesterday had the OOE forensic team scrambling to determine the perpetrator of what was initially thought to be burglary on the high seas. Although there had been no evidence of forced entry into any one cabin, crew made recommendations to all passengers that precautionary measures be undertaken to ensure security of valuables. As the morning spawned afternoon however, it quickly became apparent that what was initially thought to be burglary was in fact 'berglary', that is one's deep-seated appreciation/addiction/obsession with the frozen monoliths of ice, transformed into abstract shapes by the handy work of Mother Nature. Icebergs are spawned when glaciers calve into the sea or as larger ice masses and ice sheets fragment. Coming in many varieties, shapes and colours, they are by definition at least 5 metres in height. The largest one ever recorded measured approximately 335 x 97 km, having an area of approximately 31,000 km². This is larger than Belgium!

AFTERNOON EXCURSION DEEMED...PUUURFECT!

As crabeaters lazed about on ice floes, dreaming of sugarplums and krill, catching austral snowflakes on their tongues and otherwise seemingly oblivious to OOE voyeurs gliding silently amongst them, not all was as peaceful and tranquil as one might be led to believe. Meeeeeow...a Leopard seal, considered by all to be the most ferocious of the Southern Ocean pininpedes showed up just in time for dinner. On the menu: Gentoo! Sporting 600kg of elongated serpentine body and a distinctive reptilianesque head disguising 160° of tri-cusped teeth, this top predator took sadistic pleasure in prolonging the death of more than one defenseless penguin! Although their diet is mostly krill, they certainly won't pass up an opportunity for a penguin appie or even an unsuspecting polar adventurer who's strayed too close to the ice edge! Beware!

Quote of the day

"Their perpendicular walls towered above our masts; they overhung our ships, whose dimensions seemed ridiculously diminutive compared with these enormous masses. One could imagine oneself in the narrow streets of a city of giants."

-D'Urville, fearing his ships would be crushed by heaving icebergs

Polar Talk: Snow algae?

Bacteria that live in water (or snow) and which have the ability to create plant matter with photosynthesis are cyanobacteria, sometimes called 'blue-green algae'. They are single cells, but often grow in large colonies. They first appeared on Earth more than 3.5 billion years ago.

Wildlife moments recaptured...

- Minke Whale
- Leopard Seal
- Adelie Penguin
- Gentoo Penguin
- Chinstrap Penguin

SECRET'S OUT! EL CONSULTS CRYSTAL BAL FOR GUIDANCE!

As of late, unfounded rumours have been circulating suggesting that Expedition Leader, Boris Wise has been engaged in late-night liaisons with the Ouija board, consulting the spirit world and parallel universes for guidance in manifesting the dreams of OOE friends. Insider information received late yesterday however tells a very different story. Fact of the matter is, Dr. Wise devises composite quantum mathematic equations and complex algebraic methods to formulate educated approximations of wildlife interceptions based on such variables as prevailing climatic conditions; oceanic states; the speed of the ship; alignment of the stars; and his tea leaves. From this, he relies on schematic diagrams and flow charts in order to convey his strategic deployment to his quarry of 'underprivileged' staff. Yesterday morning's s Lemaire wildlife orgy was just one of countless 'miracles' Sir Wise has managed to illustrate during our Peninsula Expedition. Awesome!

PHOTO TIP OF THE DAY: When shooting close-ups of wildlife with your zoom lens – make sure you focus on the eyes and take your camera's auto focus feature off of multi point setting and set it to single point. This will ensure your camera will focus on the area you aim for.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0630	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0730	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
0900	Expedition Landing	All	Port Lockroy/Jougla Pt.
1230	Lunch will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1430	Expedition Landing	All	Dorian Bay
1700	Afternoon tea will be available	All	Lounge / Bar
1800	Happy hour!	Chelsea	Lounge / Bar
1900	Dinner will be served	All	Dining Rooms
2000	Antarctic camping	Group 1	Dorian Bay

Russian Word of the Day

Dob - raye dyen

Good Afternoon

SUMMIT ASSAULT SUCCESSFUL!

