

The
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Republic of Kiribati

Photo – DS355

The Adventurers' Club News

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Larry Schutte #1121 - President



Greetings Brother adventurers. What a great time to be a member of the club! March was a total home run with Drag

Racing, Murders, Under da Sea, Adventure with a Purpose, Cold Steel Samurai Swords and “smock, smock” Birds of Uganda! Attendance has been great and the feel of camaraderie and brotherhood abounds! I love it. Big shout out to Manny Gomes for finding and securing all the great speakers we have all been enjoying.

The new 2011 roster is out. It has the orange cover that replaces the green, 2010 version. Please pick one up in the library if you haven't yet. Great job, Robert Williscroft, for pulling that very difficult task together.

The Masons are fixing our roof where it is leaking and are putting in new plumbing so we can shut off our

water supply when needed. We appreciate it.

At this time our new member Bill Burke #1157 is planning his double assault on Everest and we hope to send our own Allan Smith along to document the expedition. I'll keep you posted as to the fund raising effort to help Allan with the expenses. If you want to contribute, please contact Allan directly. His info is in the new 2011 Roster!

The new 2011 roster is out. It has the orange cover that replaces the green, 2010 version.

As I'm writing this, I just received an email alert that said our member Neil

Mandt #1152, who is in Japan filming for his new TV show, was in an elevator on the eight floor of a building when that 9.0 earthquake hit! Reports are that he's okay. Adventure comes in many forms, as we all well know, huh?

The memorial service for friends of the club Jean and Scott Adam was held in Santa Monica recently with hundreds in attendance and a very stirring flyover by our own Navy jets. Our hearts go out to them and their friends during these tragic times.

That's it from the point. Until next time!

Moving Days

Jim Dorsey (#1081)

Editor's note: This article is humorous fiction set against a factual background

It all began when Magellan returned home from circumnavigating the world to find his friends welcoming him home on a Tuesday when he thought it was still Monday.

The whole idea of an imaginary line that defines days is very confusing to some people, especially since the line is an arbitrary device that has no connection to international law, and has been changed many times for the convenience of those who live upon it.

Most recently, in 1995 the island nation of Kiribati moved the dateline, since it ran through the middle of the country. Kiribatians got tired of leaving home on Sunday to visit their relatives on Monday, even though they lived just across the street. So they tweaked the line a bit to make sure everyone was at the BBQ on the same day.

The Prime Meridian, being another imaginary line, is used to divide the earth in two, and is thus fuel for another story entirely. The chief rationale behind the Dateline's present meandering locale is that it runs through water making it mostly inoffensive to those of us who mostly dwell on land.

To further complicate matters, the new day officially begins in Green-

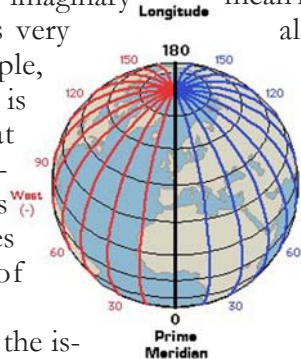
wich England at the Prime Meridian, and not at the Dateline. You can thank our own President Chester Arthur for that. In 1884, he convened a conference of twenty-five nations to decide on a single universal day, and they agreed this should begin at mean midnight at Greenwich. They also decided that longitudes would be calculated at 180 degrees, both east and west from the Prime Meridian.

They all agreed except for the French, who, of course, believe every thing begins and ends in Paris, but what can you do?

Before Arthur's conference, there were several meridians in use, so if you were British, it might be Tuesday, but if you were Russian, it might be Thursday. For good or bad, that conference instituted the International Dateline that has been in effect to this day with a few minor changes.

Intrigued by the concept that a small group of people could arbitrarily move such a line carrying international ramifications, I decided to visit this tiny country while it was in the very process of doing just that. I had heard of a Kiribati resident who had started a grass roots movement to change the dateline and told him I was coming to do a story about him and his cause.

I found Vladimir Greenblatt through his website and upon telling



him of my wish to do a few interviews, he readily agreed to act as my local guide and introduce me around the islands.

I landed at Chester Arthur International Airport at the stroke of midnight, stepping off the plane into a hot and humid Monday morning. At least half of me was in Monday, as following the red line that ran the length of the concourse I noticed sets of clocks opposite each other on several walls. My right side that does my creative thinking was definitely in Monday but my left side, which does all of my rational thinking, was still in Sunday throwing me into immediate confusion.

Things got worse as I approached the luggage carousel to find my bags going round and round, passing back and forth between days before my very eyes.

I sat down under the large bronze statue of President Arthur in the main terminal to await my ride. To kill time I read the plaque on the statue's base, dedicated to the American President this airport was named after and the very man responsible for the line that I had been straddling. It seems that I-Kiribati's as the locals call themselves like nothing so much as having a good time. Due to the dateline dividing the country into two halves, they were able to partake of all holidays and

parties on one side of the line, then cross over to a neighbor's house on the other side and celebrate all over again.

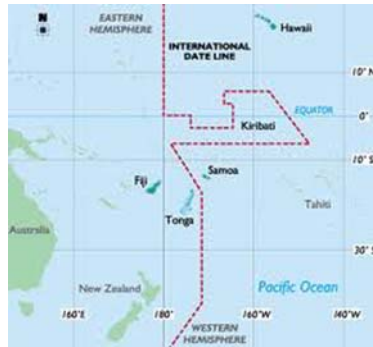
Chester Arthur was responsible for doubling the fun of all Kiribati's and as such was revered as a national hero. I found it appropriate that this bronze statue with two raised fingers straddles the line through perpetuity forever reminding the local folks that it was America that divided their country in exchange for such frivolity, not to mention making it radioactive for generations to come.

