



COURTESY OF SOLVEIG EGELAND

A cabin made mostly of plastic scraps, named Håbet ("Hope"), awaits visitors on a coastline near Utsira. Solveig Egeland is hoping to build a similar structure from trash in Svalbard next summer.

Scrappy little shack

Artist seeking help to build cabin made of garbage next summer

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Trashing a home usually isn't considered the most admirable behavior, but Solveig Egeland sees it as an artistic and thought-provoking experience to be shared.

The Kvinfosdal resident is building small cabins out of garbage collected at scenic locations in Norway and is hoping to find enough support to construct one in Svalbard next summer. During a visit to Longyearbyen this week to meet officials and recruit volunteers she said her goal is raising environmental awareness with designs reflecting the artistic taste of locals.

"I'm quite open-minded," she said. "I

Rich environment: Record amount of grants available from governor this fall

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want to let people come and put their heart into it."

A cabin on a coastline near Ursira named Håbet ("Hope") is built from plastic waste collected by local students from 30 countries. Another in Grunerløkk is built entirely from used disposable barbecues.

Egeland she she hope each conveys an environmental message related to its construction. Håbet, for instance, is a reflection

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Job too tough? Adjust

Svea workers adapt well to long shifts in some of the harshest environments, study of spit finds

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Here's something you don't want the boss to know: It seems people can adjust just fine to the harshest of work environments.

Workers at Svea, along with those in Antarctica and a North Sea oil platform, adapted well mentally and physically to long shifts in some of Earth's coldest and darkest places, according to a thesis by Anette Harris at The University of Bergen. Some adjustments varied between north and south, but overall she said humans can handle a lot more hardship than they think.

"We tolerate working a lot and long times, provided that we only have one job to concentrate on and there are no conflicts or other requirements that interfere with us," she said Monday in an interview with *Aftenposten*.

Harris observed 25 men doing underground tunnel work at Svea during periods in April and May, September and October, and November and December. They worked 10-hour shifts for 21 days before taking 21 days

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Tourist fingerprints not always bad

Visitor impact at heritage sites small compared to nature and can spur restoration, study finds

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Tourists are like giant fingers, leaving their prints on Svalbard's cultural heritage sites. But it's the heavy hand of the Arctic environment that does most of the scratching and breaking.

The fingerprints do leave a mark, but often people involved with the sites don't just

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COURTESY OF RICARDO ROURA

Ricardo Roura takes notes about the behavior of tourists during a visit to Ny-Ålesund.

Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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When we screw up you'll know about it – on the front page. One of the big complaints about newspapers is they tend to bury corrections and clarifications deep inside where few people who read the original article see them. If we need to fix something, an alert box on the front page will state what story is in error and where the full correction is printed.

Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome, but we can't offer pay for published items since nobody here is getting paid at the moment. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.

Anti-reality show



NORDNORSK KUNSTMUSEUM

Bjarne Holst's 1973 oil-on-canvas painting "Figur i et landskap" ("Figure in a landscape") is part of an exhibition of his works that debuts at 7 p.m. Thursday at Galleri Svalbard. Holst (1944-1933) was a native of Honningsvåg in Finnmark who started painting and writing at a young age, studied at the National College of Art and Design in Oslo, and became known as one of the driving forces in the youth artist movement. His influences included surrealists such as René Magritte and Salvador Dalí, and he eventually moved to Vienna and then Hamburg where such works were popular during the 1970s. The exhibition, featuring Holst's art from his debut in 1970 until 1993, will be on display until Sept. 22.

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

Polar summer came to a rather jarring and confusing end this week. Things went from snow two weeks ago to a near-record peak of 17 degrees Celsius last week to blustery near-zero temps for this week's first sunset. There also seems to be a little confusion about when the nearly four-month-long day ended, with NRK reporting it was today and the official global timetable from the U.K./U.S. governments we use in our forecasts stating it's Thursday. If all this isn't confusing enough, take a look at the first couple of sunset/sunrise times on page 3 and see how long it takes you to figure out day from night ... Speaking of jarring, the latest in the Wikipedia wars about the entry for Svalbard contains an eye-raising bit of "big picture" perspective as all mention of the fatal polar bear attack early this month has been deleted. The apparent final word is "it's a clear breach of WP:NOTNEWS." ... Junkets to Svalbard by politicians and others are common enough, but it's not often organizers call them that ("fact-finding mission" is the common euphemism). Norsk Vann is celebrating its 25th anniversary of trying to "fulfill the vision of clean and safe water" in Norway by holding its annual meeting here this week, which is earning the nonprofit organization some criticism. Director Einar Melheim admitted to the industry publication *VVS Aktuelt* it's meant to be a