An international team of climbers were victorious in their bid for an as-of-yet unnamed Antarctic peak on sunny Saturday afternoon. In order to render their efforts “truly sporting”, the non-technical ascents were achieved in the absence of supplemental oxygen or base camp assistance. Upon reaching the top, a celebratory group hug of sorts ensued despite the threat of hypoxia in what is aptly known as ‘the death zone’. Congratulations!

PENGUIN POOP

Don't take penguin poop (feces) for granted. It's not just annoying gunk on your boots, making penguin colonies salmon-pink and giving them an unforgettable aroma. Penguins bring large amounts of nutrients from the marine ecosystem to the terrestrial ecosystem, depositing them in the form of droppings. The penguin wastes fertilize the ground around the colonies and stimulate more growth of mosses and other plants, often showing later in the summer as green patches.

Fresher penguin poop is eaten by the amazing Snowy Sheathbill as a supplement to its other foods, stolen eggs and carrion. How sheathbills can extract useful nutrients from wastes already processed by penguins' digestive systems boggles the mind. Certainly, penguin poop will figure in your memories of Antarctica.

Quote of the day

“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

Polar Talk: Cryoturbated Rock?

This is rock that is broken and cracked by constant thawing and freezing. Even large rocks will be affected.

Dear Derek,

I have an overwhelming urge to snuggle a penguin. Should I act on my feelings?

Dear Rockhopped,

Face it. You're from different worlds. It'll never work. My suggestion to you: maintain a 5m buffer.

WARM HEARTS BRAVE ICY NIGHT.

Reports from Mr. Yum-yum and concurred by Jack Frost confirmed that a hearty posse of OOE adventurers abandon logic overnight and voluntarily endured the highest, windiest, coldest continent on Earth with only the micro-comfort of a bivy to protect them from the elements. Beanies and toques off to all you brave (read crazy) souls!

Wildlife moments recaptured...

- Leopard seal
- Crabeater seal
- Gentoo penguin
- Chinstrap penguin
- Antarctic tern

PHOTO TIP OF THE DAY: Be aware of the direction of light – side lighting is one of the nicest for landscape photography – it provides a pattern of lights and darks (shadows) across the image which helps enhance the depth of the image.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0630	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the “Bistro Cafe”	Early Birds	Small Dining room
0730	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining rooms
0900	Zodiac excursion/Expedition Landing	All	Almirante Brown
1230	Antarctic BBQ	All	Outer Deck 7
1430	Zodiac excursion/Expedition Landing	All	Neko Harbour
1730	Afternoon tea will be available	All	Lounge/Sm. Dining rm.
1800	Happy Hour!	Chelsea	Lounge
1900	Dinner will be served	All	Dining rooms
2000	Antarctic Camping	Group 2	La Ronge Point
2100	Polar Pictionary	Sarah	Lounge

Russian Word of the Day

Ela kra - see - viy

It's Beautiful

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA | DAY 7 | Monday, 14 March 2011

A LITTLE TASTE OF OZI!

By Derek Kyostia, translated by Dave (Aussie) Pottage *Theah* was a *pehceivable* twinkle in the eye of every Aussie on the *uppah* deck of the *Svetaeva* at midday yesterday. *Undah* the 'blazing' *Antahctic* sun, the traditional meal of cold *beehs* and hot *bahbie* (read baR-beque) was prescribed by the *Doctah* (coincidentally, also Aussie....hm?). *Afteh* having *retuhned* from a *wondahful* continental landing at Almirante Brown, all nations sat united for the monumental lunchtime 'meat feed'. *Anyway mate, undah* the guise of an '*enahgizing* cat nap' in preparation for the *aftahnoon's* outing in and around *Neko Hahbah*, many obeyed *theih* bodies and succumbed to a *euphohic* 'meat coma'. *Fohtunately, nohmality* was just a quick caffeine buzz away and *befohe* one knew it, we were restrained in *thehmal geah, floggin'* around in *Zodiacs heah, theah* and *everywheah*, risking life and limb in the name of discovery, eh!?

VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION PROGRAM DEEMED A SUCCESS!

Whereas the physical constitution of the freshwater molecule dictates a transformation from liquid to solid at zero degrees Celsius, thus creating a physical and very tangible barrier between clouded judgment and certain death, such is not the case with saltwater. Point in case: those individuals who chose to voluntarily subject their near-nakedness to the sub-zero salty brine of Antarctica...and, for what? To desert all common sense, to consciously disobey one's intuition for the sake of reckless abandon and the post-traumatic bragging rights for an otherwise senseless act akin to gender reassignment? Tsk. Tsk. That's not to say that a 'congratulations' is not in order. On the contrary. BIG 'thanks' to all those who so effectively reaffirmed for the rest of us, that life IS too short. Live very day as though it were your last!

Dear Derek, what does a person's boot washing technique say about their kissing skills?

Dear Foot-to-mouth, attention to detail is imperative and the way in which it is employed will not only ensure thorough sanitization, but also a more rewarding experience. Close observation from afar will avoid uncomfortable awkwardness in close quarters. Enjoy!

THE FUN SLIDE OF LIFE...

Against better judgement, more than one OOE adventurer decided to tempt fate yesterday at Almirante Brown Station and descend what became affectionately known as 'the death chute'. Riddled with death-defying moguls and break-neck, hairpin turns, human bobsleds having reached terminal velocity actually attained zero-gravity. It remains to be seen whether or not screams of glee (read terror) may have been responsible for triggering the countless thunderous glacial calvings that were witnessed.

TEST RESULTS ARE IN!

A recent study conducted aboard the *Marina Svetaeva* has conclusively proven, almost without a doubt, within what have been deemed 'acceptable working parameters', that nearly everyone has retained at least *some* of information from our educational fieldtrips and informative presentations. Job well done to all!

NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED!

It's incredible that in this day and age, following such monumental achievements including lunar landings and the advent of Kinder Eggs, that a handful of otherwise unsuspecting wildlife enthusiasts should happen upon a species that until yesterday, remained unknown to mankind. The Rock Seal, often concealed in its many forms, shapes and colours, is easily confused with more animate objects such as the Weddell and/or Leopard seal. Remaining motionless for what seems like an eternity, the Rock seal (sp.), also supports colonies of algae and lichens, and lives symbiotically with penguin(s). Identification is further complicated by the apparently overwhelming number of subspecies. Further research is pending following the acquisition of funding.

Quote of the day

"I always wake up at the crack of ice."

~Joe E. Lewis

Wildlife moments recaptured...

- 'Friendly' minke whales
- Humpback whales
- Crabeater seals
- Gentoo penguins
- Antarctic tern

PHOTO TIP OF THE DAY:

When setting up a composition, make sure your image tells a story – try and not include too many elements or too much information – or you will confuse the viewer – keep it simple is the best rule of thumb.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0630	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0730	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
0900	Zodiac Excursion/Expedition Landing	All	Orne Harbour
1230	Lunch will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1500	Zodiac Excursion/Expedition Landing	All	Cuverville Island
1830	Happy Hour	Chelsea	Lounge / Bar
1930	Dinner will be served	All	Dining Rooms
2100	Grizzly bear~a virtual tour of Canada's West Coast	Derek	Presentation Room

Russian Word of the Day

Moy-schtik

Bridge

PHEW...STANDOFF ENDS PEACEFULLY!

