

The
Adventurers' Club News

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MIR on the Titanic – with Anatoly Sagalevich piloting

The Adventurers' Club News

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The DEEP – Voyages to the Titanic and beyond

James Cameron (#1129)

Editor's Note: *Every once in a while a book appears that defines a topic, that sets the standard for other books to come. THE DEEP is such a book. THE DEEP was written by member Anatoly Sagalevich (#1021), ably assisted by Paul Isley III (#1088), with an Introduction by Don Walsh (#1042). Jim wrote the following article as the Forward to this extraordinary book. I spent a lifetime career in and around submarines, deep submersibles, and deep sea diving. I know Anatoly, Cameron, and Paul Isley – they are my friends. But these facts do NOT make a book stand out as extraordinary. They only establish my credentials and define my perspective. I've "been there and done that" so that I can state definitively what this book is about, and whether it attains its lofty goal – which is nothing less than to tell the story of the commanding role played by the MIR submersibles, their creator, Anatoly Sagalevich, and the pivotal parts played by James Cameron and Emory Kristof.*

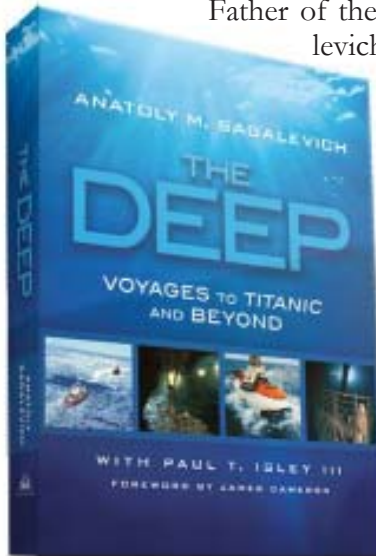
This is a book about science, adventure, film making, technology, and sheer daring-do. From exploring the alien world of "black smoker" hydrothermal vents, to sealing radioactivity within the downed Russian KOMSOMOLETS submarine, to exploring historic wrecks like the BISMARCK, TITANIC, and I-52, to searching the exploded wreckage of the Russian KURSK submarine for forensic clues, to diving under the ice down 4,000 meters to the "real" North Pole, Anatoly and his team have made history over and over. That's what this extraordinary book is about.

Descend a hundred meters beneath the surface of the ocean and the sunlight fades to deep blue and finally to midnight black. As one goes deeper, that blackness is pervasive and eternal, untouched by light since the oceans formed. Go to the bottom, five or six kilometers down, and the pressure builds to tons per square inch. These abyssal depths of the sea are one of the most forbidding environments known to mankind, and can be reached by only a handful of piloted vehicles. There are only four manned submersibles in the world that can reach depths of 6,000 meters, and this

book is the story of two of them, the twin *Mir* submersibles. It is also the chronicle of the man who could rightly be called the Father of the *Mirs*, Doctor Anatoly Sagalevich, and his unrivaled team of ocean explorers.

Machines embody the souls of the people who build them and in no machines is this more true than that of the *Mirs*. They are the physical incarnation of Anatoly Sagalevich's dreams of deep ocean exploration – made real in steel, hydraulics, computers, and syntactic foam. In the mid 1980s, when he was diving in a much more modest *Pisces* submersible, he dreamed of

(Deep continued on page 2)



a machine powerful enough to challenge the ocean's depths to 6,000 meters, opening 98% of the ocean floor to exploration. More than dream of this machine, he helped design the *Mir* and virtually willed it into existence. By good fortune, the P. P. Shirshov Institute, for whom Anatoly worked, ended up with two *Mirs* instead of one, able to dive in tandem from the same mothership. This is without question the most powerful capability for deep ocean exploration ever brought into existence.

Since the certification of the *Mirs* in 1987, Anatoly has led expeditions in all the world's oceans.

As chief pilot and expedition leader he has lived a life of science, exploration, and adventure that is truly legendary. For two decades his science teams have brought back data, samples, and images from the most astonishing geophysical and biological sites on the planet. It is an absorbing story of challenge and discovery.

While certainly there are great accomplishments in oceanography by other institutions, in no other case has one man built the machines, piloted them himself, and led his team with such wisdom and vigor to accomplish astonishing feats. Of course

Anatoly himself would be quick to point out that his is a team effort and my first hand experience with the *Mir* team throughout the 16 years I have known them confirms that they are an extraordinary group

of engineers, technicians and scientists.

I was blessed to enter this tiny community in 1992 when I met Anatoly in Moscow at the P. P. Shirshov Institute, from which we flew together to Kaliningrad to visit the *Akademik Mstislav Keldysh*, the mother ship of the *Mirs*. The ship was impressive, the largest research vessel in the world, a great white floating city. How could I know that it would



The MIR mothership Fedorov led through Arctic icepack by the nuclear ice breaker Russia

be my home for 9 months at sea distributed over seven expeditions in ten years? I was introduced to the friendly family of Russian sailors and technicians who crew the *Keldysh*, little realizing how important a part of my life they would become. I met Genya Cherniayev, the chief engineer of the *Mir* team, who would prove to be an amazing submersible pilot on the many adventures we would have together. And there was Sergei, "Little" Lev, Gyena "Captain Zodiac," Victor, "Little" Victor, Olga and the rest of them, who would in later years become like family to me. On that

trip in 1992, though I was a total stranger, they took me into their homes, plied me with a great deal of vodka, and we sang songs and laughed. Up until my last dive in a *Mir*, my 49th in 2005, all of these people were still on the team. They are a tightly knit



*The nuclear ice breaker
Russia*

clan whose focus is centered on the *Mirs* with utter dedication.

I have never seen a more symbiotic relationship between people and machines. To watch them work, preparing the subs for a dive, launching them, and recovering them in seas that would make any other submersible team in the world blanch, is to see a mesmerizing display of teamwork. From my first dive with them, I felt that I was safe despite whatever the ocean threw at us. Technology can fail, and often does, and the ocean can be fickle and furious, but I soon saw that the *Mir* team could handle any eventuality. Time after time, on the seven expeditions I shared with them, they proved successful in harrowing situations. Each time we went out our goals were more ambitious and each time they met the challenge with resourcefulness and confidence.

