



Field report from the journey to North-East Greenland 2017



Viva Villaen!

It was about to be the absolute last call for one of the most significant monuments in Danish-Greenlandic expedition history: "Villaen", built in Danmarkshavn in 1906 by the Danmark-ekspeditionen. In the summer 2017, after years of thorough preparations, a Nanok team succeeded in preserving this iconic building in accordance with directions from the Greenland National Museum. Furthermore, two other Nanok teams have completed the refurbishment of Tolvmandsbarakken on Ella Ø, refitted two huts in Store Sødal as well as inspected and repaired a large number of huts in both the Daneborg and Ella Ø regions. Read about this and much more in this report.

27th field season

Introduction

This year Nordøstgrønlandsk Kompagni Nanok has completed its 27th field season. A successful season, during which our field teams each have completed extensive work programmes in separate locations.

The nine participants in the Nanok team arrived together in North-East Greenland on 9 August and were immediately after divided into three smaller teams, one with base in Danmarkshavn, one in Daneborg and one on Ella Ø. Three weeks later they reunited in Daneborg, from where they returned together to Denmark.

In recent years, Nanok has brought focus to the preservation of some of the most renowned buildings of Danish-Greenlandic expedition history, such as Ørnereden and Tolvmandsbarakken on Ella Ø, Dødemandsbugten on Clavering Ø, Alabahuset on Shannon Ø and, this year, Villaen in Danmarkshavn. Consequently, these unique buildings, all worth preserving, will be preserved for many years to come. A fact that we take great delight in at Nanok.

There have also been allotted time and resources to the continuous restoration of even more of the small trapper huts. This year, e.g., two small huts in Store Sødal were refitted at the suggestion from the Zackenberg research station, so that these huts may continue to serve as shelters for scientists during field work in the area. An extra safety against the unpredictable Arctic weather.



AAGE V. JENSENS FONDE

First and foremost, Nanok sends a warm thank you to our main sponsor, Aage V. Jensens Fonde, for never-failing trust and support. This year it has been 20 years since the fond first began supporting the volunteer and non-profit work of Nanok in North-East Greenland. A sponsorship that has existed

ceaselessly ever since. Without this continuous support, Nanok would not be able to complete its work, which often poses a logistical challenge and takes years of preparation.

We also owe a special thanks to a range of the Danish military units and individuals for great collaboration, readily helping manage many logistic challenges. Many different units have contributed along the way, including Arctic Command, The Sirius Sledge Patrol, Station and Patrol Service Greenland, Defence Guard Mestersvig as well as the Navy's inspection vessels.

In connection with the restoration of Villaen in Danmarkshavn, we received significant support from both TELE and the personnel at Vejrstation Danmarkshavn. For this we are very grateful.

A warm thank you also to Inge Bisgaard at the Greenland National Museum in Nuuk for always complaisant collaboration and knowledgeable directions on the restoration.

Likewise, a great thank you to logistics personnel and scientists at both Daneborg and Zackenberg research stations for forthcoming assistance and collaboration.

Also a very warm thank you for the great backing that family and friends give to the dispatched Nanok'ers, who spend at least an entire summer vacation working for Nanok. Such support and understanding from the home front mean the world to the individual Nanok'er.

Furthermore, a great thank you to the large circle of individuals that continuously show positive interest in our work and support this.

Finally, a warm thank you to all other excellent collaborators as well as private and public authorities that in different ways have contributed to make our work possible.

On behalf of Nanok,

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen

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

Field report for the "Villa team" 2017

Tasks

The Villa team had the following tasks:

- to complete culture-historical preservation of "Villaen" / "Danmarksminde" in Danmarkshavn in accordance with directions from the Greenland National Museum and Nanok
- to establish a Nanok depot in Danmarkshavn
- to prepare for the Nanok expedition (to Hvalrosodden) 2019

The Villa team

Jens Chr. W. Gotfredsen (Sirius '77), carpenter; Asger L. Nielsen (Sirius '77), engineer; René R. Lauritzen, carpenter; Niels B. W. Gotfredsen, carpenter

The task

The Villa-project mainly consisted in preventing year-round seepage of snow and water. Over the last many years, the weather has been eating severely into the woodwork. Previous reports, one from Nanok in 2006 and a later from the Greenland National Museum, were therefore the basis for the planning of this summer's task.

In the spring 2017, Nanok purchased materials and supplies and shipped these to Danmarkshavn (DMH), where the challenge is that the supply ship only calls into port every other year. As early as 2016, floorboards were delivered to DMH with the inspection vessel "Triton", and tools and weapons were transported from the Nanok



Villaen in 1907. Notice the caribou antlers on the south-facing gable. In the background is the expedition ship "Danmark" in winter harbour.

depot in Daneborg. This meant that we were able to go straight to work upon arrival 10 August.

Arrival and start-up

The journey went according to plan until we reached DMH, where we arrived ten minutes too late, as the fog had just settled like a blanket over the station. Instead, we landed at and stayed overnight in Sirius' "Soranerhytte", before we arrived safely at DMH next day, when the fog had blown back out to sea.

That evening we inspected Villaen and immediately realised that it was even more rotten than it had been possible to establish before entering.

The personnel at DMH had done a great job de-icing and drying Villaen. Therefore, next day, we could begin inspecting the conditions and plan for the next few weeks of work.

We started by systematically photographing Villaen, then emptying it for all loose parts, keeping these for later reinstalling.



Villaen before and after restoration. The facade seen from South.



Villaen before restoration. Seen from North, West and East.

Prioritisation

Our first priority was to ensure a complete stop of water ingress, meaning the north, south and west walls. Consequently, the work on "the Observatory" and the two "containers" was suspended for the time being.

Hoping to preserve as many of the original building elements as possible, we very carefully removed the bank around the building. Approx. 20 m³ had to be removed. For the difficult parts we used an excavator from DMH. We kept the stone construction, ensuring to keep the original position. Hereafter it was a very arduous process excavating along the walls, which continuously revealed more and more rotten wood that practically disintegrated between our fingers.

We were now facing an incredibly difficult decision, and the verdict was tough and unmerciful. If we were to save the building from total decay, we had to perform an even greater replacement of the walls than we ever could have imagined. At the same time, we decided what had to be done inside Villaen itself, the oldest part of the Danmark Expeditions fine, original building, which fortunately has made it through the years,

even with changing users ranging from scientists to hunters from both Norway and Denmark.

Floorboards

Now the floorboards were put to the test. They were removed so we could get down and dig away the sand around the joists, which were buried in a pile of very damp sand. As porches had not been built from the beginning, the construction was intended to prevent draught under the floor. The old photos clearly show that stonewalls had been built up the walls, so - as no form of isolation had been used - a need for keeping the heat inside the hut must have occurred soon.