A hostage taking that unfolded in the waters off of Spigot Peak ended without incident yesterday morning when a female Humpback and her calf concealed by several fathoms of seawater eventually released those held captivated for over half of an hour. A naturalist speaking on behalf of the whales confirmed that 'krill intoxication' may have contributed to their sedated and lackadaisical condition. An intervention is pending. Later that same day, in a seeming act of divine intervention, multiple Zodiacs of One Ocean 'expeditioners' experienced a cosmic collision of extraordinary weather, calm seas, other-worldly scenery and a small army of Leopard seals strategically positioned around the perimeter of Cuverville Island. Afterwards, several passengers sought medical attention for treatment of psychological and emotional catharsis.

HOME OF THE CUVERS

Our afternoon destination yesterday was Cuverville Island where one of the most interesting studies of penguin-human interaction was conducted over a decade ago, under the watchful eye of the renowned Bernard Stonehouse. A team of four lived in a tent on the island and closed one side of the colony to visitors, who were free to explore the other side. The aim was to see which side had the most successful summer breeding results. So it was a sort of academic justification for hanging out through Spring Break. The results were surprising. The exhibitionist gentoos (once described as the Homer Simpson of penguins) were more successful in producing and raising chicks under the glare of a thousand cameras. Brad and Angelina in formal wear!

An alternative (and more boring) view is that the differences were not statistically significant and maybe humans are great scarecrows to limit skua, giant petrel and kelp gull predation. Your editors would like to stick to our dreams that penguins like performing for an audience.

Quote of the day

"To anyone who goes to the Antarctic, there is a tremendous appeal, an unparalleled combination of grandeur, beauty, vastness, loneliness, and malevolence - all of which sound terribly melodramatic - but which truly convey the actual feeling of Antarctica. Where else in the world are all of these descriptions really true."

-Captain T.L.M. Sunter - The Antarctic Century Newsletter

Dear Derek, I've developed a secret crush on a fellow passenger, but we don't speak the same language. How can I break down the barriers between us and express my hidden desires?

Dear Two ships in the night, Russian Vodka.

Wildlife moments recaptured...

- Humpback whales!
- Leopard seals
- Pale-faced sheathbills
- Chinstrap penguins

DIED AND GONE TO PENGUIN HEAVEN...

After having just stepped foot ashore, OOE friends transcended through the pearly guano gates as it were and up on to a vantage point perched amongst the Cuverville colony. Only from there, could one fully comprehend the magnitude of the rookery, said to be the largest of its kind on the Peninsula. Superseding the technological commonplace of HD 3D IMAX Dolby surround-sound, audiences were left aghast when the reality of the daily gentoo grind was found to include not only love stories, but also love affairs, naughty chicks, jealous neighbours, lots of stealing and some cheating. Even the adielies, known for their prostituting ways, would be embarrassed by the behavior of their brush-tailed brethren.

PHOTO TIP OF THE DAY: To create a sunburst – set your camera at f 16 or 22 and meter off the sky about 15 degrees away from the sun to get a shutter speed reading. It is best to set your camera on aperture priority to do this but when you go to shoot the image, set your camera back to manual and dial in the settings you have from the first meter reading.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0630	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0700	Expedition Landing	All	Bailey Head, Deception Is.
0830	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1000	Expedition Landing/Swim	All	Whaler's Bay, Deception Is.
1230	Lunch will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1500	Expedition Landing	All	Hannah Pt., Livingston Is.
1730	Afternoon tea will be available	All	Lounge
1830	Happy hour!	Chelsea	Lounge
1930	Dinner will be served	All	Dining Rooms
2100	Open mic with Sarah~if you got 'em, play 'em!	Night Owls	Lounge

Russian Word of the Day

Naz-der-ov-iya

Cheers

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

DRAKE PASSAGE | DAY 9 | Wednesday, 16 March 2011

HEALTH WARNING! The Surgeon General, in collaboration with 9 out of 10 dentists agree that if the chef, and the artisans that mentor below him, continue to create the sinful culinary delights that we have all come to crave, additional fees will be incurred by those attempting to fly internationally with their newly acquired 'excess baggage'...consider yourself warned. In the meantime, stop to give praise to our incredible kitchen staff should you be fortunate enough to encounter one in your travels around the ship!

