



10 February 2009

Milko Vuille
Managing Director
ACARSA Scientific Expeditions
Rue des Vignolants 6
CH-2000 Neuchâtel
Switzerland

Dear Milko:

The Franz Josef Land archipelago represents perhaps the last great outpost of historical sites related to the search for the North Pole during the period 1870-1940. From the expeditions of Payer, Weyprecht and Benjamin Leigh Smith to Fridtjof Nansen's overwintering, to the American expeditions of the 1898-1905, to the Sedov expedition, to the search for the Andrée expedition, the Italia, and the flight of the Graf Zeppelin, and the Soviet flights to the pole in 1937, these islands are a virtual catalog of archaeological data related to the human desire to reach the North Pole and explore the polar basin.

Your proposed International Marine Arctic Complex Expedition promises to continue the massive task to locate, survey, catalog, and preserve this vast historical database. There are numerous sites both above and below the sea in Franz Josef Land that require professional survey, recording, and preservation, as well as a host of historical questions waiting to be answered and archaeological hypotheses that need to be tested. Your expedition can lead the way in this research.

I wish you success and look forward to working with you and your team as you carry forth this daring expedition.

With regards,

Pete Capelotti

P.J. Capelotti, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Penn State University, Abington College
Rydal 103, Abington, PA 19001
Website (Internet Explorer required): www.personal.psu.edu/pjc12/