
Subject: Re: Waistlands, Alaska

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 20 Apr 2004 20:55:05 GMT

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Craig Markwardt writes:

> Hey David, didn't you just go swimming with the penguins in Outer
> Waistlands, Alaska, or something? Your posts have been pretty
> subdued, almost like you endured a contest of man and nature, and
> nature won. No good stories about tongues and flagpoles?

Still trying to recover and dig out of the paperwork that
built up in my absence. :-)

I'll have a full report soon, along with pictures of
the polar bear sow and her cub we nearly landed the
helicopter on (accidentally!).

This may have been the best sabbatical break ever. I
got completely out of my routine, changed my perspectives
dramatically (didn't think about tennis or IDL once, I think),
and saw polar bears (along with an arctic fox, a red fox,
caribou, muskox, and as much ice and wind as I am likely
ever to need to see in my life!). We even scared ourselves half
to death when we realized we had just landed our refueling
plane, the helicopter, and the damn winch (which weighed,
I swear, as *much* as a helicopter!) on less than
12 inches of sea ice. You never saw such stone-cold
expressions as we had when our drill broke through and
we realized we could have probably kicked through the ice
if we had wanted to.

Ah, life is good here, with the trees in full bloom and the
green grass. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
