

## *Camp «Aglax» - history snapshots*





















*Summer children ethno-ecological camp “Aglax” on Bering Island was founded in 2006. The idea was first suggested by Olga Petrovna Kuznetsova. She proposed to create a tent camp in Staraya Gavan (Old Harbor). The idea was implemented, and the camp in “Starukha” (the locals’ affectionate nickname for the bay) was functioning until 2009. Starting from 2010 the ethno-ecological camp “Aglax” became an expedition camp.*

*The camp’s main goals are:*

- To visit hard to get to places which can only be reached on foot by organizing multi-day hikes across the island;*
- To study the nature of the island, in order to foster the appreciation of our homeland;*
- To develop campers’ resilience, independence and teamwork spirit;*
- To inspire students’ creativity and aid their physical health*



2006  
*Staraya Gavan  
(Old Harbor)*











*2007  
Staraya  
Gavan  
(Old  
Harbor)*

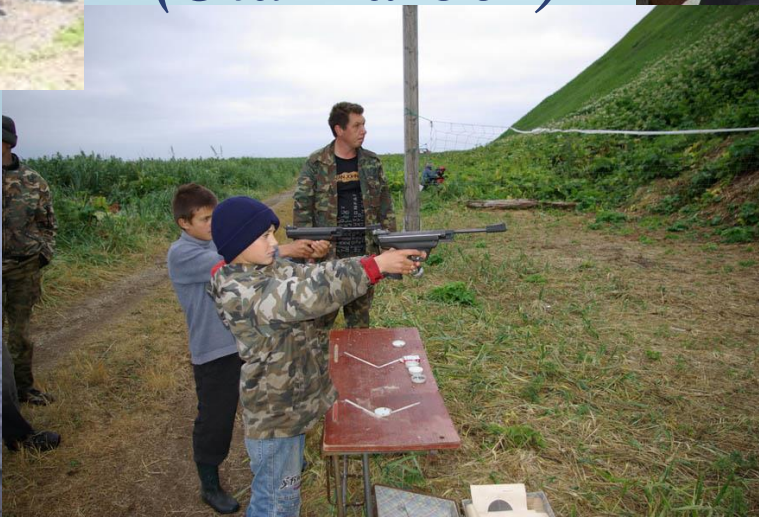






# 2008

## *Staraya Gavan (Old Harbor)*











# 2009

## *Staraya Gavan (Old Harbor)*



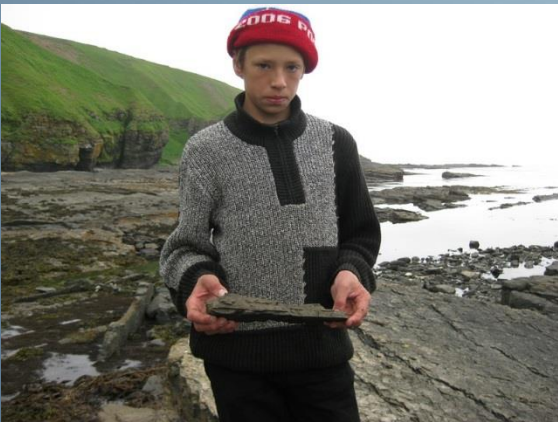


