Adventures in Siberia: A Trip to the Site of the Largest Impact in History (Tunguska)
What was Tunguska?

- Largest impact in recorded history (June 30, 1908)
- Explosion 1000 times larger than Hiroshima bomb (WWII).
- Impactor was a comet (although often called the Tunguska meteorite)
- Rockland Co. 200 sq. mi. : 830 sq. mi. Tunguska.
What Did The Local People (the Evenki) Think?

- God (Ogdy) was mad at them
Tunguska: June 30, 1908

Leonid Kulik-first scientist to visit Tunguska: “One has an uncanny feeling when one sees large trees snapped like matchsticks”
Trees at Tunguska Epicenter - Upright but Burned-Ground in Waves
Conventional Theories
Meteorite explosion in air (like Chelyabinsk).
Comet explosion in air.

Other Ideas
Nikola Tesla-Electromagnetic experiment gone bad “Death Ray”
Methane gas explosion
Alien spaceship
Anti-matter to mirror matter
Mini black hole passes through Earth
Our group of scientists wants to visit Tunguska: Slava arranges it.
What We Had to Do to Get There

• Visa (start in November for June 30th visit-official letter of invitation)-Slava arranges letter.
• Permission to visit (U.S. Government Employees)
• Airplane to Krasnoyarsk, then Vanavaara-Slava
• Camping gear, food on trip (no hotel, no store)-Slava
• Helicopter from Vanavaara to Tunguska
• and back (70 km each way)-Slava arranges
• Herding cats… Us-Americans and Australian-Slava
Last Supper before Tunguska Trip

- Cosmonauts on right - Greichka
Arrival Vanavaara, June 30, 2008

- Traditional costumes and amulets for safety
Inside Helicopter - on the way!

- Discovery Channel team plus our group-free ride for us - arranged by Slava
Slava on helicopter

- Happy to be going
- Relieved worked out so far
Swamp just before landing at Tunguska epicenter

Yellow areas:
Swamps
Permafrost: 1.5 feet down
Problem at camp-Bear with 2 cubs-swatted tent.
Solution-Two dogs and rifle-AK-47.

Barsik (Siberian Tiger)               Tunguska
Filming, Singing, Eating, and Drinking (and swatting mosquitos)

• Scientists from Tomsk-mapped fallen trees
• Mama Luda
Boiling Water and Cooking-Open Fire

Olga-architect
Documentary film-maker
Smoke keeps mosquitoes away
All water from swamp
Filming with Siberian Mosquitos

Full head gear - four film crews - Discovery (USA), Russian BBC, Czech
What is left after 100 years?

Burned logs from trees scorched in 1908

Stumps of fallen trees
Leaving Tunguska
Slava Leaving for Home-Siberian Railway at Krasnoyarsk

Very relaxed-no more herding of cats - Americans and Australian)
Final Quote on Tunguska

- Dr. Andrei Olk’hovatov
- “If for many years you were thinking about a meteorite or alien spacecraft, of course, it would be very hard to change your point of view”