

Lumina through the North West Passage

Sisimiut to Aasiaat

Post 7

After three days anchored in the shallow fjord, walking the hills and doing boat jobs we motored back to Sisimiut. This year the boat has had a significant upgrade, a third sharp knife. However, as the customised knife holder only had two slots, a third was required. Then I had another go at getting the water maker going. It seems the main pump is dry and it is not self priming. The manual talks about a booster pump as does the control panel, but it does not exist in our system. At this point I am wondering if the water maker has ever been used as I cannot see how it could possibly work. I tried good old facebook as there is a group for Boreal owners but no one has come back to me so maybe this particular make was only installed once, on our boat. A project for later me thinks. We can make our water from the tanks last for a month if we try so should not be too much of a problem.

On the return to Sisimiut we took a different route, passing through a narrow gap that would take us from one fjord to another and save some miles, we had not taken this on the way out as if it was too shallow, the detour back would have been long. We approached the gap very slowly as common with a lot of Greenland, the chart does not give us any help. We got through



Display of different sledge designs from the whole of the arctic



Quiet night at anchor



Sisimiut Boat Club

with just a bit of grumbling from the keel as we traversed a particularly shallow part. The Fjord the other side seemed to be full of whales, well there were at least half a dozen diving then coming up with clouds

of spume. At one point they were rather to close for comfort and a line of bubbles went right under the boat. Fortunately it surfaced a hundred yards or so away and went on its way back down to the depths.

We anchored in the same place at Sisimiut and took the dinghy in to where the boat club was. A couple of chaps were sorting out some chains and weights for new moorings and they offered us a coffee in the clubhouse. It is frustrating that our Danish or Greenlandic is far worse than their English but it is surprising how much of a conversation you can have with a very limited vocabulary. Our night at anchor was a lot quieter and more relaxing than the previous visit, and neither were we serenaded by the sirens of police,



fire engines and ambulances on their way to the airport around the bay from our anchorage (we never did find out what the incident was)

Leaving Sisimiut the following day we continued North with the same format as before, using the inside passage wherever possible with a remote anchorage each night and a walk ashore if there is anything worth looking at. The first such anchorage was at a place called Sydbay. This was the original site of the settlement called Holsteinburg which was later in the 18th century moved to its present location and later renamed Sisimiut.

The anchorage was sheltered but you could see why it would never have become a large settlement as the present place has much more shelter and room to expand. Ashore there were a couple of large gas tanks that must have washed off a ship at some point and ended up here, and from older times the remains of turf houses. There was one building in good repair, of more modern vintage and this was a bit like a Scottish Bothy with a sleeping platform, stove and a couple of chairs. The view was tremendous out to the sheltered passage we had come up and we waved to a couple of speedboats that came past.



Up the rugged hill behind was a small navigation lighthouse which deserved a visit and as we approached the crag that it was built on, a couple of arctic hares were in front of us. Obviously they don't see many humans and were completely unfussed until eventually they lolloped off. Despite a rather difficult climb up the crags we made it and were rewarded by the fact that it was not locked and you could climb up inside it. Powered by solar charged batteries it was a lonely outpost of the modern world, with the old light and prismatic lens lying by the side of the new Led powered one.

A couple of days later we anchored off the small settlement of Kangaatsiaq. It was Sunday and the pontoon was full of speedboats with families going out for fishing outings. We took the dinghy ashore and had a walk around the village. It seemed that everyone not out at the dock or on a boat were having their

Sunday walk. With probably less than a hundred houses it still had an outpost of the Royal Greenland company with a small fish processing factory and small supermarket. Unlike everywhere else we had been, the roads were just gravel with very few vehicles, well after all you could walk the full length of all the roads in the settlement in about half an hour. As usual the houses were perched precariously on rocks as the only flat area in the whole place was taken up with the football pitch.



Ancient grave at the old settlement of Holsteinberg

Later on in the evening the coastal ferry arrived. It just stood off the small harbour and lowered a

rib to deliver a few passengers who were getting off to the pontoon. This ship is like the Hurtigruten in Norway, traversing the coast and calling at most of the settlements on the way. The only difference with Norway is that whilst there are about 12 or so ships doing the coastal route with one calling every day in each place, here there is just the one ship so you only see it once a fortnight in any one place. After a few minutes the rib returned, was lifted back on board and the ferry slipped away.

During the night with a wind change and the tide we ended up facing the other way. At some point a trawler came in and joined us in the anchorage and a small iceberg that had been on the other side of the fjord also came to say hello, grounding about a hundred yards from us. Now we are back in iceberg country we may have to start getting up at intervals overnight to check for big white visitors bearing down on us.



As I write this on Monday morning we are motoring up towards Aasiaat in a flat sea with a sunny blue sky. Outside its about 13C and the sea is 3.4C. There is the occasional small piece of ice in the water to avoid with one or two big bergs that have escaped from Disko bay just to the North of us.

We are starting to see Huskies in settlements now, all looking for ward to cooler temperatures I winter I expect





The coastal ferry with the evening sun behind.

If you look on your iphone it says sunset in > 7 days!

stocks were more abundant! I was also reading about sea urchins becoming a pest and eating all the kelp forests. This was also blamed on the cod stocks being over fished. We did see a lot of sea urchins around the marina pontoons in Sisimiut, and indeed there was no kelp there so maybe there is some truth in it. There is a charity in Norway that goes diving with hammers, smashing the sea urchins, but I think it is one of those cases where volunteers like to think they are making a difference by having a day out snorkelling when in fact if the population increase is as it is claimed to be, then their efforts are probably futile.

Best Wishes from Tim and Carol on Lumina

[Tracker page](#)

[Website with all the old blogs](#)

Some people are asking about a map but its really difficult to create and put all the places on. However if I put a daily post on the [tracker map](#) you can follow our progress there.

The winner of last weeks poser was our New Zealand correspondent, Mr Paul Lassman who was able to identify the small fish as Capelin, apparently near the bottom of the food chain they are related to Cod and have increased as the cod stocks have been heavily fished. Bearing in mind how easily we find it to catch cod, I would be interested to see what it was like when the