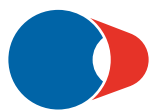
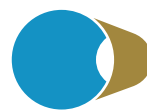


# Panorama CPC



CJSC Caspian  
Pipeline  
Consortium-R



JSC Caspian  
Pipeline  
Consortium-K

Caspian Pipeline Consortium Corporate Edition

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***In Focus:  
Operation***

**p. 9-17**

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# Cooperation expanded

ON AUGUST 27, CPC GENERAL DIRECTOR NIKOLAY BRUNICH AND ASTRAKHAN REGION GOVERNOR ALEXANDER ZHILKIN SIGNED A MODIFICATION AGREEMENT TO THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CPC-R AND THE ASTRAKHAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.



The modification agreement provides for the Consortium to allocate an additional RUB 145 mln to be invested in the construction of new social facilities in the region as part of the CPC Expansion Project.

Alexander Zhilkin stressed that CPC-R has been the region's reliable partner for many years now, and as a socially responsible company gives high attention to safety and environmental protection in its business. The governor separately thanked CPC for its contribution to the development of the region's social infrastructure. In his reply, Nikolay Brunich

assured that cooperation between the Consortium and the region would continue and announced that the newly built pump stations A-PS-4A and A-PS-5A were planned to be put into operation soon in the Krasny Yar and Nari-manov districts of the Astrakhan Region.

From the time of the launch of the Consortium's activities in the region through until the completion of the Expansion Project, a total of over RUB 500 mln will have been invested by CPC-R in social projects in the Astrakhan Region. ■

*by Ekaterina Krapivko*

## On the eve of Oil Worker's Day

ON THE EVE OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY WORKERS' DAY GENERAL CHIEF MANAGER OF OPERATIONS VIKTOR ABMAYEV HELD A MEETING WITH REGIONAL SPECIALISTS.

The meeting summed up work execution plan fulfilment results and discussed future plans. Opening the meeting, CPC First Deputy General Director, Operations, Dennis J. Fahy stressed that the CPC Moscow Office management is well aware of the major contribution made by the regions to the safe and uninterrupted operation of the whole pipeline system. He further noted that considerable progress had been achieved by the project team in equipment upgrades and launching new stations into operation. Then, Viktor Abmayev thanked everybody present at the meeting for the good coordination and organization of work during the pipeline's scheduled

maintenance stoppage in August. "With such a highly professional team it is possible to cope with the most challenging tasks and keep on developing the Consortium's assets," he stressed. CPC's dynamic development finds its reflection in some impressive facts and figures. As of August 24, 2015, nearly 407 mln t of oil had been offloaded at the Marine Terminal. The milestone 400-millionth tonne of oil (since the start of operations) was loaded into the NORDIC PASSAT tanker on June 21,



2015. As of August 24, year-on-year increase in the amount of oil offloaded at the Marine Terminal equalled 2 mln t, and the number of tankers served by the terminal was 16 more than in 2014. Over 3,800 oil tankers have been dispatched from the terminal's single point moorings since the launch of the Consortium's pipeline system. ■

*by Pavel Kretov*

# Oleg Ivanishchev:

## “Strong management and a closely-knit team”

OLEG IVANISHCHEV HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE CPC MARINE TERMINAL FOR SIX MONTHS NOW. HIS ENTIRE LIFE HAS BEEN CONNECTED WITH THE SEA: FOR MANY YEARS HE WORKED WITH THE NOVOROSSIYSK SEA SHIPPING COMPANY AND FOREIGN SHIPPING LINES AS A CAPTAIN OF 300,000 DWT TANKERS.



*Oleg Ivanishchev: “In 2016, we expect the capacity of the Marine Terminal’s Tank Farm to reach one mln m<sup>3</sup>”*

*– Mr. Ivanishchev, we know that you worked at the CPC Marine Terminal during the project’s most difficult period when the*

*Consortium was growing rapidly. So you must be familiar with both the staff and the scope of work?*

– Yes, for four years I worked with a contractor company in charge of servicing the CPC Marine Terminal facilities. I was here at the time of the completion of construction, and took part in the reception of the first tankers. Therefore, of course, I’m well familiar with both the staff and the goals. When I assumed the post of CPC regional manager in February 2015 I possessed experience of work in similar positions. For several years I was in charge of the Prigorodnoye terminal of the Sakhalin-2 Project – a unique Russian facility, which handles both oil and LNG. Though I dealt mostly with gas there. Here, at CPC, my primary specialization is oil, but, by and large, it is the same oil and gas sector, operated under the unified international Oil & Gas Producers standards.

The Expansion Project is under the special control of Transneft, Chevron and other international





shareholders, who set very high requirements. When in Sakhalin, I worked with another internationally renowned oil company – Shell.

*– The climate in the Russian Far East is very harsh...*

– Yes, it's frosty and windy. Here in Novorossiysk severe winds also occur sometimes – up to 50 m/s. But we are ready for that. We continue expanding the Tank Farm in order to be able to keep the pipeline running during Black Sea gales. It is easy to stop pumping oil through the pipeline, but it is much harder to resume and

readjust it. And expensive, too. As you know, the aggregate capacity of the Marine Terminal's Tank Farm near Novorossiysk will reach

*CPC is a closely-knit team and the idea of cooperation is very well developed here*

one mln m3 in 2016. That's a very serious capacity, making the CPC terminal one of the largest of its kind in Europe and in the world.

*– Which tasks currently facing the CPC Marine Terminal team do you consider the most important?*

– The annual oil offloading target for the terminal has been set at 45 mln t. The most important task, in my opinion, is to ensure its safe,

uninterrupted and reliable work. The Marine Terminal is a facility associated with high risk, and, therefore, our priority is to minimize all risks and hazards and to operate at least within the “green area” of the risk matrix. It is equally important to successfully complete the Expansion Project and launch the projected new facilities. Two new VFRT-100000 tanks are to be put into operation in September 2015. Also in this fall, plans call for starting the construction of one more administrative building. Besides making work more convenient for the personnel, the new building will help achieve a considerable cost optimization for the Company. Since there is not enough space for everybody at Yuzhnaya Ozereevka, the Company is spending quite a lot on renting office space in Novorossiysk.

*– Well, you have a lot to do by the end of this year!*

– Without doubt, we'll accomplish it. CPC is a closely-knit team and the idea of cooperation is very well developed here. Many employees have been with the Consortium from the very first day of the project, everybody is a professional and knows their jobs. Managers are accessible by telephone round the clock. For example, you can call CPC Chief Manager of Operations Viktor Abmayev any time, day or night. Strong management and a closely-knit team – what else do we need for successful work? ■



*A view of the Marine Terminal's administrative building*

*Interviewed by Pavel Kretov*

# Selecting the best of the best

UNLIKE OTHER REGIONAL DIVISIONS OF THE CONSORTIUM THAT ARE RECRUITING STAFF FOR NEW PUMP STATIONS, THE CPC MARINE TERMINAL INCREASES ITS PERSONNEL MORE SELECTIVELY.



## NOT OVERLOOKING A VALUABLE PROFESSIONAL

Almost every time it's a case of recruiting a unique specialist, an individual who's almost one of a

kind in all of Russia, from Vladivostok to Kaliningrad. Finding someone like that takes a very meticulous approach.

from everywhere. For example, now we have dispatchers who came to work for us even from Eastern Siberia. Other rare specialities include measurement engineers for the sales department, vibration moni-

send in their resumes even when there are no open vacancies.

*Yes, we all get paid for our jobs, but the most valuable employee will be the one capable of being a true “patriot” of the company, one who takes sincere pride in working for it and shares our principles*

kind in all of Russia, from Vladivostok to Kaliningrad. Finding someone like that takes a very meticulous approach.

– It's a real challenge to find a dispatcher, – Senior HR Specialist Inessa Bazhina says. – These are one-of-a-kind specialists, and skill requirements are extremely high. That is why we consider candidates

toring engineers, and many others.

It takes a long time to find candidates to fill the positions of telecommunications engineers, instrumentation and controls technicians, and electricians. And bear in mind that CPC is one of the best employers in the region. Local people are eager to find a job at the Consortium facilities and

Besides the HR people, managers and specialists in the given field are always present at job interviews. Their top priority is to determine the candidate's qualifications and professional skills level.

– During the meeting we try to create a sympathetic communication-friendly atmosphere because an interview is always a stressful experience for any candidate, – Inessa Bazhina continues. – It would be a great pity to overlook a valuable professional just because he got too nervous and didn't manage to present himself well.

Another priority is understanding the candidate's motivation for changing job, his life objectives and system of personal values.



– It's not good if a person is only influenced by the money factor. Yes, we are all get paid for our jobs, but the most valuable employee will be the one capable of being a true "patriot" of the com-



*Inessa Bazhina: "The skill requirements for our specialists are extremely high"*

pany, one who takes sincere pride in working for it and shares our principles, – Inessa Bazhina notes.

The CPC HR department does not leave new staff members on their own in the team after recruitment. The employees themselves and their managers are regularly asked about the adaptation process, offered help and consulted on the Company's policies and social issues.

### ASPECTS OF THE ROTATIONAL TEAM METHOD

After the completion of the Expansion Project the Central Region will be the largest in the CPC system. There's another important factor for it too – five of its six

– In mid-2014 PS-3 was fully staffed, with all integrated tests completed, and has now oil-in. This year we had the goal to staff three more pump stations, – says Natalia Antonova, Senior specialist of the Central region HR department. – That's over 100 people, a significant number.

The first stage of recruitment has already been completed. A number of specialists have arrived at A-PS-5A and at A-PS-4A which is still under construction. A-PS-4A has been fully staffed since September 2015. The general staffing level of the new stations in the Central Region has reached 60-65% now. In December 2015 the staffing process for PS-2 will begin.

The Astrakhan Region is an area that has long been developed

### *The experience of the CPC HR department shows that the specialists working with the rotational team method are extremely responsible*



*Natalia Antonova: "Our specialists share their experience with other divisions of the Consortium"*

pump stations will be serviced using the rotational team method. Unlike working in shifts, with this method an employee completes his month's work in two weeks. Staff are on duty for 11 hours running, and the maintenance standby of the shift supervisor lasts 12 hours. The HR department also consistently keeps record of rest time. It is essential for a specialist to fully recover his strength and maintain the correct ratio of rest/work time.

The experience of the CPC HR department shows that specialists working with the rotational team method are extremely responsible, they are not distracted by household cares or domestic problems. They always form a close-knit team in which people understand one another so well that they can finish each other's sentences.

by oilmen. Of course, this factor contributes to steady recruitment of highly-skilled professionals for CPC. The important factor is that the Consortium's serious social program is at least as good as those of other companies in the industry. There's the high level of labor health and safety, industrial safety and environmental protection.

– I've heard that the main source of manpower for the Central Region is PS "Komsomolskaya". Is that really true? – "CPC Panorama" asked.

– Partly so. Such a statement would seem unfair to PS "Astrakhanskaya" where we also have great specialists who willingly share their rich experience with the new generation of oilmen, – says Natalia Antonova. ■

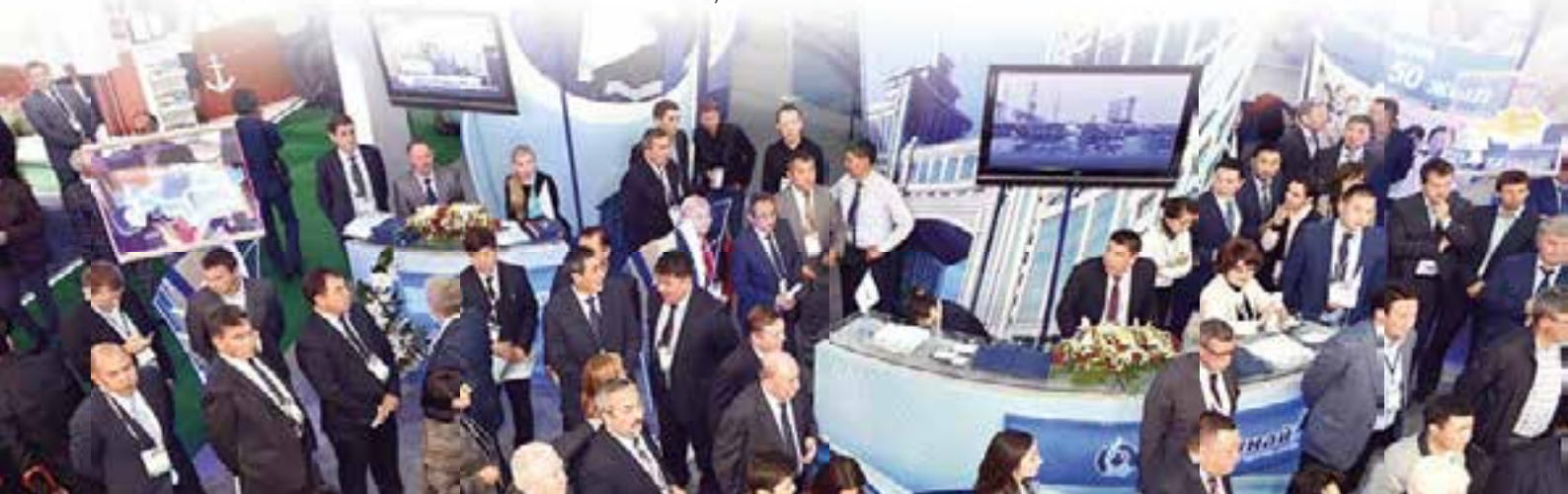
*by Pavel Kretov*



*A job interview at the Marine Terminal with the participation of CPC management*

# KIOGE – The best of the oil and gas industry

THE 23RD KAZAKHSTAN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE "OIL AND GAS - KIOGE 2015" WILL TAKE PLACE IN ALMATY OCTOBER 6-9. AS ALWAYS, THE CASPIAN PIPELINE CONSORTIUM WILL PARTICIPATE.