In 1995, when I asked them to mount a massive motion picture camera and pan-tilt mechanism on the front of *Mir-1* to film the *Titanic* wreck, they didn't blink even though it was the largest camera that had ever dived that deep. On that expedition we made 12 dives to *Titanic*, shooting im-

ages for the motion picture *Titanic* which was a huge success and which made the *Mirs* world famous.

In 2001, we showed up in St. John's Newfoundland to meet the *Keldysh* with two robotic vehicles which were to be mounted on the subs, plus more high powered HMI lights than they had ever seen, and a 3D high definition camera system even bigger than the last camera we'd used. Anatoly and Genya tugged at their chins, asked a few questions, and then proceeded to make them all fit onto the subs and function perfectly. No other diving operation in the world would have been so accommodating or would have gone so far outside their comfort zone to help us with our crazy plans. But somehow, with their ingenuity and can-do attitude, they were able to meet their safety requirements and still allow us to do these unprecedented things. On that expedition we operated the two *Mirs* around *Titanic* while coordinating operations safely with a large work-class ROV called *Mедуsa* which was lighting the wreck from above with 10,000 watts of HMI light. We landed on the wreck and deployed two Spiderbot miniROVs which were piloted from inside the *Mirs*. These small robots were guided inside



*Loading the MIRs into the
Fedorov hold*

Titanic to explore the interior, returning hypnotic images of ornate woodwork and oth-

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(Deep continued from page 3)

er remnants of *Titanic's* past glory.

On later expeditions we imaged the great WWII German battleship *Bismarck*, and later even used the bots and 3D cameras to explore hydrothermal vent sites along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and east Pacific Rise. Anatoly, Genya and I spent hundreds of hours together inside the *Mirs*, staring out at wonders that few on earth have had the privilege to witness. They taught me the rigors of scientific sampling and observation while I shared with them my techniques for underwater lighting and imaging. Together we became a team that was able to accomplish many groundbreaking tasks. We became friends, then family to each other. Only with deep respect can people work together in such hostile conditions, for such grueling hours, and achieve goals that have never even been attempted before. For me it was a grand adventure. For Anatoly and his team it was business as usual, doing the impossible before lunch. I have heard the stories and seen the

images from the adventures they had on their many other expeditions without me.

They are chronicled in this book, and it is truly amazing to see the wonders they discovered and the incredible operations they accomplished, gathered together within the covers of this one volume.

This book will show the work of the *Mir* team, with numerous images and many scientific and technical facts but it is important to understand the man who stood at the heart of it all. Anatoly is a dear and deeply respected friend, not just because of what he has done, but also because of who he is. For 16 years I have watched him lead his small team, keeping it together despite the hard times that followed the collapse of Soviet science funding, and I have seen the admiration they have for him. He leads with a thoughtful gravitas that can shift instantly to sly humor. He leads with charisma and heart.

Many hours I have spent in his cabin, with half the crew crowded in, while he played



MIR-2 on Fedorov launch crane



MIR-2 over the side



MIR-2 in the water

his guitar and sang. His songs are Russian standards like *Starry Night* mixed with originals about the sea and diving. One in particular always brings a lump to my throat, which is when he sings of the hatch opening after a dive and seeing the blue sky again. I think of it every time we close the hatch and our dive begins. He loves basketball, jazz and jokes. We have had many good laughs, many hours of adventure, and we have shared a few white-knuckle moments together while in the deep. We have met challenges together and accomplished amazing things together and that is a bond that is unbreakable.

I have also witnessed his great passion for science and his childlike amazement, even after hundreds of dives, at the wonders the deep can offer. On every dive we see things that are seldom seen. On many, we've seen things that nobody has ever seen.

In the two years before I made the movie, *Titanic*, Anatoly and I had talked exten-

sively about how we could use the *Mirs* to create historic imagery of the wreck. On the afternoon when I was considering whether to make *Titanic* or a different movie

I received an email from Anatoly. Within his short message was the line, "Sometimes it is necessary in life to do something extraordinary," he was speaking about his own motivation to want to use scientific assets like the *Mirs* to support a Hollywood movie project, something nobody else in the world in his position would have considered. His feeling was that it was important for the world, especially young people, to see how deep ocean exploration was really done, and that our movie might kindle his passion in others. But it seemed to me his words were

about my decision. I stared at those words on the page, like they were illuminated from within. Yes, I practically shouted, yes it is important to do something extraordinary. I knew *Titanic* would be an extraordinary project, both the greatest challenge

(Deep continued on page 6)



The North Pole crews:

Top: Russian sub crew of MIR-1 – Artur Chillingarov, Anatoly Sagalevich, and Vladimir Gruzdev.

Bottom: International sub crew of MIR-2 – Frederik Paulsen, Yevgeny Cherniayev, and Mike McDowell.

The Deep

(Deep continued from page 5)

and the greatest adventure of my life. So I called the head of my production company and told her I'd made my decision. We were doing *Titanic*. And so we did. And it was a great adventure.



MIR-2 launching at North Pole

How could I have known then, in 1995, that so many adventures and discoveries would still lie ahead for me, as I would dive with Anatoly and the *Mir* team on six subsequent expeditions?

This book is rich in detail but in my view it is too humble about the difficulty level of the accomplishments this small team of extraordinary people has achieved. I hope you can read between the lines to see how daunting it was to do all these things. From exploring the alien world of “black smoker” hydrothermal vents, to sealing radioactivity within the downed *Komsomolets* sub, to exploring historic wrecks like the *Bismarck*,

Titanic, and *I-52*, to searching the exploded wreckage of the great *Kursk* submarine for forensic clues, to diving under the ice down 4,000 meters to the “real” North Pole, Anatoly's team have



Russian flag on the bottom at North Pole

made history over and over.