Unfortunately, the many years with water ingress, virtually since the beginning, had caused so much rot in the woodwork that it only with great difficulty was possible to retain a little more than half the old floorboards. After exposing the joists, all functional boards were reused and the rest replaced with new, solid pinewood boards.

For a few days, we kept the dehumidifier drying the main room in Villaen. Gradually as we opened up the porch, the drying-up of foundation and timber got rolling.



The bank during excavation. Left: Stone and peat are removed carefully by hand. Middle: Precision work removing earth with excavator. Right: Carefully moving the earth, which is examined for old, historical things.



The excavation along the walls revealed more and more rotten wood, which practically disintegrated between our fingers.



There were rot and decay in the lower areas of the walls.



The joists are exposed, where the floor has been broken up. Many boards disintegrate.



Left: The floor continues under the wall. Right: Finished floor.



Left: Finished floor and skirting boards. Right: Drain from the floor is led through the bank.

The finished floor was completed with new, broad skirting boards, which were painted black just like the existing door frame and architraves.

A drain, leading the water around the house, was made from stones and chippings, so any water will seep out through the bank. The drain was constructed in a way that hopefully will keep lemmings and ermines from settling under the floor.

The south wall – the facade

The south wall was exposed and some clinker boards appeared, revealing a previous restoration, as they were smeared with "green cobber". There were no exterior underlays protecting the wood.

Inside, below the window, a few vertical sheathing boards had been substituted with a white-painted plywood board, which we left untouched.

We exposed the posts up to 40 cm height and, after removing rusty nails and rotten wood, installed new pieces of timber in the construction to replace the wood that in some places crumbled between our fingers. Everywhere in the inner room, the vertical wall sheathing was in a very bad state due to rot, and we fixed plywood inside the wall to support it during later attachment of skirting boards.

Roofing felt and new clinker sheathing were attached. To give the appearance of old wood, we scorched the surface with a gas burner. The advantage of this treatment is that it closes the pits in the surface, thereby prolonging the service life of the wood.

The original triangle gable on Villaen was not tight, so it was renovated with roofing felt, and the clinker boards were attached all the way to the top.



Left and middle: The rotten posts below the window. Right: The new wood is scorched with a gas burner to give it an authentic appearance.



Left: The boxes in the bank. Right: Roof is supported

The "Danmarksminde" sign was reattached, unchanged. An identical, older sign hangs inside Villaen with a long account of the sequence of events of the replacement.

The east end of the south wall includes a "container-wall", which we covered with one layer of underlay and another layer of 1x4 laths offset on top of the old boards. We also gave these boards a surface treatment with the gas burner to make them look old.

The west end of the south wall with the door was quite perishable, and we gave it underlays and a new outer board partition, consisting of 1x4 lath. We gave the boards a kerf in the middle and over all joints to make it look as much as possible like the existing wall. Inner roofing felt was attached on the boards facing the bank of earth.

The porch at the main entrance was a big challenge. During the drying-up, we had agreed to clear up the old floor, which was not entirely intact, and lay in new chippings to make a solid foundation to walk on.

The west wall

It was not possible to preserve the west wall only by building a new wall up around the old. The west side had been constructed by boxes from "Conserves-fabrikken" that had been stacked, each on the side with the

opening outwards, and filled with earth and stone. There was no protection against the rain, which therefore had had easy access from the roof into the porch. The bank here was wet and the tree so porous that we had to quickly support the entire roof, which otherwise would collapse during the work.

The sill, however, was still fonctionable, and we reused most of the posts in the new construction. The strong pinewood boards, with tounge and groove, were used for the new wall sheathing. Inner roofing felt was attached with the greatest care, so that, in the process of welding on the outer roofing felt, the flame would not ignite the old wood, which otherwise could become a delayed fuse; a small breeze could start a terrible catastrophe.

Along the wall we made a drain from chippings, adding a layer of inner roofing felt in the bottom and outer roofing felt on the top. We burned on outer roofing felt in vertical bays, put on a layer of earth and then another layer of felt to lead away the water, from the wall. On top we made a new bank.

The north wall

The first 250 cm of the wall toward west had the same overhaul as the west wall. Here there was a depression in the bank, and



The new wall with floorboards, drain made with chippings and roofing felt.



Restoration of the north wall.

meltwater from the north slope had had easy access into the porch. We exposed the rest of the wall down to the bedrock and in some places in the porch deeper in. The boards came in many different sizes of questionable quality. Similarly, it was a chaos of angles and additions, so we had to remove all the roofing felt to thoroughly renovate the wall. We nailed on new inner roofing felt and let it cover 70 cm from the wall toward the subsoil. We put rocks of the size of fists on top and then chippings. Over these we again let the outer roofing felt cover approx. 70 cm outward. Asphalt primer was applied to the

rock in the places it had been exposed, and the felt was welded directly on. A stone construction and earth bank were established on top of the foundation of stone.

The north side of the observatory was not in such a bad state. However, there was a depression, which was made into a waterproof basin with roofing felt. Here we covered the sill with inner roofing felt and new clinker boards in approx. 30 cm height.

The east wall

The east wall mainly consists of the observatory and a backdoor to the hallway.



The trapdoor to the attic.



Left and middle: East wall before and after restoration. Right: Finished wall with backdoor.

The door from the hallway and out into the open was restored and became useable again. Now it can be opened from the outside and closed with two horizontal bars that help keeping the door in place. We did a total restoration of the wall around the door, which was very draughty.

The east wall was dug free, and here the sill and the lowest 25 cm of the posts were in a very bad state. New timber was laid in, and we isolated with felt before attaching new clinker boards. The earth bank was re-established with a drain made with chippings. Outside, inner roofing felt was nailed on, and a piece of outer roofing felt was burned on to finish.

Inside the observatory we swept the floor. A close inspection of the materials showed that it was a bit moist, but after having been dried, it is dry enough for showing to visitors, being the only future purpose. It is completely dark inside, so it is only possible to work with a light source at hand.

The roof

We were informed that the roofing felt cover had been renewed in 2008, and fortunately it was in good condition. We feel completely comfortable leaving it as it is. There were marks from bear claws penetrating the

porch. This was an easy fix, though.

The fascia boards were reused and attached. A higher upstand was made for the trapdoor to the attic, which also got a new closing mechanism with shims, making it completely tight.

The containers

The two "containers" were integrated with the building to prevent that snow settles in the hallways and consequently that water from sleet and rain run down the outer wall, where it rots the timber below ground level, as seen on the south side, where the inner sheathing was evidently rotten.

The original entrances from the hallway at the observatory were re-established. For many years there has been suspense about the content of the containers, as all the openings have been blocked until now. A little disappointing, therefore, that it was no more than sawdust, some tie-string, board fragments and dirt. The process tightening the container continued, demanding quite a bit of creative craftsman ingenuity.

The bank

The surface of the surrounding earth bank had become very dry like the rest of the landscape this summer.