The event is both the largest trade show in Kazakhstan, taking place in five pavilions of KCBC "Atakent", and a conference that brings together specialists in the oil and gas industry.

For 23 years now KIOGE has been held annually with the official support of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, JSC "National Company "KazMunaiGaz", the Akimat (Mayorality) of the city of Almaty, "KazService" Association of service companies of Kazakhstan, and diplomatic missions of the participating countries.

As part of the conference agenda, leading industry experts and specialists will discuss interesting technical issues. The conference will open with a panel session on the topic of "Efficiency improvement of oil and gas exploration and extraction in Kazakhstan", which will generally be dedicated to the problem of production optimi-



zation with the use of innovative technologies. For example, Bazar Eskozha, senior geologist of North Caspian Oil Development, will present "New approaches to the perspectives of the Mesozoic". The session dedicated to "Drilling and production technologies" will be a logical extension of the first topic. The conference program will also feature a new section on "IT and business process optimization".

The topic list of the conference also includes issues of transportation and supply diversification, environmental protection, polluting emissions restriction, and the perspectives of the petrochemical industry and oil refinement in Kazakhstan.

The promoters of KIOGE bring the attention of participants and guests to new technological solutions, to enable them to make the most of the exhibition's potential. At the exhibition website you can book a booth, register as a visitor and get an electronic ticket. Information on the exhibitors' latest

innovations is also available there. Last year exhibitors gave a high appraisal to the seminar zone, which is to become even more modern and comfortable this year.

The trade show covers almost every branch of the industry, from geology and extraction issues to ecology, industrial safety and software technologies. Every year over 5,000 people visit the exhibition, including top managers and specialists from such companies as JSC "NC "KazMunaiGaz", "KazMunaiGaz Exploration Production" JSC, KazMunaiTeniz, KazTransGaz, AGIP KCO, Karachaganak Petroleum Operating B.V., PETROKAZAKHSTAN, Shell, Total, Exxon, CNPC, Lukoil, Tethys, MOL, Max Petroleum, Roxi Petroleum, and others.

KIOGE-2015 is organized by the Kazakh exhibition company Iteca and its international partners: ITE Group Plc (UK), GIMA (Germany), ITE China (China), ITE Moscow (Russia), EUF (Turkey). ■

[www.kioge.kz](http://www.kioge.kz)





## CPC – Key to the riches of the Caspian region

IT SO HAPPENED THAT WE INTERVIEWED SERGEY KRZHANOVSKY, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE ASTRAKHAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE REGION'S MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, RIGHT BEFORE HIS MOVE TO WORK AT THE SKOLKOVO INNOVATION CENTER.

We asked Mr. Krzhanovsky to share his personal impressions of CPC. A native of Astrakhan, he had known of CPC long before he was appointed a regional government minister. As he put it, the consortium has always been a household name in the region, with many dreaming of getting a job there, which speaks for itself...

– One of my first working meetings as a minister was with CPC people. CPC-R representatives for relations with regional and local authorities Alexander Ignatyev and Pyotr Mamykin arrived at our ministry on January 16, 2013 to present the Expansion Project of the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline system in the territory of the Astrakhan Region. That was when my close acquaintance with CPC began, Sergey Krzhanovsky recalls. He remarked that his relations with the Consortium have left a very good impression on him:

– CPC is a reliable company steadily performing its production program and approaching issues of labor safety and environmental protection responsibly. And, very importantly, CPC is distinguished for its social responsibility in the regions through which the pipeline runs. More than 20 agreements on supporting the most important social projects for the population have been signed between CPC-R and the Astrakhan regional government since 1998.

These projects include sponsorship of health care, recreation and sports institutions and facilities, kindergartens and schools, charity aid to pensioners, veterans of the Great Patriotic War and of labor, and invalids.

The modification agreement of July 28, 2011 on a RUB 150 mln social program being implemented by CPC-R as part of the Expansion Project is currently in effect. Furthermore, CPC has initiated the preparation and signing of a new modification agreement for another RUB 145 mln worth of assistance.

As regards the nature of relations between the regional administration and the Consortium – they are open, transparent and straightforward. It is a pleasure for me to note that CPC people, both those in Astrakhan and those in Moscow, are all true professionals and very decent people. It is comfortable to work with such people. We are in permanent contact, almost in online mode.

*– What issues have you resolved together?*

– In support of the Expansion Project, the Astrakhan regional ministry of industry, transport and natural resources is assisting CPC in resolving various problems, mostly those related to the allotment of land areas for the construc-

tion of new facilities. For example, our ministry helped CPC obtain consent from OJSC Gazprom Dobycha Astrakhan for the construction of a CPC facility within the area of their mining allotment.

An ad hoc working group was formed in early 2013 for the expeditious and effective resolution of issues confronted by CPC. The working group includes representatives from the ministry, CPC-R, OJSC Giprovtokneft, the territorial directorates of the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadaster and Cartography, the Federal Agency for State Property Management, the administrations of local municipalities through the territory of which the pipeline runs, and other interested parties. The working group meets when requested by the Consortium. Although the construction of Expansion Project facilities in the Astrakhan Region is nearing completion, the working group still exists and functions.

The group's external meeting, which took place in the Yenotayevka district administration offices, took the decision to approve the construction plan for a rotation camp at A-PS-4A.

*– Have you visited CPC facilities?*

– Yes, I have been to PS "Astrakhanskaya" and the stations under construction. ➞

As regards process organization, I would like to note the high level of automation and good working practices. Indeed, automation and remote control practices ensure the safe and accident-free opera-



At PS Astrakhanskaya.  
February 2013

tion with a minimum of personnel. Obviously, the Consortium's hallmark is meeting the high international standards of production organization.

**– Which oil and gas companies are present in the Astrakhan Region? How would you characterize the Consortium's role and place among other oil and transport industry enterprises operating in the region?**

– The oil and gas industry is represented by a number of companies operating both onshore and in the Caspian Sea off the coast of the Astrakhan Region.

First of all are the subsidiaries of industry giants like Gazprom and Lukoil, namely: Gazprom Dobycha Astrakhan, which has been developing the Astrakhan condensate field since 1986, and LUKOIL-Nizhnevolzhskneft, extracting oil in the Caspian Sea since 2010. Apart from those, holders of licenses for hydrocarbon exploration and production are JSC Southern Oil Company, OJSC Astrakhan Oil and Gas Company, CJSC AFB Oil and Gas Companies, and some others. In all, there are 17 companies operating in the region, both onshore and offshore.

### ***Compliance with the highest international standards in the organization of production is clearly a corporate identity***

There are only two companies in the business of hydrocarbon transportation through main pipelines in the Astrakhan Region: CPC (oil) and Gazprom (natural gas through the Makat-North Caucasus pipeline). I must note, no oil is fed into the CPC pipeline from the Astrakhan Region at the moment. Nevertheless, the refurbishment of PS "Astrakhanskaya" and the construction of two new pump stations by the Consortium means additional jobs and an overall growth in people's incomes, and new social projects. Evidence of the success of the CPC project is the Consortium's active involvement in community activities in the regions of its presence and its generous charity contributions.

**– As the administrator, until not long ago, in charge of supervising industry and transport and natural resources management in the Astrakhan Region, how would you appraise the prospects of oil production in the region? How would the Ten-**

***giz-Novorossiysk pipeline route influence the development of the region's oil fields?***

– The Consortium's business confirms the statement made by Ian MacDonald in 2003 to the effect that CPC was the key to the riches of the Caspian region. Created by Russia, Kazakhstan and leading world oil companies, the Caspian Pipeline Consortium is of great importance not only for the development of oil fields in Kazakhstan, but also for the development of the major fields located in the northern segment of the Caspian Sea offshore the Astrakhan Re-

gion. A good example is LUKOIL's program of synergistic development of the offshore fields, which, in the longer term, calls for oil produced from the Korchagin, Filanovsky, Kuvykin and other fields belonging to the Astrakhan Region to be transported through the CPC pipeline, which would help optimize logistics for the benefit of the Caspian projects and would definitely improve both the reliability and economy of oil supplies from the region to world markets.

Furthermore, exports of oil produced from the Velikoye field via the CPC pipeline cannot be ruled out in the longer term.

**– What would you like to wish the Consortium?**

– Steadfast progress in its development path, and establishing closer relations with the authorities for the benefit of everybody who lives in the CPC regions of presence! ■

*Interview by Ekaterina Suvorova*



# Ivan Sharay:

## “We have achieved a new throughput level”

IT WAS ONLY TOWARD THE END OF OUR SECOND DAY IN ASTRAKHAN THAT “CPC PANORAMA” MANAGED TO MEET CENTRAL REGION REGIONAL MANAGER IVAN SHARAY: AT THIS BUSY PERIOD HE IS FREQUENTLY OUT VISITING THE EXPANSION PROJECT FACILITIES.

*– Mr. Sharay, you’ve just returned from PS-3. How are things going there?*

– We performed the trial launch of PS-3 in system test mode. Each module of the pump station passed a 72-hour trial run. The mission was a success – the equipment started at the first go. Minor

try more than 30 years now. After graduating from the institute I was assigned to work to the “land of oil” – the Republic of Komi. First I worked for three years in geological exploration, and the rest of my service record has been connected with the oil industry. I’ve risen through all the steps of the career ladder – from process

*I figure I was lucky to join the Central Region’s team. They are true professionals*

issues were promptly fixed. I was pleased to see the good coordination and professionalism of the station’s personnel, which indicates that personnel selection was made properly and a good team has formed.

*– Are you satisfied with the progress of work at the Central Region’s Expansion Project facilities?*

– Generally, yes, but I wouldn’t say I’m 100% happy. Work is progressing fine and is of good quality, which is most important for me as a professional.

*– You are a new man in the Company. Tell us about your career in the oil industry.*

– My whole life has been connected with oil. I’ve been in the indus-

try more than 30 years now. After graduating from the institute I was assigned to work to the “land of oil” – the Republic of Komi. First I worked for three years in geological exploration, and the rest of my service record has been connected with the oil industry. I’ve risen through all the steps of the career ladder – from process

*– Have you seen anything new or interesting here?*

– CPC is a significant company, which is operating very effectively and possesses cutting edge technologies and equipment. It is a pleasure for one to be employed with CPC and there are good opportunities for learning. I figure I was lucky to join the Central Region’s team. They are true professionals and do not need to be told what to do. It’s enough to set a goal. Both vertical and horizontal management structures are well adjusted at CPC, and the whole mechanism functions as if “by itself” with each specialist aware of his role and place in the system.



It was a real pleasure for me to meet the people from the Central Region. They make an excellent team of dedicated and professional specialists. As things stand today, the staff numbers 281 people, including 230 people are BaseBusiness staff.

The Central Region comprises two offices – the main office in Astrakhan and the CPC representative office in the Republic of Kalmykia located in Elista, and three pump stations. More than ➤



At A-PS-4A

90% of those on the payroll possess a higher professional education. The average age of specialists is 38, i.e. mature, but still young with a high development potential. Incidentally, after the completion of the Expansion Project, the Central Region will become the Company's largest division operating six pump stations.

**– What are the Central Region's operational results this year, and what targets have been set for year end?**

– The first half of the year was not easy. It began with the connec-

tion of a new A-PS-5A (KP 674 km) module to the operating pipeline. In February we performed linefill

***Both vertical and horizontal management structures are well adjusted at CPC, and the whole mechanism functions as if “by itself” with each specialist aware of his role and place in the system***

of the process pipelines at PS-3 (KP 941 km) and on July 8 we performed hot tests of main pumps at that station. As things stand today (July 15 – Ed.), according to the PS “Astrakhanskaya” meter-

ing unit, the pipeline's throughput capacity equals 5,900 m<sup>3</sup> per hour and the week's maximum figure was 6,500 m<sup>3</sup> per hour. According to the data available to the oil transport and sales service, 18.7 mln t of oil were transported through the Central Region during the first six months of the year (well above the target of 16.1 mln t). Therefore, we have achieved a new throughput record!

It is important to note that with the launch of new facilities and increased number of contractors working within the Central Region's zone of responsibility, there have not been any emergency events affecting the pipeline's performance.

Great attention in the Central Region is devoted to accident prevention measures. The absence of hid-

den defects or unauthorized tie-ins was confirmed by the inspection conducted in 2014 over a pipeline section from the Eastern Region's border (KP 452 km) to the Western Region's border (KP 951 km).

*PS Komsomolskaya is an island of civilization amid the vast steppes of the Republic of Kalmykia.*





This year the pipeline will be inspected from the KP 451 km to PS “Komsomolskaya” (KP 756 km). An express report has already been received for the section from PS “Astrakhanskaya” (KP 578 km) to PS “Komsomolskaya” – no dangerous defects needing immediate attention were revealed.

**– What difficulties do the team confront in implementing the Expansion Project?**

– It is impossible to imagine such a large-scale and comprehensive project implemented without any difficulties. Sometimes they are impossible to foresee. For example, while upgrading the turbine pump at PS “Komsomolskaya” we suddenly discovered that the new rotor did not fit into the existing frame. We had no choice but to return the rotor to the manufacturer for adjustment. Another example was when we discovered a design defect in the course of operating new turbines at our pump stations – a turbine released exhaust gases at a high temperature. Again, we had to urgently replace the defective turbine with a new one.

Overcoming these problems our team worked hard to avoid interruptions in pipeline operation and to maintain the planned volumes of oil transportation.

**– What strategic and tactical tasks is the Central Region team facing today?**

– I would divide these tasks into global ones – those set by the Company – and routine ones. The latter, however, also have to be approached most seriously and require strict compliance from each employee. Without the successful performance of routine tasks it will not be possible to achieve any success at the global level.