I just received an email from Anatoly. He celebrated his 70th birthday on a plane, returning from a diving expedition in Lake



MIR-2 surfacing through the ice at North Pole

Baikal, the deepest lake in the world. His words glowed about the good science they had done. His passion for exploration and discovery is as strong as it ever was. I look forward to my next dive with him, and to the adventures to come.



The scientists and crew of the historic and dangerous pre-North Pole mission, August 2, 2007.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE – Looking Forward

Allan R. Smith #1069 - President



Greeting to all members as Spring has sprung and – believe it or not – Summer is right around the corner. As I write this we have members on expeditions in

far away places representing the club. Jim Dorsey was caving in Budapest, Shane Berry is on a trip from “Bolivia Altiplano to the Atlantic Rio Je Janiero,” and Pierre Odier is taking on the Silk Road, and is in route to Iran and then to China via 4X4 vehicle. This is just a small example of where our members are any given month.

The best of news is that we have secured a new lease for the facility. As some of you know, they wanted a 24% increase in rent, a new lease, and removal of previous provisions. This was just ludicrous in my opinion, and the discussion with their representative was breaking down. In fact, he had sent us a notice to vacate if we didn't sign their agreement.

Seeing the direction this was going, I asked for a meeting with their Masonic board of directors. This meeting was arranged and I contacted past-president Vince Weatherby who had signed the last agreement. Together along with member Bob Thomas, we walked out of the meeting with a 3% increase in rent, a 5 year lease extendable another 5 years and got them to pay all utilities. This was a win-

win for the club, and we are back on secure footing.

Our new members applications are increasing, and this is good news. Guys, as I have said, we all know good adventurers or someone that would make a good member. They may not fit our membership rigors for Active, but do remember we have an associate category as well.

During the last board meeting, I spoke about the need to increase our revenue in the club. In the past we have had member flags and tie tacks, and for whatever reason this seemed to have been forgotten or not known about by many members. I proposed that we offer club merchandise for sale to help raise funds.

To do this, the Board of Directors reviewed the by-laws and determined that we were not in violation, and thus it was agreed to that we will offer Member flags, table flags, watches, coffee cups, tie tacks, lapel pins, and patches to our membership.

The plan is to have the order form and items in the newsletter and on the web site for purchase. Provided all goes well, we will consider added more items that may be of interest to the members. As always, the Board and I are open to your thoughts and recommendations.

We have started planning for the Night of High Adventure (NOHA), and trust me when I say that this year's speakers will blow you away. This NOHA will be an event not to be missed. The date is Octo-

(President continued on page 8)

(President continued from page 7)

ber 25th, and will be at the Castaways Restaurant in Burbank. More info will be forthcoming!

I have had the pleasure of speaking with several members who are local and not able to get to the club for various reasons, or live afar and are not able to attend. One goal I had was to have the member shoot some video of themselves and send it into the club to update us on what they have been up to.

This past ladies' night we had the first video presentation featuring member Steve Waterford. It was a wonderful pre-

sentation lasting around 3 minutes. We will continue this with future ladies' nights.

Finally, we have had some great outings for Club members. Most recently, we were at the Peterson Auto Museum, and with a great turnout it was a fantastic day. On May 30th we were at China Lake Naval Weapons Center for a hike into the Petroglyphs. It was truly stunning, and the weather could not have been better. We are hoping to set up a photography class on Adventure & Expedition photography later this year.

(Minutes continued from page 20)

There are many monkeys, snakes and turtles on the hill but these were not a problem for him. He showed good video of his downhill rides. While there he married a woman from Penang who was also quite adventurous. He showed a slide of her with two pit vipers draped around her. And she likes biking.

But he was good enough at tricks to inspire the children. He did not speak Malay but he did speak bike with them and they communicated.

He was able to bicycle to many of the island's isolated beaches which are beautiful.

Pat has lived in Seattle, Pennsylvania, Arizona, New Jersey and California. He has also taken up hang gliding.



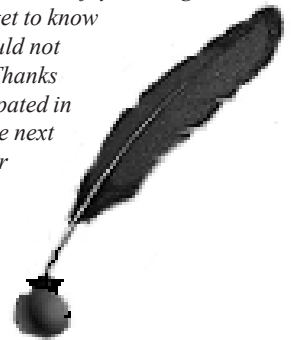
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfortunately, nobody wrote to express their opinions about anything since the last edition. Since this is the final edition that I will be producing, you will have to send any comments about this issue to the lucky person who assumes the mantel of News Editor.

My only real disappointment during these three years as Editor is the lack of written feedback from you guys. I received plenty of pats on the back and verbal "well dones," and even some complaints.

Unfortunately, most of them were not in writing, and so were unavailable for this section of the News.

As I detailed in my column, I have enjoyed being your Editor. It allowed me to get to know many of you in ways that I would not otherwise have been able to. Thanks again to all of you who participated in this venture. Be sure to give the next guy your help as well. – Editor



THE THRAWN RICKLE

From the Ancient Scottish: thrawn = stubborn; rickle = loose, dilapidated heap

Robert G. Willisroft #1116 - Editor



With this issue, I have tendered my resignation as Editor of the *News*. This is the last issue I will produce.

Events in my personal life have forced me to scale back all of my outside activities so that I can concentrate on the immediate needs of my family. I will continue to serve on the Board, and to attend Club meetings and events as I can.

I have enormously enjoyed being editor of the *News*. I can't claim a tenure even approaching that of my predecessor, Robert Williams, but together, you – the Club members – and I produced 31 editions of the best Adventure Club periodical in the world. I thank all of you who participated directly from the bottom of my heart. And I thank the rest of you for your words of encouragement, your letters, and even your criticisms, for without critical examination, things tend to grow stale; they lose their bite.

I have had the advantage of a sophisticated computer system to help me produce the 31 issues of my tenure. I will, of course, be happy to extend my assistance to the new Editor – whoever that may be, and to assist that person to take advantage of the technology that has enabled me to do this job for three years.