Left and middle: Roof over containers. Right: The hallway and opening into the containers.



The house and the earth bank before (left) and after.

However, a foot deeper toward the wall, it was still very damp. Since the water has had direct passage from the roof, particularly the westernmost part of the bank was damp, consisting more of sand than earth. Without any protection against water on the porch, as mentioned, the rest of the water had been penetrating the passage and the floor further inside the house.

All earth was removed, giving us about 70 cm to move on, and we attached felt and built a drain that will lead the melt water

around the building and away. In the earth, which was reused, we found fragments of bamboo, rusty iron, cartridge cases, pieces of glass, and seal jaws and ribs.

The actual re-establishing of the bank with rock and peat was made solely by hand, so we were able to be very particular about keeping the water away from the hut. Conveniently, a rocky ridge runs parallel with the north side of the building. We took advantage of this and were able to arrange earth and peat in a broad frame,



The antlers are repaired and mounted.



Left: Thw window. Middle: Front door. Right. The final painting.

which the melt water has to pass, including three layers of felt and the drain, before it can reach the sill of the hut. As the earth bank will be completely frozen during most of the melting season, it is unlikely that water will seep through here.

The window

The window in the façade was in good condition. We installed some angles, which we found in the gravel, and the handles were strengthened, tightening the window. Then putty and linseed oil primer were applied.

The front door

The front door received a much-needed lift. The surface of the door was reinforced; rot was removed from holes, and a new hand-forged door handle has mounted, so now the door can also be closed from the inside. The frame was reinforced, and rotten parts of the lower part of the door were replaced.

The antlers

The caribou antlers, which we have seen

mounted to the end wall in an old photo of Villaen from 1907, were found scattered on the ground outside. They were repaired and remounted.

Further outdoor and indoor treatment

All outdoor woodwork was treated with a linseed oil primer. In accordance with recommendations from the Greenland National Museum, indoor surfaces and interior were left without painting to keep the authentic appearance.

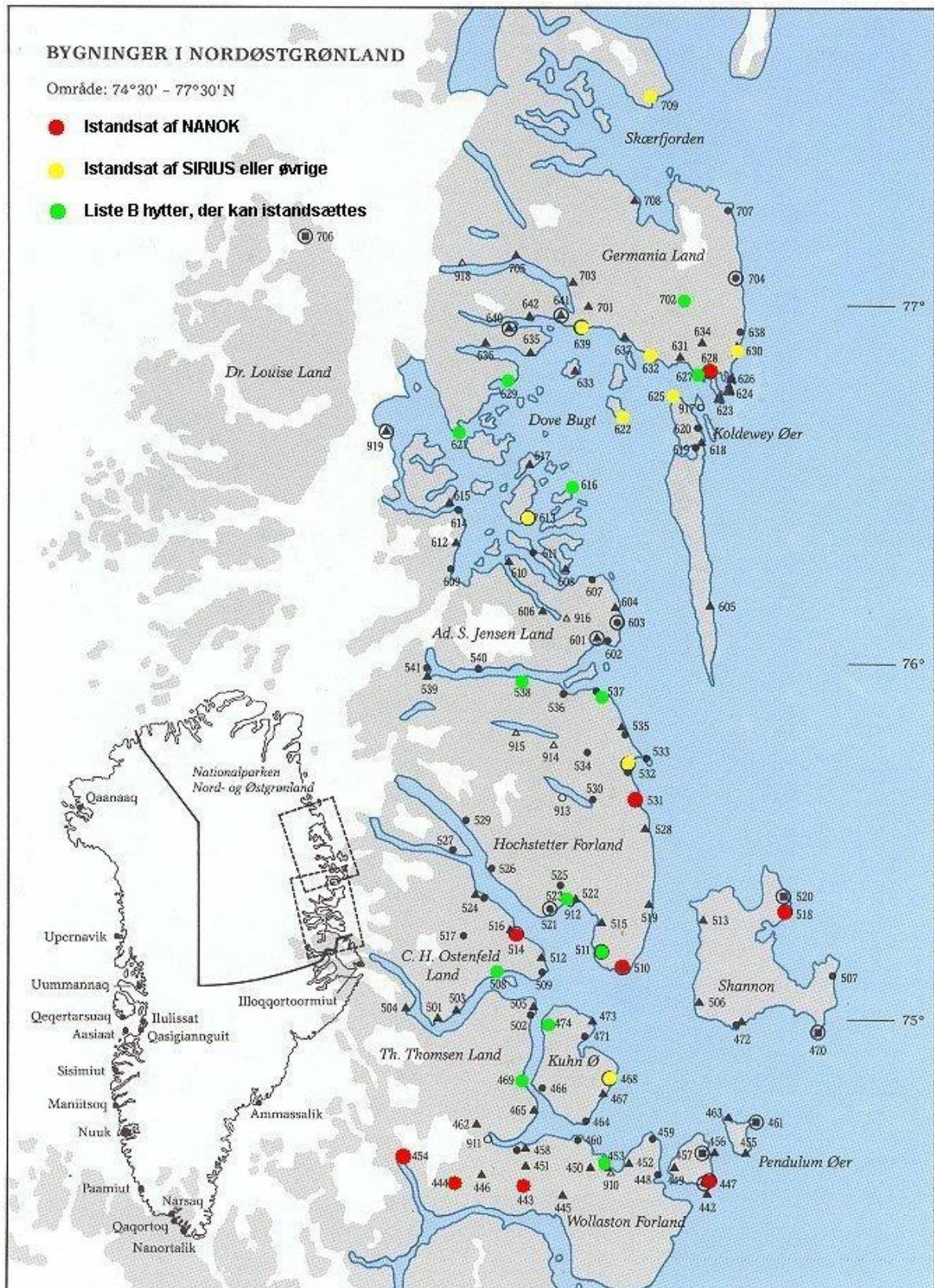
Conclusion

We send a great thank you to Telestation Danmarkshavn, both station manager and personnel, for lending us materials and tools, for accommodation and partial catering during our stay. Thank you especially for pleasant and friendly conversations, which you made time for in an otherwise busy working day and for good suggestions, which you didn't hesitate to share with us.