well-deserved break for members ... There's no way we can leave this climate change study out, although we're still digging to see if any of the authors has connections to Svalbard, or even written "Svalbard" at some point. Apparently so-called "Universalist Aliens" may view humans' overuse of greenhouse gases as a way that would unintentionally destroy other civilizations, so we must be preemptively destroyed. The study, authored by a NASA scientist and two at Pennsylvania State University, states "it would be particularly important for us to limit our emissions of greenhouse gases, since atmospheric composition can be observed from other planets. We acknowledge that the pursuit of emissions reductions and other ecological projects may have much stronger justifications than those that derive from ETI extraterrestrial intelligence encounter, but that does not render ETI encounter scenarios insignificant or irrelevant." Needless to say, the reaction in headlines worldwide and what we're comfortable calling mainstream observers on both sides of the climate change debate are having a mockingly good time with this one. Still, it's possible our infamous Doomsday Vault monsters are a recon squad reporting back to their masters how bad things are at Ground Zero of the warming issue. The study is at <http://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1104/1104.4462.pdf>.



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Solveig Egeland explains her campaign to increase environmental awareness by building artistic cabins made of garbage during a presentation today at The University Centre in Svalbard.

Offering a hut you must refuse

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of how much debris there is the seas that is a threat to plankton and therefore other life in the food chain. A cabin in Svalbard, seen as a "window" for the world in viewing environmental protection efforts, will help motivate such actions elsewhere.

"I have been here three days and I feel people are very helpful and interested, and I am quite sure it will be an exciting project."

Egeland received a 50,000-kroner grant from Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund to investigate the feasibility of a cabin. She said she is trying to raise construction funds through additional grants and businesses such as oil companies.

In the meantime, she said she is seeking help from Svalbard residents about what the

design of the cabin should be.

"Everybody is welcome to come with their ideas and I will use the autumn to figure that out," she said.

A preferred location has not been determined, although Egeland said it needs to provide a scenic view – not an overwhelming challenge in Svalbard.

"I think that the location will ask me," she said.

The cabin, being an art project, will remain for only about six months. It will likely be open to causal social gatherers.

"Maybe we can build a sauna," she said.

Egeland can be contacted by e-mail at sol@solveigegeland.no.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Record 7.5M kr. for environmental grants

A record 7.5 million kroner is available for grants from the Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund this fall, according to the governor's office.

Grants can be used for research, restoration, informative, and training projects related to environmental and cultural heritage

issues. Priority this year is being given to environmental awareness and impacts, climate change, sustainable tourism and improving knowledge about hunting.

The application deadline is Sept. 15. Full details and applications are available at www.sysselmannen.no.

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

LNSS' infrastructure work in Longyearbyen to continue

LNS Spitsbergen is being forced to leave Svea by Sept. 1, but they will continue providing infrastructure and transportation services in Longyearbyen. "We will be the best in the world of the construction companies operating in the polar regions," said Administrative Director Ann Pedersen after an Aug. 16 board meeting. LNSS owns, among other things, a workshop, car wash, warehouse and office buildings. Among the projects it is working on is an antenna at Svalbard Airport. Pedersen said a strategic plan will be developed this fall to determine what existing employees on Svalbard will continue working in the area

Attempts to get more reliable tripwire alarms clash with law

Firearms dealers in Longyearbyen are running out of military tripwire alarms used for protection against polar bears and Norwegian law is preventing the Svalbard governor's office from supplying more to the businesses. A flare-based tripwire system failed to work properly when a bear attacked group camping at Von Postbreen on Aug. 5, killing one youth and wounding four others. A similar system failed when two kayakers were attacked on the northeast side of Spitsbergen last year, after which there were increased requests for the military-style tripwires which are thoroughly tested and considered reliable. But Svalbard Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø said they are only allowed to obtain the tripwires for official use, not to sell or lease them. He said he has requested a change from the Ministry of Defense, but not received a definitive response.

Fifteen first-graders at center stage on first day of school

Fifteen new first-graders were literally at center stage Monday on their first day at Longyearbyen School. They received a welcome from Headmaster Anne Gellein and rendition of "Pippi Longstocking" by singer/pianist Liv Mari Schei. The new students then got down to learning, with teacher Tone Edvardsen saying writing will be practiced daily and they should raise they hands when they want to speak.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rain. E winds to 18 km/h. High 5C (1C wind chill), low 4C (0C wind chill).	Rain ending. E winds to 18 km/h. High 4C (0C wind chill), low 3C (-1C wind chill).	Cloudy. E winds to 11 km/h. High 1C (1C wind chill), low 0C (-4C wind chill). Sunset 12:04a; sunrise 1:57a;	Partly cloudy. E winds to 11 km/h. High 1C (-1C wind chill), low 0C (-4C wind chill).
Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunset 12:55a; sunrise 1:07a	sunset 11:40p	Sunrise 2:20a; sunset 11:22p
Extended forecast: Sunday, cloudy, -1C (-6C), -3C (-7C), light 20:28h; Monday, cloudy, -1C (-5C), -3C (-7C), light 19:58h; Tuesday, cloudy, -1C (-1C), -3C (-6C), light 19:31h; Wednesday, cloudy, 0C (0C), -2C (-2C), light 19:06h.			