I know, however, that books and magazines were produced long before today's

computer technology was available. In fact, there are many beautiful publications from the past that grace our historical libraries. So if, in the end, someone steps forward who is not able to take advantage of the technology I have employed, that doesn't matter. We will still have a fine periodical that will reflect what it is that brings us all together.

Our Club is going through some significant changes. As a group, we tend to look to the past for inspiration and guidance. Our collective membership is significantly older than the general population. This is true even though we are signing up new members. As we move forward, however, we are growing younger.

Our younger membership is completely comfortable with the modern interconnected world. That isn't to say that we older members are strangers to this new world, but whereas we "old guys" have to come to grips with it, our younger members understand it intuitively. With that understanding comes a strong push to change some of our old ways at the Club.

As I leave the Editorship of the *News*, I want to urge all of you to look closely at the changes our younger members are recommending. For the most part, I believe these changes are positive, and will keep our Club viable and financially strong as we move into the twenty-first century.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to serve you as Editor of *The Adventurers' Club News*.

The password for the online edition is "acla0906".

BOOK REVIEW —

HOW TO SURVIVE ANYWHERE: A guide for Urban, Suburban, Rural, and Wilderness Environments

Author: Christopher Nyerges, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2006 (264p; paperback), ISBN: 978-0-8117-3304-5.
Review by Robert Williscroft (#1116)

From the Preface written by Ed Bagley, Jr.: There is a widely held belief that the nature is somewhere “out there.” That, when we speak of the environment, we’re speaking about Yosemite or Yellowstone and certainly not talking about a city like Los Angeles or New York.

Christopher Nyerges shows us that the natural environment is all around us, wherever we live. And that we can soon master the skills that we need to better understand it, and even more importantly, to survive nearly anything that nature OR civilization can throw at us.

He also shows us that it’s not just the environment that benefits from a path of greater simplicity. He points out that the rewards of this life style/mindset have less to do with a number on a bank statement and more to do with the number of hours spent in enjoyment with your family.

Chris Nyerges spoke at the Club recently, and had the attendees on the edge of

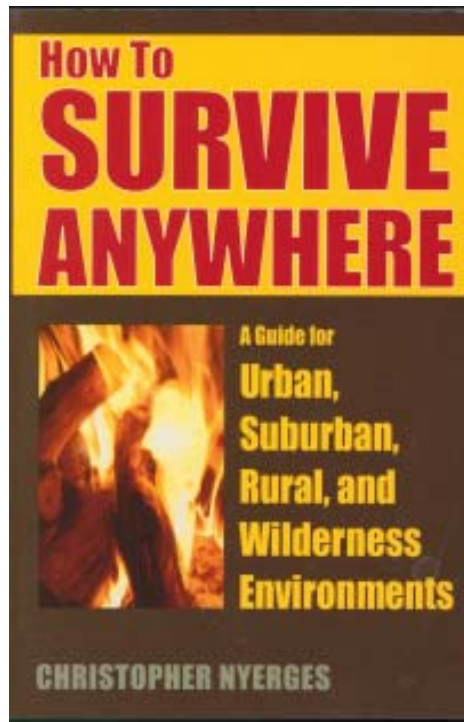
their seats as he rummaged through the stack of twigs and branches, plants and weeds he brought with him.

Chris demonstrated how to make rope and soap from Yucca, and which wild berries and leaves not only were nutritious, but tasted good. He went on to discuss “survival” in any environment, including the urban jungle most of us call home.

This book, *How to Survive Anywhere*, is a distillation of his years of accumulated survival experience. He discusses not only food, but water, energy (fire), clothing, shelter, hygiene and health, tools and weapons, and navigation. He finishes with a discussion of the “concept” of survival.

This book and its companion volume, *Guide to Wild Foods and Useful Plants*, (published by Chicago Review Press) should be in every red-blooded adventurer’s professional library.

Both books are available from the author, in bookstores everywhere, and at most online book outlets.



THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

January 15, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Allan Smith** welcomed a large crowd to the first ladies' night of 2009. It was good to see **Dale Hall, John Goddard, Ramona Cox, Andrea Donnellan** and **Alexander** and many others.



Ladies' Night crowd

Vivian Callahan, new president of the Society of Women Adventurers, said the group is going skiing at Mammoth the weekend of March 13-15 and invited others to join.

Bob Gannon left eight and a half years ago on a single-engine airplane to go around the world. His latest legs covered Romania, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Dubai and Egypt. He has now flown to 107 countries.

Bob never felt safer than in the Muslim countries but there was no display of the cross and he never saw a postcard in late December. The first mid-east oil well was spudded in Bahrain in 1932. There are more than 300 tower cranes in Dubai where the Indians now outnumber the locals. His next leg hopefully will take him to Iran and Basra, Iraq on a humanitarian mission. He will fly in medical supplies.

Bob Walters drove north to Washington in his Honda Pilot. There was lots of snow

near Portland. It took him five hours to drive the last 100 miles to his home in southwest Washington. There was more snow, more ice and more cars spun out.

Roger Haft returned from Rwanda where he saw the silverback gorillas in the north and the chimpanzees in the south. The trek to the gorillas was over a mile through thick vegetation. To see the chimps he had to scramble up a 70-degree cliff. Interestingly, in Rwanda when Dian Fossey established her camp there she was interviewed by National Geographic in the person of **Ralph White**. Roger scattered some of Ralph's ashes there.

Ralph toured the architectural and historic places of Ethiopia including Aksum.

Reda Anderson went to Houston to arrange for scattering some of Ralph's ashes in space.

Jay Foonberg has signed up for the Huntington Beach half-marathon. He has run 35 fulls and 25 halves. Jay is also returning to Iwo Jima in March.

Bob Obero is going to Roatan at the end of January for some diving.

Roy Roush reminded all that he was interviewed along with Shelley Berman 30 years ago on Channel. Roy remembered.

A History of Comedy

Shelley Berman is a master of improv comedy and he showed it tonight as he gave a ten-minute monologue mingled with jokes on the comments from the floor that preceded him tonight.

