

Qajaq Aviisii 4



1 *Mona Jensen begins nammaassaariarneq and Jens Christian Davidsen half way through the the same nammaassaariarneq*



3 *Aka Malik Enoksen sets up for qupaloraarsuusaarneq*



2 *Ivinnguaq Ane Olsen ready for singernermillugu*

Rope Exercises were held on Tuesday July 7, 2015 starting around 9:30 in the morning with the children ages 4-6.

The rope exercises, which are called allunaariaqattaarneq in Greenlandic are the only event that takes place without getting into the water in a kayak. There are more than 70 different variations of hanging on the ropes and swinging all the way around, each with left/right, forward/backwards variations and a score based on difficulty. Every competitor gets half an hour to do as many as they can. Most of the children have been active on the ropes before they got comfortable in a kayak.



4 *Pia Jensen from Ilulissat preparing to do pequullugu.*

Looking at the up-and-coming ropes competitors gives us an idea of who the future top kayakers might be. Aka Malik Enoksen from Sisimiut (see photo) in the boys 10-12 group was very impressive with 178 points. Even Maligiaq Padilla was not scoring this high when he was that age.

Karl Peter Jonathansen has been outstanding on ropes for the past several years. This is the second year he has scored higher than Maligiaq's best record. But looking at the ropes competition history, perhaps the most outstanding ropes record for boys is the 325 points Sisimiut's Jens Jakob Davidsen performed in 2006 when he was only 12 years old. Unfortunately he never topped this score when he



5Karl Peter Jonathansen and Jens Jakob Davidsen

moved up to the 13-14 group, and he stopped competing before he was 16. While Tuesday's ropes event was in progress, Jens Jakob, who is now twenty years old, came by to watch. During a break he talked to with Karl Peter Jonathansen, the outstanding ropes expert from today conferring his counterpart from the previous generation.

With so many participants competing in ropes the day was long and by 7 or 8 pm all the children, teens and women were finished. Rather than go on into the late hours the men's 20-34 was postponed until probably Friday.

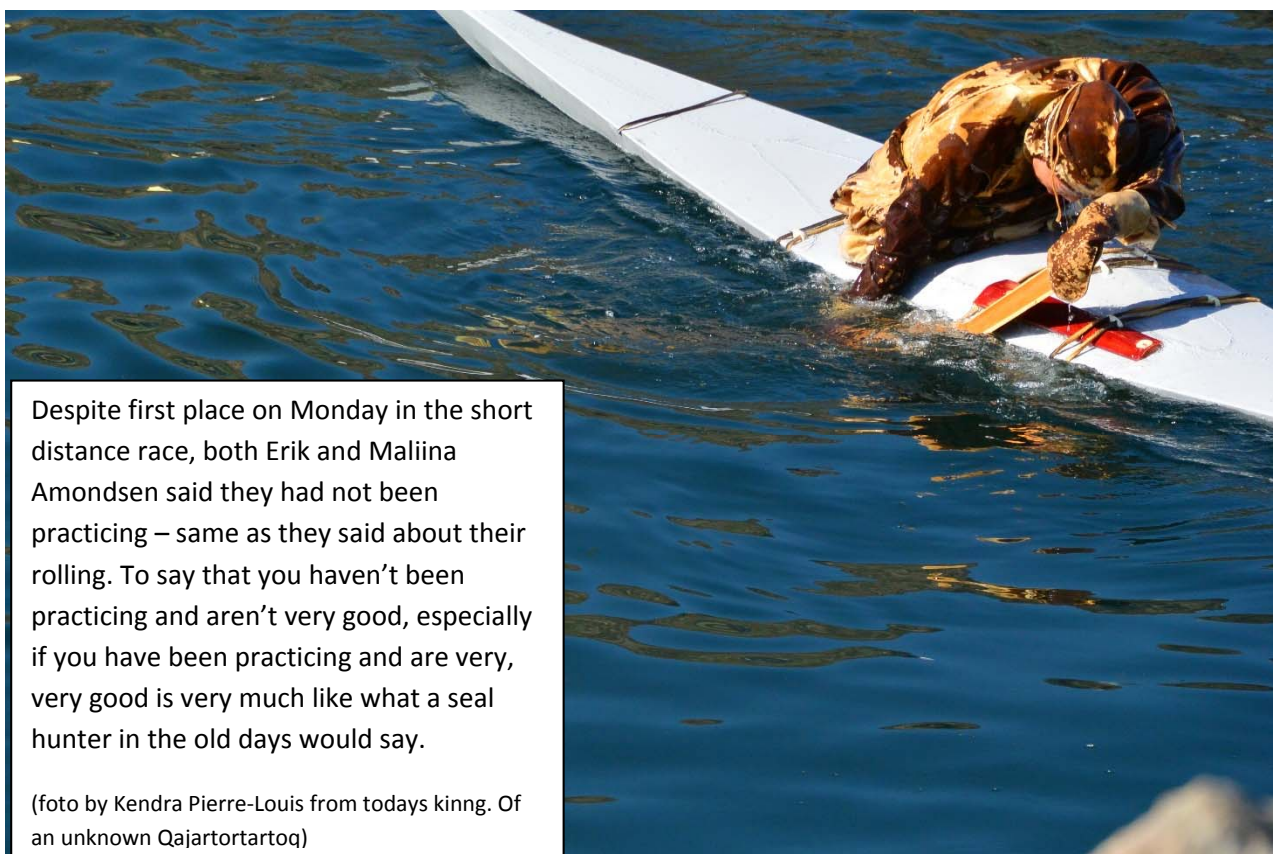
To see more about how the rope exercises are done and scored go to qattaarnek.com. You can also look up past records and names of participants going all the way back to the first competition in 1987. The Qajaq Sisimiut facebook page has this information gathered in an Excel-database under "Files".

The individual rolling competition was held at the same time as the ropes exercises, but in a different location. We



have the full results at the facebookpage (under "files") but worth noting is that the foreigners did fantastic well and were far ahead in each of their categories: Sandie Debois from France, Freya Fenwood from USA and the final competitor of the day was Mats Hallberg from Sweden, who even tried nusutsinneq (the walrus pull). He was not successful, because the declines on his Black Pearl wooden kayak were elastic bunge cords, which unlike sealskin, stretch too much to hold the norsaq in place where the rope line is tied.

Angerlaq Olsen from Ilulissat did also the walrus pull but was disqualified due to a loosened tuilik – which means that all of her previous rolls count for nothing – so are the official rules.



Despite first place on Monday in the short distance race, both Erik and Maliina Amondsen said they had not been practicing – same as they said about their rolling. To say that you haven't been practicing and aren't very good, especially if you have been practicing and are very, very good is very much like what a seal hunter in the old days would say.

(foto by Kendra Pierre-Louis from todays kinng. Of an unknown Qajartortartoq)