*The CPC Central Region's office is located in one of Russia's most beautiful cities – Astrakhan*

Without doubt, the launch of PS-3, tie-in of PS-2, preparations for system testing of A-PS-4A, launch of oil metering unit at PS “Astrakhanskaya”, upgrading of pumps at PS “Komsomolskaya” – all these are important and complex tasks set by the Company, and they will be fulfilled. What we have to do now is to receive new maintenance equipment and ensure its proper operation.

No less important is our routine painstaking work of maintaining

**– What is being done for providing the new facilities with personnel?**

– We are actively looking for personnel for the facilities being commissioned. In 2014, for example, we fully staffed PS-3, and this May we completed the first stage of staffing A-PS-4A and A-PS-5A. Importantly, all positions were filled with local people with the necessary skills sets. The oil and gas industry is fairly well developed in the Astrakhan Region and

**18.7 mln t of oil were transported through the Central Region during the first six months of the year (well above the target of 16.1 mln t)**

technical regulations, permits and licenses, ensuring the observance of work execution plans, timely updating the risk table, and ensuring the technical safety of the facilities. This is what we are doing every day and every hour.

the Republic of Kalmykia. Our Company is fairly attractive on the labor market. The fact that we have 30-40 applicants per position speaks for itself. ■

*Interview by Ekaterina Suvorova*

# Renovated, strong, beautiful

IF YOU ARRIVE AT PS “ASTRAKHANSKAYA” ON A DOG DAY AFTERNOON, YOU’LL BE SURPRISED NOT TO BE ASSAULTED BY THE SCORCHING HEAT. ITS GREEN LAWNS AND SHADY TREES CREATE A COMFORTABLE MICROCLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO A GOOD MOOD AND PRODUCTIVE WORK FOR THE PERSONNEL.



Walking around the pump station you unconsciously admire the exotic flowers blooming in its flowerbeds and on shrubs, and the heavily laden fruit trees with their apples, pears, plums and apricots... The fact that the plants grow so

temperature variation range here is around 100 °C! Last winter I photographed the thermometer reading minus 39 °C, and this summer our people recorded +53 °C in the dunes several km from the station.

***The special importance of PS “Astrakhanskaya” lies in its role as a customs metering station for oil entering Russia from Kazakhstan***

well here indicates an impeccably clean environment.

– Trees are the “lungs” of the pump station as they provide necessary air circulation, chill and moisture, – HSE engineer Oleg Khlystov comments. – The annual

Now that the Expansion Project work has been completed at PS “Astrakhanskaya”, the station has become safer for the environment. For example, the station is now equipped with a pipeline surge relief system (SRS), which protects the main pipeline from hydrau-

lic shocks generated during the starting and stopping of the pump station.

– The SRS discharges part of the oil flow from the main pipeline’s receiving line into collection tanks, thus reducing its ultimate pressure and build-up speed, – PS “Astrakhanskaya” deputy head Nikolai Tokarev explained. – The station’s original design did not include this system because back then it had not been necessary – there were only two pump stations upstream from us. Now, as more pump stations have appeared and the pipeline’s throughput capacity has increased, we just can’t do without a SRS. With the launch of new pumps at PS “Atyrau” and commencement of operations at



PS-3 we have reached a throughput capacity of 6,500 m<sup>3</sup>/h, and several more pump stations constructed as part of the Expansion Project are yet to be launched.

Also contributing to the station's environmental friendliness and operational safety are evaporation ponds, an oil sludge temporary laydown area, a space for waste containers, and a chemicals warehouse. Furthermore, the station now has an anti-radiation shelter for 50 people.

As regards equipment, STDP-4000-2UKhL direct start electric motors were replaced with 4AZMP-5000/10000-2UKhL4 soft start electric motors in the main line pumps facility. 5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/h rotors were replaced with higher-performance, 7,661 m<sup>3</sup>/h, rotors on two PU-C001A/B main pump units and rotor replacement is soon to be performed on the PU-C001C/D units too. Furthermore, utility networks, process pipelines and the main switchgear facility have been modernized. The scope of work performed within the Expansion Project has helped increase the main pipeline's durability factor, reliability and efficiency of equipment performance, Nikolai Tokarev concluded.

– Has the area occupied by the station been expanded?

– PS “Astrakhanskaya” has remained within its former boundaries and occupies 20 ha, Nikolai Tokarev replied. – All new facilities were built on sites vacated by the demolition of the old ones, including the old oil metering unit, booster pumps site and tank farm.

The special importance of PS “Astrakhanskaya” lies in its role as a customs metering station for oil entering Russia from Kazakhstan, although it is not “Astrakhanska- ➤



Nikolai Tokarev



Main line pumps facility







*Oleg Khlystov*

ya” but A-PS-4A that is the nearest pump station to the Russian-Kazakh border. A new oil metering unit (LACT) comprising six lines with throughput capacity of 2,950 m<sup>3</sup>/h each was built and put into operation at PS “Astrakhanskaya” as part of the Expansion Project. By comparison, the old LACT comprised three lines with throughput capacity of 1,980 m<sup>3</sup>/h each.

As we were told, the station’s closely-knit team has “grown” much younger: The ratio of old-timers to the “youth contingent” used to be around 50:50, while now those under 30 constitute some 70% of the workforce. Some of the veterans were transferred to the new pump stations to share their experience with the youth. Personnel education and training are under way at PS Astrakhanskaya too.

As well as having made the station more modern, stronger and safer, the Expansion Project, which is now complete at PS “Astrakhanskaya”, has given the operations team priceless experience, serving as a kind of a “strength test” for specialists. Refurbishment of an operating pump

station with construction equipment brought in and working in the facility grounds is a serious business. Considerable credit is due to the operations team for the fact that no accidents occurred, with not a single personal injury at the site. For quite a few of them the station became a home during this difficult period.

– We were engaged deeply with the project, permanently present at the work areas, and we reviewed all design solutions and monitored construction progress, – Oleg Khlystov recalls. – My

duty was to ensure that the contractors observed both the federal HSE, industrial and fire safety requirements and the even more stringent CPC standards.

Walking around the station we couldn’t miss a visit to the control room where shift supervisor Pavel Filchev was on duty. Filchev is one of the company’s patriarchs, who has been at PS “Astrakhanskaya”

for 27 years now! He even took part in the station’s original construction. After issuing some urgent operational instructions, Pavel Filchev spared a moment for us.

Looking at the control room’s monitors and listening to his explanations we tried to comprehend the extremely complicated interactions within a unified chain of mechanisms, and to feel the rhythm of a process invisible to outsiders.

– From my desk I can monitor not only the entire station, but





also the main pipeline section belonging to our zone of responsibility – from the KP 452 km to the KP 674 km, – he commented. – I can check the performance of all service equipment installed along the pipeline route. Look, for example, this is this gate valve at the KP 483 km. I can see that the valve is open, and I can see temperature, pressure and throughput capacity readings for this



Pavel Filchev

section. The latter is currently 5,889 m<sup>3</sup>/h. It is here in the control room that all system information is analyzed and all the relevant conclusions made. If something suddenly goes wrong, the problem will be reported immediately to the Operations Control Center at the Marine Terminal in Novorossiysk.

Pavel Filchev is happy that life has given him the chance to work at such a wonderful place, and that those whom he has trained in the profession have made successful careers as shift supervisors at PS “Astrakhanskaya” and other CPC pump stations. ■

by Ekaterina Suvorova



The fruit trees are laden in the PS “Astrakhanskaya” garden

# The pump station that's forever young

THERE'S A HINT OF YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM IN THE VERY NAME OF PS "KOMSMOLSKAYA" [KOMSMOL WAS THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION - TRANSLATOR'S NOTE]. IT STARTED OPERATING AS A CPC FACILITY IN 2003.



## NEW NEIGHBORS

When it all began, PS "Komsomolskaya" received oil from PS "As-trakhanskaya" and pumped it on to PS "Kropotkinskaya". In a few years' time only a few people will even recall that the Consortium started operations running only three pump stations in its Rus-

cals warehouse are scheduled to be completed later this fall.

- Within the framework of the Expansion Project we are currently upgrading our mainline pump units to increase their capacity by replacing their turbines and pumps. With increased volumes of oil transportation through the pipeline, the

- I came to work here three years ago when modernization was in full swing.

During the time I've been here the station has added two new pump units, two oil tanks, firewater tanks, strainers, the surge relief system and other equipment, - Andrey Saprykin told "CPC Panorama".

*The experienced team and a wide variety of the best modern equipment make PS "Komsomolskaya" an ideal place for rookies to become professionals*

sian segment. Despite acquiring new neighboring stations thanks to the Expansion Project, PS "Komsomolskaya" will retain its unique status, not least because, in addition to being part of the mainline chain of pump stations, it will be receiving oil from the Filanovsky offshore field. For this purpose, metering units have been installed at the pump station, and a laboratory building and chemi-

tanks and booster pumps will be in permanent operation, - PS "Komsomolskaya" deputy head Vitaly Meshcheryakov told "CPC Panorama".

It's impossible to get a full impression of the station without visiting its "brain" - the control room. Shift supervisor Andrey Saprykin met us at the control panel. He came to work at PS "Komsomolskaya" from PS "Astrakhanskaya".



Vitaly Meshcheryakov



## SOURCE OF MANPOWER

The experienced team and a wide variety of the best modern equipment make PS “Komsomolskaya” an ideal place for rookies to become professionals. Indeed, it is! PS “Komsomolskaya” has trained dozens of specialists for PS-5, A-PS-4A, PS-3 and other facilities.

- People undergo practical training here, work a trial period, and, after passing certification exams, are assigned to other stations, - Vitaly Meshcheryakov went on to say.

- They must be good folks. You must be sorry to have to part with them?

- Yes, it's a shame, but we all work within one system, we stay in touch and are in contact by telephone regularly, - Meshcheryakov replied.

PS “Komsomolskaya” is operated on the rotational team method. Personnel arrives at the station from Astrakhan, which is 320 km away. Usually, a rotational team comprises 23 CPC specialists. They

live in a comfortable camp, which is designed to accommodate over 100 people at any time. There is one room per person furnished with all regular amenities.

## FITNESS AND MORE

The camp area has a sports ground for outdoor games, a tennis court and a gym. The gym deserves to be described in more detail. In addition to the usual weights and barbells, it has a state of the art treadmill, and rowing and skiing simulators. And there's even a PC-compatible audio system in the gym for those who like to exercise to music.

- We're the envy of any Moscow fitness center, - Vitaly Meshcheryakov boasts. The gym and the sports ground are very popular with the station's personnel. After all, there's no better way to “re-charge” after the working shift.

As for PS “Komsomolskaya” itself, you can be sure that after its modernization the station's on “top form” too, and ready for new challenges. ■

by Pavel Kretov



Andrey Saprykin



The gym at PS “Komsomolskaya”





# Among the dunes

THE HELICOPTER IS HEADING TOWARD A-PS-4A. THE SCORCHED STEPPE STRETCHES FROM HORIZON TO HORIZON. THE CLOSER WE GET TO OUR DESTINATION, THE MORE DESERT-LIKE THE TERRAIN BECOMES. FINALLY, THE STATION APPEARS LIKE A MIRAGE AMONG THE DUNES.

Under construction as part of the Expansion Project, the A-PS-4A pump station looks like a boat sailing through the desert. The illusion is made stronger by the wind that blows all the time, raising high yellow “waves” across the landscape. These “invincible” dunes will soon be attended to: the facility is nearing completion, and its landscaping phase is approaching.

– We’re serious about fighting back the sands and we’re looking for the most effective way to contain them, – Central Region Deputy Manager for Operations & Maintenance Viktor Tokarev told “CPC Panorama”. – After biological and technical treatment of the sandy soil, we’re considering applying reed mats. Reed mats have proven fairly effective for protecting ball valves along the pipeline

between PS “Astrakhanskaya” and PS “Komsomolskaya”. Though we understand that it will take us some while to turn the desert into a garden. Nevertheless, we’ll be moving ahead step-by-step, and eventually the station will become a “green island” on the steppe.

– Landscaping activities are planned to be carried out before the weather gets cold – Head Specialist for PS Construction Supervision at the Project Management Directorate (JSC Chernomortransneft) Maxim Bely noted.

– As regards the construction and commissioning scope of work, A-PS-4A is currently 90% complete, – the contractor’s representative, Deputy Director for Production of Promstroi Astrakhan, Sergey Bugayev, added.

– At the moment we’re completing the equipment of the mainline pumps, installing cable facilities and assembling process modules. Our main efforts are focused on safety, which is particularly appropriate given the station’s closeness



*Maxim Bely and Rustam Dzhumurbayev*





Viktor Tokarev



Sergey Bugayev

to potentially hazardous Gazprom facilities.

As the specialists explained, two parallel and closely interconnected projects are being implemented here: PS construction and construction of gas supply facilities, including an autonomous gas distribution station (AGLDS). The four mainline pumps will be fuelled by natural gas. The pump station is connected to the Makat-North Caucasus gas pipeline. Currently all installation and commissioning work at the AGLDS has been

completed. Gas supply facilities have already been turned over to the operating company for pilot operation, and are currently in

remote from nearby population centers (100 km from Astrakhan), is its high degree of self-containment. Even in the event of gas

*The distinguishing feature of A-PS-4A, which is fairly remote from nearby population centers, is its high degree of self-containment*

“standby” mode waiting for the pump station to be launched.

The distinguishing feature of this pump station, which is fairly

supply interruption the pumps will not stop since there is a backup diesel-generator, which will be automatically turned on in such circumstances. Fuel tanks for »







the diesel-generator are already in place.

Also contributing to the station's self-containment is its machinery and repair shop, accommodated in a spacious building and furnished with all necessary equipment and tools.

The station uses local water as process water. Two 120 m deep water wells with a flow rate of 12 m<sup>3</sup>/h each satisfy all production, firewater and utility needs.

The construction of an efficient effluent treatment plant for both wastewater and rainwater indi-

cates the station's high environmental standards. All atmospheric precipitation within the station's grounds will be collected and subjected to multi-stage treatment before discharge into evaporation ponds.