In brief, Shelly was raised in Chicago and served in the Navy in World War II. After the war, he met and married Sarah and they have been married for 62 years. He was the

(Minutes continued on page 12)

first stand-up comedian at Carnegie Hall.

Comedians have eased the way in the past as the world has gone through crises and they continue to do this during bad economies and war. The Greeks pioneered the old comedy with mime and burlesque. Aris-



tophanes was a famous Greek playwright. But the women of Greece protested war and they decided to say “no” to their men.

In those days after the curtain came down, the comedians had to travel to another place for their show. The Greek work for travel is come and is the root of comedy.

It was during the Renaissance that drama and comedy took off. The classes were the rich, aristocracy and the poor. The characters usually included the big shot, his daughter, a common man, a policeman and a few others. They did an improv and passed the hat.

The French writer Moliere watched these shows and opened a theatre. He also wrote play after play.

Charles Spencer Chaplin took Moliere’s plays and produced them. He made fun of the schoolmarm and the Keystone Cops. Mack Sennett, Ben Turpin, Harry London and Fatty Arbuckle were others in that era who did comedy on stage and in the silent movies. Vaudeville was also popular with comedians such as Joe Penner and Jack Benny.

Unfortunately, the region of Galicia in Poland gained notoriety because its citizens were not the smartest and this started the rounds of Polish jokes. Even worse, the

Blacks were mimicked by Al Jolson who painted their faces black . In retrospect, Shelly said those could not see the sin in it.

Prohibition ended and comedy went from speakeasies to the night club. This was the beginnings of Milton Berle, Joey Bishop, Henny Youngman and Morey Amsterdam. Radio comedy became popular with Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy and Eddie Cantor.

With the talking movies came Danny Kaye and Abbott and Costello and Joe E. Brown. Some of the nonsense comedians like Laurel and Hardy always had a flaw like a piano collapsing. Harold Lloyd was very good at hanging out the window. Fred Allen never made the transition from radio to television.

Shelley wrote for Steve Allen for awhile. He was disappointed in the investigations by the House Un-American Activities Commission which ruined the career of Zero Mostel.

But all-Americans like Jackie Gleason, Sid Caesar and Bob Hope flourished on television.

The Vietnam War era got rid of the subtleties. It used to be that the camera showed the door closing at night and opening in the morning. Now the camera goes inside the room. Richard Pryor and George Carlin use this to advantage.

Shelley performed on the Ed Sullivan show 21 times. He probably met almost all of the great comedians. Others he mentioned were Lenny Bruce, Lily Tomlin, Phyllis Diller, Carol Burnett and Bill Cosby.



January 29, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

David Dahl showed up tonight with a nice display of 10 tomahawks. While there were none from the nineteenth century, there were three made by a famous mountain man and a couple from foreign countries.

Dave shot a white-tailed buck in Montana. He field dressed it and then buried the meat but left some of the remains on the ground. The next day he walked back to the site from his camp which was 400 yards away. A ranger said that a grizzly had been prowling in the area. Dave never saw the bear but he may have fed it.

Pierre Odier returned from Cambodia and Laos. He met **Bill Morse** there and he went on a mine hunting expedition with Akira. Pierre met all of his expectations on the trip including research for his book. But he was delayed a day in returning because the airport in Seoul was iced in and his connecting flight was delayed.

Bob Oberto returned from Yap where he experienced great diving and great people. Bob leaves next week for Roatan for some more diving and maybe a trip to Copan.

Long-time member can only drive in daytime now and could use a ride from Long Beach from any member.

Charles Carmona says that the gemstone society is holding its 60th plus annual gathering in Tucson next week. He will attend for the 29th time.

Human-powered Bicycles

Our first vice president Steve Bein has a renewed interest in bicycles and invited our former president Chet Kyle

down from Weed, California.

Chet Kyle was teaching engineering at Cal State Long Beach in the 1960s and 1970s and got interested in bicycles through his students. Chet and Paul MacCready were among the founders of the International Human Powered Vehicle Association.



Chet showed a video of a recumbent bicycle built and ridden by Tom and Sima Traylor. They ride back to back for a better center of gravity and have gone 10,000 miles on the bike.

Bicycles were invented in 1886 and drop bars, disc wheels and the couch position came about within 10 years. In 1911 a bubble was added to increase speed. But those who controlled the racing sport outlawed the aerodynamic fairings.

It was found that wind creates 60% to 70% of resistance. A wire frame with rec- onite sewed on by Chet's wife could reduce wind resistance by 80%.

The Society decided to issue a press release on a race to be held at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station. It got good coverage and many speed records were broken.

The big race is now held annually near Battle Mountain, Nevada. The course is flat and straight. Nevertheless, there are falls. Fairings are made of spandex.

The current champion is Sam Whiting- ham who has gone 82 miles per hour on a bicycle. Allan Abbott has reached 142 miles per hour but this was trailing a large vehicle. He also used a giant sprocket and mo-

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torcycle tires.

Paul MacCready used his knowledge to design and build the Gossamer Condor which flew a figure 8 course over a 10-foot pylon for a mile. He followed this with the Gossamer Albatross which Bryan Allen pedaled across the English Channel.

Chet showed slides of the electric bicycle and a device that can be pedaled on water at 20 miles per hour. He also helped design the speed suits used by bicycle racers in the 1984 Olympics and by speed skaters in the 2002 winter Olympics in Park City. At times he and his group used the services of a wind tunnel. He estimated that drag was reduced by eight percent using these suits.

He showed a video of a trans-Australia bicycle crossing from east to west of 2,300 miles. The winner averaged 100 miles per day.

Human-powered Submarine

Bob Iannello was down in San Diego some years ago and viewed the human-powered submarine races. He was fascinated by it. Some boats did sink. The boat from the Naval Academy could not get down.

There were many classes of competition but all had to be human-powered.

