



REDUX: Russian and Polar Bears Unite! A Follow-Up.

written by Judith Beyer
July, 2015



What is 19cm high, 20cm wide, weighs only 680grams but carries a President? Right - it's the [Russian Bear!](#)

And what is flying high into the sky? Right - [the Bear](#), too. There is nothing he can't do - the Bear, I mean. While everyone has been concentrating on Putin, it is the bear that should interest us; that magical, charismatic hero of Russian folk tales, easily fooled by [political rhetoric](#). It is him who is carrying the President on



his back across the country (literally, if you look at the statue carefully), and who is now taking him up into the sky in the recent pictogram of Khabarovsk Airport, in Southeast Russia, close to the China border.

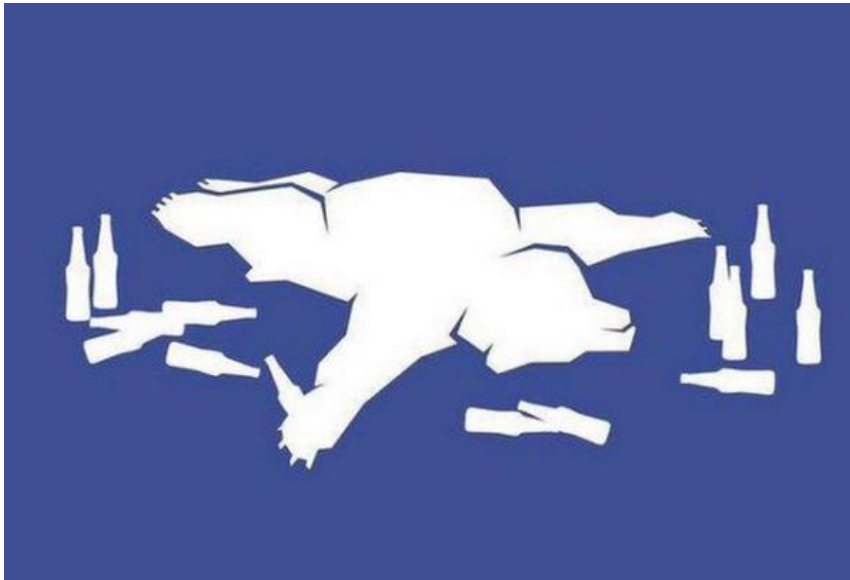


What is next? The moon? Oh no, been there, done that, too.





He seems increasingly, desperate, though. The Bear, not Putin. Some memes pictured him crashed, lying in a state-sponsored, vodka-induced coma.



But someone recently had a useful suggestion: Sarah Palin, ex-Governor of Alaska, who, allegedly, said “you can see Russia from my house.” She has had a longstanding, complicated relationship with bears herself, summarized by The Guardian in 2008 into the question [“Sarah Palin vs The Polar Bear - who will survive?”](#) It’s 2015 now and both Sarah Palin and polar bears have become more endangered, but she is still “seriously interested” in running for President next year. She recently called up her fellow-countrymen to rise up against an overarching American state, [shouting](#): “‘The Man,’ can only ride ya when your back is bent. So strengthen it. Then ‘The Man’ can’t ride ya.”

I think the Russian Bear should take this exhortation seriously, throw that naked President off his back, form an alliance with the Polar Bear and chase both Putin and Palin all around Little Diomed Island.



The Diomed Islands, Big and Little, in the Bering Strait.

Judith Beyer is, among other things, Allegra's Reviews Editor. Follow her on [Twitter](#).

Note: The Bear in Space-pictures are taken from Mikhailov, B. 1973. "How the Bear flew into Space". Leningrad: Khudozhnik RSFSR. (Б. Михайлов "Как медведь в космос летал" Изд. "Художник РСФСР". Ленинград 1973).