While pondering this social paradox I noticed my guide approaching. I recognized him from his photo and from the fact that he bore little resemblance to most other local folks.

Now a little background is in order to introduce an I-Kiribati named Greenblatt in a land full of people named Tong and Onorio.

It seems that Vladimir Greenblatt Sr. was a Russian Jew who had escaped Stalin's great purges of the 30s on a steamer to America, who, after passing through the rigors of Ellis Island, found himself employed as a dishwasher at Greenblatts Deli in Manhattan's lower east side. After only three days in the land of the free, he was deported for a weapons violation and found himself on a boat

(Moving Days continued on page 4)



(*Moving Days continued from page 3*)

bound for the homeland. In honor of his brief stay in America and to finalize his separation from the homeland, he took the last name of his former employer.

He jumped ship in England where he worked without papers at menial jobs for two decades until he saw a newspaper ad that offered land in a new country to all those willing to participate in a scientific study.

Taking his wife and young son along, he found himself in the Gilbert Islands, then under British control, attached to various monitors designed to measure the effects of a nuclear blast

on persons who would not be missed when the tests were over. Vladimir was now a free man who owned property in two time zones. He simply would not live long enough to enjoy it.

After a few nuclear tests, the British turned things over to the Americans who continued to set off a dozen more bombs, and then, as is their wont, decided to offer independence to the islands that now glowed in the dark.

Vladimir Sr. quickly passed into history leaving behind a son with eleven fingers and three nipples. Vladimir jr. managed to eke out a living as a fisherman in a country surrounded by water, even if most of those fish had three eyes and swam upside down.

Vladimir jr. lived in a small house where he would listen to the *Voice of America* on Thursday, then go to bed on Wednesday.

By the time the Gilberts managed to gain their independence in 1971 taking the name Kiribati, Vladimir was a champion fisherman, partying twice on all holidays and making big money winning competitive tournaments.

During one particular tournament in the 1990s, Vladimir hooked an enormous sailfish, and seeing it leap at the end of his line, knew immediately that this one giant fish would put him on the map for all time.

Vladimir fought the great fish in a struggle that would have made Hemingway proud. The war went back and forth for two days. Sometimes Vlad almost had him up to the boat, and then the fish would make a run and take out 1,000 feet of line. On the third day near sunset the great beast gave up the struggle.

Vladimir sailed home into the tiny harbor with his twenty-foot boat lashed to a thirty-foot fish and onto every newspaper cover in Kiribati, twice.

Only after being declared the greatest fisherman of all Kiribati time, was his honor called into question by another fisherman who claimed that during the fight, Vladimir's boat had



British nuclear bomb test

been pulled over the dateline by the great fish, taking him into another day and thereby over the time limit imposed by the contest rules. Vladimir was defrocked and disgraced.

It was at this time that he decided to initiate a national movement to move the dateline once and for all, so no future embarrassments could result from it.

This is the story of the man now approaching me with extended hand. Seeing me under President Arthur he said, “I thought you were arriving yesterday.”

I replied, “I was here yesterday, but now it is today. If you like I can cross the line and be on time.”

He gave me a look and said, “You and I have a lot of talking to do.”

During the next two weeks I interviewed Vladimir several times and celebrated Chanukah with him twice. He introduced me to numerous people who were all friendly and open. The one thing I found common was when telling someone you will see them is you must always add “mine” or “yours” regarding time.

At the local barbershop I got a haircut on Tuesday and a shave on Monday simply by switching chairs. I noticed local calendars had everything marked on two consecutive days.

I saw tourists doing things like play-

ing catch over the line and watched one man from the Travelers Club spend an entire afternoon jumping from one side of the street to the other in an attempt to get into the Guinness book for having crossed the dateline more than anyone else. In Kiribati, people do not notice the unusual very much.

Photo: diamond geezer



The Prime Meridian – flipside of the Dateline

Two weeks later Kiribati moved the dateline east putting all of the country on the same day and cutting short dozens of two-day birthday parties, but making international headlines. Vladimir made some enemies among those

who bemoaned the loss of their unique world status but generally was told that most people thought life much easier living in the same day.

CNN ran a photo of a strange looking fisherman ceremoniously sweeping away the dateline with a broom. It got much attention, for the fisherman appeared to have six fingers on one hand.

That was almost a decade ago and since that time no other nation has moved the dateline.

I am still in touch with Vladimir, who informs me that life is much simpler in Kiribati today. He also sends me two Christmas cards in case the first one is late. No one misses an appointment because of dates anymore, but since old traditions die hard, most I-Kiribati still celebrate every holiday twice.

What's Happening...

Jim Dorsey beats the odds...

Photos Jim Dorsey

Jim Dorsey (#1081) sent us an email on March 3 right after he returned from the Ethiopian desert:

I am down thirteen pounds and completely dehydrated from nine days in the Ethiopian desert.

Climbed an active volcano, with Ken Freund and Rosaly Lopes, got shot at four times by Nomad gunmen, filmed camel caravans thousands strong, salt mines and digging salt in incredible heat.

Traveled with heavily armed Ethiopian army near the Eritrean border and saw numerous gun emplacements from recent border skirmishes. Then hired armed Afar nomads for security to go into the Dalil depression to film volcanic lakes and bubbling mineral pools.