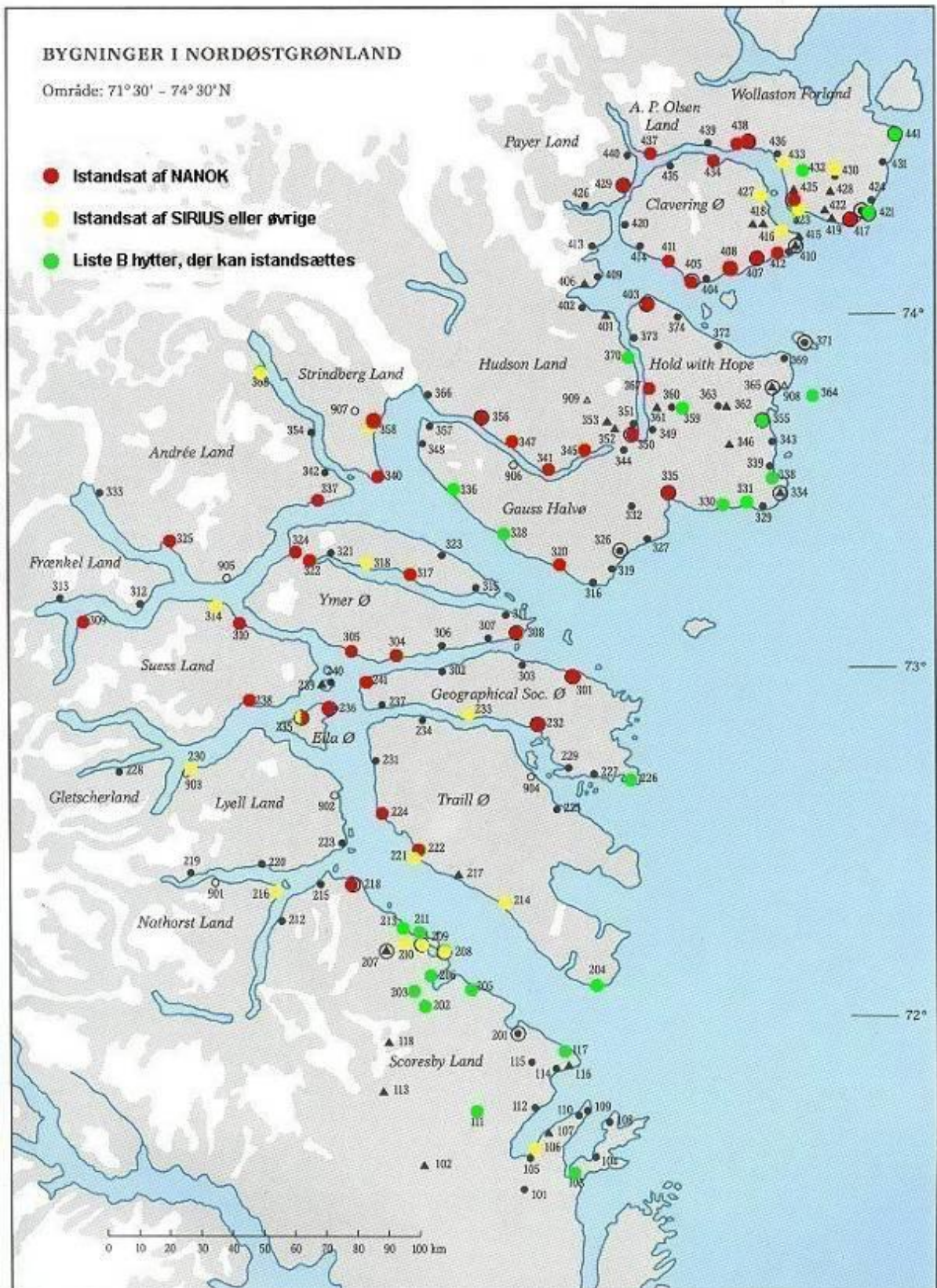
René - Asger - Jens Chr. - Niels



Left: Four trappers outside Villaen in 1919. Right: Four Nanok'ers outside Villaen in 2017.



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



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Field report for the "Daneborg team" 2017

Tasks

The Daneborg team had the following tasks:

- a) to refit Blæsenborghytten [443] and Antonsens Hytte [444]
- b) to do maintenance of and resupply the huts that previously have been restored by Nanok in the Daneborg region
- c) to inspect, count and maintain the Nanok depot in Daneborg
- d) to receive goods for Nanok in Daneborg
- e) to prepare for the Nanok expedition 2018

Participants

Brian Nissen (Sirius '13); Tobias "Bisse" Daugaard-Petersen (Sirius '12); Sebastian Bøg Kolind (Sirius '13).

Journey and arrival

This year's Nanok journey started in Kastrup Airport Wednesday 9 August very early in the morning. The last things were distributed before the trip continued to Iceland and from there to Constable Pynt. Here we changed to the airline you can always count on, Norlandair, which took us to Mestersvig. First, they flew away the Ella Ø team, while we and the Danmarkshavn team were waiting for our turn a few hours later. The good pilots returned, but the weather forecast told them that it was too foggy around Daneborg to land. At Danmarkshavn, however, it was clear, and they therefore took off toward Danmarkshavn, while we

had a day of waiting in Mestersvig. Luckily, we were in the good company of Owls and personnel from Station and Patrol Service Greenland; long live the hospitality of the Coast. The station also had two visits from a bear, but the bear had more interest in the garbage at Dumpen than in the staff, so the situation was calm.

Daneborg

Thursday afternoon we left Mestersvig with information that the fog was still lying around Daneborg. The pilots, however, found a hole in the clouds, which coincidentally was situated right above the runway at Daneborg. After what felt like an eternity, we finally heard the dogs barking in the distance, and we were well-greeted by Sirius, including old sledge team mates. After a cup of coffee and a slice of cake in Sirihus, we took in Sandodden [425-1] with a broom and a mob, which did wonders. We turned on the heat in the hut and soon felt right at "home" once again at the Coast.

Then came Friday, and we quickly rigged the two rubber dinghies. The motors were to be inspected and tested and the same for the immersion suits. Fortunately, we had assistance from the always helpful Egon Frandsen and Henrik Spanggård from Aarhus University.

We prepared for a small trial navigation and soon we were scooting on calm sea toward Zackenberg. Some of the scientists had told us that Havnehuset near the Zackenberg hut [438-1] was in need of a loving hand. When we arrived, we first did some reparations on the roofs of Fiskerhytten [438-4] and the



Blæsenborg [443] upon arrival. Materials for restoring the hut had been delivered at the hut beforehand, in May-June, on snow scooters by the Zackenberg Zero people.

Zackenbergt hut. Havnehuset was in a bad state, but we did our best to tighten the roof and the sides with the roofing felt that we had brought with us. Doors and shutters were reattached, and now it can stand a few winters more.

This year, the supply ship was a little delayed, so we had time to sail past Djævlekløfthytten [427], the Henningelvt hut [416] and the Dahl Skær hut [412] and repair small damages to roofing felt, etc. Two new shutters were made for the last-named.

Due to the late skibsmik, Sirius was understaffed. We stepped in and helped out unpacking provisions, dog food, equipment, etc. Bisse, who is a veterinarian, assisted the veterinarians from the University of Copenhagen taking blood samples from Sirius' sledge dogs.