South Shetland Islands

The South Shetlands are home to the greatest biological diversity in Antarctica, and their northerly position has encouraged a parade of visitors – sealers, whalers, scientists and now tourists. The relative warmth around the archipelago, and proximity to the foul weather of the Drake Passage, induce cloudy, grey conditions. Precipitation is frequent, and in summer month often falls as rain. The islands are separated from the Antarctic continent by the Bransfield Strait.

BAPTISM OF FIRE!

Having successfully navigated the ominous Neptune's Bellows, the infamous gates into what was once the fiery molten-caldera-turned-bloody-cetacean-slaughter-basin, OOE explorers donned their expedition equipment and manned the *Zodiacs* for what proved to be a suspiciously tranquil transfer to the steaming beaches of Whaler's Bay. How appropriate that on this, the final day of our Peninsula journey, that some chose to be inducted into the Antarctic guest book with a rejuvenating baptism of polar water...

Quote of the Day:

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in the water...its substance reaches everywhere; it touches the past and prepares the future."
-Lorne Easley

Dear Derek, several days ago I lost a purple glove. Where is it?

Dear Icy touch, it's time you let go. Your glove is in a happier place now. Believe it or not, behind 'the green door' there's a magical land where single socks and gloves are reunited in a timeless vortex that spins perpetually...don't worry. Be happy!

Wildlife Sightings

- Macaroni penguin
- Chinstrap penguin
- Southern Petrel (white morph)
- Elephant seal

Hannah Point, Livingston Island

So named after the British sealer *Hannah* of Liverpool, wrecked in the S. Shetlands on Christmas Day, 1820. Hannah is known for it's large gentoo and chinstrap colonies and the macaronis that live amongst them. S. giant petrels nest high on the hills, while elephant seals bask and young fur seals spar on the beach.

Existentialism (life according to Boris)

Translated by Derek

Today's lesson: radio lexicon 101.

"*Shoot dang!*": an expression of exuberant discovery, i.e. Boris' 'Spidey senses' have detected an imbalance in the Universe, e.g. cross-connecting battery cables 'make big boom!' Intuitive to some, but perhaps not to all...

"*What's yer 20?*": Ignorance truly is bliss. Fortunately, at this point Boris' passengers aren't aware of the imminent danger they're in. Once again, Boris has found himself disjointed from the rest of the expedition team and is desperately seeking VHF consolation, choosing to employ this covert axiom.

"*Ray-theon, got yer ears on?*": Always one with words, and finding similar interests in others, this is intended as a term of endearment to establish contact with fellow staff members...assuming, of course that they actually *DO* have ears!

"*Freshy pow-pow, sicky gnar-gnar!*" To date, it remains unclear to anyone outside high-altitude mountain culture what this idiom really *does* mean! A current study being undertaken at several major North American mtn. resorts, suggests that it's a new-age 'mantra amongst friends' to concur that current circumstance is extremely incredible, especially amazing, extraordinarily fantastic, superbly beautiful and/or exceptionally awesome!

Photo tip of the day... If you are going to make large prints when you get home from your Antarctica trip - make sure your camera's image resolution is set at its highest setting (large jpeg) – that way, you have recorded enough pixels to do so.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0700	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0800	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
0930	Pinnipeds...our fin-footed friends!	Derek	Lg. Dining Rm
1100	A Penguin's Life	Antje	Lg. Dining Rm
1230	Lunch will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1430	Scott & Amundsen's Race to the South Pole	Dave	Lg. Dining Rm
1630	Last Retail Therapy Session	Shoppers	Gift Shop
1630	Afternoon Tea will be available	All	Lounge
1830	Happy Hour	Chelsea	Lounge / Bar
1930	Dinner will be served	All	Dining Rooms
2100	My life on Macquarie Island~Ingrid Pottage	Late Owls	Presentation Room