Data provided by yr.no



MATS HJELLE / SYSSELMANNEN

The airship mooring mast in Ny-Ålesund can be regarded as merely a "rusting metal structure" by tourists not informed about its cultural heritage status, a new book about visitor impacts finds.

Informed tourists take more care

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wipe away the smudges – they apply a new coat of polish to prolong the site's lifespan, according to Ricardo Roura, author of a new book about tourism in polar areas.

While his research focuses on tourist behavior and management policies, he states they usually aren't the main reason for deterioration at cultural heritage sites.

"Tourism has a minor effect on historic sites in relation to that of natural processes, but tends to focus on significant site features that may be vulnerable to visitation," wrote Roura, an associate researcher at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands.

Roura conducted observations in Ny-Ålesund between 2005 and 2008, plus sites in Antarctica during that time. His book, "The Footprint of Polar Tourism," states the narratives tourists receive influences the value –

and therefore care – they have.

"Without markers (Ny-Ålesund's) airship mooring mast may be regarded as a rusting metal structure standing outside an Arctic settlement, and tourists may simply walk by it," he wrote.

The accuracy and tone of guides can vary greatly in their presentation, he added. Certain historic figures or nationalities may be portrayed as heroic, for instance, while others are described in derogatory terms.

One concern is the cumulative impact of tourists, Roura wrote.

"Some dedicated management tools may be required to regulate the movement of people within historic sites; minimal distances from sensitive features; the use of established tracks; and limits in visitor numbers," he noted.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Study: Harsh job sites worth spit

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off, alternating between day and night shifts for each three-week period.

She took saliva samples from workers at three different times on their 14th day of work. The cortisol levels in the samples – which are an indicator of stress – showed "external light conditions and shift schedule were important factors in regulating the cortisol rhythm."

"It seems to be easier to adapt to a night rhythm than an early morning," Harris wrote.

North Sea and Antarctic workers also performed well and didn't seem to suffer health setbacks, but there were some differences due to their overall setting.

"Overwintering personnel in the Antarctic complained more about tiredness and sleep problems halfway through their stay, possibly

because of boredom in this isolated environment," Harris wrote.

Key factors in worker performance and health in the three locations include maintaining a strict schedule of sleep and meal times, she noted. Also, while 10- and 12-hour shifts in themselves aren't an excessive burden, having to deal with other everyday factors such as family obligations can increase stress.

She acknowledged the observed workers were isolated, lower-than-average in age than the cumulative working population, and already healthy – and the results might differ with a more general group.

The study and related papers are available at <https://bora.uib.no/handle/1956/4887>.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

What's up

Aug. 24

8 p.m.: Movie: "Super 8," U.S. horror/sci-fi, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

Aug. 25

6-8 p.m.: Activity Fair. Presentations and registrations of local recreational clubs/activities. Svalbardhallen.

Aug. 26

10-11:30 a.m.: Lectures observing 30th anniversary of EISCAT satellite system. UNIS.

Aug. 28

6 p.m.: Movie: "Cars 2" (3D), U.S. animated dubbed in Norwegian, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Hodejegerne," Norwegian action/thriller, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

Aug. 31

8 p.m.: Movie: "Captain America: The First Avenger," U.S. action/adventure, age limit not determined. Kulturhuset.

Sept. 4

8 p.m.: Movie: "Oslo, 31," Norwegian drama, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

Sept. 6-9

15th Russian-Norwegian Symposium, focusing on climate change in the Barents Sea and its effects on the region's future. UNIS. For registration information contact vera.helene.lund@imr.no.

Sept. 7

6 p.m.: Movie: "Få Meg På For Faen," Norwegian drama, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

Sept. 8

7:30 p.m.: Book launch: "Adresse Ny-Ålesund," by Åse Kristine Tveit. Longyearbyen Library.

Sept. 13

6 p.m.: Children's book launch: "Sjøfuglene i Arktis" by Kirsti Blom and Geir Wing Gabrielsen. Longyearbyen Library.

What's online

Icepeople.net provides daily updates of news about Svalbard and the world's polar regions, plus extras for articles from the print edition. Among the latest news:

- *Climate change spurs mass migration*
- *Russia wants undersea train to Alaska*
- *Norway wants sunk Amundsen ship back*
- *'Stealth' military snowmobiles for Canada?*