# 2010

## *The camp became travelling camp*





















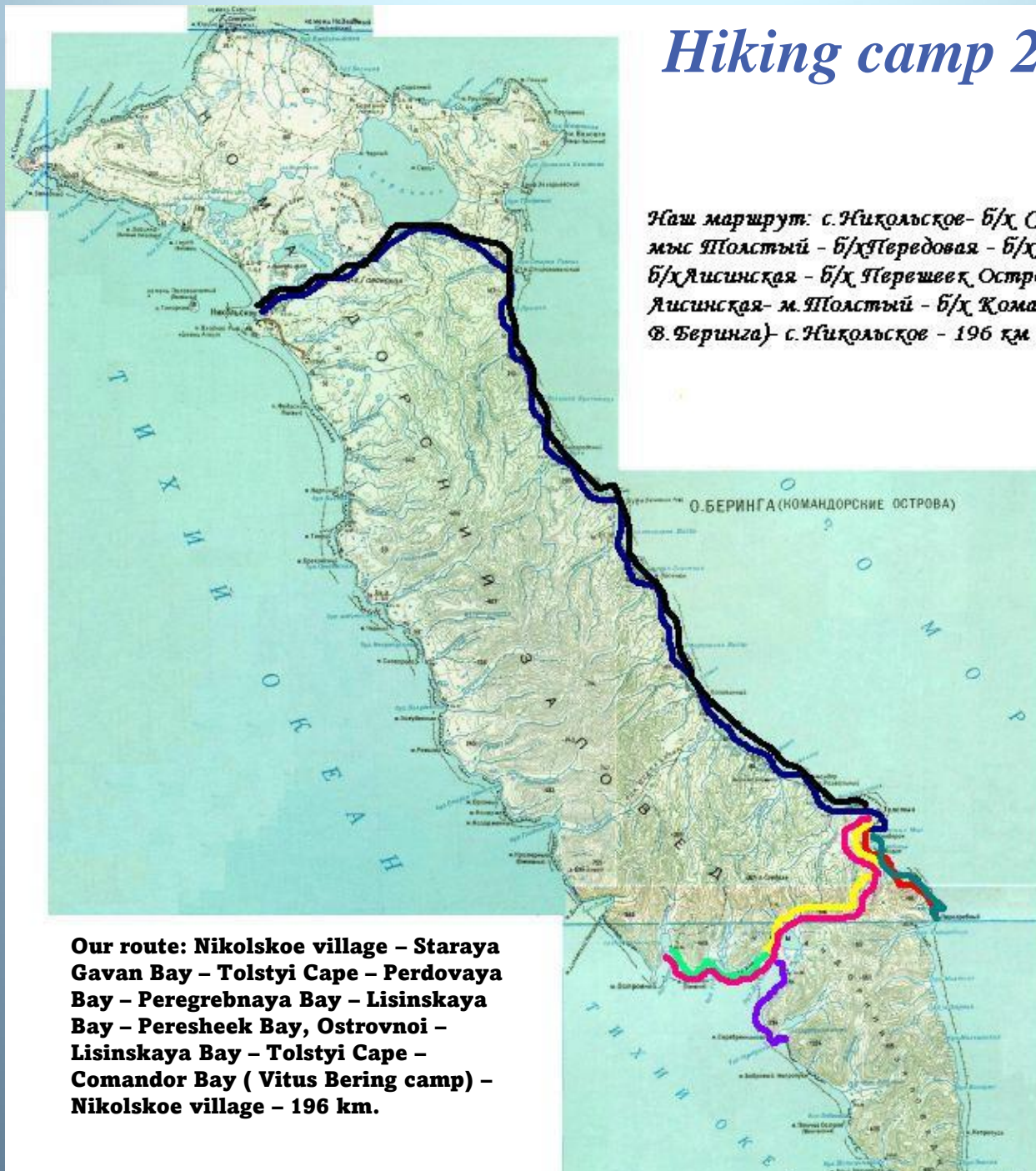




# Hiking camp 2011

Наш маршрут: с. Никольское- б/х Старая Гавань-  
мыс Толстый - б/х Передовая - б/х Перегрёбная -  
б/х Лисинская - б/х Перешеек Островной - б/х  
Лисинская- м. Толстый - б/х Командор( стоянка  
В. Беринга)- с. Никольское - 196 км

**Our route: Nikolskoe village – Staraya Gavan Bay – Tolsty Cape – Perdovaya Bay – Peregrebnaya Bay – Lisinskaya Bay – Peresheek Bay, Ostrovnoi – Lisinskaya Bay – Tolsty Cape – Comandor Bay ( Vitus Bering camp) – Nikolskoe village – 196 km.**





*Ready for departure*





*Last preparations and checking gear attachment*





## *Arrived at Cape Tolsty*



*Our volunteer  
Vera Vladimirovna Belobrova*





*Catching Arctic Char for  
fish soup*







*Next morning we left for Baidarnaya Landing. Because of morning low tides, we had to leave very early. Local waterfalls have already lost the power and beauty one could have admired just a month ago.*



