

LONNIEDUPRE

POLAR EXPLORER

TO CREATE AND LEAD SUCCESSFUL, PIONEERING EXPEDITIONS IN THE COLDEST REGIONS OF THE GLOBE, AS A MEANS TO INSPIRE, EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURES.



Biography

During an arctic career spanning 25 years, Lonnie Dupre has traveled over 15,000 miles throughout the high arctic and polar regions by dog team, ski and kayak. His path has often followed in the footsteps of the Arctic explorers of the last century - Robert E. Peary, Roald Amundsen and Knud Rasmussen. Like them, Lonnie has lived and traveled with the Polar Inuit, learning from these hardy people and developing a deep appreciation for their culture and way of life.

Born in 1961 and raised on a Minnesota country farm, it was natural as a young boy to spend hours exploring every nook and cranny of the nearby woods and creeks. It may also have had something to do with family heritage - he is descended on his mother's side from Jacques Cartier, the French explorer and founder of Quebec. He also discovered in himself an affinity for Minnesota's cold winters, as he ice fished on nearby lakes at every opportunity. He came to prefer winter over summer.

Living in Minnesota, Lonnie wondered just how far "north" actually went. He began to look at maps and read everything he could about cold places and the people who lived there. Shortly out of high school, he loaded up his rundown pickup truck and left for Alaska on what was intended to be a three-week adventure. He wound up staying three years, making a living as a commercial salmon fisherman and carpenter. During that time, he and a companion flew into the remote reaches of the Brooks Range, planning to winter there. In the end, they had to snowshoe back to civilization with little more than the clothes on their backs. But by then, Lonnie was hooked on the Arctic.

Returning to Minnesota, he instructed and guided dog sledge trips in the north woods for outdoor enthusiasts through Wintergreen Adventures in Ely, Minnesota. In 1989, with the Cold War drawing to a close, he and 11 others completed a joint Russian/American 1,200 mile dog sled and ski expedition through the Russian far east to promote cooperation between the two superpowers. Striking out on his own in 1991, he organized and led the

Northwest Passage Expedition, making a 3,000 mile, first, west to east transit of the Canadian Arctic route by dog sledge. In total, he has organized or participated in six major Arctic expeditions. Most recently, Lonnie and his teammate John Hoelscher of Australia became the first to circumnavigate Greenland. They have traveled 6,500 miles of the island's rugged coastline by dog team and kayak.

In 2006, Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larsen pulled and paddled modified canoes over 600 miles of shifting sea ice to the North Pole. This journey, called the One World Expedition, was the first to get to the Pole in the summer, and reached 68 million people worldwide on issues of global warming.

Dupre was awarded the Soviet Sportsman Medal for Arctic exploration in 1989 and was elected Fellow National of the Explorers Club in 1996. Upon completion of the Greenland Expedition, Dupre was keynote lecturer to the Fellows of the Royal Geographic Society in London. He has authored a book titled "Greenland Expedition - Where Ice is Born", and his expeditions have been featured in such varied publications as Reader' Digest, Sports Illustrated, Outside Magazine and Online, National Geographic Online, Backpacker, Australian Geographic, Sea Kayaker, Explorers Journal, Computer User, Lake Superior Magazine, Above and Beyond, Up Here, and Northwest Airline-World Traveler as well as international newspapers in Denmark, Canada, Greenland, Russia, Scandinavia, Japan, Spain and England. His most Greenland expedition was partially sponsored by the National Geographic Expeditions Council.

Lonnie is an accomplished outdoor photographer whose special interests include a continuing study of traditional Inuit lifestyle and culture. In his spare time he enjoys woodworking and back country skiing in the Quetico/Boundary Waters Wilderness of the Minnesota/Canadian border area.

Lonnie readily confesses that the spirit of adventure is strong within his soul. So is his belief in ones ability to overcome the seemingly insurmountable obstacles that may stand between an individual and their dream. The success of his arctic expeditions, with the extreme physical, mental and logistical hurdles they have represented, stand as testament to this. But even with all of his achievements, he remains very much that farm kid from Minnesota. His extensive knowledge and experience, his sense of humor, and his ability to captivate and inspire audiences of all ages, make him a sought-after speaker for corporations, schools and nonprofit organizations.