The future staff of the station are watching the process of its creation attentively.

– We are representing the Operations Department, and so are particularly interested in the high quality of work, – acting facility manager Rustam Dzhumurbayev told “CPC Panorama”. – Together with the contractors we monitor work on all sites and identify issues that need to be fixed in the construction and commissioning phases to avoid problems during the future operation of the station. We order corrections made where necessary, and resolve all issues at general meetings. The contractor always respects and honors our recommendations. ■

*by Ekaterina Suvorova*





# The remotest station

CPC CENTRAL REGION'S ZONE OF RESPONSIBILITY SPREADS ACROSS 500 KM OF STEPPE IN THE ASTRAKHAN REGION AND REPUBLIC OF KALMYKIA.

It's not an easy segment: the pipeline runs across the Volga-Akhtuba lowlands which are well-known for their flooding and numerous water obstructions. Furthermore, there are large areas of migrating sands, which are difficult to clear, and lengthy clay strips, which are barely passable even for off-road vehicles during spring or fall.

kov, his long-standing colleague at PS "Komsomolskaya" who is now deputy head of PS-3.

– Construction and installation work is in its final phase. Individual tests have been finished and now we are proceeding to system tests of PS equipment under load [status as of mid-July – Ed.], –

State Technical University with a major in petroleum technologies.

– PS-3 is currently fully staffed, and its employees have undertaken all necessary training as required under both the applicable law of the Russian Federation and CPC internal regulations, – Nikolai remarked.

***PS-3 is operated using the rotational team method. Workers and specialists are transported by comfortable corporate bus***

PS-3 is operated using the rotational team method. Workers and specialists are transported from Astrakhan and back by comfort-

Mainline operation and maintenance manager Pavel Pastushkov outlined such problems to a "CPC Panorama" correspondent who arrived at PS-3, the Central Region's remotest pump station, by helicopter. It is no exaggeration to say that Pastushkov knows every inch of the pipeline. His knowledge of the details of pump station operation is just as complete. His 10-year service record with CPC includes working at PS "Astrakhanskaya" and heading up PS "Komsomolskaya".

Right beside the helicopter pad Pavel introduced us to Nikolai Boi-

Nikolai Boikov told "CPC Panorama". – Work is under way at all the main facilities of the station, including the mainline pump station, strainers, pressure regulators, surge relief systems, the closed drain system, etc.

Nikolai comes from a family of oilmen, hence he was in no doubt about his choice of profession from childhood. In 2009, he graduated from the Astrakhan



Nikolai Boikov

The CPC mainline runs close to the famous Volga-Akhtuba lowlands

able corporate bus. Most of the staff are residents of Astrakhan, while some come from Kalmykia.

Before coming to work with CPC, main equipment operator Anatoly Zadorkin immigrated to Russia from Uzbekistan.

– I’ve been with CPC since 2003. I remember the old equipment at PS “Astrakhanskaya” and PS “Komsomolskaya”. There’s no comparison to the equipment now installed here at PS-3,

his son, Dmitry, works here, at the pump station, as a duty shift electrical engineer. Though still young, he has graduated from the Astrakhan Computer Engineering College and the North Caucasus State Technical University.

– I find my work exciting, and have friendly and attentive coaches here. Every day I try to learn something new and improve my skills, – Zadorkin Jr. told “CPC Panorama” after a brief tour around the indoor switch-



Anatoly Zadorkin

*Houses in the rotational camp are equipped with air conditioning, TV sets, refrigerators, etc., so that those staying there don’t have to worry about household problems*

which is much more reliable and convenient to operate, – he commented.

Anatoly’s son and daughter have followed in their father’s footsteps. His daughter is currently studying to acquire the relevant education, while

gear – the “electric heart” of the station crammed with the best modern equipment. He likes absolutely everything about the station, including its innovative systems and the living conditions arranged here for rotational teams.



Dmitry Zadorkin





The station's rotational camp is designed to accommodate 100 people at a time. Houses in the rotational camp are equipped with air conditioning, satellite television, refrigerators, etc., so that those staying there don't have to worry about household problems. Each house comprises two rooms – one for each employee. Given that they usually work different shifts, most of the time each has the house to himself. There is a public laundry and a room cleaning service is provided by LLC Master-Service.

The same company is in charge of food provisions to the canteen, and, according to the station's personnel, the quality of meals is of restaurant standard.

– We prepare different meals for every shift to meet their individual tastes, – LLC Master-Service chef Maxim Grinko told “CPC Panorama”. – At least every three days we ask if they want any changes in the menu. In winter, for example, they prefer meaty, hot and spicy dishes, while in summer – more fresh vegetable salads, juices, kvas and kefir.

Any picture of the station wouldn't be complete without

mentioning the sauna, the excellently equipped gym and the outdoor sports grounds where CPC volleyball, basketball and mini-soccer teams compete with those of the contractors – LLC Starstroi and LLC Master-Service – when they're not working. Regardless of who wins the game or the final score, the biggest victory is always for team spirit and friendship, our escort told us at the end of our tour. ■

by Pavel Kretov



Pavel Pastushkov



Vladimir Berdnikov





# August maintenance shut-down

THE CPC PIPELINE IS STOPPED FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR TO ENHANCE RELIABILITY AND CONNECT EQUIPMENT TO BOOST ADDITIONAL THROUGHPUT CAPACITY.



*General Manager, Operations Victor Abmaev chairs a meeting of Moscow Office specialists during the pipeline's scheduled maintenance stoppage*

A scheduled 72-hour shut-down of the CPC pipeline took place in mid-August. During that period, the planned scope of work was successfully completed in its entirety.

About 30 work teams were simultaneously involved along the pipeline's entire length, from Tengiz to Novorossiysk, and worked in coordination both on the mainline, and at pump stations and the Marine Terminal. The scope of work included tasks related to both routine operation and the Expansion Project.

In the Eastern Region, for example, five tasks were related to routine operation and another three to the Expansion Project. In the Central Region, the corresponding figures were four and two, and in the Western Region – two and two, respectively. Of the five tasks performed at the Marine Terminal, four were related to operations and one to the Expansion Project.

As a result, four new pump stations – PS-2, PS-4, PS-5 and PS-8 – were connected to the pipeline system. Another result of the 72-hour stoppage was the completion of preparatory work for putting three new VFRT-100000 tanks at the Marine Terminal into operation. A large scope of work was carried out to improve mainline reliability.

– All work was performed in full compliance with the approved work execution plans, with good coordination between specialists from the Moscow Office, the CPC Regions and the Contractor contributing to that, – CPC General Manager, Operations Victor Abmaev notes.

– With new tanks put into operation, the capacity of the Marine Terminal Tank Farm reached 700,000 m<sup>3</sup>, which is sufficient to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the terminal during gale seasons on the Black Sea, which is very important, – CPC Chief Manager for Oil Transportation and Commerce Serikkali Murinov stressed. – After PS-4 and PS-7 are launched, we will achieve a higher throughput capacity in the Komsomolskaya-Kropotkinskaya-Marine Terminal segment, and, therefore, the capacity of the entire pipeline system will increase dramatically. ■

*by Pavel Kretoy*

BTW. Mainline pump units were successfully started up at PS-7 on August 24, 2015 in line with the approved test & launch program. Western Region specialists noted that the work was performed in full compliance with the approved test & launch program. The scope of work included phased start-up of three mainline pump units and their tests in various operation regimes in the presence of supplier representatives. The tests did not reveal any serious flaws. Similar tests were successfully performed at the revamped PS "Atyrau" (Eastern Region) in June, at PS-3 (Central Region) in July, and at PS "Tengiz" (Eastern Region) in August.





# His favorite profession

THE CONSTRUCTION PROFESSION BECAME A VOCATION FOR SANDRO YAGMUROV, LLC KAZAKHSTAN PIPELINE VENTURES DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION, THANKS TO HIS GRANDFATHER. SANDRO'S GRANDDAD MARCHED THROUGH THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR ALL THE WAY TO BERLIN, AND AFTER VICTORY HE RAISED A WHOLE VILLAGE IN KAZAKHSTAN FROM THE RUINS.



– His name is honored in that village because my granddad built almost every house there, – Yagmurov remarked. – During his college years my father was also caught up a bit in Soviet era romanticism. He would travel to take part in various construction projects, including the famous Pavlodar Tractor Factory in Kazakhstan and the Ust-Ilim HEPP in the Irkutsk region.

Incidentally, it was there in East Siberia that he met my mother. After finishing a mathematics school, Sandro followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and joined the construction profession. He took part in many civil construction projects in Astana and now works in the construction of oil industry facilities.

– I like construction projects. Each one is like an intricate organism living its own life. I like it when I'm not in the office, but at a construction site, – Sandro stressed. – The construction process is something that you can't control from the office.

He's proud that fate gave him the chance to work with the Caspian Pipeline Consortium Expansion Project:

– It's the largest hydrocarbon transportation project not only in Kazakhstan, but in the whole world, and the best professional management and construction companies and equipment suppliers have been contracted in support. CPC is an international team employing only the very best world practices, and the technical standards of the Consortium's shareholders complement each other harmoniously. Another thing that came as a pleasant discovery was the extremely close attention to labor health and safety. I don't know any other such project. All members of the CPC Expansion Project have advanced a long way before my very eyes. In the beginning, workers would complain: "Stop it! Let us do our work!" Then some tried to use the company's concern for safety for their own reasons, for example, to find a plausible excuse for dodging

work. But having been through all that, we've succeeded in changing people's attitudes. Now everybody here understands that care for the people working at the site is top priority for the Consortium, and that there cannot be too much concern for safety.

– Your children, I believe, are also going to join the construction profession? – "CPC Panorama" asked finally.

– I can't insist on that. I think that children should take such decisions for themselves. My elder daughter has already made her choice, to be a doctor. As for my younger daughter and son, it is too early to speak about their choice of profession. They're still growing up. ■

*by Pavel Kretoy*



# Unreasonable legal claims overturned

PRESENT DAY BUSINESS REALITIES ARE SUCH THAT COMPANY'S REPUTATION DEPENDS A GREAT DEAL ON HOW IT LOOKS AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS ECOLOGICAL SAFETY SYSTEM. CPC MANAGERMENTS KNOWS THAT VERY WELL AND IS ALWAYS SERIOUS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

Many media outlets call the CPC pipeline system "1,500 km of environmental safety." All kinds of environmental monitoring, including monitoring of pollution, and man-made and industrial impact on ecosystems, are carried out at the Consortium's facilities. All activities performed within the framework of industrial environmental monitoring are coordinated with the territorial environmental authorities.

CPC environmental monitoring over many years is evidence that CPC facilities meet the requirements of the relevant environmental protection laws of Russia and Kazakhstan, and ensure the ecologically safe operation of the pipeline system.

Nevertheless, it happens sometimes that the environmental authorities make unreasonable claims. In such cases, the Consortium's managers and specialists must react promptly and with coordination to avoid potential penalties.

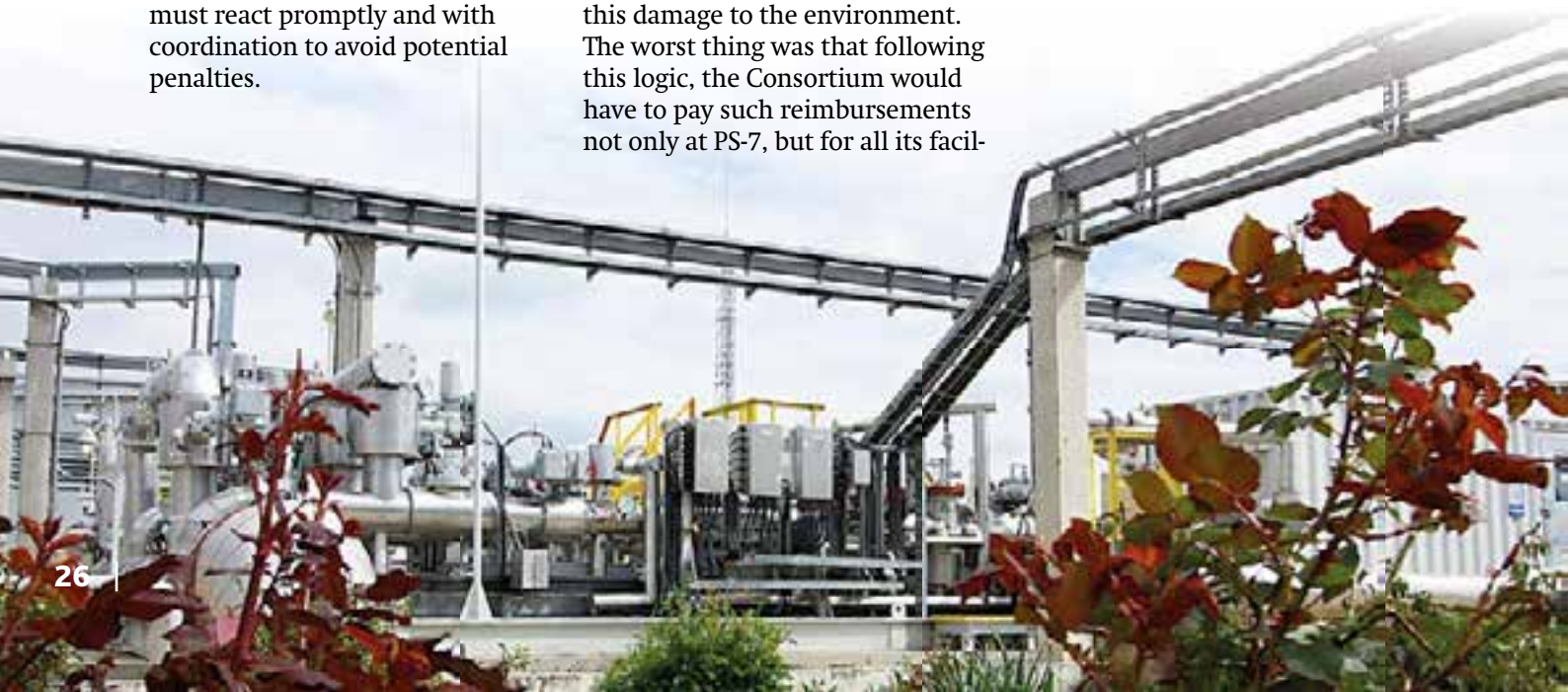
After an inspection of PS-7 (Dinskaya District of Krasnodar Krai), the North Caucasus Directorate of the Federal Service for Environmental, Technological, and Nuclear Supervision (Ros-tekhnadzor) issued a directive to perform corrective action in respect of violations committed during the construction of the station. Rostekhnadzor inspectors claimed that damage had been inflicted on the environment during the construction of PS-7. After reviewing the Feasibility Study of the "CPC Pipeline System. Modification" project, the State Expert Review Board issued a statement to the effect that measures to mitigate negative impacts on nature during construction were included in the project, and appraised the amount to be paid in compensation for damages to flora and fauna. According to these calculations, CPC had to pay more than RUB 56 million to the government in reimbursement of this damage to the environment. The worst thing was that following this logic, the Consortium would have to pay such reimbursements not only at PS-7, but for all its facil-

ities located in Russia. That figure would come to over RUB 500 mln! CPC management decided to seek a legally substantiated solution to change matters in the company's favor.

