

<http://www.southpolestation.com/news/archive.html>

Here's the record of 2012-13 private Pole treks...

Announced ventures for the 2012-13 season:

ABORTED! [Eric Larsen](#)

from Boulder, CO, announced his "Cycle South" expedition on 2 November. He'd planned a 750-mile bicycle ride (with resupply) from Hercules Inlet to Pole, starting in mid-December...with a possible return ride back to the coast. Eric has made two previous ski trips to Pole, and is one of the few Americans who has skied to both the North and South Poles, and the only American to achieve Everest as well. No information yet on if he'll have help or support. Doug Stoup once contemplated this trip, [originally planned for 2001-02](#), and Doug tested a bike at PH in 2002-03; Eric told me that the technology has significantly improved since then. He's using a [Surlly Moonlander bike](#) with 4.7" LGP tires. Eric left Boulder on 13 December, got to UG on 18 December, and officially started from Hercules Inlet on the 21st. However, on 28 December after reaching 82.5°S, he decided to turn around and head back to Hercules Inlet, because of slower travel than he had planned for. He was back near the coast on 3 January, back in PA 2 days later, and home in Boulder on the 12th.

[Aaron Lindsay](#)

from California, hoped to be the first American (and only the fourth person) to complete an unsupported 1450-mile round trip from Hercules Inlet to Pole in 2012-13, doing it solo. He'd previously trained in Yellowstone and Greenland, and will be supporting the Prostate Cancer Foundation. In addition to serious planning and training, he'd been studying the blogs and photos/video of Aleksander Gamme, and Cas & Jonesy, the first 3 people who did this trip, in 2011-12. He was on the first IL-76 flight to Union Glacier on 1 November, and was flown to the starting point the next day. He reached Pole on the 22nd.

ABORTED! [Richard Parks](#)

a 35-year-old former rugby player and current adventurer from Wales, planned a solo unsupported Pole venture from Hercules Inlet starting in December...and he looked to do it quickly--in 35-40 days (which still wouldn't come close to [Christian Eide's 24-day trip](#) in 2010-11). Amazingly, Richard completed the 7 summits plus both poles in less than a year between December 2010 and July 2011 ([Wikipedia](#)). His 2010-11 Pole trip was a "last degree" trek. Here is a [July Wales Online](#) article; there aren't any further details or links on [Richard's main web site](#). Richard arrived in PA on 8 December but his baggage (his sled and other equipment) did not. What's next? ([13 December South Wales Argus report](#)). Well, the gear was found, although he ended up borrowing a pulk from ALE. He started from HI on 19 December SP time, and his travels were slower than expected, particularly in the rougher-than-usual sastrugi on the Plateau. He ended up getting a food drop, but on 25 January he decided he couldn't complete the trip to Pole before the end of the ALE/ANI season on 28 January...he was picked up south of the 88th parallel. By the 28th he was back in PA.

[Hannah McKeand](#)

from the UK, made her SIXTH trip to Pole...this time she was guiding fellow Brit Toby Selman (a former Royal Marine), and a Finn, Eero Oura, on an unsupported 580-mile ski trip to Pole from the [Messner Start](#) (the Ronne-Filchner Ice Shelf). They headed to UG on 23 November and started a few days later. Unfortunately, Toby reported on 20 December that he was back in PA after covering only 125 miles of the planned 560 mile trip. Hannah and Eero were continuing...they reached Pole on 9 January. This was Hannah's sixth full trip to Pole...adding to her record of the most full trips by anyone male or female.

The Best of British South Pole

was a 6-man team (from the UK, obviously) led by Manley Hopkinson, along with Rupert Baddeley, Steve Walton, and Dave McCormack. They planned a 2011-12 unsupported traverse (put off from 2010-11), aiming to set a record for the Beardmore Glacier route, something not many people have tried since Scott and Shackleton. They planned only a 460-mile trip from the base of the glacier, rather than a Ross Island start. They are staging through Cape Town, and then presumably through Novo ("[White Desert](#)"). They were unable to secure funding in time for a 2011-12 venture and were hoping they can proceed in 2013-14. Since then, their website [bestofbritishsouthpole.com](#) has disappeared.

MODIFIED! The International Scott Centenary Expedition (ISCE)

was announced by Anthony Jinman in early May 2010. The main part of this event, originally scheduled for the 2011-12 season and later rescheduled for 2012-13, was to be a 290-mile trip from Scott's Cape Evans hut to the site of Scott's last tent site, where a commemoration service was to be held--this has been cancelled. Expedition patrons and descendants of Scott's party were to be flown to the memorial service--that would have been an interesting bit of logistics. Anthony had planned a trip to Pole in 2009-10 which was cancelled due to lack of funds. Anthony previously announced a North Pole trip for the boreal spring of 2010, which he successfully completed on 22 April 2010, and he was a member of the Hannah McKeand venture from the Ronne-Filchner Ice Shelf, reaching Pole on 3 January 2009 (these trips were once described on Henry's main site). Still on, [according to this Plymouth Herald article](#), was a 120-mile trek to Pole by Henry Evans, winner of a *Daily Telegraph* competition; he will be led by Geoff Somers. As of 14 December they were in PA. They finally flew to Union Glacier on 18 December, and were flown to their starting point just north of 88°S, arriving on the 24th. Geoff and Henry reached Pole on 6 January.