Irene was a trooper with only one eye due to a detached retina. When she sprained her ankle on the volcano, we put her together with duct tape, put her on a camel, and got her down the mountain. I am so proud of her.

135 degrees every day with only hot water to drink, and little food. Ken and I were both sick much of the time, but he is the real thing, and I would travel with him anywhere, anytime.

To anyone who thought this may be a "tourist" trip, I will say it was the hardest physical thing I have ever done. I will never do anything like it again. A true flag expedition for the Adventurers' Club, Explorers Club, and Society of Women Adventurers.



Jim Dorsey & Ken Freund at Erte Ale



At Erte Ale Volcano with Afar Gunmen

Tinkle On!

Photos Bill Morse

Bill Morse (#1130) informs us that the old, unsafe stairs are gone, the new stairs are in, and the first of three toilet blocks has been started at the residential buildings at the Landmine Museum in Cambodia.



Tearing down the old stairs



2nd floor view of the new stairs



The new stairs



The new toilet block

Allan Smith & Rescue Men win again!



Past President Allan Smith (#1069) recently received the Best Historical Film Award at the 2011 Mountain Film Festival for his documentary film, *Rescue Men – The Story of the Pea Island Life Savers*.

This documentary film is racking up an impressive list of awards. Our hearty congratulations to you, Allan!

You bring honor to the Club with this accomplishment. We look forward to seeing your Grand Canyon project, and to helping your Everest project take wings.

Editor's Note:

Each month we will feature recent activities of members and friends on this page. Please send your material along with any photos to the Editor by email or snail mail. Designate it for "What's Happening...."

Robert G. Williscroft #1116 – Editor



It's done – we finally have a new roster that should be completely up-to-date. Should you find an error, please let me know by email. We will publish changes in the *News* as we receive them.

Our next project is to publish a new loose-leaf bio-roster. Some of you have sent me your updated bio information and photos, but I am certain that many more are sitting on updated material that will not be included in the new bio-roster, unless you get the material to me.

Remember to write out your bio in full, even if you have only a couple of changes, and include the best digital photo you have. Email it to aclaeditor@argee.net. Please don't put it off!

I want to make a special point about the book review this month, on the opposite page: *Cambodia Angkor – A Lasting Legacy*. On its own merit, this is a beautiful book that will grace any coffee table. Written by our own Pierre Odier (#988), this volume is a work of love. Here is the big deal: All the profits will go to support mine-clearing efforts by Cambodian Self-help Demining, sponsored by another Club member, Bill Morse (#1130).

Please purchase a copy of the book

at the Club or online at www.limageodier.com. This is a project that really matters, and will affect the lives of countless children.

Here is another great Club “project.” New member Bill Burke (#1157) is planning his double assault on Mt. Everest later this year. Past President Allan Smith (#1069) will do a documentary of this epic climb. The photos and other results from Allan's efforts will belong to the Club. Allan's participation is being funded by donations, so if this project interests you even slightly, please contact Allan to make a generous donation to the cause.

With Spring approaching, the wild rivers of Idaho will be full of the best white water in the world. I invite you to visit the LC Valley to take advantage of this world-class sporting activity while the year still is young, and the water is at its best and most exciting. Through my contacts here, I can get Club members discounts for white-water rafting trips, and for some of the best steelhead fishing anywhere. Please call or email me for more details.

Please continue to send letters-to-the-editor about what you see in these pages, or experience at the Club. Your regular input is what makes this magazine a monthly value for both yourself, and all the other members.

The password for the online full-color edition is “*acla1104*”.

BOOK REVIEW —

CAMBODIA ANGKOR — A LASTING LEGACY

Author: Pierre Odier (#988), L'Image Odier Publishing, Eagle Rock, CA, 2010 132p; 8.25 x 11.25 hard & soft bound). ISBN: 978-0-9611632-9-7 (hardcover) & 978-0-9611632-1-1 (softcover). Review adapted by Robert G. Williscroft (#1116) from material supplied by the publisher.

In the mid-1980s, the award-winning movie *The Killing Fields* launched the Cambodian tragedy into public consciousness. It deals with the genocide of nearly half the population of Cambodia at the hands of the Khmer Rouge, the ruling Communist Party between 1975 and 1979.

Today, Cambodians are trying to put their past behind them, and look to the future, yet their children know little

about the atrocities committed in their country. The Khmer Rouge not only obliterated lives, they also systematically erased historical records of the ancient traditions and rich cultural heritage of the Cambodian people.

The original Khmer dynasty was one of the most powerful kingdoms in Southeast Asia. Its greatest legacy is Angkor, site of the capital city during the empire's zenith. Angkor bears testimony to the Khmer empire's immense power and wealth, as well as the variety of belief systems that it incorporated over time. Modern satellite surveys have revealed Angkor

to be the largest preindustrial urban center in the world.

Readers will approach this book from a vantage point worlds away from the people and culture it describes. From a safe distance where

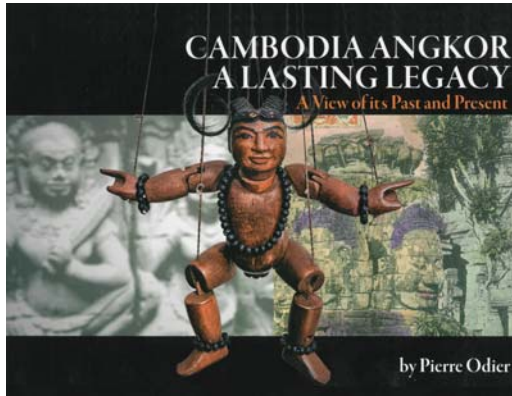
access to information has never been easier, where global interconnectedness has never been so extensive, they will learn about a troubled nation and tragic people.