In this situation the Expansion Project team showed that "team-work" is a real factor for them. The team combined its efforts to take coordinated action. The lawyers, HSE and Regulatory Affairs Group hurried to study various options and look for precedents, while conducting ongoing talks with the supervisory authorities. Finally, a solution was found.

*Sergey Kladov, Legal Counsel, Expansion Project:*

The case was an example of a bureaucratic and formalistic approach by the supervisory authority to bring administrative charges against the Consortium without performing a detailed analysis of







Sergey Kladov

the applicable law and the circumstances of the case.

A literal interpretation of the Feasibility Study led the supervisory authority to conclude that CPC-R had to pay certain sums to reimburse damages inflicted on the environment by its activities.

However, having analysed the issue in full detail, we concluded that all necessary remediation measures were initially included in the scope of work, and, therefore, there were no grounds for any additional reimbursement. Furthermore, each fact of environmental damage has to be proved and documented based on the results of a state environmental inspection. No such events had been documented.

While discussing the issue with the supervisory authority representatives we made our point clear that, as a law-abiding and socially responsible company, CPC appreciates the work of the

supervisory authority directed at preventing potential impact on the environment, and adheres to the most stringent environmental standards while realizing the project. However, any directive issued or fine imposed must be duly substantiated, i.e. supported with evidence to prove infliction of damage on the environment.

We succeeded in convincing the supervisory authority of the correctness of our position, and all claims against us were dropped. It should be noted that there are few administrative or court precedents of this kind, so the Expansion Project team has once again proved itself to be able to resolve tricky problems encountered during the Project's implementation.

**Mikhail Kolesnikov,**  
**Regulatory Affairs Manager:**

- The regulation of disputes and conflicts is part of our work. At any moment the Regulatory Affairs Group has a heap of issues ongoing, including land relations, construction permit term extensions, operation permit obtainment, etc. Sometimes the situations are controversial. We have organized systemic relations with Rostekhnadzor and we make preparations for their inspections. We assemble and arrange documentation for submission to the inspectors, and monitor the corrective actions taken to fix any drawbacks discovered. But situations occur sometimes where it is



Mikhail Kolesnikov

possible to contest claims within the legal framework to save the Consortium from unreasonable expense. The case with PS-7 is a good example. A working group was formed, the appropriate action taken, and, by our joint efforts, we succeeded in achieving the result that CPC wanted, and overturning the unreasonable claims.

Coordinated action by all divisions of the Expansion Project helped to successfully contest the claim against the Consortium to pay reimbursement for environmental damage at PS-7, and, potentially, at all the Consortium's facilities located in the Russian Federation.

The Expansion Project team has demonstrated its ability to take well-coordinated and effective action and resolve challenging problems in many fields. ■

by Alexander Detkov



# From Yenotayevka, with love

FROM ITS VERY START CPC HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGIONS OF ITS PRESENCE. THE PROFOUND IMPLICATION BEHIND THIS CAN ONLY BE FELT WHEN YOU MEET SOME OF THOSE AT WHOM THE CONSORTIUM'S CHARITABLE PROGRAMS ARE AIMED FACE-TO-FACE.



## ON THE DEVELOPMENT PATH

We arrived at Yenotayevka District together with Petr Mamykin and Aleksandr Ignatyev, the Company's representatives for relations with the local authorities in the Astrakhan Region. As constant visitors there, they received a warm welcome from the Head of the District Administration Sergey

Mikheev. Mr Mikheev was full of kind words in his interview with "CPC Panorama":

– It's not the first year we've worked with our benefactor, the Caspian Pipeline Consortium. There are good working relationships between the district and

the Company. So many important projects have been carried out already! With the help of CPC we managed to refurbish our high school and solve the age-old problem of replacing the old windows with modern double-glazing, we built and equipped a school boiler-room, and students now have a soccer field.

Thanks to CPC the district now has a hockey rink and even a boxing ring... The annual programs supporting veterans on Victory Day and first-graders on Knowledge Day are eagerly awaited by our people. It's remarkable that the CPC management truly know and understand people's needs.

Over tea in his office, we talked with the district administration



*A working session of CPC representatives Petr Mamykin and Aleksandr Ignatyev with the district head*





*Dima Pushnin*

head about some current issues in the area.

Sergey Mikheev is convinced that development prospects for the community largely depend on the local people themselves, their hard work, initiative and desire to move forward:

– Those who are willing to work, will always work, and those who aren't will only shout: give us this, give us that! The authorities in turn need to work with people, and inform them about government family business development programs, such as "Young Farmer", for example.

There seems to be no "welfare mentality" in Yenotayevka, and the district authorities do their best to secure the area's stable development.

– We're creating a congenial investment climate in the district, and some of our efforts have already paid off: our administration is receiving offers from both Russian and foreign investors with ideas to set up production facilities for growing and processing agricultural produce.

The investors have already built a brick-yard, a cannery, a brew-



ery, a logistics center and other facilities in our district, – Sergey Mikheev noted. The short-term plans of the district head include creating their own seed bank in order to spare local farmers the need to buy expensive seed grain in Holland. New gardens are being laid out in the district, and growing strawberries tried out. This year the Yenotayevka District

Yenotayevka we had the chance to see that for ourselves once again.

### **"KINDNESS IS NOT A SCIENCE, IT'S A DEED"**

The local regular school had some interesting meetings in store for us. This school has a long history. Several generations

*There seems to be no "welfare mentality" in Yenotayevka, and the district authorities do their best to secure the stable development of the area*

has won two grants from the Ministry of Agriculture in the area of animal husbandry.

It's no secret that helping someone who is investing their own efforts for a better life is like sowing seed on fertile ground. In

of Yenotayevka residents graduated from there, so it has a real value for the locals. We talk to Olga Revnivitseva, who's a graduate of the school – as are her children, her husband and her nephews. Olga's father worked there as a teacher. ➤



*Vladimir Neznaev: "The school boiler room is ready for operation"*





*Students of the local regular school gave a concert for the CPC representatives, district authorities and villagers to express their thanks for the refurbishment of the building. November 2012*

Mrs. Revniltseva came to express her gratitude to the CPC representatives for taking care of her favorite school:

– On behalf of all the parents and school staff I would like to

thank the CPC management and the building contractors for their gifts to our children: the new gas boiler room and the sports ground. Putting it in the words of the French writer Romain Rolland, “Kindness is not a science,

it’s a deed”, and we can see the deed right here!

We visited the new boiler room together with Vladimir Neznayev, First Deputy Head of the Yenotayevka District Administration.

– Everything is ready for operation, the only thing we need is a little time to receive the package of approval documents from the monitoring bodies, – he commented, promising that the boiler room will start working from the beginning of the school year – and it will provide heat not only to the school, but also to the Cossack refuge “Lyubava” which also had problems with heating.

But those problems are history now.

In the meantime, passions are running high on the school soccer field. Under the supervision of a coach, two teams of young soccer players are battling it out on a beautiful green artificial turf field. After supporting the kids with all our hearts and cheering for the future of Russian soccer, we talk to one of the players.

– Dmitry Pushnin, student of 6-B, – the 11-year-old sportsman introduced himself. – I’ve been into soccer for four years now, and I like it a lot. You have to run, but that’s good for your health ... Now we have this fantastic field we don’t mind when we falling. We used to be afraid to fall on the old field because it gave us burns and cuts, and here it doesn’t bother us anymore!

We were told that when the field had just been built, the children even used to take their shoes off when they went on it.

In her turn, school principal Olga Stepovaya thanked the Consortium for helping the school out. – CPC is a reliable partner, and they did everything they promised.



*Olga Stepovaya and Olga Revniltseva: “We’re grateful to CPC for its attention to our school!”*



– We're particularly grateful to the Company for meeting our needs when building the soccer field. Some changes were introduced into the project on our request, and now we have an additional athletic track, too. Now the school has everything for field-and-track practice and for successfully passing GTO (Ready to Work and Defense) norms.

## THE MAGIC POWER OF ART

The students and teachers of the Yenotayevka children's art school №13 can't stop marvelling at the presents they received from CPC last year as part of the celebration of the school's 50th anniversary.

– The Consortium got us the most essential things – some wonderful musical instruments. Charity has always been much valued in Russia, many thanks to CPC!

– The buttons of the old bayans would often stick, so the children even learned to fix it themselves, – says music teacher and school orchestra instructor Gennady Kuznetsov. – Playing the new instruments gives the children so much pleasure!

The special piano teacher Tamara Lendova has fallen in love with CPC's present – a new grand piano made in Japan. It does have a heavenly sound indeed! The specialists who tune the new instrument said there was nothing quite like it in the whole Astrakhan Region.

– CPC also gave the school a Ford bus in which we can take children around in full compliance with the CPC safety policy, strictly observing the speed limits!

According to the art school's teachers, the children who play



*The bus presented by CPC make the art school students mobile: they can board it to go and give a concert!*

the new instruments have greater motivation to continue their musical education. It's important to note that the school accepts anyone who's willing to learn, without strictly testing the children's ear for music or sense of rhythm. Not all the students will become musicians in the future, but knowing the basics of this

beautiful art will only be good for them.

Before we left the children and teachers gave a small concert for the CPC representatives, where they exhibited the whole sound range of the new instruments. ■

*by Ekaterina Suvorova*



*Tamara Lendova has fallen in love with the new grand piano*

# The face of the Company

REGARDLESS OF A COMPANY'S SIZE AND LINE OF BUSINESS, THE OFFICE RECEPTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE FIRST CRUCIAL IMPRESSION, AND IS A DISTINCTIVE ELEMENT OF CORPORATE STYLE



Receptionists belong to the office administrative staff. They greet visitors, answer the CPC general phone line, deal with couriers and handle correspondence. Part of the phone service is now performed by automatic answering machines that direct the caller to the relevant specialist by offering choices in the phone menu. Company staff address reception with all kind of questions from 8:00 till 19:00 – work here is in shifts.

All incoming and outgoing CPC correspondence goes through reception – every day more than 60 letters are sent to regional offices, and over 40 letters to other companies. As for incoming mail, more than 150 envelopes are registered daily. Every document requires attention, and there may be as many as 11,000 of them every year!

It is also the girls' responsibility to book meeting rooms and parking spaces. Registering business trips is another challenge.

Each of those duties demands careful attention and concen-

The reception workers are the first employees visitors meet. Any opinion about them usually becomes linked to that of whole company. After talking to a receptionist, everyone should have the impression that the company will do its very best to resolve any issues.

Reception is responsible for portraying the company image – in fact, it's the face of it. So what kind of "face" does the Caspian Pipeline Consortium have?

***Being the face of the Company is a responsible and honourable mission. Working at reception trains discipline and character***

Visitors are greeted by friendly girls whose job is to maintain multiple contacts with people – managers, staff and visitors. So amiability, social skills, communication culture, courtesy and tact are among essential secretarial skills.

tration, making the ability to properly organize one's working space and time a vital skill. Delays are absolutely unacceptable! That relates both to the time you arrive at work, and deadlines for sending documents on time. Employees need to show professionalism,



responsibility and diplomacy and have a good memory.

– A receptionist needs to be able to quickly and properly handle several tasks at the same time, and also switch from one activity to another, – Ekaterina Mina thinks. – My first year was about learning, as a receptionist has to know the Company better than anyone else. Now my work has got to a certain degree of order and goes in cycles. Being the face of the Company is a responsible and honourable mission. Working at reception trains discipline and character. Thoroughness, attentiveness and flexibility are very important in our work. The greatest challenge is to “keep your back straight” at all times and remember that you’re at the centre of attention.

Lyubov Zorina confessed how much she loves her job:

– It’s great to feel an integral part of a company like CPC. I like helping people, they all turn to us – from leading managers to office assistants, and we need to get on with everybody.

– A positive attitude and a smile are the main working tools at reception, – says Svetlana Milovanova. – It’s essential to be able to find the right approach with everybody.

That’s important because the impression my colleagues and I make is usually projected on the Company itself. That’s why we should leave all our personal issues behind and smile!

Svetlana is an experienced receptionist, who has been with the CPC since 2008 and has recently returned from ma-

ternity leave. Her colleagues welcomed her in friendly reception style:

– Our team is good to work in, we are all considerate and ready to lend a helping hand to each other, – she said.

