



# Crossing The Arctic Circle

*Polar Bears, Blue Noses, and Ice*

One of the highlights of AOS 1994 was the crossing of the Arctic Circle. Here, the uninitiated—or “Blue Noses”—are given their rite of passage by the old salts, also known as “Polar Bears.” The initiation was broken into three parts. The first part, the “auction” took place immediately after quarters on the day POLAR SEA crossed the Arctic Circle. At the auction, all the uninitiated were sold for a day to the Polar Bears—effectively becoming their “slaves.” The rest of the day was spent with the slaves performing acts of personal servitude to their new-found masters. That evening, a “no-talent” show took place with the Blue Noses displaying just that—no talent! Early the next morning, the dreaded initiation took place.

Whether officer, scientist, or crew member, the Blue Noses entered the Realm of the Polar Bear the only way they could—from the bottom.



Welcome aboard! ENS Vincent Skwarek and ENS Sean Carroll found the crew of POLAR SEA to be both receptive and very respectful.



Fall in step: the dreaded initiation begins.