Bob decided to build a submarine and enter the competition. His fiber glass boat



was longitudinally stable and he used his feet to operate the oars. He figured out to feather the oars on his return stroke.

He built the boat on his deck of his home in Crestline. Then brought it into the living room when it snowed. He tested it in a friend's pool.

And on April 1, 1998 (no fooling) he entered his boat and won the class for one person non-propeller driven submarines.

February 5, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

Inclement weather kept the Orange County group at home but **Allan Smith** welcomed a nice crowd

Alan Feldstein said it was crazy; it was cold and it was crowded. But his trip with his sons to the inauguration in Washington, D. C. was exciting. There were about 1.8 million persons and they got along. He walked the parade route in advance.

Jim Heaton attended a seminar at Cal Tech on astronomy. The speakers talked on looking for planets beyond the solar system, studying our closest star Alpha Centauri and the Nemesis Theory of looking for another sun.

Larry Schutte made three deep dives off of Catalina. But the seas were rough with swells of six feet. The current was supposed to take him to the boat but the current did an about face. He and a few others spent close to 25 minutes waiting for the boat to spot them.

Claude Hulet recommended a website called TED which consists of about a half hour of talks by excellent researchers on educational subjects.

Our cameraman for the night **Bob Silver** urged all speakers to stand in one spot to

avoid being missed.

Steve Bein is going to cycle the Tour de Palm Springs. His distance of 50 or 100 miles will depend on conditions.

Some ruins and Customs of the Maya

A few months ago Jim and Irene Dorsey flew to Cancun to view the Mayan ruins. Their first stops were at the popular ones. Tulum is the only preserved one on the beach and is populated by iguanas. Chichen Itza is so crowded that climbing the pyramid is prohibited. Jim left some ashes of Ralph White there.

At Coba, Jim and Irene witnessed the pole dance in which performers tie their legs to the top of a pole and swing around it for about 15 minutes. Climbing is permitted there although it is steep and dangerous.

He did witness the Day of the Dead ceremony at the beginning of November. It pre-dates the landing of the Spanish starting as a pagan rite. Participants decorate their faces, wear masks and bright clothing and they decorate the gravesites. The women wear necklaces of cowry shells.

The couple flew to Flores in Guatemala which is on an island in a lake. It is near Tikal. The birds were numerous and he had slides of an ocellated turkey, snowy egret, great blue heron, scarlet macaw and blue and yellow macaw.

In the old capital of Antigua, the old baroque churches still stand. The natives come into town on Sunday market day dressed in brightly colored clothes. They are diminutive with black hair. Interestingly the

Maya houses have obsidian figurines on the front.

They decided to take the two hour boat ride up the Pasion River to Ceibal. There were cormorants, toucans and ospreys and even a rare white and black eagle. Large crocodiles lined the banks.

At the landing spot they then had to climb a hill to get to the ruins. There were many stellae. Each one represents a 20-year reign of a king. There were also white faced gibbons, black gibbon and even an ocelot in a tree. Jim showed a slide of a 42-foot palm frond.

He also visited Yaxha from the post-classic period.

At Tikal Jim and Irene arrived early at an opportune time. For awhile the government had banned Mayan ceremonies at the sites. But now a few are permitted. Jim and Irene witnessed an elaborate fire pit ceremony.

The Mayas gathered red, yellow, white and black sticks for the fire representing the four corners of the earth. Green sticks were for the center. The performers had made exquisite beautiful costumes with masks. Jim had slides of the start but was then escorted out by the Federales.

They finished their trip with going on some zip lines at a park. They also nuzzled some black bottle nosed dolphins. And Jim leaves for his first whale guiding trip of the year to San Ygnacio soon.



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February 12, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Allan Smith** welcomed a nice crowd to hear from the editor of our *Club News* **Robert Williscroft**.

Prior to dinner **David Dahl** showed two tomahawks one with a fiber reinforced nylon handle and a forged head. The other had a cast head and a wood handle. Both were used in the Vietnam conflict but not extensively due to public pressure.

Jay Foonberg ran the Surf City half-marathon in Huntington Beach. He started serious running at age 56 and still finishes.

Bob Oberto returned from Roatan and the Bay Islands, Copan and Guatemala. He was investigating possible lakes for use of his underwater submersible. He is also looking at Lake Tahoe.

Steve Bein served as a judge in an international photo contest. He is planning to go to Palm Springs to ride his bicycle. His girl friend hopes to complete a century (miles) while Steve will probably try for the half.

Mort Loveman has visited the slums of Calcutta and says that the current movie glamorizes what are really deplorable conditions.

Jay Foonberg is leaving for Boston in a day to attend a meeting of the American Bar scheduled to decide whether to admit American Samoa as a member. Currently, the other territories (Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Marianas, District of Columbia and Guam) are members. Interestingly, there are two high schools in Pago Pago and 17 players from them have football scholarships.

Bob Silver noted that American Samoa is below the equator. He questioned if this meant that admitting it would be lowering the bar.

Jay is leaving on March 13 for the south Pacific. He flies to Tokyo then Guam and on March 18 he will spend one day on Iwo Jima. In February 1945, Japanese territory was invaded for the first time in 1,000 years. One-third of all of the Marines who died in World War II died on Iwo Jima. The Japanese knew they could not win but they hoped to discourage a U. S. invasion of Kyushu by inflicting heavy casualties. They succeeded.

Bob Silver noted that former member Bob Neiman was a tank commander on Iwo and earned a silver star.

Roger Haft beat his postcard back from the Blue Nile Falls and Lake Tana.

Larry Schutte and **Mort Loveman** will be helping at the L. A. Times travel and vacation show this weekend. Also there will be former guests of the Club Jennifer Leo and Bora Ozkok.

High Adventure in the Bering Ice Pack

Member Robert Williscroft spent three years with OCSEAP (Outer Continental shelf Environmental Assessment Program), a part of NOAA.

Robert was a scientist, commissioned officer, and senior diver on the *NOAA Ship Surveyor* (S-132)



OCSEAP area of operation

that set out from Kodiak, sailed through Unimak Pass to the Pribiloff Islands and the ice pack. The ship was equipped with a helicopter.