*But the rookeries on steep cliffs were buzzing with life*









*We are ready to hike across the island*





*Our experienced guides – Marina Petrovna and Vladimir Alekseevich Levyi*





*We had 15 km to hike with our backpacks across the rocky landscape*





*Steep descends and ascends*





*Well deserved rest*





*Ascend was difficult for both children and adults.  
Near the pass we encountered heavy fog*





*Those who walked the island know what it's like. Cold wind at the mountain top and heavy rain literally were knocking us off our feet. We walked in a single file close to each other to see the person in front of us. We were in rush to descend to Lisinsky Bay. We were lucky to have great guides: Marina Petrovna and Vladimir Alekseevich.*





*Lisinskaya Bay. At some point there was a seal rookery here. ATV trail is clearly visible in foreground.*





*Next day, two hikers, Valentin and Dmitry wanted to hike to Serebryannikovskaya Bay with Marina Petrovna and Vladimir Alekseevich.*





## *Infront of Peresheek Bay*





*Massive picturesque cliffs,  
abundance of birds, rhythmic  
sound of Pacific Ocean surf – the  
scenery was perfect even without  
the sun. We found these boulder  
“cannon balls” on route.*





*Pereshevskaya Bay “greeted” us with foggy and rainy weather and wind, which was blowing from the mountains bringing the fog with it. The air was drizzly. It was cold and uncomfortable. We returned to Lisinskaya. Expedition leaders decided to return to Tolsty.*



*Because of the rainy weather, we shortened our route along the western side of Bering Island and crossed back to the eastern shore, towards Peredovaya River, hoping for a better weather.*



*But that was not meant to be! We found more fog,  
although it was not as heavy and cold*



*We held some study hours*



*In the evenings we played games and  
staged ecological theatrical skits*





*Ready to go home*







*We visited the memorial in Commander Bay and commemorated the participants of the Second Kamchatka expedition and the Commander Vitus Bering*





*Everyone, who did not already know how to do this learned to build fire, catch fish and identify birds and plants*





*Olya Avdeenko conducted arctic fox count from Staraya Gavan to Tolsty Cape. She counted 68 individual animals.*





*Campers observed gray-crowned rosy finch, Eurasian wrans, and pechora pipit. A juvenile Eurasian wran even flew into our cabin.*