Cambodia Angkor can teach

our children about man's inhumanity to man, and set the record straight about who did what to whom, but the lesson should not end there.

The real lesson of Cambodia is found in the people who have survived the deprivations of their past, who have suffered inhumanity most of us can only imagine – but whose will to survive, whose irrepressible spirit persists against all odds. That is the true lesson of Cambodia.

Cambodia Angkor is available at the Club, and from the publisher online at www.limageodier.com. All profits support mine-clearing efforts by Cambodian Self-help Demining.



THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

February 10, 2011

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Larry Schutte** welcomed all. **Charles Carmona** returned from the Tucson Gem Show.

Jeff Holmes has been working as a volunteer with Home Boy Industries. He talks with many who have been involved in shootings. He mentioned that the leader is Father Greg who says that he has been shot at more times than any one around. Former Marine Corps corporal and Air Force Lieutenant **Roy Roush** begged to differ with that.

Roy was recently interviewed for a television program on World War II veterans. He was a follow-on to **Frank Haigler**.

Roger Haft has daughters traveling around Peru. Roger is leaving in a few weeks for the Baltic Republics, Ukraine, Crimea and Azerbaijan.

Steve Bein is in the process of buying his fifth boat. It is a 45-foot Jenneau sloop which finished third out of eighty-five in its class in a Trans-Pac race.

Ric Flores, Bob Zeman and **Ralph Perez** hiked in the Condor Wilderness along Tar Creek above Filmore last Saturday. They saw no condors, but the weather was nice. The trail was overgrown, and was sprinkled with gouges.

Pierre Odier wanted to send six books to Cambodia. The cost was \$325. Pierre said he would fly them himself for \$700.

Allan Smith has been filming on the

Pacific coast of Mexico, and also showing his movie *Rescue Men* on the East Coast.

Paul Isley is the new president of the Chicago Adventurers' Club.

On Saturday the 12th, there will be a celebration in San Diego of the 100th anniversary of Naval aviation.

Surf Boards with Solar Power

Photo Tony Jones



Tony Jones is the owner of a surf and wetsuit shop, Coral Reef, and the inventor of surf boards with solar power.

He brought some boards for display tonight along with photos. He saluted Bob Silver as one of the legendary surfers of San Onofre.

Tony's invention started with an idea of another man. Tony chatted with him. He then took a series of classes in the chemistry of materials and bonding. After each session, he would test his latest method of attaching a power device to a surf board. Each one failed until the last session of class, where he was successful.

Surf boards delaminate in the sun. Boards have to dry out in the shade. One little bubble can cause a board to come apart.

Tony's device is organic, and uses ambient heat to charge a battery. A panel and plug adds five to seven ounces of weight. He invented the product

in 2008, and built the first powered board in 2009. The device does not power the board, but charges cell phones, iPhones, iPods, digital cameras, flashlights, and portable radios. It is



Tony Jones at the Club Photo Tony Jones

ideal for serious surfers who camp or travel to remote locations.

The panel, adapter, and battery adds about \$300 to the cost of a board. Tony explored the idea of adapting his device for backpacks, but could not beat Chinese prices.

Tony also makes wet suits under the label Coral Reef. He has made them for the U. S. Navy Seals.

There were many questions from the audience, including questions about an Australian device that fits on the ankle and can repel sharks, and a large maker of blanks for surf boards who abruptly went bankrupt and quit the business, due to a number of pending workers' comp lawsuits.

Tony is not yet into retrofitting boards for his device.

At the close of the meeting, Tony handed out shirts and caps to some members.

February 17, 2011

Bob Zeman (#878)

We had two Club presidents with us tonight. **Larry Schutte** called the meeting to order. And **Paul Isley**, president of the Chicago Adventurers' Club, told of traveling to Florida to visit his son and some nurseries. Paul then went to Costa Rica to study the flowers. And he also attended the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Naval aviation in San Diego the preceding Saturday. He saw the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *John C. Stennis* and the *Peleliu*, an amphib that can carry 2,500 Marines and a bunch of tanks.

Our past president **Allan Smith** #1069 has been to the Las Vegas shot show – a special gun show. He also traveled to Puerto Vallarta and to the East Coast promoting his film, *The Pea Island Sailors*. Allan is making a new film, *The Grand*, about the history, native peoples, geology, of, and environmental impact on, the Grand Canyon.

Steve Bein bought the 45-foot boat he was eyeing in San Diego. He will sail it to Baja.

Paul Isley is going to New Orleans to show his film on Lake Baikal at the submersibles conference.

Mike Gwaltney is going to Cleveland for the first national police museum convention.

John Goddard told the story of Hendri Coetzee who ran many of the rivers of Africa including the Nile. Tragically, Hendri was attacked by a

(Minutes continued on page 12)

crocodile while leading a river trip on a tributary of the Congo and died. Hendri was in a six-foot kayak while John took his expedition kayak down the Nile in 1950-51. John survived one day of five hippo charges and another day even though a 15-foot crocodile weighing 2,000 pounds lifted his boat up.

