

# The Adventurers' Club News<sup>®</sup>

Volume 55

August 2011

Number 8



*Photo – Alan Feldstein*

**Heidi – The Club's First Female Member**

# The Adventurers' Club News

*The Official Publication of the Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles®, California*

August 2011

Volume 55 ..... Number 8  
Publisher ..... ACLA President, Larry Schutte #1121  
Editor ..... Robert G. Williscroft #1116, Clarkston, WA 99403  
Cell (818) 613-9445; [aclaeditor@argee.net](mailto:aclaeditor@argee.net)  
Asst. Editor .. Marc Weitz #1144; Los Angeles, CA 90071  
(323) 600-4805; [weitz@rocketmail.com](mailto:weitz@rocketmail.com)  
Club Phone (323) 223-3948 (24 Hrs) ..... [www.adventurersclub.org](http://www.adventurersclub.org)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DIRECTORY</b> .....	<b>INSIDE FRONT COVER</b>
<b>PRESIDENT'S PAGE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>ARTICLES</b>	
<b>HEIDI</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>THRAWN RICKLE</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>BOOK REVIEW: HERO - THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF LAWRENCE OF ARABIA</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>WHAT'S HAPPENING...</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>LETTERS TO THE EDITOR</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS</b> .....	<b>21</b>

### **PRESIDENT**

Larry Schutte

### **2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRES**

Mike Gwaltney

### **SECRETARY**

Robert DeMott

### **ADDRESS**

2433 N Broadway  
Los Angeles, CA 90086

### **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRES**

Manny Gomes

### **TREASURER**

Jeffery Goddard

### **DINNER RESERVATIONS**

(323) 223-3948

Deadline: Tuesday Noon

### **MAILING ADDRESS**

PO Box 31226

Los Angeles, CA 90031

**THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

Larry Schutte #1121 - President



**G**reetings, Men – I'll start out this time by giving huge props to Shane Berry #1093, who brought about fifteen guys to the

club July 21st to hear Dr. Craig Smith give that compelling talk on Stragglers of WW II. Shane really worked the room, giving a great tour of the facility and making all our guests feel welcome and well tended. It was a great night, due largely to him and his efforts. Well done Shane! We could all make this effort from time to time. BTW – Shane is also responsible for coordinating, printing and framing all our certificates for the presenters and anything else we need for other awards. Much appreciated, young man!!

NOHA is in full swing thanks to the efforts of many people, especially Pierre Odier. Ticket sales are brisk. I urge you to get yours before they're gone. It's going to be quite a bash, so be sure to get onboard. See Jim Heaton to purchase or reserve your individual tickets or tables.

I encourage you to donate items for

the silent auction. We still need some big ticket items, like a plane ride or a special pass or invitation. Revenue from the auction is important to the Club, so help with the total, guys!

Stewart Deats, one of our Club associates, is photographing the auction items and will produce a catalogue for each table. Very cool. Thanks much Stew, for donating your time and services to our Club.

More props, this time, to our illustrious editor, Robert Williscroft. I don't know how he does it, cranking out one great issue after the other. As we speak, he is in process of moving across the Snake to Lewiston – in the middle of creating this issue. Amazing. I also hear there is a really important date coming up for Rob and people close to him. More later!

We will hear from three Club members this month, which I'm so looking forward to. Dave Banks, Marc Weitz, and Ricardo Flores will, I'm sure, amaze us with their programs.

I keep mentioning Vol. 2 of the *Tales From the Adventurers' Club*. It's a really fun read every time I pick it up. Get this book, if you haven't already. See Pierre. Just \$20.00 – such a deal!

That's it from the podium. Attendance is up. Membership is rolling along and camaraderie abounds. It's all good. Lar

## Heidi – the Club’s first female member

*Diane Haithman & Heidi*

*Editor’s note: This article was originally published in the Studio City Patch. You can read further delightful articles at [www.studiocitypatch.com](http://www.studiocitypatch.com) – under “A Paw In The Door.”*

Heidi has a standing engagement on Thursday nights: she goes with her dad Alan [Alan Feldstein #1094] to the Los Angeles Adventurers Club, located east of downtown. She can’t go with her mom because the Adventurers Club, founded in 1921, is an all-male bastion where members gather each week to dine, share tales of exotic travels, and listen to guest speakers with equally compelling stories of exploration.

