

# Expedition “Wings over Greenland”

## a south north kite ski crossing of the Greenland icecap



### Wings over Greenland in a nutshell:

#### ➤ Who:

- Riders: Thierry Puyfoulhoux, Cornelius Strohm, Michael Charavin

#### ➤ Wings over Greenland is:

- The sixth kite ski expedition to try the crossing Narsaq (Qaleragdilit Fjord) – Qaanaaq, coast to coast.
- Only the third of these six expeditions to make it .
- The second fastest at that time.
- The first kite ski expedition to complete this crossing in spring.
- And the first to reach the village of Qaanaaq without assistance, using a new exit from the icecap down to Bowdoin Fjord and Inglefield Fjord, which are still frozen and safe to pass at this time of the year.

#### ➤ When :

- The expedition started the 1 of May in the afternoon at the shore of Qaleragdilit Fjord close to Narsaq. We definitely reached the icecap at 16h local time after a few short walks back and forth between the coast and the glacier front to ferry the equipment up to the ice.
- On May 29, we left the icecap at 11 pm and reached the coast at Bowdoin Fjord on May 30, 6 pm. May 31 at midnight we finally arrived over at the village of Qaanaaq over the sea ice.

#### ➤ Or more precisely :

- 29 days and 5 h coast to coast, 2215 km, 76.4 km per day in average.
- 31 days from Narsaq to Qaanaaq, 2245 km in total, 72.4 km per day in average. The distances are calculated from camp to camp, the distance actually skied is sensibly longer.

#### ➤ Some more numbers :

- One and a half years of preparation of which we spent 40 days training in Norway.
- 375 kg of equipment, food and fuel at the start.
- 560 m lines and 108 m<sup>2</sup> of sails in total. Or 3 kites (Ozone Acces 6, 10 et Yakuza 12) and one Parawing (Beringer 8), each of us.
- 3 days without progress, waiting for the wind and doing repairs
- 3 repair sessions (mending lines, sewing and gluing sails).
- 2185 km sailing, 60 km walking (getting up to and down from the icecap).
- More than 170 hours of kiting. 60% with the Access II 10 m<sup>2</sup>, 25 % with the Yakuza 12 m<sup>2</sup>, 15% with the Beringer 8 m<sup>2</sup>; we barely used the Access II 6 m<sup>2</sup>.
- Top speeds - pulling our seldges - beyond 50 km/h with the Beringer and even more than 55 km/h with the Acces II 10 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 800 km of sastrugis, - that's over one third!
- 2 other expeditions and a nice couple met at Dye 2.