Elena Evstifeeva was the last to join the team, but she blended in really quickly:

– I absolutely love the Company! It’s great to be part of such a serious team where managers work in close coordination with everyone and you get prompt feedback on any issue. I like to stand in for assistants in other departments and use the opportunity to learn more about the working structure of various subdivisions. In connection with that I would like to ask to inform reception about new employees before the general email notification goes out – that would save us some awkward moments. Speaking of difficulties, I can mention those times when someone falls ill or has to stand in for an employee in another department, and you have to handle all the reception work alone. For me it’s like a kind of “trial by fire”!

– The times when a receptionist is left alone do happen but rarely, – says Kirill Bidinsky, the Moscow office administrative manager.

He has been supervising reception since 2010 and confirms that it’s an easy and pleasant position to be in charge of the female team:

– The work is well-organized. The girls are always friendly, responsible and attentive, they work quickly and efficiently. ■

*by Viktoria Lupko*



# A team of creative people

MANY INTERESTING, ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE PEOPLE WORK AT CPC. THEIR VARIOUS HOBBIES PROVIDE AN INEXHAUSTIBLE SOURCE OF TOPICS FOR "CPC PANORAMA".

## BUDDLEIAS, CLEMATIS AND MORE ...

Central Region senior HR specialist Nataliya Antonova took part in the construction of the CPC pipeline – in fact, in the construction of facilities built back in the 1980s. So she knows both the pipeline system and the people maintaining it like nobody else.

– Our work is very creative, and so are our employees, – Nataliya Antonova says. She herself likes cultivating small flowering bushes and coniferous plants, like mountain fir.

In her garden there are five kinds of hydrangea alone. She also has buddleias, clematis and garden yucca.

– I've tried growing everything – from dahlias to cactuses. I was keen on all kinds of flowers and subscribed to specialized magazines. I got a little tired of roses, – Nataliya continues, adding that at the moment she has only 20 (!) sorts of rose.

Nataliya is especially pleased that her little granddaughter shares her interests. The girl tends the plants with her little toy trowel, but it's already obvious that she'll make a great gardener.

## JULIA BORISOVA: SOLUTIONS FOR THE DACHA

Julia Borisova has been working at the Central Region CPC HR Department for three years. She's a true professional, with HR being her sole main area of expertise. She worked at the Gas Production

directorate for many years before she came to CPC.

Julia develops her creative ambitions in home and dacha design.

– I try to watch all the "Dacha Solutions" and "Apartment Questions" TV programs. I always want to improve something, change it for the better, – smiles Julia.



Nataliya Antonova with her granddaughter





*Julia Borisova and her daughters*

She's sure she could be an expert on one of those TV shows.

This year Julia changed the design of her dacha completely: she painted the walls, replaced the shelves and curtains, introduced some new decorative elements and hung a few collages that reflect her husband's hobbies.

– We often have guests at our dacha. I listen to their opinions too, so each of them has contributed to the design, – she says. Julia's two daughters share their mother's passion.

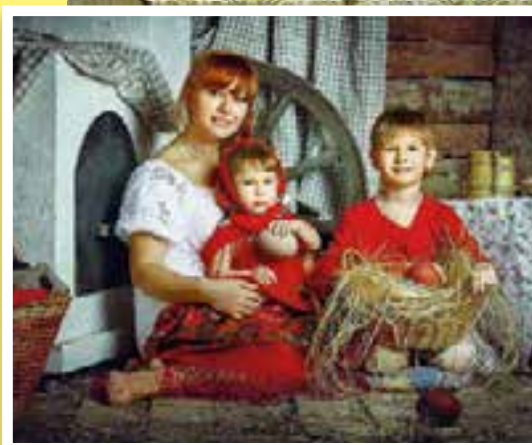
### **"I CAN DO IT!"**

A whole magazine wouldn't have the space to mention all the hobbies of Irina Zhuravleva, Central Region personnel affairs specialist. All of them have one thing in common – she loves meticulous hand-work. She does embroidery and topiaries, and loves quilling and cut-out decoration.

Meeting Irina was an education for the "CPC Panorama" journalist, who'd never heard about quilling or topiaries before. Quilling is the art of rolling and twisting long narrow strips of paper and arranging them to create beautiful flat or three-dimensional designs.

Topiaries are small interior decorations shaped as little trees and made of various materials. This craft dates back hundreds of years. Depending on the size and look of the "tree" it can be placed on the floor, on shelves, the mantelpiece, a coffee table or night-stands.

– I leaned to do all of this by myself. There are so many master-



*Irina Zhuravleva with her children*

classes you can find on the Internet. I never copy anything, I just borrow the technique, – Irina says.

So she never buys ready-made bouquets in flower shops, preferring to make them herself, and putting her heart into the compositions. She loves giving presents, of course, and there's no end to those who hope to get one. ■

*by Pavel Kretov*

# Reaching for the sky

FOR CENTURIES PEOPLE HAVE DREAMT ABOUT FLYING, AND WORSHIPPED THE SKY: CONQUERING IT HAS BEEN A GOAL IN LITERATURE OVER THE AGES. ARKADY LAZAREV, EXPANSION PROJECT OFFICE MANAGER IN MOSCOW, BEGAN HIS QUEST FOR THE SKY IN A VERY DIFFERENT ELEMENT – WATER.

In 1999 Arkady was in Crimea and decided to try scuba-diving. The idea was intriguing to him. But his experiment was a failure: the cold interrupted his movements and breathing difficulties caused a panic attack.

Back on shore, Arkady promised himself never to try that again. Then he noticed the bright wings of paragliders in the sky. “I’m not going down, I’m going up!” – Arkady decided, and headed off to the Klementyev Mountain to conquer the air.

The instruction was brief, and after three hours of practising on the ground Arkady had a chance to experience the fear and rapture of his very first flight. The weather

Up to 98% of all flight problems happen because of pilot error, and in only 2 % of cases is equipment failure to blame. That SIV-course helped Arkady find his way out of a very nasty situation he got into in Turkey, when lack of knowledge and experience led him into a so-called rotary zone – where the wind from the sea goes down in billows behind the slope of a mountain. Arkady got too close to a mountain and the paraglider started to fold, breaking up beneath him. Had it not been for the skills he’d learned during the SIV course, there would have been serious consequences.

Professionalism comes with experience, so it’s crucial to stay in contact with instructors who

situations, instead of just watching events unfold. But there’s no need to get too engaged either, it can only make things worse.

Arkady flies a NOVA ION-2 glider, a very steady and reliable model. But he still has to observe safety measures and know how to act in tricky flight situations. You should never take unnecessary risks and avoid flying in unfavorable weather conditions, in strong wind or before a storm. You should always have a life-vest when flying over water. According to Arkady, the best time for safe beginner gliding lessons is either in the evening or before noon, with a wind speed of 5-6 m/s and no sharp gusts. And a bit of sun only makes flying more pleasant.

In Moscow there are about 20 flying schools that can arrange tours to different countries. Arkady has had the chance to fly in Turkey, Montenegro, Austria, Italy, Spain, France, Brazil, Jamaica and Cyprus. There are a great many lovers of paraglider tourism, and more than 100 people can take part in each trip, with everyone eager to enjoy the bird’s-eye panoramas. Using the warm ascending air a glider can reach the clouds and sail up there for hours.

Surprisingly enough, Arkady confesses to a fear of heights. But his fear gives way to delight when he rises into the sky and reaches for the clouds, seeing the world beneath him in a new way. ■

## *Once you’ve tasted the sky, you’ll never forget it. Returning home, Arkady enrolled in a paragliding class*

couldn’t have been better for a beginner: the evening sun, a light breeze ...

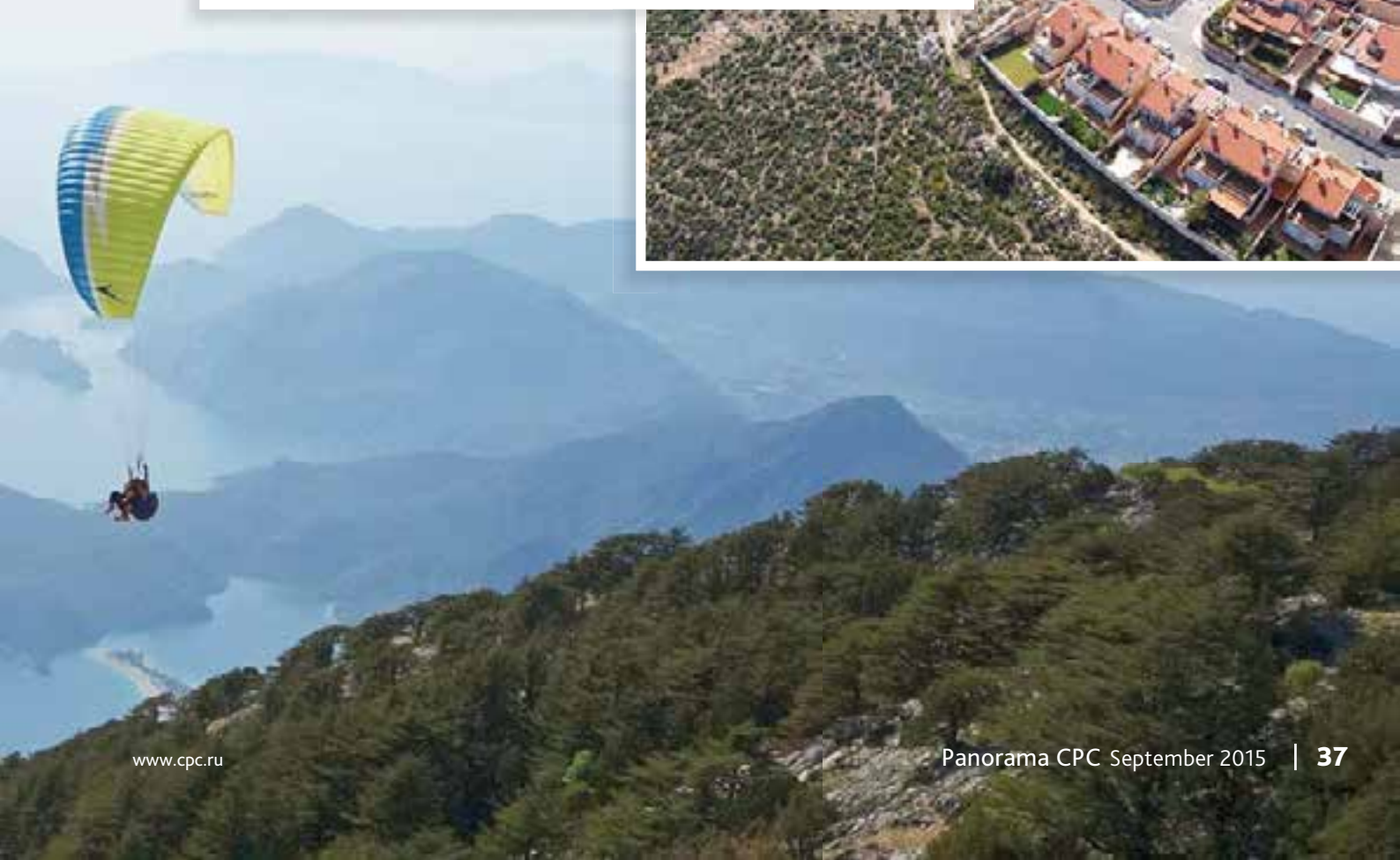
Once you’ve tasted the sky, you’ll never forget it. Returning home, Arkady enrolled in a paragliding class. He studied the theory, and undertook both ground and flight operations training. After that there was a specialized course in non-standard flight situations imitation (SIV-course), designed to help deal with difficult conditions.

teach and graduate beginner paraglider pilots. Unfortunately, many overestimate their own resources, don’t pay attention to the advice of experienced pilots, fly in dangerous weather conditions, or choose a glider that doesn’t match their skills level.

– Good timing and balance are the two main things in paragliding, – Arkady says from experience. – You have to react in good time to any changes and prevent hazardous

by Viktoria Lupko







# Our European voyage

OUR TRIP TO EUROPE STARTED LONG BEFORE THE ACTUAL DEPARTURE – OUR HEADS WERE SPINNING FROM THE NUMBER OF THINGS TO BE DONE!..

We had to get our international passports, receive the invitation from our friends in Holland, file a stack of documents for the visa, fix the insurance for ourselves and the car, and buy presents for everyone.

Finally, early one June morning our whole family set out in the car, the trunk packed with everything we needed. It took us six hours to get from Novorossiysk to Rostov-on-Don. Another two hours we were stuck somewhere near the village of Losevo, around 150 km from Voronezh. We “had a ball” on the toll road. At 20:30 we passed Yelets, having covered 1,100 km. Then it was time to fill up the tank but we drove for another 10, 20 kilometres and didn’t see a single gas station. All the way to Orel, where we finally managed to fill up, was a rather stressful



*The Brest Fort – symbol of the courage of the Homeland defenders*

there was no check point of any kind. We only stopped to take some photos.

Two hours later we were at the border crossing with Poland, and 4.5 hours later we were already in the Polish town of Terespol. After a night at a large petrol station we moved on to “conquer” Europe.

***Finally, early one June morning our whole family set out in the car, the trunk packed with everything we needed***

experience. Thus we learned that THERE ARE NO PETROL STATIONS for about 200 km between Yelets and Orel!

We spent the night literally in the middle of nowhere in the Bryansk Region, had breakfast and some hot tea in the open air and then moved on. 40 km later Bryansk whizzed past us. Or maybe it was us who were whizzing... We had no trouble at all crossing the Russia-Belarus border since

In Belarus we took the wonderful M1 highway. Only one car or so would pass us by or come in the opposite direction every 10-15 minutes. “Where is everyone?” – we asked ourselves. We passed Minsk about 13:00, having covered a total of 1,916 km in 32 hours.

We had dinner at a parking lot in a pine wood 40 km away from Brest, and entered the city at 18:00. The Brest Fort memorial made a lasting impression and touched our hearts.

