

"The group took with it enough supplies for an unsupported voyage of 55 days, which works out to a load of 75 kg per person. All this will have to be carried over ice hummocks, snow drifts and patches of ice-free water many metres wide. Hellish work! But the members of the expedition want to achieve their dream - the dream of many an adventurer: to travel by sled without outside support to the top of the world.

"Their work in the Arctic is also complicated by the fact that during the course of the entire trip, expedition members will be conducting various scientific studies. At the request of a number of scientific research institutes, they will be busy studying the medical and biological problems of human life and activity at high latitudes, and testing the efficiency of communications equipment. The All-union Institute of natural Research in particular has asked them to undertake a scientific study of animal life in the Arctic. And then there's the Penzenskiy Clock Factory, which is interested in the efficiency of its products."

"How do you intend to cope with such an intense program?" we asked the expedition's leader V. Chukov.

"Our days have been planned literally down to the hour", he replies. "At this time of the year in the Arctic there are only seven hours of daylight. This means that we will be using them for travelling. In a week or two the daylight will increase to 10-11 hours. We have set aside around six hours in each day for sleeping. The remainder of the time is reserved for setting up camp, eating, radio communication and scientific studies".