Shane Berry talked recently with Marvin Garrett and related the sad news that Marvin has incurable lymphoma. He sends his best wishes to the Club.

Steve Bein encouraged donations to NOHA by giving a small Mayan pot he had acquired. His friend donated a beautiful photo of a native African girl.

A Musical Adventure with a Cello

Michael Fitzpatrick's grandmother was a concert pianist who taught him to appreciate music. Michael took up the cello and became a world class cellist.

He was living in Kentucky in 1996 when he heard that His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama was coming to Kentucky to spend six days at the Abbey of Gethsemani. The Abbey was the former home of Thomas Merton, an Anglo-American Catholic writer, who had met the Dalai Lama in 1968. Merton was a proponent of interfaith understanding.

Unfortunately, Merton died a few weeks after the meeting. But the Dalai Lama always wanted to visit the Abbey. He said that he would remember Merton until his last breath.

The six-day event at the Abbey was attended by twenty-five Buddhist monks, twenty-five Trappist monks, and nuns from the orders. Michael was called upon to play his cello nine times during the event.



Michael Fitzpatrick with the Dalai Lama

As the Dalai Lama came out, he was led by a man dressed in silver garments. This man was Stephen K. Hayes, an American Bujinkan Ninjutsu master, author of nineteen books, and the head of security.

Also, Michael and others arranged for a concert in the Star Chamber of the Mammoth Cavern in which there would be talks, and Buddhist chants and music. Michael produced *Compassion*, the first East-West recording between the traditions of ancient Tibetan Chant and Trappist/Gregorian Chant.

The comments, readings, and music all emphasized an invocation for world peace, that can only be attained through inner peace.

Normally, there would be ten microphones for a concert of this size, but Michael was limited to one. He placed it to get the best effect.

The members of the Club were then treated to a five-minute piece on the cello by Michael.

Our thanks to **Steve Bein** for bringing his cousin Michael to the Club.

February 24, 2011

Marc Weitz (#1144)

The night began with a tribute to Scott & Jean Adam who were killed by Somali pirates only a few days earlier, on February 22. **Joel Susman** spoke.

Joel spent several months on the *Quest* traveling with the Adams in the Tasman Sea. During the trip, they rode out a severe storm. It seemed that each time he went with them there was some sort of adventure.

Returning from Adventure:

Marc Weitz (#1144) – Returned from Ireland after his trip to Tunisia was canceled by the revolution. This was his 80th country.

Jay Foonberg (#1126) – Returned from the Galapagos

Allan Smith (#1069) – Had a very successful screening of “Rescue Men.”

Tom Buttgenbach (#1143) – Returned from a flying/driving trip through Namibia.

Leaving on Adventure:

Allan Smith (#1069) – Off to Mammoth to pick up an award for *Rescue Men*.

Bob Gannon (#1066) – Taking scientists out to Santa Rosa Island to tag seals.

Pierre Odier (#988) – Off to Cambodia to bring over copies of his most recent book, *Cambodia Angkor, A Lasting Legacy*, and fix toilets in the jungle.

Nuclear Sub Night

The Club was treated to two of its members describing their adventures aboard nuclear submarines.

USS Ashville SSN-758

Fredrick Hareland (#1138) spoke first. He had the opportunity to ride the *USS Ashville*, a Los Angeles-Class Fast-Attack submarine, from Hawaii to San Diego.

Photo: US Navy



USS Ashville SSN-758

Fred grew up in San Fernando. As a child he was fascinated by the book *Nautilus 90 North* by William Anderson, and caught the bug to join the Navy. Still in love with subs, Fredrick was anxious to return as a guest aboard the *USS Ashville*. Fred also brought along another guest, unbeknownst to the submarine crew: the ashes of Ralph White.

Fred began by describing the nuclear power plant that drives the submarine. The reactor operates at 600 degrees Fahrenheit, which boils water to steam that turns a screw like a

(Minutes continued on page 14)

normal steam engine. The reactor will last for thirty years.

The sub is 372 feet long with a skin of three-inch-thick HY80 steel. It has three levels: the controls on level one,

Photo: Fred Hareland



Fred Hareland at sea as Communication Officer

the living quarters on level two, and the torpedo room on level three. It costs \$900 million to build a modern sub; the torpedoes alone cost \$3.5 million each. They are Mark IV torpedoes with 650-pound warheads. The torpedoes are controlled from the bridge but can be fired from the torpedo room in an emergency. The ship makes its own oxygen from seawater and also scrubs the air inside the vessel.

The trip began with a briefing from the Executive Officer. Fred found both the Captain and the Executive Officer to be very professional. They toured Fred around the sub and explained to him the complex use of the toilet system. The ride included a twenty-five degree up and down rollercoaster-like ride called “angles and dangles.”

Upon surfacing, Fred climbed atop the conning tower and released the ashes of Ralph White. A breeze came up at the wrong time, however, and blew some back upon Fred.

41 for Freedom

Next, Robert Williscroft (#1116) regaled us with an audio-visual presentation – including music, authentic submarine sounds, and color photos – not only of the two nuclear missile submarines he served on, but about the history of the entire Cold War Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine program.



During the Cold War, forty-one nuclear ballistic-missile subs patrolled the seas. These were different from other subs. Their job was to hide beneath the ocean and be ready, upon command, to launch their payload of nuclear missiles to the Soviet Union.