Russian Word of the Day

Pree - yet - nava apet - tee-ta

Enjoy your Meal

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

DRAKE PASSAGE

DAY 10

Thursday, 17 March 2011

An Ode to Sailors Lost at Sea

Cape Horn is actually the southern point of Isla Hornos (Lat.55°59'S) and it is in Chilean territory. The Chilean Navy mans a weather station and supports a lighthouse keeper and family. The outpost consists of a residence, utility buildings, a chapel and lighthouse. A short distance from the buildings on a ridge is a large ship steel plate sculpture featuring the silhouette of an albatross. Adjacent to this sculpture is a memorial plaque with words dedicated as a "Tribute to Sailors from Days Gone By" by Sara Vial 1992:

"I am the albatross that waits for you at the ends of the earth.

I am the forgotten soul of a deceased sailor who crossed Cape Horn from all the seas of the world.

But they did not die in the furious waves,

Today they fly in my wings to eternity in the last trough of the Antarctic winds".

Quote of the Day:

"If the surface of Planet Earth is 70% water, why does most of it seem to be between Ushuaia and Cape Norvegia?"

~John Spietts

CLASSIFIEDS

FREEBIE: free to a good home. Domesticated. Non-breeder. Otherwise, smooth walkin', jive-talkin' Expedition Leader. B.W.

Employment wanted: Kayak Guide by day, international man-of-mystery by night, seeks temporary employment. Previous experience with skydiving circus monkeys and road kill recovery units. Affinity for shiny things. Plays well w/ others. House-trained. Willing to work 1-2hrs/d, 3 wks/mo, room/board incl. K.T.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Late 1940's model Aussie Antarctic Historian. High mileage, but still runs smoothly. Body needs some work. Chassis still sound. Spare tire included. Serious inquires only. D.P.

MAIL IN REBATE: free 'culinary artiste' with submission of 10 Vegemite barcodes or reasonably hand-drawn facsimiles (6-pack of beer will suffice). Warranty rebuild. G.M.

WANTED: single, counter-shaded adult female. Must enjoy long swims in icy waters, mutual preening, nest domestication and seafood. About me: totally into chicks, birds and the 'wild'life. Seasonally monogamous. D.K.

FOR RENT:168,000 Watt smiles. Excellent for Christmas socials, bar mitzvahs and impressing the in-laws. Low season rates available. Bondable. E.M.&S.B.

Crevasse Caution

The "ozone hole" is not really a hole, but a decrease in the amount of ozone over Antarctica, and in some years over the Arctic, for part of the year. It is certainly not like a hole in a balloon that will let the earth's atmospheric gases escape.

Prion Eyes

And as we ply the sullen waves,
Where albatross fly o'er the graves,
Of fallen souls and sailors gone,
We celebrate the fitful dawn.

The seas are kind we cannot know;
The land is pure as ice and snow;
Sculpted 'scapes that dot the sea,
Will in our hearts forever be.

The birds so slight and fragile seem,
Fly with the ship and hard abeam.
How can they thrive? Why do they stay?
The weather's harsh – for them we pray.

They prionize o'er stormy waves
O'r sunken wrecks in deep sea graves;
Dodging spray on scything wings.
O nature's strength – o lovely things.

And now I bid they well great land;
We stand in awe of things so grand;
We pray we don't forget your face
Antarctica – this special place!