[Vilborg Ama Gissurardóttir](#) (Icelandic language site)

from Iceland, was also doing a trip to Pole, starting from Hercules Inlet. She was doing a solo, unsupported, and unassisted trip, pulling 2 sleds totaling 220 lbs. Here are 22 October articles from the [Iceland Review](#) in English, and [from Morgunblaðið](#) (this is the Google Translate link in English). She headed south to Union Glacier on 17 November and started her trip on the 21st SP time. She also encountered slower-than-expected traveling, and despite carrying extra food, she did have to get a resupply from ALE. By 13 January she was well within the last degree...she reached Pole on the 17th.

[Roland Krueger](#)

a German skier, had previously reached Pole in December 2005 as part of the mostly-Norwegian "Unsupported to the South Pole" venture. This season he planned a solo unsupported/unassisted trip from the Messner Start (the Ronne Ice shelf, 82.3°S-65°W)...and after reaching Pole intended to continue across the continent, ending on the Ross Ice Shelf at the foot of the Axel Heiberg Glacier. He was flown from PA to Union Glacier, arriving on 20 November, and arrived at his starting point on 23 November. He reached Pole on 13 January and decided to end his trip there because of bad weather and rough traveling. He found monstrous sastrugi south of 88°S, an unusual condition. He was the first solo German to reach Pole, and he thought he was the first unassisted/unsupported trip to reach Pole this season.

"Last Degree" and similar short ventures included:

[Test Your Limits 2013: The South Pole](#)

was a venture planned for early January by heart transplant recipient Dale Shippam of Thunder Bay, Ontario. He was joined by three cardiologists, Heather Ross, Diego Delgado, and Michel White. This was Dale's fourth journey to promote organ donation since 2006...previous trips were to the North Pole, Mt. Vinson, and a mountain near Everest in Nepal. They had three guides from Polar Explorers (and there were several other members of the travel group). Here's a [19 December CBC news article](#), a [main project web site](#), and [Dr. Delgado's blog](#). They were to leave Canada on 30 December. The team arrived at Pole on 14 January after seven days of travel, as part of a 14-person group guided by PolarExplorers ([their blog](#)).

[Mark Allan](#)

the 40-year-old Bristol chief executive of Unite, a British student housing company, completed a 100-mile trek to Pole, returning home just before Christmas. [His charity page...](#)

[An Irish-Russian journey](#)

by Irishman Niall Carton and his Russian friends Alexey Borichev and Alexander Zozulya planned a last-degree trip in January to support the Greater Chernobyl Cause, a charity supporting abandoned children and the old/infirm who have suffered from the Soviet Union breakup ([their fundraising page](#)). They also were part of that same [14-person PolarExplorers group](#) and did arrive successfully on 14 January ([Moscow Expat Life news page](#)).

[Vanessa O'Brien and Mike Hamill](#)

did a [last degree trip after summiting Mt. Vinson](#), arriving on 15 December.

[In the Footsteps of Legends](#)

was a "last-2-degree" 140-mile unsupported ski trip to Pole that began in late November 2012. They were supported out of Union Glacier (UG), although some of their web site info mentioned Glacier Bay (which is on the coast at 99°W). This group was led by David Hempleman-Adams, co-led by former British Army member Justin Packshaw, and includes Corporal Robbie Harmer, Lance Corporal Nick Webb and Captain Adam Crookshank of the Royal Dragoon Guards. Five other Brits were accompanying them--Olympic rower Matthew Pinsent, Hector Macleod, Malcolm Walker, Dr. Lynne Summers, and Sasha Borodin. The Royal Dragoon Guards is the present-day unit which at one time had included Lawrence Oates, the member of Scott's expedition whose last documented words were, "I am just going outside and may be some time." The group is supporting Alzheimer's UK and Walking with the Wounded charities, and they are carrying with them a silver trophy which they'll bury at Pole, to be dug up in 2013-14 by the winning team of the [Walking with the Wounded Challenge race](#), per this 15 November [York Press article](#). Here's an earlier (3 March) [The Advertiser \(Yorkshire\) newspaper article](#). As of 23 November the team was waiting in PA. The team arrived at UG on the 26th and were flown to their starting point the next day. But on 5 December, Malcolm Walker (the chief executive of Iceland Foods--a main sponsor) was medevaced back to PA because of a stomach illness ([Malcolm's blog](#)). The team reached Pole on 11 December, the first overland venture of the season to do so...and were flown back to UG later that day.