Lonnie currently lives in Grand Marais, Minnesota.

Awards

- Outside Magazine's Most Badass Adventure 2015
- National Geographic Adventure - Best of Adventure 2005
- Polartec Challenge Award 2000 & 2001
- Elected Fellow, National Explorers Club, 1996
- Winter Olympics, Oslo, Norway 1994
- Soviet Sportsmans Medal 1989

Accomplishments

- Dupre completed the first west to east, 3,000 mile winter crossing of Canada's famed Northwest Passage by dog team
- Achieved the first circumnavigation of Greenland, a 6,500 mile, all non-motorized journey by kayak and dog team
- Lonnie has pulled sleds on skis from Canada to the North Pole twice. The 2006 expedition reached over 68 million people worldwide on issues surrounding climate change

Documentaries

- Lonnie Dupre with Pale Blue Dot Media
Cold Love
- National Geographic - Adventure Challenge
"The Last Arctic Mystery"
- RumJungle Media
Polar Quest
- National Geographic
Thawing the Icy Curtain - 1989 Bering Bridge Expedition
- Rolex, 2005
One World Expedition

Books

- Lonnie Dupre
"Life on Ice: 25 Years of Arctic Exploration"
- Lonnie Dupre
"Greenland Expedition: Where Ice is Born"
- Kelly Dupre
"The Raven's Gift"

EXPEDITIONS

Arctic & Polar Expeditions 1985 to 2011

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Expeditions to Date

Polar Climb 1 2011 & 2012

Denali, aka Mount McKinley, in Alaska, is North America's highest mountain at 20,320 feet. Only nine expeditions totaling 16 people have ever reached the summit of Denali in winter. Only one team (comprised of three Russian climbers) has ever made the summit in January...the dead of winter. No solo expedition has reached the summit in January, the darkest and coldest time.

In January, 2011, Lonnie set out to make the first solo winter ascent of Denali in the month of January. After setting a record pace to 17,200 feet Lonnie was set for a summit attempt, but mother nature decided that it would "test" him for 7 days with winds up to 100 mph, temperatures reaching -50 and a 5.4 magnitude earthquake. After 7 days at 17,200 feet with dwindling supplies and being inactive for so long he had lost considerable strength and conditioning, and made the decision to descend.

Peary Centennial North Pole Expedition 2009

Lonnie, Max Chaya and Stewart Smith started from Canada's Ellesmere Island in -56F March temperatures on a 650-mile journey to the North Pole. The project commemorated Robert Peary and Matthew Hensens discovery of the Pole in 1909.

One World Expedition: Summer Expedition to the North Pole 2006

Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larsen pulled and paddled modified canoes over 600 miles of shifting sea ice from Canada to the North Pole. This journey, called the One World Expedition, was the first to get to the Pole over sea ice in the summer, and created 68 million impressions worldwide on issues of global warming.

Circumnavigation of Greenland 1997-2001

With Australia's John Hoelscher, Dupre dog sledged and kayaked the perimeter of this island covering 6517 miles all non-motorized in three visits. In being the first to round the island, the men dog sledged 3442 miles and kayaked 3075 miles.

Banks Island Expedition 1995

Lonnie and Kelly Dupre, along with four Inuit sled dogs using backpacks, hiked the 250-mile length of Banks Island in Canada's high Arctic Archipelago. The team made a significant discovery of a rock marker built in 1864 that helped fill in exploration history of the area. At the time Banks was home to 75,000 muskox.

Lillehammer, Norway to Murmansk, Russia 1994

Dupre and others dogsledded through Scandinavia to Russia on a 1000 mile leg of the journey, taking an environmental message from the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway, to Nagano, Japan, site of the next Winter Olympics.

Northwest Passage Expedition 1991-1992

Dupre and Malcolm Vance from Alaska dogsledded 3000 miles from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, to Churchill, Manitoba Along the Arctic Ocean and along northern Canada. This was the first West to East crossing in winter of the famed Northwest Passage.