In late April-May, Jørgen Skafte from Zackenberg Zero had led a small expedition bringing materials and provisions up to Blæsenborg [443] and Antonsens hytte [444] on snow scooters. Thanks to him we only had to carry our personal belongings plus some coal and fuel, which the sledges had

not had room for. We were now ready to set course toward Zackenberg, where we docked the dinghies and walked the almost 5 km up to Blæsenborg.

Blæsenborg [443]

It was grey and windy when we arrived, so there was no reason for sitting down and get lost in our own thoughts. The hut was emptied, and the earth cleared all the way around. The lower boards on three of the sides were replaced, as well as a part of a corner post. The floor lay directly on the ground and was, sadly, rotten to the core. We removed it and dug out earth before laying new joists and floorboards, with air between wood and earth. Bisse was the indoor man, and the floor was ready at midnight. Sebastian and I took on the roofing felt outside. We were a little unlucky with the weather, as it started to snow at 8 p.m. The temperature was about zero, and we got a little wet, but not enough to drown the spirits. We put inner roofing felt loosely on the roof, planning to sleep in the hut. We easily fit on the floor all three of us.



Restoration of Blæsenborg [443]. The old floor was rotten and had to be replaced. A new bunk and table similar to the previous were made for the inside.



Left: Job done, Blæsenborg! Right: Three happy Nanok'ers. From the left: Tobias Daugaard-Petersen, Brian Nissen and Sebastian Bøg Kolind.

During the night, the snow melted and, very relevantly, started to drip inside of the hut in one side. After a little tussle at 04:30 a.m., we solved the problem and ended up sleeping three men on two sleeping mats in one side of the hut. At 8 a.m., out of the sleeping bags, freezing, and into the wet clothes from the day before. We slogged away until noon, when the oven was installed and the hut tightened with outer roofing felt, and we went inside to get dry. The weather behaved, and work progressed

easily. As there, by coincidence, had been delivered both black and green outer roofing felt to the hut, the sides became green, and roof and porch black. New roofing around door and window, which also got a new layer of putty; shutter and stone box for the stovepipe were made and burnt just enough to make them look like the original. Inside, a new bunk was made as well as table similar to the previous. The hut was put in order, and the residual materials were placed behind the hut to be picked up next spring.



Restoration of Antonsens hytte [444] in Store Sødal. Top: The hut upon arrival. The bottom 15-30 cm of the walls were rotten. The boards in the corners and at the door were replaced to be able to carry the weight of the hut.



Antonsens hytte [444] after restoration. The old stove was located on a flat rock of ½ m², and the floor consisted of earth and rock. We chose to put a wooden floor, and the flat rock was reused for the new stove.

Antonsens hytte [444]

Excited about the upcoming project, we hiked 17 km up through Store Sødal on a lovely warm sunny day. We reached Antonsens hytte, and it did not look too bad at first glance. We followed the same procedure, emptying the hut and clearing the earth around the sides. As we took out the tools, we discovered that, by accident, the nails hadn't been packed, only a box of screws. We knew, however, that the battery of the cordless screwdriver was running low, so we were anxious, to say the least, to see how far it would go. Luckily, we found two boxes of very rusty but functional nails in the hut, and all the old roofing nails, already in the boards, were carefully pulled out and cleaned, so they could be reused.

The boards here were vertical, and, on closer inspection inside, it appeared that the bottom 15-30 cm were rotten. Since we did not have enough wood to replace all the boards in full length, we chose to change the boards in the corners and at the door. We put some rocks underneath the boards, so they could carry the hut, and thereby the rotten parts could be cut off all way around and exchanged with new. The hut was sheathed with roofing felt, and this time we were able to make it completely black, except one single green line on the back wall. The floor was made of earth and rock, the old stove standing on a flat rock of ½ m². We chose to put a wooden floor and reused the rock for the new stove.

An excellent choice in our opinion. Roofing around door and window, new shutter, a new bunk and a table made and mounted. The hut is now ready to receive its first guests.

Other tasks

Another task was to inspect the huts south and west of Daneborg that had been restored or refitted during previous Nanok expeditions. With the rubber dinghies on calm water, we set course towards Leirvågen [434] in Lerbugten, where a curious seal came all the way into the beach and took its time to say hello. On the sail back to Bjørnnesstua [437], one of the 40 HP motors stalled. After some struggle, we decided to put on the auxiliary motor to reach the hut, where our engineer, Sebastian, put up a good fight to start the engine, but in vain. We repacked and first went to Fjordbotten [454] and then on to Moskusheimen [429] in one boat. On the way back from the last-mentioned, suddenly a bear showed up, probably quite disappointed that the hut now has been emptied of provisions. It sneaked away without any hassle. With the auxiliary motor attached, we managed to sail the two boats to Zackenberg, where we had the luck of running into an old colleague from Nanok and Sirius, Tjock (Jørn Ladegaard, Sirius year '74). After a delicious dinner we launched the dinghies back into Young Sund and a short while later moored at Daneborg. Once again, we unpacked and our 40 HP motor, which apparently was done making a



Left: Bjørnnesstua [437]. Right: Moskusheimen [429]



Left: Dahl Skær Hytten [412]. Right: Elvsborg [407]



Left: Dødemandsbugten [408]. Right: Eskimonæs [405]



Left: Norma hytta [411-2]. Right: Mellehuset [367-2]

scene and quickly started when we tried pulling the rope. That same evening we had been invited to join the departure party for the last homebound Sirius men. It was a great night in always-pleasant company in Sirihus.

The last expedition went south, east around Clavering Ø. Elvsborg [407] got a new shutter and a small reparation of the door. Dødemandsbugten [408], which had been restored by Nanok in 2014, was still in a very good state. The outer door was sagging a bit and was adjusted before we went to Eskimonæs [405] and Krogness [403]. Mellemhuset [367] and Norma hytta [411-2] had been visited by bear, but the damages were not so bad that they couldn't be fixed with some boards, roofing felt and a clean-up. We took the opportunity to pay the ruin Sandvik [411-1] a visit; it could very well be a future Nanok project. In high sea toward Daneborg, we made a stop at Guldminen [922], where we found the entrance but, unfortunately, no gold. Back at Daneborg the boats were dismantled, motors and equipment cleaned and put away. Sandodden, Bådhuset and Skindskuret got a needed clean-up while we were taking stock. The last few days, the weather in Daneborg was at its best behaviour, sunny and almost windless. On 30 August the journey ended with a nice flight to Constable Pynt, over Iceland, and back to Copenhagen.