As well as the obvious differences in road signs, markings and other highway details, we noticed how many parking lots there were for all kinds of cars – big and small, long and short, those staying for a long time and those just stopping for a minute. Every lot had everything you needed to have a rest, with benches and tables, WCs and even showers for long-distance drivers. Some parking lots have small shops and cafés. We had breakfast at one of them. The morning chill was the only discomfort we experienced.



It was only 11 degrees, which is almost winter for Novorossiysk!.. 2,408 km behind us, 1,200 still to go – time to move on!



*A meeting with the Bremen Musicians brings luck*

We took the toll road. To say that the highway was excellent would be an understatement. We were flying along, at an average speed of 150 km/h but no more than 200 km/h. Ordinary Polish roads are also very good. Jumping ahead, I can say that of all the roads we drove on in Europe, the Polish ones were the best.

Germany We only found out we had left Poland behind when the language of the road signs changed. Oh, this boundless small

Europe! In the evening we crossed the border into the Netherlands – it was nothing more than a small sign with the county's name on it. At 21:32 we got to the home of my friend Vlada and her family in the town of Nieuw-Vennep, having covered 3,651 km in 64 hours, 45 of which we spent actually driving.

Our exposure to Dutch culture and traditions started in the small town of Zaandam. The Zaanse Schans windmill valley is not just a tourist attraction, but the home and workplace of dozens of millers, clog-makers and cheese-producers. At a fair in Gouda we had

catch the beauty and luxury of the originals with remarkable precision. You can “hit the high-points of Europe” here – no irony. We toured almost all the European countries in two hours and didn't even get tired.

We got to the capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam, on a Sunday. One of the most vivid and educational sights of the city is not the Red Light district, but the huge Artis Zoo. The diversity of the plant and animal life to be found there is very impressive – there's a desert with a leisurely giant lizard, a rainforest full of butterflies, jungle with wild monkeys, and an Ama-



*At the Efteling attraction park*

all the cheese we could eat. We also tasted young lightly-salted herring, caught in the local river.

Then there was the sea of flowers – no, a whole ocean of flowers at Aalsmeer, the largest auction in the world for tulips, roses, gerberas, chrysanthemums, hydrangeas and irises. Name the flower – they had it! And the scent of it!..

At the “Mini-Europe” park there were architectural monuments and sculptures in miniature that

zonian river with a five-meter croc in it. There are elephants, giraffes, chimps, meerkats, seals and a singing toucan. We didn't manage to see the whole place since it's huge – 14 ha with pavilions, aviaries, playgrounds, a farm, an oceanarium, greenhouses, and museums of Dutch flora and fauna.

While walking through the city, we had a chance to marvel at the peculiar architecture of the houses in the centre – with their lifting hooks to get furniture to »





the upper floors, their doors below ground level...

We dedicated the next day to the children. We got up bright and

snored under the branches of an oak-tree. We also watched a film about how mankind influences nature and rode a carousel at a fairground pavilion.

Back in Holland we went to a fish store in the Hague where everything arrives straight from the fishing boats, and from there goes on to the tables of local gourmets.



See Paris ...

early and drove to the Efteling attraction park, 125 km from Nieuw-Vennep. An hour and a half later we had already parked the car at the huge lot right in front of the park and began our trip to this land of fairy-tales. Since our kids are crazy about rollercoasters, that's where we started. After a couple of rides I refused to go on with all this bacchanalia, and further "coordination and vestibular system stability" tests were conducted without me. I just sat there quietly away from the crowd, enjoying the lovely views. After a potato-curl snack we went to the

The next day we left at five in the morning, and reached Paris by 11:00! The local traffic boggles your imagination. I think after the Paris sign-free chaos you'll be just fine on any difficult traffic crossing in any big city. After a hard time finding a parking space, we headed off to walk the centre of this famous city of love and the scent of perfume, mixed with the aroma of croissants. We took a Big Bus Tour and passed the Eiffel Tower, the Champ de Mars, Les Invalides, the Palais Garnier, Notre-Dame de Paris, the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysees. Unfortunately, we

***10,258 km behind us, 815.5 litres of petrol, 132 hours of driving and tons of unforgettable experiences!***

enchanted forest where the trees can talk, the Emperor walks naked through the city streets with his train, Mother Holle covers the whole world with snow, the Red Shoes make you dance, and a giant

didn't have the chance to see the Louvre as it's closed on Tuesdays, but we took some time to wander around the museum square. Our day out in Paris finished at a small cozy caf .



... and live a long and happy life!

We said goodbye to our kind Dutch hosts and went to pay a visit to relatives in the town of Cuxhaven in the north of Germany, by the North Sea. There we had a chance to do justice to the cooking of my sister Natasha, and in the evening took a stroll along the shore and enjoyed the seascapes and fresh breeze.

The next day in the town of Bremerhaven we visited a unique Climate Museum, built like a giant sailing-ship. Its halls are arranged as a journey along the 8th meridian





of the planet, as that goes through all the climatic zones of the Earth. Both the beauty and precision of the exhibits, and the very idea of such a museum are thrilling.

We also paid a visit to the Bremen Musicians. Following tradition we rubbed the nose and ears of the donkey, and then walked the town centre. A little street with

and open swimming pool and jacuzzi (for ice-swimmers, as it was no more than +17-20°C outside). And there was a separate heated pool for children. The facility itself is set by the sea, and every day the tide goes in out several km, every 5-6 hours.

We took a double-deck train to Hamburg and found ourselves

Warsaw streets that were under construction, since the sat-nav didn't match reality. We lost about an hour, but got to see the city. We made it to the Belarus border at 20:30. By that time our speedometer counted 7,952 km from the moment we had left Novorossiysk. Some people don't get to drive that much in a year, and it took us only two and a half weeks! This time it took us 5.5 hours to cross the border. We were tired, exhausted by the waiting and worried that we would have to leave behind the cheese we had bought in Gouda. We were so eager to get home that we didn't get to sleep much and hit the road again at 03:00. We were looking for a suitable place to have breakfast and suddenly saw a stork right by the road! It was standing there, staring at us. We stopped right there and spent a whole hour at this "stork lawn", resting and restoring our energy.

At 11:00 we finally crossed the border of our beloved Motherland. The meter read 8,642 km. We drove with several stops almost till 03:00, and then stopped for the night somewhere in the Voronezh Region. There were 650 km more to go. We covered this last leg of our journey in nine hours. The reason for the delay was pouring rain that followed us through the Krasnodar Krai. And there we were, back in Novorossiysk!

So, let's sum up. A journey of 10,258 km, 815.5 litres of petrol, 132 hours of driving and masses of unforgettable experiences! And the old truth confirmed: "There's no place like home". ■

*Mariya Postolakina,  
personnel affairs specialist,  
Marine terminal*



*The charming medieval town of Bruges*

the funny name Schnoor (meaning "cord") was a surprise. It's so narrow that in some places you can touch the houses on both sides at the same time. Schnoor is an area that attracts tourists, souvenir vendors, owners of small cafés and candy shops, craftsmen, artists and artisans of all kinds. Coming back to civilization after such a walk is like a leap in time.

The next day we took some rest from the holiday. We didn't want to go far and visited the local pool with a small aqua-park, sea waves,

right in the thick of things. The streets were crowded with people. We took a walk down the main street to the Town Hall, snacked on doner kebab at a Turkish diner and checked out the local shops. On the way back we took a nap on the first deck of the comfortable train.

We said goodbye to our relatives and left Cuxhaven at 07:00 local time, so that we could cross the Polish border in the afternoon. We already knew the way back, but we managed to get lost in the



## “I dream about my childhood there”

IT'S NO SECRET THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOVE YOUR JOB, YOU STILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT WEEKEND, AND EVEN MORE SO – TO THE UPCOMING VACATION, TO TAKE A BREAK FROM EVERYDAY WORK, REST UP AND RELAX A BIT.

It's the vacation season. Everywhere, in the hallways and in the canteen, you hear familiar things like: Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Thailand, and so on. “Where are you going this year?” – “I see, and we decided to head to ...” In short, there's a constant exchange of ideas, discussions and advice, advice, advice.

my adult life. And believe me – there's never been a single time when I felt like changing it. It's not because the Altai is my “small motherland” and all of my family, friends and relatives are there. It's just that in this remote, out-of-the-way place there's something I need, something I am drawn

wonderful vibrant fairy-tale world over and over again, to feel and discover something new there every time.

Just imagine how great it can be to swim in crystal-clear fast-flowing rivers with pebbles, and to slake your thirst with its cool water on



*Charysh River. August 2015*

But things are much easier for me, and despite some tempting exotic offers I buy my tickets again and – hello, Altai! For years now it's been my tradition to spend vacations in the place where I was born, where I grew up and spent the first years of

to, something that gives me new strength and fills me with a healthy positive energy. I guess it's difficult to explain, and people may not understand. But for someone like me, who grew up in this place of wild pristine nature, there's a need to plunge into this

a hot day. I can sit on the grassy rocks for hours, fascinated by and admiring the beauty and power of the river, listening to the roaring of the rifts and the polyphony of birds that live on its picturesque banks.

When you and your friends raft the Upper Charysh river down to its tranquil lowlands – that's fantastic!

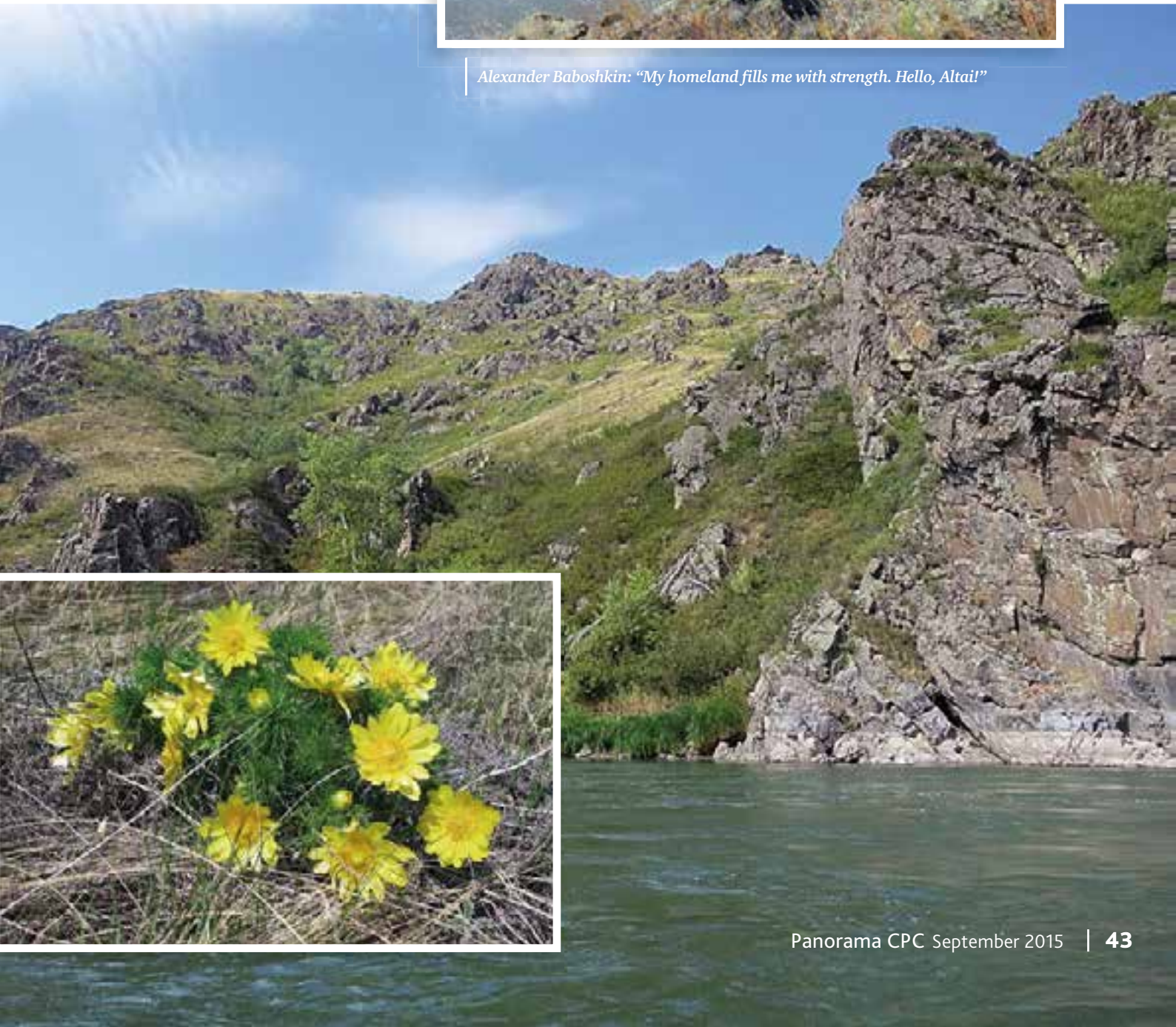


You can stop overnight in a forest clearing among the giant cliffs, make fish-broth from fresh-caught grayling, and sit around a fire till dawn, singing songs to the guitar about other romantic dreamers just like you, the tents and the routes still to be hiked. And everything beneath a starry sky so low that you think you could reach it with your hand, surrounded with mountain silence and the amazing fragrant scents that are special to this area.

As someone who has roamed there far and wide, I'm amazed sometimes when I discover some-»



Alexander Baboshkin: "My homeland fills me with strength. Hello, Altai!"





thing new and unknown in this world of living beauty. Sometimes you just don't have the time to visit every secret place you've known since childhood, drink the bitterly cold water from the many rivers and springs, crack open flavorsome pine nuts from the high-mountain taiga or enjoy some meadow berries, wander the edges of the mushroom forests and flower glades, try to catch a beautiful taimen, the "king fish" of the Charysh.

