

Press Report

Spitsbergen Expedition 2007

Arved Fuchs returns from his eventful expedition

Bad Bramstedt / Flensburg, October 5th, 2007



Arved Fuchs (54) from Bad Bramstedt set off in June on this year's expedition. The polar explorer returns from this journey to his point of departure today. After leaving the Museum Harbour in Flensburg, the ship and its crew headed along the Norwegian coast for Spitsbergen, an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. An international youth camp under the title "Ice - Climate - Education" stood on the programme at the beginning of the journey. Fourteen young people from five nations had qualified themselves to participate. With the help of different lectures and lengthy hikes around Longyearbyen, the young people got to know the Arctic and were able to form their own opinions about the effects of climatic change in the Arctic regions. They returned to their schools as "Ambassadors of the Arctic".

Following the youth camp, Arved Fuchs set off with his ship the "Dagmar Aaen" to the ice edge in order to take readings and to examine the ice samples. Dr. Dirk Notz, a scientist from Hamburg who was on board, then evaluated the readings and the results at the university. Due to the fact that the ice has receded so far, Fuchs and his team were forced to sail as far north as the 82nd parallel in order to reach the ice edge.

The third aspect of the expedition was a search for evidence of the German Arctic expedition undertaken by Herbert Schröder-Stranz between 1912 and 1913. Fuchs and his crew found relics of one of the unsolved puzzles in German polar history on "Nordostland". SPIEGEL TV, commissioned by ZDF, is producing a documentary on the historical part of Fuchs' expedition. A documentary on the one-week youth camp will be produced by Gunther Scholz, who is a film producer from Berlin.

This eventful expedition, which rounded Spitsbergen comes to an end on Friday, October 5th. Arved Fuchs was able to sail around the archipelago with his ship the "Dagmar Aaen". This was only possible due to this year's dramatic ice recession, which has reached a new world record.