

PRESS RELEASE

### **Dutchman survives five months in the Arctic wilderness**

*Amsterdam, September 23. Adventurer Yuri Klaver has returned from his five-month expedition through Arctic Alaska. He succeeded to become the first man to ever cross the remote Brooks Range from coast to coast, by going upstream a river on skis, cross a mountain pass and paddle downstream a thousand kilometers in a kayak to reach the Arctic Ocean, all alone. Four months he did not meet one single human being.*

In April, Yuri shoveled his kayak from the snow, which he had left behind last year. On skis he continued his way over Noatak River, to a mountain pass in the Brooks Range, in the most inaccessible wilderness of the United States. Along the way he met wolves, bears that had just come out of hibernation and caribou that crossed the river in large flocks. One of the severest dangers was the break-up of the river in spring.

Yuri: "One night I heard a roaring sound. A storm? Caribou? An earthquake? I zipped open the tent, to see the large blocks of ice that had been stuck in the bend of the river, floating down with relentless force. The water gathered behind the ice began to rise rapidly. Before I could put my feet in my boots, the water swept through the vestibule, taking away the cutlery, pans and stove. I threw the cookware in the kayak and dragged the boat up the riverbed, together with the water - filled tent. Eventually I managed to get all the equipment on the dry riverbed with a lot of effort. It was freezing ten degrees and everything was soaked. It turned out the damage was limited so I could continue the expedition. "

Three weeks later Yuri reached Aniak River, which had become so high by the meltwater from the mountains that he had to wait for a whole month to be able to go further. Arriving at the mountain pass he carried all his equipment over land, to the origin of Etivluk River. A thousand kilometers downstream and four months later he reached the Arctic Ocean. All that time he did not encounter a single human being.

But the dangers were not over. Yuri: "I slept in my tent, after having paddled thirty kilometers over a calm ocean the previous night. When I woke up at four o'clock in the afternoon there was a strong wind, which caused the waves to beat with full force against the shore, even though the wind was offshore. I had a bad feeling. With bare feet I ran to the spot where my kayak should lie. To my horror the kayak was gone, washed away by the sea. The wind had blown the kayak northbound to the North Pole. Three days later, employees of an oil rig would find the kayak, washed ashore on the Jones Islands, five kilometers from the coast."

Again, Yuri could continue. A few days after departure from Prudhoe Bay, on the way to the Canadian border, he was delayed for two weeks by a storm with hurricane force. When the storm was over, he decided to sail to a nearby drilling

station where he could store his kayak in a shipping container. Since his American visa was almost expired, he had to return to Prudhoe Bay and end the season.

Next year Yuri will begin the third season in March, when he tries to enter Canada as far as possible, on skis, over the polar ice. The trip is part of the Venture Arctic expedition, with the aim to achieve Greenland in 2016.

Why would anyone make such a long and dangerous journey? Yuri: "I want to know how far we can go as a human being. We are all made to wander through the wilderness, but the comfort of modern life ensures we do not fully use our physical and mental abilities. My goal is to inspire people to retrieve their dormant qualities, by giving presentations, by sharing my experiences [facebook.com/arcticventure](https://www.facebook.com/arcticventure), and through my website [www.lonewolfadventures.com](http://www.lonewolfadventures.com).

#### NOTE TO THE EDITOR

For more information, please visit [www.lonewolfadventures.com](http://www.lonewolfadventures.com). You can also contact Yuri Klaver, via [yuriklaver@gmail.com](mailto:yuriklaver@gmail.com).