These subs lurked in designated patrol areas, which put them in range of a section

Photo: US Navy

of the Soviet Union. All the patrol areas combined covered the entire Soviet Union several times over. The exact location of each



sub was a secret known only to four officers aboard the vessel. These patrols started in 1960. They

Poseidon C3 fired from USS Von Steuben

carried Polaris, and then Poseidon, and finally Trident missiles which had ranges from 2,500 to 6,500 miles.

Robert joined the Navy as sonar technician and then later became a missile officer. He served aboard the *USS John Marshall* and the *USS Von Steuben*. He was based at Holy Loch

Photo: Willisicroft



Holy Loch, Scotland

in Scotland and patrolled the Mediterranean and Barents Seas. During his time in the Navy, Robert served on nine deterrent patrols and spent twenty-two months submerged.

Photo: US Navy



USS John Marshall SSBN 611

Robert played examples of the general alarm and the collision alarm and explained the implications of both. Sophisticated equipment is able to detect if they are being tracked, but the operation of sonar is still an art. If necessary, the sub can enter silent mode in

five seconds to avoid detection.

Robert discussed much of the sub's operations such the reactor process,

Photo: US Navy



USS Von Steuben SSBN 632

the emergency oxygen candle, and the generation and use of fresh water aboard the vessel. Submarine food is the best in the Navy. Congress allots special funds to make sure the submariners (pronounced submarine-ers) have the best food.

Robert went on to describe how he defended the sub against militant pacifists, and an interesting visit by Admiral Rickover. The Admiral, known for being tough about procedure, approached the young sailor guarding the sub and tried to walk past without showing ID by simply saying, "I'm Admiral Rickover." The kid wouldn't have any of it, drew his weapon and stood in Rickover's way demanding his ID, much to the Captain's embarrassment. The Admiral later said that the young sailor did the right thing, and had he not asked for ID, he and the Captain would have been sacked.

Both speakers gave excellent and informative presentations.

(Minutes continued on page 16)

March 3, 2011

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Returning from Adventure: **Michael Gwaltney** (#1128) – returned from Cleveland where he saw Lake Erie completely frozen over.

Leaving on Adventure:

Derek Borthwick (#1061) – Off to Brazil for two months. It'll be his first visit in two years.

Steve Bein (#1057) – Bought a used boat that was a filthy pigsty to fix up. Off to Alaska to photograph eagles.

We received a report via email from **Jim Dorsey** (#1081) in Ethiopia. He is traveling with **Jim Heaton** (#1020). He says it's 135 degrees every day.

Bob Silver (#728) – brought in a ball used in Burma for a sport where you kick the ball using your knees. Bob then showed slides of Mubarak's presidential palace in Egypt. He was there many years ago to advise Mubarak on how artificial lighting would affect the artwork.

Chris Demke – Drag Racer

Drag racing came to the club in the form of driver Chris Demke for an exciting talk. Chris Demke is the driver of the Peen Rite CleanBoost Oil drag racing team, which races in the NHRA Top Alcohol Dragster division. "Alcohol" is a reference to the methyl alcohol used to fuel the cars and is the highest level of drag racing before the pro levels begin.

Photo: Chris Demke



Using a slideshow, Chris showed us the cars and racetracks. He then took us through the technical aspects of the sport. Rather than just hitting the pedal and going, like in the old days, complex sensors measure all aspects of the car's performance. Complex computer programs then analyze the data on pressure and temperature in order to determine what adjustments need to be made. Chris' top speed is 273.55 MPH. The car will accelerate from 0 to 60 MPH in .8 seconds, 0 to 215 MPH in 3.4 seconds, and 0 to 270 MPH in 5.2 seconds. The car has 3,000 horsepower. Burnouts are Chris' favorite part of driving.

In order to drive these cars there is a graduated licensing process. The first time he let out the clutch it felt like a train hit him. The car has a three-gear transmission. In this short race, Chris will have to shift twice in five seconds. The shift light goes on at 9,800 RPM so he can shift by 10,200 RPM.

Chris showed a fascinating picture of a tire at the moment of initial acceleration. The tire bends, adding to the coefficient of friction and slaps more rubber onto the track. Tire pressure is adjusted based on the track and the temperature to improve performance, the lower the pressure the

less traction and vice versa. Chris has seen a lot of success in the last year, finishing second in his league. As a result, he got Hoosier Tires to sponsor his tires, which cost \$900 and average eight runs.

Photo: Chris Demke



Chris Demke in a burnout

The risks of driving include engine explosion, crash, and death. There is no insurance for this kind of racing. Chris showed a video of an engine explosion. Teams carry three engines with them. Engines run between \$65,000 - \$70,000. Chris is supported by a seven-man crew that includes his father. Each run costs between \$1,000 to \$1,500. They do between 600 and 700 runs a year.

Chris then showed video of crash in which he suffered a severe concussion that put him in an induced coma for four days. His helmet had been too large and pushed forward in the crash, exposing the back of his head, which slapped against the seat.

Chris ended with a video of a death. The video showed a drag racer whose chutes had failed. The brakes on the car had not been upgraded to

carbon fiber and it was unable to stop. A net that was placed as a last resort to stop the car, bent the body of the car back into the driver, killing him.

Chris was an interesting and animated speaker.

Asked if he'd ever turn pro, he said he would do it in heartbeat if offered, but is content racing as an amateur for now.



March 10, 2011

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Returning from Adventure:

Bob Silver (#728) – Found an ATM in Santa Monica that gave him \$40 whenever he requested \$20. Being honest, he told the manager, but the manager had no procedure for dealing with the issue. ATMs are not expected to make mistakes, so he kept the extra \$20.