No, it's nothing like Turkey, or Egypt, or anywhere else, it's something totally different and unique. It's something you have to see, understand, feel, love and cherish. Only when you live in full harmony with nature and feel a part of it, does it reveal its secrets,

fascinating you and giving you new strength equally.

I often remember the old men from the village who used to say that you have to take your holiday in the place where you were born, where you live and work, and eat what grows on the land that you learned to walk on. What great, wise people they were! And most of the people still living there are wonderful, kind, hospitable village people with a great sense of humour, interesting storytellers, authentic craftsmen, skilled hunters and fishermen. I guess it couldn't be any other way: people in these wonderful parts are beautiful in their own way, with their rich and generous souls. I can't help but remember some lines I wrote a while ago, dedicated to my native land:

*There are mountains and thick forests,  
There are rivers and wheat that  
spikes up,  
Simple people live there,  
I dream about my childhood there.*

I'm not saying all this to try and convince anyone that Altai vacations are out of this world. Everyone is free to choose according to his likes and interests. I just wanted to take the opportunity to come to the defence of the versatile beauty of Russian nature, one that is so often unfairly overlooked. At, at the same time, to answer the trivial question I'm so often asked: "You're going home to the Altai again, then?" ■

*Alexander Baboshkin,  
Head of the Press Service  
and Protocol Department*





# Living by the heart

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD MEL'SINA IS A SOURCE OF EVER-LASTING JOY FOR PS AND PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION COORDINATOR TALGAT UKASOV. HIS TABLET PC IS FULL OF HIS DAUGHTER'S PICTURES. MEL'SINA'S JOYFUL FACE AND LAUGHING EYES ARE THE BEST SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION-SITE MANAGER IN HIS DAILY ROUTINE.



– Mel'sina was my mother's name, and my wife Olga and I decided to name our daughter after her, – Talgat Ukasov says. – My daughter and I have some kind of special understanding. Once Olga asked the girl a tricky question: "Do you mean to say you love dad more than me?" – "Mommy, there's no way I can explain this, that's what my heart tells me!" They are such an interesting generation.

Mel'sina is good at dancing and also does well at sports. She is a very lively and artistic girl, so her father would like her to choose a profession in the field of culture. But she dreams of becoming a dentist. Well, there again Mel'sina will be making people smile!

For this year's May holidays when we were celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Great Victory over Fascist Germany, the girl pleasantly surprised her parents with some new unexpected qualities. On the wave of patriotism that affected society, it seemed as if some kind of deep genetic memory awoke in

her. Mel'sina displayed a far from childish interest in the history of the Great Patriotic War and asked a lot about her great-grandfather Bagdat Ukasov, who fought and died in that war.

There was a concert for veterans at Mel'sina's school. With her dancing troupe the girl performed dances from their war youth years. Her parents bought Mel'sina a military uniform from that time specially for the occasion. When she put on the soldier's blouse, she literally changed as if she was suddenly growing up. Performing in front of the veterans, the girl felt the burden of responsibility and was very nervous, even though stage fright isn't usual for her.

At home Mel'sina remembered every detail of the performance. "The grandfathers had so many medals!" – she was amazed. The girl didn't want to let go of her little uniform. Her father took her to the park and they captured that touching image in a photograph.

We hope that neither Mel'sina, nor any other children ever have to experience the hardships that the older generation had to suffer, while protecting the world from fascism in the 1940s. Those generations that are passing on to Eternity. ■

*by Ekaterina Suvorova*





# Flowers for Nikolai

MY FATHER HAD AN UNCLE – NIKOLAI DEMCHENKO, HIS FATHER'S BROTHER. NIKOLAI WAS KILLED IN 1945, FIGHTING AGAINST THE FASCISTS. HE WAS 21 YEARS OLD.



My father has been dreaming of finding Nikolai's grave for as long as I can remember. According to information from the Central Archives of the Armed Services, he was buried first somewhere near the village of Rhubezhi. It took a long time to find the location, since the letters of reply from the Archives contained two different spellings of the name of the administrative centre the village was connected to – Valiturskaya or Kalitusskaya volost of the Libava region in the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Finally, thanks to my brother Vasily and the Internet, we found the exact location of Nikolai's reburial – the Priekule memorial. My father and I immediately started getting ready to go to Latvia.

Our trip started at the Riga railway station in Moscow. The journey to the Latvian capital was surprisingly easy, and the next morning we were already renting a car to cover 670 km by road.

From Riga we went in the direction of Liepāja. Our mood was good, the weather was fine, the road was smooth, and the sat-nav gave directions in an agreeable female voice. The air smelled of the sea and steppes, there were country landscapes and fields with islands of red poppies on both sides of the road. We couldn't resist the temptation to take a picture amid the poppies, and my father almost

left his jacket with all the papers back there in the field. But we discovered that in good time – and decided that luck was on our side. Along the way we bought some garden strawberries and cherries. They were so delicious that we'd eaten them all even before we reached Liepāja.

The day was ending. We settled in at the "Liva" hotel and immediately set out to Priekule in search of the place where Nikolai's life was cut short by the war... We covered 45 km and asked the locals where the Veterans' Cemetery was. I have to say it would have been difficult to get there by public transport or on foot.

Finally, we saw the memorial. It turned out that in 2010 it was restored and renovated. It was obviously taken care of all the time.

Holding back our emotions, we approached the memorial composition. The names of thousands of soldiers who gave their lives for our peaceful future are recorded here. The very first memorial plate contained the inscription: "Demchenko N.P., lieutenant. Date of death – 1945."

It is hard to describe the feeling my father and I had when we finally discovered the grave of our close relative almost seven decades after his burial. My father felt this reunion very deeply. Until that moment nobody had been

able to honor Nikolai's memory at his grave – not his parents, or siblings, nor his nephews. We were the first to come there...

My father had with him a photograph of the whole Demchenko family in 1942, on the day they saw Vasily, Nikolai's elder brother and my grandfather, off to the



Valery Demchenko



Ivan Demchenko





*The memorial plates list 23,000 names of those who gave their lives in the fight against fascism to win peace for generations to come*

front. From those distant 1940s they now also had the chance to see the place 6,000 km away from their home that became the place of burial for Nikolai, a 21-year-old whose life was only starting...

We took a handful of earth to bring it back to our Motherland and put on the grave of Nikolai's parents, Uliana and Pavel.

The next day we went back to Priekule to find the village of Rhubezhi, where Nikolai was wounded and first buried. We went to the local administration office to try and find out what we could, since the memorial museum was closed and we couldn't get any information at all.

The officials welcomed us, treated our request with due respect and immediately addressed the issue. It turned out the museum was out of service so the record books of the buried Soviet soldiers were right there, at the administration office. We found the entry dedicated to Nikolai's burial and completed it with his date of birth – "1924", and position – "sanitary platoon commander". We also learned that the cemetery is maintained by the Priekule administration on funding allocated by the Russian attaché and the local authorities.

We also managed to find out that the village of Rhubezhi was actually located in the Kaletskaia volost, and not in the Valiturskaya or Kalitusskaya ones as stated in the replies of the Central Archives. That is why it took us such a long time to find the place of Nikolai's death and first burial! We immediately contacted the administration of the town of Kaleti, explained our problem, and they joined our search.

One woman in Kaleti remembered the Rhubezhi village. There we also met the commander of a scouting squad who showed us an administrative map of the 1930s with the village of Rhubezhi marked on it. He expressed his willingness to take us to the assumed location of the village and we continued on our quest together. Using the map and rely-

ing on the memories of locals we did finally find the village! In the ground under the trees there are the remains of the foundations of an old building. Having measured about 200 m to the north-east, we fixed the approximate area of the soldiers' grave, Nikolai's first place of burial. There's a small river nearby, and we dropped flowers in it: let the water carry them along the places of his last days and hours of life.

Returning to Liepāja, we had a happy feeling of fulfilment. We arrived late, had a snack and bathed in the sea. The next morning we were to start our way back first to Riga, and then to Moscow.. ■

*Ivan Demchenko,  
CPC-R Regulatory Affairs Group  
Lead Specialist*



Nikolai Demchenko was born in the Kurgan Region in 1924. Later the family lived in Kirghizia where he graduated from high school with distinction and entered a medical university. Bright prospects were opening before the young man. But then the war broke out. In 1943, 19-year-old Nikolai was called up to the Red Army. He finished courses for sanitary platoon commanders and was sent to the front. His heroism was honored with awards, including the Order of Wartime Red Banner.

... The last battles of the Great Patriotic War were going on. On February 17, 1945, Nikolai was wounded in the stomach while helping other injured soldiers. Two days later he passed away.



*My grandfather Stepan in the 1980s / Grozny*

He died some years ago, but wherever we are on May 9, each year we go out onto the streets to give flowers to veterans and listen to war songs. There's always a lump in the throat, an anxiety that's hard to cope with, and a sense of awe at these elderly people who seem so close and dear, yet are total strangers. I get the feeling that grandpa Stepan is with us, still alive and happy.

Stepan Kurilin, my mother's father, was born in 1922 and went off to the front at the age of 18. He graduated from air navigation school and went through the whole war. He was awarded the Order of the Red Star, medals "For Bravery" and "For the Taking of Berlin", the Order of The Patriotic War 2nd Class, and the medal "For Victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945". His brother Vladimir also fought as a pilot. They never met at the front, though - when Stepan was landing, Vladimir would be taking off. Just a year before the end of the war Vladimir was killed in combat.

After returning from war, my grandfather graduated from Kuban Medical Institute and

## My grandpa's favorite holiday

FOR MY FAMILY VICTORY DAY IS MOST OF ALL THE DAY WHEN WE REMEMBER MY GRANDFATHER. IT WAS HIS FAVORITE HOLIDAY AND HE ALWAYS TOOK TIME TO PREPARE FOR IT.



spent most of his life working as a senior regiment doctor in airforce units. He was respected by his colleagues, and we, his grandchildren, adored him for being so cheerful, generous and kind. He passed away in 1989. There's a feeling of regret that we can't talk to him anymore, ask questions about what it was like being at war, and congratulate him on his favorite holiday.

My mother followed in his footsteps and also became a doctor. In her free time she writes poetry, songs and short stories. Some of her works are dedicated to my grandfather. This is one of them. ■

*by Ekaterina Krapivko*



*Stepan Kurilin during service on the Kuril Islands*



# My father's ceremonial uniform overcoat

The cherry-trees outside my window were shedding their blossom, their light white petals whirling in the air like snow-flakes in the middle of spring. The yard seemed particularly festive and luminous in the evening light of the lantern. Scarlet tulips were in full bloom.

Tomorrow is May 9! There's the usual unexplainable unrest of spirit that keeps you awake before a holiday. Year by year this unrest grew stronger, turning into the sinking feeling of a huge loss ... As usual, tomorrow she'll go to the meeting. She'll buy carnations and sweets to hand out to the veterans and congratulate them on the holiday. She will ask to commemorate her father. His grave is in Grozny and must be very hard to find in the abandoned graveyard there now, after the Chechen war.

Memory keeps playing back images from those distant years when she was happy, when they all were so happy ...

There she is, a school-girl with funny plaits, wearing a fine white apron. In her hands she's got a large bouquet of scarlet tulips for her beloved daddy. He told her and her brother a lot about THAT HORRIBLE WAR when he went off to the front as a boy aged 18, finished

air navigation school and bombed the fascists. He got as far as Berlin and wrote his name on the Reichstag wall.

And now she's already a young mum with two little daughters, who are carrying the same flaming flowers in their hands. Beautiful and happy, they rush to congratulate their grandpa who's already waiting for them by the gate.

In the kaleidoscope of those May holidays there are glimpses of joyous faces of relatives, mother's smiling and happy expression, the celebration meals and evening fireworks, and of course the veterans - trim in their full-dress uniforms, carrying armfuls of lilac, tulips and carnations. The whole city is celebrating Victory Day!

But, for some reason, more often than anything else she remembers her father's ceremonial uniform overcoat. He would take it out of the closet a week before the celebration. Mother would first brush it, then iron it and put it on a hanger. Father would then take out his medals and orders and polish them till they shone. He would run his hand over each decoration, carefully put them on, remembering those events long ago. Formal and elegant, the overcoat would hang in their lounge and the shining medals would jingle when touched.



Степан Курилин.  
Вернувшийся с войны

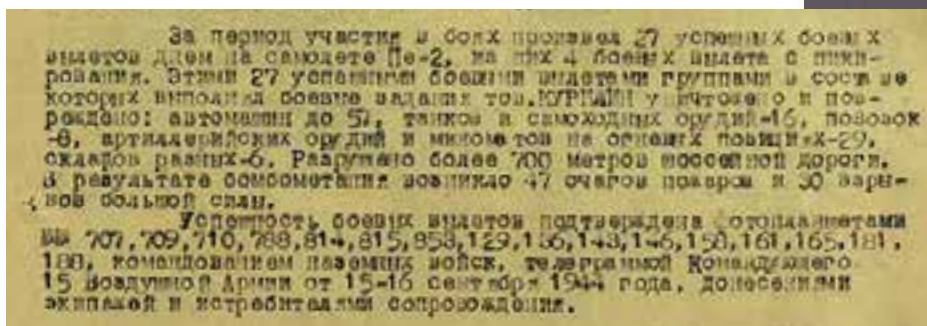
Father was buried in it, with a salute of guns paying last respects to the veteran...

A few years later her city turned into a "trouble spot" and the family was forced to leave their home.

Her daughters grew up, and now there's a granddaughter asking about her great-grandfather, and giving tulips to the veterans.

Tomorrow is Victory Day. Tomorrow she will pay respect to all the veterans, and to her father. Tears that can't be held back will lift a burden off her heart for a moment, and the Ribbon of St. George will make her feel like she's touched her father's ceremonial uniform overcoat once again. ■

by Natalia Krapivko



## Caspian Pipeline Consortium: a time-tested international project



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*Following a good tradition, before the 1st of September the CPC presented first-graders with schoolbags filled with various supplies.*