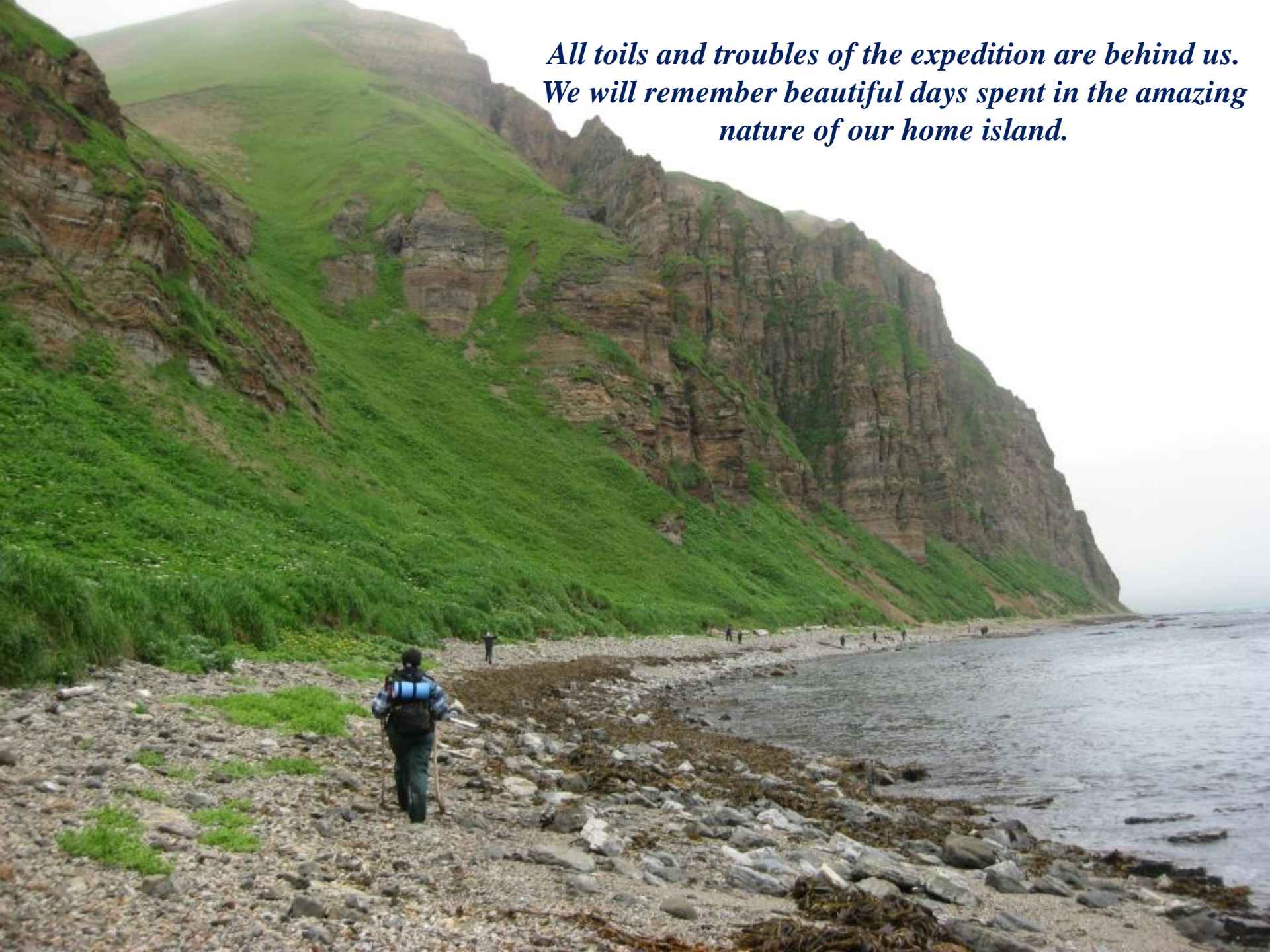


# *Road home*





*All toils and troubles of the expedition are behind us.  
We will remember beautiful days spent in the amazing  
nature of our home island.*





















*Route of summer expedition  
ethno-ecological camp  
“Aglax” -2012*





## *Tolsty Cape*



*Before the departure*



*We have arrived here, on Cape Tolsty (eastern shore of Bering Island, 80 km from Nikolskoe village) on an All Terrain Vehicle.*





*Bay Tolstyi Cape*

*We are brainstorming the expedition name*

*The very first evening the campers came up with the name for their expedition – “Comon,” an abbreviation for the Russian “Commander youth special mission expedition” During the entire trip we carried the flag of the Aleut District and Tourist Club “Trekking in the Commanders,” which was raised at each camp site by the most deserving camper.*

*We are rising the flag of the Aleut District and Tourist Club « Trekking in the Commanders»*





*Going south! Crossing  
to Peregrebnaya Bay*





*Peregrebnaya Bay. We spent three very busy days here. We studied the plants, identified invertebrate, participated in “Around the World” quest and in an educational game created by our expedition leader about the life of Aleuts at the time when fur trade was winding down.*







*Around the world*





*After “travelling” to different countries and continents, we returned to the Commanders*







*Historic bench from an old seal harvesting camp. It remembers the times of sealing. That's where this all started. We learned how hunters lived 65 years ago.*