Conclusion

Nanok team Daneborg '17 a grateful for an absolutely fantastic trip. We thank Sirius



The sailing and hiking routes of the Daneborg team 2017:

Sail 1 (yellow): 41 km

Sail 2 (green): 61 km

Sail 3 (blue): 175 km

Sail 4 (red): 215 km

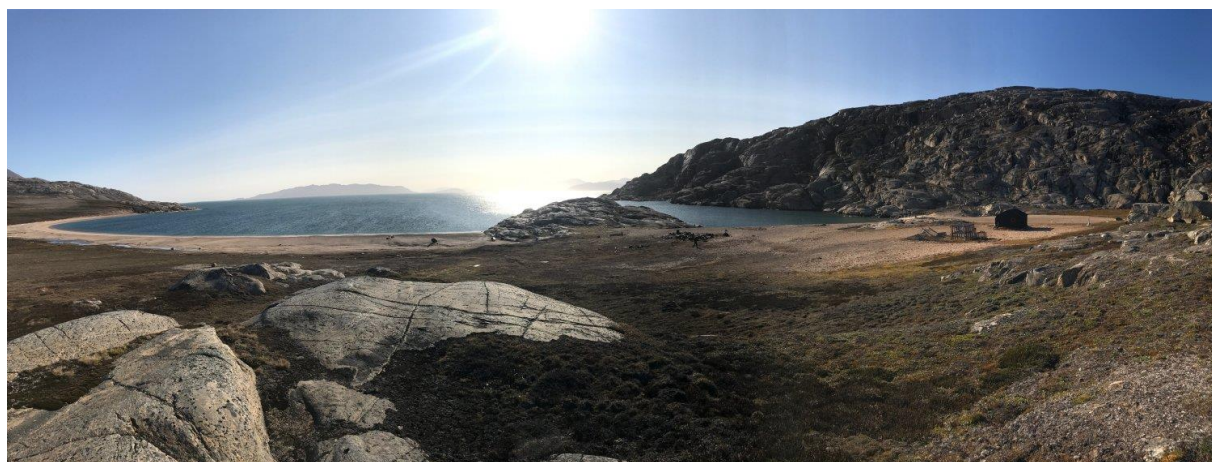
Hiking route (purple): 44 km

In total: 536 km

Number of huts and station restored / inspected / maintained / resupplied: 18.

many times for letting us use everything from bathrooms and for help with vehicles and tools. Also a great thank you to Egon Frandsen, Jørgen Skafte, Lars Holst, Henrik Spanggård and Jonas from Aarhus University and Zackenberg respectively for their great effort bringing out materials to the huts and for their help at the stations.

Brian - Tobias - Sebastian



Panorama over Eskimonæs.

Field report for the "Ella Ø team" 2017

Tasks

The Ella Ø team had the following tasks:

- a) to complete refurbishment of Tolvmandsbarakken and set up and furnish the new Nanok container
- b) to do maintenance on Nanok's vessels
- c) to inspect, count and do maintenance in Nanok's depot on Ella Ø
- d) to inspect various huts and houses in the Ella Ø area and photograph these with Google Street View (GSV) camera
- e) to record reference points with Javad Triumph GPS for the Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency
- f) to receive goods for Nanok on Ella Ø
- g) to prepare for the Nanok expedition 2018

Participants

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen (Sirius '77)
Aage Sandholdt (Sirius '72)

Journey up and arrival at Ella Ø

The two participants on the Ella Ø team met with the other seven participants in Kastrup Airport early in the morning of 9 August 2017. From here the journey continued with Icelandair's airliner to Keflavik and then with Air Iceland's Dash-8 from Reykjavik Airport to Constable Pynt. After a few minutes in Constable Pynt, we flew to Mestersvig with the legendary pilot Jónas Finnbogason at the helm of Norlandair Twin Otter TF-NLC. In Mestersvig all Nanok'ers



From the left: Aage, Peter and the Sirius men: Jens, Silas, Mikkell, Steffan, Anton and the dogs: Christian, Lauge and Marius. Right: Preparation of the dinghy Brebøl-jollen.



Hverken Ørnereden eller Tolvmandsbarakken var i vinterens løb blevet beskadiget af isbjørne.

stepped out except the Ella Ø team, which immediately took off for Ella Ø, where we arrived about 6 p.m. in a lovely sunny weather and were welcomed by the five Sirius men present: Anton, Mikkell, Silas, Jens and Steffan, and their three charming sledge dogs: Christian, Marius and Lauge. Everything looked good, and we were happy to establish that there had been no break-in by bear either in Ørnereden or Tolvmandsbarakken during the winter. A good start.

Start-up and sail no. 1: Vega Sund

Next morning, 10 August, we began the summer's tasks. Due to different circumstances, the scheduled arrival of this year's Royal Arctic Line (RAL) supply ship had been delayed approx. 10 days. The expected arrival at Ella Ø was now postponed to 13 August. This meant that we had to rearrange the order of the planned work, while waiting for the ship to arrive





Left: Bearded seal on floe in Vega Sund. Right: Sverresborg [232]. In the middle of the ridge, the contour of the Javad GPS can be seen, which was left on while we worked on the house.

with our goods.

The first project of the day was to prepare and launch Brebøl-jollen. This was already done before lunch, and therefore we could continue to collect equipment for our first sail into Vega Sund. During the day, we also recorded a GPS reference point from the roof of Tolvmandsbarakken. The Javad GPS that we used, must record for at least 3-4 hours to achieve sufficient precision for the reference point.

The following day, 11 August, at 07:30 a.m., we took off from Ella Ø in Brebøl-jollen bound for Vega Sund. En route we stopped at Maristua [236] to inspect the hut and leave a copy of the book "North-East Greenland 1908-60", which Nanok has decided to leave in all the restored huts. Maristua was in a fairly good state. As before, we recorded Google Street View (GSV) photos, which we continued to do in all huts visited during our sails.

From Maristua we continued across Kong Oscar Fjord and into Vega Sund, where we

were met by a dense, low morning mist; but thanks to GPS we were able to manoeuvre directly in to Sverresborg [232] without problems, arriving at 10:30 a.m. During the sail, we passed closely by three bearded seals, lazing on a floe. The Javad GPS was immediately put on the ridge of Sverresborg for recording. In the course of the winter, Sverresborg had been visited by bear that had rearranged the stovepipe and other inventory, which we began to repair. While working on that, we even had a visit by a bear, curiously scenting us through the mist from a few hundred meters distance. With the rifles within reach, we kept an eye on it, continuing our work. We were not that interested, though, and the bear plodded away after a while. Around noon the weather cleared up, and after three hours we turned off the Javad GPS and, in a bright sunshine, returned to Ella Ø with a short stop at Solveigs Hytte [233], which was in good condition.



Left: Aage replaces the faulty exhaust pipe on "Agsut". Middle: The defective parts. Right: The new exhaust pipe mounted on "Agsut".



Left: RAL's supply ship "Malik Arctica" arrives at Ella Ø. Right: Nanok's new container placed beside Tolvmandsbarakken.

We arrived at Ella Ø just in time for dinner and, with an easy conscience, shared three cans of 'Wienergyde' of older date but nonetheless eatable; a classic tinned food at Sirius, which revived good memories from our time - now long gone - as Sirius men.