Arctic Fox

At one point it dropped Robert off on an island where he photographed sea lions, Arctic fox and its pup nest, red-crested cormorant, puffin and a sea otter.

Up near St. George and St. Paul in the Pribiloffs he saw a spotted guillemot and its chick. A few decades ago thousands of fur seals had congregated here.

Steaming through the stormy arctic wa-



Surveyor icing up

ters, the ship became coated with ice and it had to be knocked off. Several miles into the ice pack, suddenly waves came up, threatening the ship with burgy bits. As the most experienced ship handler aboard *Surveyor*, Robert was charged with getting the ship out of trouble, and back into open water.

Robert and his divers were flown fifty miles into the ice pack where they blasted a hole through



Surveyor in the ice

the three-foot thick ice and investigated the undersurface of the ice. The water was crystal clear but they took ropes to find their way back to the hole. In addition, a diver remained topside to keep the hole open.

The divers brought nets and containers to collect specimens. They found organic material growing on the bottom of the ice. As part of OC-SEAP, the crew shot one adult of each species for study,



Diving under the ice and temporarily captured one pup for weighing and tagging. They did this for bearded seal, spotted seal, ribbon seal, and ringed seal.

1,500 to 3,000 pound walrus were out in force. Only Inuits are permitted to hunt them, but the Inuits would rather get their meat at the store and do not hunt as much as before. Plus they now have television. Consequently, there is a huge overpopulation of walrus.

Polar bears are heavily protected now and are flourishing despite the poor publicity. Unfortunately, there are so many that some



Arctic sunset

may not be getting enough food.

The ice pack froze solid earlier than usual this year, which may mean that global warming fears may be an exaggeration. Yes there are big chunks of the Antarctica ice shelves breaking off but this is because the shelves are dynamic systems that are always changing so that chunks will always break off.

Robert closed his program with slides of beautiful sunsets.



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February 19, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Alan Smith** welcomed a good ladies' night crowd and those who arrived early enjoyed a delicious spread of hors d'oeuvres.

Steve Bein told of his endeavors from the prior weekend again. He rode his bicycle in the 50-mile portion of the Tour de Palm Springs. The route took him up to Banning Pass against the wind but the return was downhill and with the wind.

Bob Walters saw Huell Howser in a restaurant and gave him a guest card.

Paul Isley is flying to Florida to visit his son.

Gordon Cucullu's book *Inside the Myth* about the real conditions at Guantanamo Bay prison is out.

It was thought that **Bob Silver** was going to have serious surgery but the doctors looked inside and said that Bob looked good to them. Bob was due out of the hospital on the 20th.

Unfortunately, **Anatoly Sagalevich** had heart valve replacement surgery on February 3rd. And on Tuesday Feb. 17, **Don Malarkey** was admitted into ICU.

Reda Anderson and 14 women gathered together and each is sending a tiny piece of them into space with the ashes of **Ralph White**. The launch should be within six months. Accompanying the ashes will be a hair of **Don Waters'** pony tail.

President Alan Smith welcomed new member **Fred Harlan** into the Club. Fred told of how he met and admired former member **Vollmer Jensen**. Fred built a ramp for Vollmer's plane. In return Vollmer flew Fred to Catalina isthmus. Vollmer

also worked on designing a better hang glider and made the model for the Starship Enterprise for Star Trek.

Steve Bein encouraged donations to NOHA by donating a Gurkha kukri knife used by British regiments. And he donated a replica of a first class ice bucket from the Titanic.

Astronomer for the Vatican

Brother Guy Consolmagno grew up in Detroit. He earned undergraduate degrees at Harvard and M.I.T. He got a PhD at the University of Arizona. He did research while looking for his ideal job.

Then he joined the Peace Corps in 1983 and left for Kenya. He taught for three months at a Boys' school and then was asked to teach at the university. He believes that to have a sophisticated populace, a country needs an educated populace which requires schools and teachers. He also believe that you cannot deny people the opportunity to ask their question because then you deny them their humanity.

Brother Guy joined the Jesuit Order in 1989 and in 1993 left for the Vatican to become curator of its meteorite collection. This was started by a French Duke who collected meteorites and upon his death, the collection was given to the Vatican.



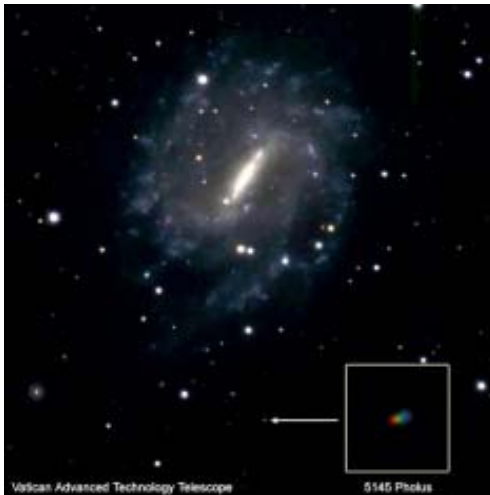
Brother Guy Consolmagno holds a meteorite at Castel Gandolfo, 2007.

(Photo by Annette Schreye)

The serious study of astronomy was started at the Vatican in 1582 and it was modernized in 1891 under Pope Leo XIII.

The 12 astronomers receive no grants, have no committees and attend no classes. They meet on the second floor of the Pope's retreat at Castel Gandolfo. When he is there, the Pope resides on the first floor. It is noisy when the landlord is in town.

Interestingly, this building was featured in the book *The DaVinci Code*. But Brother Guy then pointed out differences between passages in the book that appear on pages 162 and 163 and reality. There is no Renaissance art; there are no astronomy images; there is one marble walkway; there are no secret meeting rooms; there is one short marble walkway, and the library is rather compact with no secret volumes.



Observing the colors and spin of the comet/asteroid Pholus, Steve Tegler (Northern Arizona University) and Brother Guy Consolmagno took this image with the Vatican's telescope on Mount Graham, Ariz.