Bernie Harris (#1063) – Sailed on a cruise with his wife down the western coast of the Americas passed Peru, Chile, etc. Then around Cape Horn and up the eastern side to Sao Paolo, where they spent some time before flying home.

Roger Haft – (#1098) – Visited the Nethercutt Museum in Sylmar. The Nethercutt features vintage cars, old phonographs, and screenings of silent films.

Jay Foonberg (#1126) – Visited Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecu-
(Minutes continued on page 18)

(Minutes continued from page 17)

dor. 300 lizards live in the main park.

Larry Schutte (#1121) – Was shot at twice in his car after witnessing a gang hit of the driver in the car next to him.

Leaving on Adventure:

Allan Smith (#1069) – Off to San Francisco for a screening of “Rescue Men,” and then filming on a cruise ship.

Steve Bein (#1057) – Off to Alaska to photograph eagles.

Other Announcements:

Allan Smith (#1069) – is raising money to film Billy Burke’s (#1057) expedition to Mt. Everest. It will be a double ascent from both sides of the mountain. Billy will be the oldest man to summit Everest. The Club will get the rights to all photos and videos. Allan needs \$7,500, he has raised \$4,000. Contact the Club if you wish to support the effort. Also, people may sponsor by donating and signing an Adventurers’ Club flag that will go with Billy to the summit.

Walter Ehlers (#1169) – was in attendance. Mr. Ehlers fought in World War II in North Africa and landed at Omaha beach. He was shot in the back but continued to fight. Unable to wear a backpack, he carried his ammunition on two bandoliers strung across his chest. Mr. Ehlers received a standing ovation.

The Black Dahlia Murders

Considered one of the premiere experts on the Black Dahlia murder, Steve Hodel has written four books on the subject and may have a very close connection the murderer.

SPECIAL
Daily Police Bulletin
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
WANTED INFORMATION ON ELIZABETH SHORT
Between Dates January 9 and 15, 1947



Description: Female, American, 22 years, 5 ft. 6 in., 115 lbs., black hair, green eyes, very attractive, had lower teeth, finger nails clipped to quick. This subject found brutally murdered, body severed and mutilated January 25, 1947, at 2015 and Norton.
Subject on whom information wanted last seen January 9, 1947 when she got out of car at Biltmore Hotel. At that time she was wearing black suit, no collar on coat, probably Cardigan style, white fluffy blouse, black wide high-heeled shoes, nylon stockings, white gloves full-length legs; coat, carried black plastic handbag (2 handles) 12 x 8 in which she had black address book. Subject readily makes friends with both sexes and frequented cocktail bars and night spots. On leaving car she went into lobby of the Biltmore, and was last seen there.
Inquiry should be made at all hotels, motels, apartment houses, cocktail bars and lounges, night clubs to ascertain whereabouts of victim between dates mentioned. In conversations subject readily identified herself as Elizabeth or “Black” Short.
Attention Officers H. H. Hansen and F. A. Brown, Homicide Detail.

KINDLY NOTIFY C. S. MORRALL, CHIEF OF POLICE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

LAPD Poster

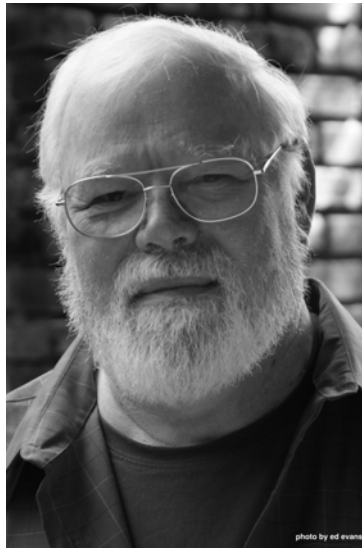
The Black Dahlia murder is one of the most famous murder cases in Hollywood. Steve took us through the twists and turns of the grisly murder. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Steve was a medic in the U.S. Navy before joining the LAPD in 1963. Steve spent six years on patrol before becoming a detective and served until 1986. He then retired and opened his own detective agency.

On January 15, 1947, a woman walking her child in the Liemert

Park area of Los Angeles found a body that had been surgically bisected. The police identified the body as Elizabeth Short from Medford, MA. She worked in a local drugstore. The newspapers were full of the bizarre case, this being the last big print story before TV.

The case was named after a movie at the time called *The Blue Dahlia*. Baffled, the LAPD put out a wanted bulletin for more information. The killer called the city editor at the *LA Examiner* and offered to mail some of the victim's personal effects. The killer taunted the press and said he was going to turn himself in but never did.

Detective fiction writer Raymond Chandler was consulted. Saying that his famous character Philip Marlow would get someone else to confess to draw the killer out; the LAPD actually tried that. Instead, the killer murdered again.



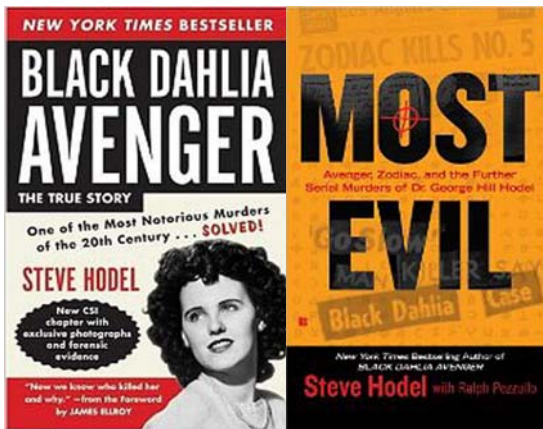
Steve Hodel

At this point, Steve stepped away from the Black Dahlia story to tell us about his childhood. His father was George Hodel. George was a child prodigy who entered Cal Tech at age 15 with an IQ of 186. George was friends with the future director John Huston and drove cabs with the future LAPD Chief Parker in the 1920s.