~Geoff Carpentier, *Farewell to Antarctica*

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0700	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0800	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
0915	Rounding the Horn —classic documentary by Capt. Irving Johnston	All	Presentation Room
1000	Account Settlement	Eva & Sarah	Large Dining Room
1230	Lunch will be served	All	Dining Rooms
1400	Rounding Cape Horn	All	Outer Decks
1500	The End of the Line – Long Line Fishing	Antje	Presentation Room
1600	Afternoon Tea will be served	All	Lounge
1700	OOE classified presentation	Derek	Presentation Room
1830	Happy Hour!	Chelsea	Lounge
1930	Farewell Dinner will be served	All	Dining Rooms
2045	Recap and toast to Antarctica	All	Presentation Room/Bar
2100	Farewell Party	All	Presentation Room/Bar

Russian Word of the Day

Haro - sho

I'm Good or I'm Fine

oceannotes

DAILY NEWSLETTER | MARINA SVETAeva

USHUAIA

| DAY 11

| Friday, 18 March 2011

Wildlife reflection...

Having now made Ushuaia, we all must set sail yet again, this time for our respective 'domesticated lives' that await us. This flight however will be different. Rather than the anxiety and excitement of the unknown, this will be a time dedicated to reflection and a continued realization.

We are now *sailors* of the Scotia Sea, *explorers* of the last great wilderness, and *survivors* of the fabled 'Drake Shake'. We have been privileged to have witnessed such beautifully exotic landscapes; humbled to have shared such intimate encounters with truly unique fauna.

Whether we are aware of it or not, through educational forums and personal observation, we have been given valuable tools to return the favour. We have two options: we can go home and allow the memories to fade, revisiting them periodically in the pages of our photo albums OR, we can pay tribute to them everyday, with small, conscious changes to our lifestyles that will ensure that this precious gift remains for all to appreciate until the end of time itself.

Only those who dare, truly live...

Dear Derek, how will I deal with the traumatic loss of the beautiful new friends and family I've come to adopt whilst aboard the *Marina Svetaeva*?

Dear Empty Nester, the separation anxiety you're experiencing, and will continue to experience, is completely normal. The good news: you're not alone. May I suggest constructing life-sized, free-standing cardboard cutouts in the likeness of said acquaintances and assembling them in a pseudo social setting in the privacy of your home? Although you might find yourself unfortunately ostracized by your homegrown friendships, sadly they will never be able to fully appreciate the magnitude of your OOE experience and the profound impact it's had upon your life. Thus, in addition, it might prove prudent to conduct candle light vigils with the prayer that one day soon, new friends can be united with those of yesteryear.

Quote of the Day:

"This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere. The dew is never dry all at once, a shower is forever falling. Vapour is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and glowing, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn as the earth rolls. And for this I am forever grateful to be alive."

~John Muir

MV Marina Svetaeva Specs:

Built: 1989, Poland
Refurbished: 2004/05, 2010
Gross tonnage: 4595 tonnes
Length: 92m
Breadth: 17.6m
Draft: 5.8m
Power: 5300 HP diesel
Maximum Speed: 14.5 knots
Crew and staff: 57
Passenger capacity: 89
Ice class: 100 1A Super

Land ahoy!

Our intrepid crew of helmsman and navigators demonstrated exceptional seamanship during Wednesday's overnight hours, both in their proficiency and accuracy, making exceptional time to the southern tip of South America. However, having made our intended target, namely the infamous Cape Horn, the forbidden headland that has claimed so many lives over the centuries, doesn't necessarily imply that the red carpet shall be laid at one's feet. And so it was only with skillful negotiations along with diplomatic discussion provided by our Captain, that we were able to penetrate deep within Chilean's 12 nautical mile boundary waters. Under the guise of confusion and even before the Chilean authorities were cognizant of what had transpired, not only had they granted the *Svetaeva* access into their territorial waters, but had inadvertently invited everyone onboard for afternoon tea! In the end though, we gracefully bowed out and proceeded eastward with the aid of a gentle following sea.

DAILY PROGRAM

WHEN	WHAT	WHO	WHERE
0600	Freshly brewed coffee & tea in the "Bistro Cafe"	Early Birds	Small Dining Room
0700	Breakfast will be served	All	Dining Rooms
0800	Disembarkation	All	Gangway

Russian Word of the Day

Da - svec - dan - ya

Farewell