*The heads of hunting households at hunt*

*It is not easy to harness your "dog team"!*

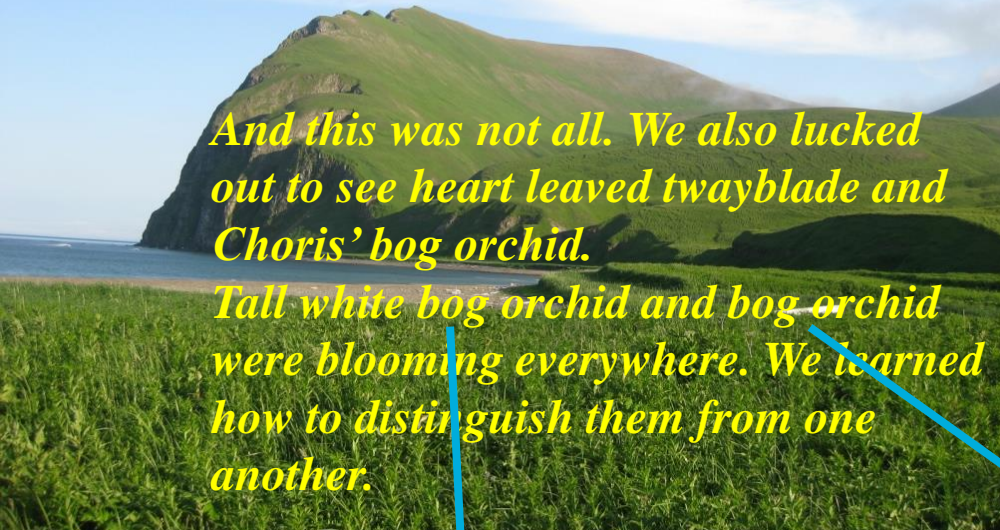




*Peregrybnaya Bay! Here we found an enigmatic orchid from North America - broad leaved twayblade (*Listera convallarioides*), which is an endangered species from the Red Book of Kamchatka*

*And this was not all. We also lucked out to see heart leaved twayblade and Choris' bog orchid.*

*Tall white bog orchid and bog orchid were blooming everywhere. We learned how to distinguish them from one another.*





*We were getting up to the hubbub of kittiwakes. Mixed colonies of both kittiwake species occupied cliffs surrounding the bay. The most interesting for ornithologists are red-legged kittiwakes, which is listed in the Red Book of protected species.*





# Mayatnik Bay

*It is not too far from here to Monaty Bay. But it is impossible to travel by the beach because of the rocky outcrops. In Mayatnik Bay we played a game called “Borrow an Island.” We were lucky again! Here we found an American orchid - broad leaved twayblade and a rare fern – common moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*).*





# *Goodbuy Peregrebnaya! And hi again - Tolsty!*



*It began as a drizzle and soon became a full force rain, which stayed with us all the way to Tolsty.*







*It is pouring outside, but in Sergey Pasenyuk's little cabin we are rehearsing two rock operas "Two Geese and a Granny" and "Grasshopper sits in the Grass," while drying our clothes.*







*Peredovaya Bay.  
After yesterday's rain the nature  
rewarded our perseverance and  
resilience with warm and sunny  
weather. We caught Arctic char for  
fish soup and even sunbathed.*

*Tropics! Hurray!*







*Tolsty Cape meant a field trip, Commander Islands connoisseurs contest, skit "In the kingdom of phantom cliffs," candlelit evening with heart-felt conversation, and even bathing in tundra lake.*







*Our history-themed field trip: cleaning the memorial and commemorating Vitus Bering and his fellow crewmates.*

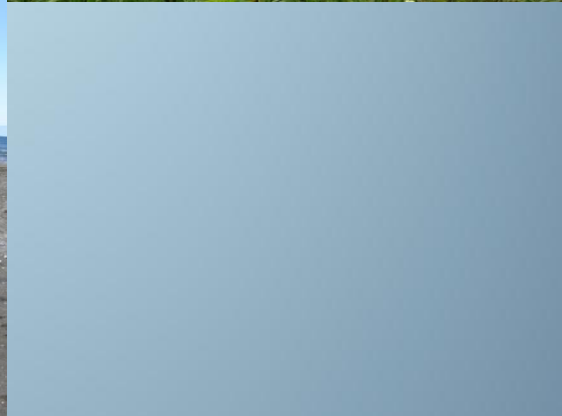




*Polovina Bay is*

*Cleaning the ground,  
meeting the Nature  
Preserve research staff,  
excursions, sea battle and  
“The Love from first  
sight.”*









*Our expedition was drawing to the end. On the night before our departure, the weather was amazingly calm. The moon was shining, campers gathered around the campfire and sung some songs to the sound of the ocean surf. Giant moon disc was rising above us in the dark sky, shedding silver light on the river, valley, sea, dunes and us, who were admitted to this splendor of the nature.*







*See you again, Island!*



*Thank you for your attention!*  
*This presentation featured photographs by Valeria and Tatiana Lisovsky, Natalia Fomina, Sergey and Vladimir Fomin*