George married a girl named Emilia. After Cal Tech, he entered Berkeley as pre-med and had an affair with another woman, resulting in a daughter.

After medical school, he opened a medical clinic in Chinatown to treat venereal disease. After his first marriage, George married Dorothy, who became Steve Hodel's mother. His parents divorced in 1944. During Steve's childhood, his family lived in a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house in Los Feliz. The house be-

(Minutes continued on page 20)



came the setting for many parties featuring notable Los Angeles people of that era.

George had some legal trouble in 1949. He was accused of incest for sleeping with his granddaughter. He was defended by Jerry Giesler, one of the most famous criminal defense attorneys of his day. After the acquittal and oddly, he became a prison psychiatrist. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Hawaii and then to Manilla, where he met and married a Filipino girl. In 1993, George moved to San Francisco. At this point Steve and his father George reconnected and formed a close relationship until his death in 1999.

This is where Steve's story becomes strange. Following George's death, Steve found an old photo album featuring nude pictures of Elizabeth Short. When he mentioned this to his sister, she told him that their father had been a suspect in the Black Dahlia murders. Steve moved back to LA to investigate, and discovered a whole series of similar murders that took place in Los Angeles around the time of the Black Dahlia.

Evidence against Steve's father began to mount. A handwriting expert identified the handwriting on the Black Dahlia murderer's notes as George Hodel's. Audio surveillance tape of George caught him committing another murder. Steve found a receipt for cement, the

same brand as the bags used to transport the body of Elizabeth Short to the crime scene. Being a doctor, George Hodel was one of the few people who had the expertise to bisect the body of Elizabeth Short perfectly.

Steve also discovered that the LAPD suspected his father all along. A key district attorney said he had enough evidence to file charges against his father. Former district attorney Steve Cooley allowed Steve Hodel to view the file: his father was the prime suspect. A lot of people in Hollywood knew that George Hodel was the murderer. Chief Parker told Jack Webb that he knew it George Hodel.

Steve's theory on his father's motivation to murder was based on art and sex. Man Ray was a close friend of the family. Steve believes that his father took Man Ray's art and turned it into reality by posing the bodies of his victims in a similar fashion. Steve was always fascinated with sex, having fathered eleven children from five different mothers.

Steve Hodel was a fascinating speaker who could certainly tell a story. His research and evidence was impeccable and expertly presented.



Forthcoming Programs

- March 17, 2011 – Rod Klein – Underwater Photography
 March 24, 2011 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – Richard Bangs – Adventure With A Purpose
 March 26, 2011 – **OUTSIDE ACTIVITY**– non sponsored activity – Exclusive tour of knife and sword manufacturer Cold Steele at their Ventura facility by president Lynn Thompson
 March 31, 2011 – Bob Zeman – Uganda and its Birds
 April 7, 2011 – [TBA]
 April 14, 2011 – [TBA]
 April 21, 2011 – Distinguished VIP – (Details withheld for security reasons.)
 April 28, 2011 – [TBA]

Update of Adventurers' Club Roster

We are in the process of reviewing individual Club member bios in order to upgrade our loose-leaf Adventurers' Club Roster. Please review your bio, and send any corrections along with an updated photo (in digital format if at all possible), even if you like the one we have. The photos we have are screened, so that it will be difficult to scan them into our digital system. We wish to complete this project in the next couple of months, so please send us your corrections right away. New members, please review several bios to see how they are done, and then email your input plus a quality photo to aclaeditor@argee.net. Thank you for your cooperation!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Thank you for your excellent presentation last Thursday night. You have a lot of knowledge on nuclear submarines and you mixed it in well with the history, music and video.

Richard Venola came by the meeting tonight. He gave me an update for the roster. His home phone is (928) 565-5306. His cell phone is (928) 308-6950. His address is 4866 W. Mayan Dr. #2, Golden Valley, AZ 86413. His email is Richard.Venola@gmail.com

– Bob Zeman #878

Thanks for the kind words. Re Venola, his info is in the new Roster. – Editor

To the Editor:

Hope you can say a word about the people from the yacht *Quest* who many of us knew as they were killed

during a rescue attempt after being taken by Somali pirates. We were in the middle of the horn where all the trouble is, just three kilometers from Eritrea and across the straight from Yemen..

– Jim Dorsey #1081

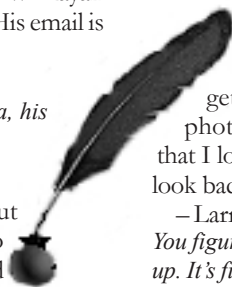
Glad you brought your new slimmer self back safely, Jim. We had a moment of silence for the Adams on Feb. 24. – Editor

To the Editor:

I checked prior years of the *News* and noticed I'm the only President getting cropped out of the presenters photos. The only thing I can think of is that I look so good, I'm making the speakers look bad! What's up with this?

– Larry Schutte #1121

You figured it out, Lar! (Actually, it was a slip-up. It's fixed now.) – Editor





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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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