In the early days only noblemen, doctors and clergymen were the ones to do scientific work because they had the time. They did a lot of sorting and filing and worked together. There was no such thing as a feud between science and the church.

In 1980, a scientist named Angel from Tucson, Arizona invented a small but very powerful telescope and gave it to the Vatican. Angel took glass and then melted it and spun it. He let it liquefy and came up with a Gregorian design that worked. He took a Gregorian chance.

This telescope is still in use in Tucson and the Vatican has priority. Brother Guy spends six months of the year here. He has also traveled to Hawaii to use the telescope on Mauna Kea. It rents out for \$50,000 per day.

Meteorites look much like rocks and are scattered throughout the planet. The best place to look for them is Kansas because there are few natural rocks there.

Meteorites also collect in Antarctica and Guy spent six weeks in a freezing tent studying meteorites there. He rode around in a skidoo. When there is a cloud, the ice and the sky look the same. He also had some beautiful photos of sunsets.

Regarding Galileo, half the Church praised him and half criticized him. Galileo was the golden boy of the Medicis. His first book won praise from the Church and his second book was also approved by the Church censors.

But some years later he was brought to trial. He was not convicted of heresy but of vehement suspicion of heresy. He was ordered to house arrest and stayed with the Cardinal of Siena.

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The Pope did not formally apologize for his excommunication until 1992.

Brother Guy serves on various astronomy committees and has even had his name given to a landmark on the moon. One Jesuit has named some asteroids. He is certain that a large asteroids will eventually strike Earth. Finding life on another planet is inevitable.

His presentation was fascinating, knowledgeable and humorous.



*Brother Guy holding a graphite artifact.
(Photo by Kevin Nickerson)*

February 26, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Alan Smith** welcomed members and **Bob Silver** who was released from the hospital. His nurse was from the Congo.

Hans Glaser recently bought a 1932 Rolls Royce and he got married.

Robert Williscroft on March 6th will attend the retirement of the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel Mystic.

Bernie Harris leaves on March 11 for a multi-week cruise to South America. He will stop in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Iguaçu Falls, Port Stanley, Ushuaia, Santiago and Valparaíso.

Frank and Pat Haigler attended a memorial service in San Francisco for the man who had the largest collection of military vehicles – 200. He had just finished putting \$4 million into a restored German Panzer tank.

Bob Walters noted that there was an ar-

title on **Ralph White** in the current issue of Randall's Knives. Bob will be telling the story of the hurricane to hit southwest Washington a year ago to the retired officers club in Costa Mesa. There were sustained winds of 80 mph gusting at times to 150 mph.

Also a week from Sunday at the Hawthorne airport there will be a gathering of Korean War Aces.

Lots of meetings. **Steve Lawson** said that the annual meeting of the California Wreck Divers will be held March 7th at the Hacienda Inn. The speaker will be Pat Kline who was a close associate of Mel Fisher.

Mountain Biking

Pat Coston sold his mountain bicycle to Steve Bein. He said it is now unbreakable after replacing everything on the original except the frame. The bike has gone through 10 sets of pedals.

At the age of 14 Pat could climb stairs on his bike. At 16 he performed jumps and shortly after he entered motocross races with his bike. He could perform a no hands no feet trick in which his body left the bicycle and returned intact.

He moved to Penang Island because his job allowed him to live anywhere. Penang is a small, hilly, tropical island off the coast of Malaysia. It is 24 miles by nine miles.

His main objective was to ride down the steepest hill to the bottom without an accident. He never made it because the brake pads overheated and damaged the inner tube. The steepness, hairpin curves and items on the road didn't help.

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Forthcoming Programs

- June 4, 2009** – “Google Lunar XPRIZE” Randa Milliron
June 11, 2009 – “Red White Black & Blue” Tom Putnam
June 18, 2009 – **LADIES’ NIGHT** – “An interesting insight into Terrorism and Sharia Law”
 Nonie Darwish
June 25, 2009 – “Expedition Africa” Steve Krenzen
July 2, 2009 – “Members Show Case”
July 9, 2009 – “Heart valve replacement using angioplasty methods” Bruce Stambough
July 16, 2009 – “A Five Year Odyssey of Adventure and Traveling the World by a Young
 American” Ryan Spencer
July 23, 2009 – “Wilderness First Aid” Steve Goldstein and Mike Stajura
July 30, 2009 – “Last Stop for Paul” Neil Mandt
August 6, 2009 – “Borders in the Sand, Rock and Snow from the Arabian Sea to China:
 Pakistan’s Western Border” Robert Silver
August 13, 2009 – “Race by Outboard Powered Inflated Surfcraft around South Africa’s Point
 Aguillas Brent Rockne James” Frank Grochulsk
August 20, 2009 – [OPEN]
August 27, 2009 – “Alternative Views about Global Warming” Dr. C. Martin Stickley
September 3, 2009 – [OPEN]
September 10, 2009 – **LADIES’ NIGHT** – “The Effect of 9-11 on Law enforcement”
 Sheriff Lee Baca
September 17, 2009 – “Great White Shark research” Richard Theis
September 24, 2009 – **LADIES’ NIGHT** – “Ghost Ships and Sea Monsters” – or “@20,000 bytes
 under the Sea” Emory Kristof
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NOTES

The Club is preparing a book project: *Stories from the Adventurers’ Club*. This book will contain stories of adventure from several of our members. We are looking for input, especially from our older members. Please send us your story, keeping the text to between 1,500 and 2,000 words, or less – if you are a person who is able to say much with few words. If you have a quality illustration or photo to accompany the story, send it as well. We will use it if we can.

If possible, send your material in electronic form, including your illustrations, BUT don’t let that stop you. If you must, write your story on the back of an envelope and mail it to us. If this was good enough for President Lincoln, I think we can deal with it as well. So get your material in to President Allan, Rick Flores, or myself as soon as you can. The deadline is fast approaching.



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