Station work and skibsmik

Back at Ella Ø, we started preparing for skibsmik, which among other things included packing various items that had to be shipped. Furthermore, we took off the rearmost tarpaulin of our dinghy "Agsut", which needed a replacement of exhaust pipe and fuel pump. This work started next day, 13 August, where we also recorded Street View photos of Ørnereden.

At 2 p.m., "Malik Arctica", RAL's new supply ship, arrived. The unloading began immediately after and continued until late at night. The skibsmik went well and efficiently in the nice, calm weather, and we got our new Nanok 20-feet container brought safely ashore and placed precisely in

the prepared site next to our other container at the north side of Tolvmandsbarakken. The shipped goods came with the container, so now we could really get down to the planned work on Ella Ø.

Refurbishing Tolvmandsbarakken, etc.

We spent 14 August unpacking the received goods and preparing for the windy weather that had been forecasted for next day. We also moved the timber into the new container, where it will stay dry and safe in the future.

In the morning of 15 August, we started setting up water supply for Tolvmandsbarakken, so that both cold and hot running water can be drawn in the kitchen from now on. A gas stove and a gas refrigerator were installed inside, as well as new tables and shelving units in all rooms. The weather was quite calm and sunny in the afternoon, but about 3 p.m. a really heavy storm suddenly came in over the station. The storm continued without easing off until late



Left: Installation of water heater for Tolvmandsbarakken. Middle: Fitting of refrigerator and stove. Right: Running hot and cold water makes kitchen work much easier.



Timber, paint and chemicals are moved into the new container, where it will be stored safely and easily accessible.

at night.

Next day, 16 August, the water supply for Tolvmadsbarakken was installed and running; a comfortable and timesaving facility. Inside the house we also put up coat racks, mirrors and blackout blinds. Furthermore, we relocated various equipment, Nanok stoves among other things, from the old machine house beside Ørnereden down to the new container, where it is more practical to store.

Thursday, 17 August, we completed mounting the new exhaust pipe on "Agsut", and in Tolvmadsbarakken doors were installed in two of the rooms that had been without door. In the afternoon, Ella Ø had a visit from Oceanwide's cruise schooner "Rembrandt van Rijn" carrying about 30 tourists.

Friday we prepared "Agsut" for the winter and mounted a flagpole on Tolvmadsbarakken. Inside the house the

new doors were painted with linseed oil paint. Moreover, we patch-painted the scratches on the new container that it had gotten during the transport and set it up with a shelving unit for paint and chemicals.

In the evening the boat "Jytte" arrived with four old Sirius men (two times father and son) – Henrik Friis ('62), Bjarki Friis ('05), Lars Gormsen ('74), Morten Gormsen ('05) – and the Norwegian Ole Kristoffersen.

The following day we did a few different tasks at the station, prepared for sail no. 2, and mounted lashing hooks on Brebøl-jollen.

Sail no. 2: Tour de Ymer Ø

Sunday, 20 August, at 7:30, we launched for sail no. 2; a trip around Ymer Ø and into Dusén Fjord. It was clear and calm, a fantastic weather for navigation for a heavily loaded motor dinghy sailing about 40 km/hour. The route of the day took us to Svedenborg [241], Arentz Hytten [304],



Left: Assembly of the shelving units. Middle: Doors are painted. Right: Flags raised on the new flagpole.



Left: Muskoxen in Dusén Fjord. Right: Remains of the rediscovered Kloksethytte [323] on the north side of Ymer Ø.

Laplace [301], Kap Humboldt [308] and into Dusén Fjord, where we passed several herds of muskoxen, to Brøggers hytte [317] and finally Noahytten [322], where we stopped for the night. In every location, the huts were inspected, and GSV photos were recorded.

The following day we returned through Dusén Fjord, turned left toward west along the north coast of Ymer Ø. The first project of the day was to try tracing vestiges of the so-called Kloksethytte or Slippenhytte [323], built in 1938 by the Norwegian trapper Ole Klokset. Since then, the hut had almost fallen into oblivion and had not been localised during previous searches. Approx. 10 km east of the valley Slippen, we started following the coast closely, looking for traces of the hut. Fortune smiled upon us. About 4 km east of Slippen, in a small cove, we found the remains of a hut that corresponded exactly to the description that Ole Klokset had made back then. Highly

encouraged by this rare discovery, we continued briskly toward west and visited Ragnhilds-hytten [337] on the way to Varghytten [324] in Blomsterbugten, the destination of the sail, where we stayed overnight.

Next day, Tuesday, 22 August, we set off from Blomsterbugten at 8 a.m., just as the “Ocean Atlantic” with Quark Expedition was anchoring to visit the hut. Our first stop was Bjørnheimen [310], where we repaired the door and the table. Then we continued through Antarctic Sund, initially in sunny weather and dead calm sea, which gradually changed to strong headwind and sea, bouncing us around, until we arrived safely at Namdalshytten [305] about lunchtime. Here we made a new window shutter, as the old had been destroyed. Finally we set course toward Ella Ø via a quick stop at Maria Ø. At the same time as we called at Ella Ø, “Jytte” and her crew arrived back



Left: Evening at Noa SØ Hytten [322]. Right: Repairation of the door on Bjørnheimen [310].



Left: Hamna [208-2] needs a thorough restoration both outside and inside. Nanok has scheduled this for 2020. Right: Replacement of defect H-piece on Kap Peterséns [218].

from a trip in Dicksons Fjord. The following day was spent on various work at the station and furnishing our containers. At 8 a.m. the inspection ship "Vædderen" arrived, anchoring near Maria Ø, from where their RIBs did ferry service for Sirius all day with goods to and from Ella Ø.

On Thursday, 24 August, about 9 a.m., a Norlandair Twin Otter landed to pick up the Sirius men. A couple of technicians arrived with it to inspect the power generator of the station. At 2 p.m. we said goodbye to the spirited Sirius men and their charming dogs and were now only two men left at the station. Friday was spent counting and furnishing the Nanok depot and preparing for sail no. 3.

