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Matvey Shparo and Boris have now started on the most difficult expedition you can imagine, skiing to the North Pole in total darkness. Few can understand how daring and challenging this trip is, just to get out on the ice from Cape Arktichesky is a major obstacle, and still it is about 1000 kilometres to go to the North Pole. They need to ski across thin drifting ice, swim across open water and constantly watch out for polar bears lurking around. Always dark, always cold and always facing the danger of ice breaking up underneath them.

Mike Horn and I a similar trip in 2006, starting from Cape Arktichesky 22<sup>nd</sup> of January. On this expedition it was dark the first month, and then gradually the light came. After more than 6000 kilometres by ski on the Arctic Ocean, I can honestly say that this expedition was one of my most difficult ever. Matvey and Boris will do their expedition in complete darkness from start to finish. I have the greatest respect for their challenge and I follow their progress every day. I hope indeed the two explorers succeed and that they will receive the recognition they deserve for this amazing adventure. Matvey and Boris have my greatest admiration.

Borge Ousland, Polar explorer  
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