Sail no. 3: Kong Oscar Fjord

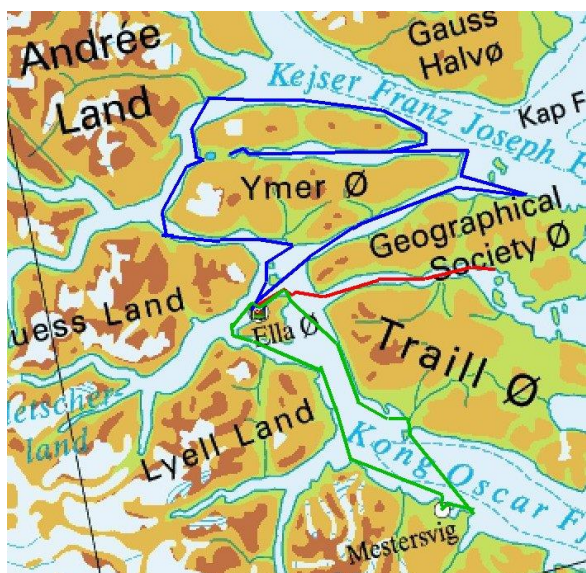
Our third and last sail began early in the morning Saturday, 26 August, and went via Maristua [236], Kongeborgen [224-2], Holm

Bugt Hytten [222], Hamna [208-2] to Nyhavn [209-2] at Mestersvig. Here we were received by the crew of "Jytte" and kindly invited to dinner and to stay overnight in "Kontoret", one of the still functional buildings at the site. We also paid a short visit at Mestersvig Airport and here, too, we were greeted by old friends.

The morning after at 7, we launched from Nyhavn to return to Ella Ø. En route we visited the station Kap Peterséns, where we replaced the defective T-piece on the stovepipe. From there the journey continued to Ella Ø in mixed sailing weather, varying from completely dead calm in the east of Narhvalsund to foaming heavy seas and wind around Bastionen. Nonetheless, we arrived safely at Ella Ø at 11:30 a.m. in a bright sunny and windy weather. At high tide later that afternoon, we docked Brebøljollen and thereby concluded a fine sailing season for the Ella Ø team.



Left: Ella Ø with Tolvmandsbarakken and the two Nanok containers in the foreground. Right: Tolvmandsbarakken before departure. It has become a lovely expedition house.



The sailing routes of the Ella Ø team 2017:

*Sail 1 (red): 160 km
Sail 2 (blue): 440 km
Sail 3 (green): 215 km
In total: 815 km*

*Number of huts and stations inspected /
maintained / resupplied in connection with
sails: 16.*

Preparations for winter and conclusion

In fine, calm Arctic sunshine weather, we spent 28 – 29 August dismantling, counting and winter-preparing Brebøl-jollen, Tolvmandsbarakken and the Nanok depot. About 11 a.m. on 30 August, a Norlandair Twin Otter TF-NLC landed to pick us up after three fantastic weeks on Ella Ø and in the Ella Ø area.

We had completed all planned tasks plus a few more, especially thanks to good weather throughout the period.

Along the way, we received very kind assistance from many parts, not least from the Sirius men at Ella Ø, the Station and Patrol Service Greenland (SPG), Arctic Command, the Sirius Sledge Patrol and Defence Guard Mestersvig. We are very grateful for this support.

Peter - Aage



The Nanok team 2017.

From the left: Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen, Aage Sandholdt, Niels Bjarne Worm Gotfredsen, Jens Chr. Worm Gotfredsen, René Rodtborg Lauritzen, Asger Lakmann Nielsen, Sebastian Bøg Kolind, Brian Nissen, Tobias Daugaard-Petersen.

On Nanok

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

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

Nanok consists of a private group of seven persons, the Board. These are: Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen (managing director), Jens Erik Schultz, Tommy Pedersen, Palle V. Norit, Søren Rysgaard, Fritz Ploug Nielsen and Jesper Mølbæk Stentoft (treasurer). Nanok's accountant is Aka Lynge. Torben E. Jeppesen assist with material purchase. Nanok's logistics centre is managed by Kristian Nevers. Besides the above mentioned, a number of private individuals, Nanok'ers, participate actively in the Nanok's work. All work in Nanok is voluntary and unpaid.

Each summer, Nanok dispatch a field team of typically 6-10 participants divided into 2-3 teams who work in North-East Greenland for three to five weeks. The result of this work is documented and published in a field report. The expedition participants are chosen by the board. In the years 1991-2017, a total of 169 Nanok'ers – or more than 75 private individuals – has been dispatched to North- East Greenland.

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

Nanok's work is financed by the Aage V. Jensens Fonde. The organisation is furthermore supported by Royal Arctic Line as well as a number of private contributors. Among Nanok's many supportive partners are: Norlandair, Arctic Research Centre, Arctic Science Partnership, Greenland Self Government, The Greenland National Museum & Archive, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Arctic Command, The Sirius Sledge patrol, Defence Guard Mestersvig, Education- & Maintaining Section Greenland, Royal Arctic Line and TELE.

Since 1991 Nanok has repaired and maintained approx. 50 cultural historic buildings and has for this effort gained considerable recognition from The Greenland Self Government.

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

Nanok has had a formal cooperative agreement with The Greenland National Museum & Archive since 2010.



List of North-East Greenlandic stations and huts renovated by Nanok 1991 - 2017:

No.	Name	Renovation year	No.	Name	Renovation year
201	Antarctichavn	2001 (crushed 2002)	350	Loch Fyne	1993, 2007
218	Kap Peterséns	1998	356	Hoelsbu	1999, 2000, 2007
224-2	Kongeborgen	2001	358-3	Strindberghuset	2013
222	Holm Bugt hytten	2001	367-2	Mellemhuset	2010
232	Sverresborg	2014	403	Krogness	2010
235	Ørnereden, Ella Ø	2015, 2016	405	Eskimonæs	1998
235	Tolvmandsbarakken	2015-2017	407	Elvsborg	2007-2008
236	Maristua	2008	408	Dødemandsbugten	2013-2014
238	Mineralbukta	2010	411-2	Norma hytta	2010
241	Svedenborg	2011	412	Dahl Skær hytten	2010
301	Laplace	2009	417	Kap Herschell	2002
304	Arentz hytten	2008	425	Sandodden/Karina	1994-2000, 2007, 2009
305	Namdalshytten	2010	429	Moskusheimen	1994
308	Kap Humboldt	1997	434	Leirvågen	2008
309	Rendalshytten	2010	438-2	Zackenbergt	1991-1992
310	Bjørnheimen	2008	438-4	Fiskerhytten	2008
317	Brøggers hytte	2012	437	Bjørnesstua	2008
320	Smedal	2012	443	Blæsenborghytten	2017
322	Noa Sø hytten	2008	444	Antonsens hytte	2017
324	Varghytten	2002, 2007	447	Germaniahavn	1999
325	Renbugtshytten	2010	454	Fjordbotten	2013
335	Myggbukta	1999, 2002, 2011	510	Hochstetter	1996, 1998
337	Ragnhilds-hytten	2008	514	Ny Jonsbu	1995
340	Kap Ovibos hytten	2000, 2007, 2012	518	Alabamahuset	2016
341	Halle	2011	531	Ottostrand	2009
345	Bråstad	2011	628-1	Villaen, Danmarkshavn	2017
347	Petrahytten	2011	---	Kap Moltke /Brønlundhus	2001

Source of hut numbers and names: Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen: North-East Greenland 1908-60 The Trapper Era. The Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), University of Cambridge (2008).