Heidi is the only female allowed to visit on a regular basis. The rest of us have to wait until the occasional Ladies’ Night, but this lady chooses not to argue with tradition, probably because I’m not likely to get called a “lady” anywhere else. Plus there are plenty of great speakers on Ladies’ Nights.

This Club is the real deal – for example, club member Bill Burke (#1157), a 69-year-old attorney, is the oldest American to make it to the top of Mount Everest, summiting in May, 2009. Burke is currently in the midst of another Everest climb, and you can follow his progress on his

*Photos by Diane Haithman unless otherwise indicated*

website and blog.

Heidi is indeed treated like a lady at the Club. She has a routine: after a little off-leash socializing, she beelines for the kitchen, where chef Emily dishes her up a heaping plate of whatever is being served for dinner and

often another doggie plate to take home. Heidi has her own box of biscuits stored next to the booze at the cash bar. Members have so much fun giving snacks to our treat slut that we stopped giving her dinner at home on Thursdays.

When I tag along on a Ladies’ Night, I am okay with the fact that the first question I’m asked is not “How are you?” but

“Where’s Heidi?” Although, to quote the old Helen Reddy song, “...it ain’t no way to treat a lady.”

But the dog and I were both ladies of the Club on this Thursday to hear a speaker who talked about both cats and dogs: Dr. Laurie Marker. This was a joint event of the Adventurers’ Club and the International Explorers Club.

The cats in Dr. Marker’s life are the not the “kitties” that make Heidi bounce on the end of her leash during a walk in Studio City. Marker is founder of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, Africa, where the cheetah population has been decimated by local



*Heidi with Alan Feldstein & Dr. Laurie Marker.*



*Heidi with Jim & Irene Dorsey, and Dr. Rosaly Lopes*

farmers who kill the big cats because they prey on livestock. Marker's work involves devising innovative ways to allow the farmers to live in harmony with the cheetahs. She and her staff raise Anatolian Shepherd dogs, an ancient Turkish breed also called the Karabash. The farmers use them to scare the cheetahs away from their animals, eliminating the need to destroy the feline predators.



During this *Heidi with a young guest* talk, Heidi got even more attention than usual, because Marker compared the intelligence of her working shepherds in Africa to Heidi's – even though, at the Club, Heidi can only be credited with working the room. But keeping track of all those wandering adventurers is exhausting brain work, so Heidi usually crashes between rows of seats during the speakers' presentation.

Marker also showed video of another breed of working dog helping

out in Namibia, the Border Collie. Both the Anatolian Shepherd and the Border Collie help locate cheetahs for study by finding their “scat” – that's poop to you. The border collies work for treats. The shepherds work for the reward of playing with toys. Either would work for Heidi.

It was fascinating to see how cats – big cats – and dogs can serve each other in this habitat. Perhaps the Anatolian Shepherd, or maybe Heidi herself, can eventually aid in the process of safely introducing women into the permanent habitat of the Adventurers Club. I know, I shouldn't make jokes about the traditions of this venerable organization. But then, I'm no lady.

Heidi and I saw a duck strolling down the middle of Lankershim Blvd. south of Ventura the other day – what's up with that? But that's not today's question: Are you involved in any animal preservation or rescue activities?



*Just Heidi*



*The authors, Diane & Heidi*

*Photo courtesy of Andy Sheng - Lucy & Otis Pet Photography*

Robert G. Williscroft #1116 – Editor



I have had an abiding interest in all things related to space exploration since the mid-1950s, when I picked up my first science fiction book, and was hooked.

Last month I referred to President John Kennedy's 1961 announcement about placing a man on the Moon by the end of the decade. On July 21 we observed an even more important anniversary. "A small step for a man..." Neil Armstrong said, but it was the most important step in human history. When Armstrong stepped onto the barren Lunar surface of the Sea of Tranquility, he was taking humankind's first faltering footsteps from the cradle that had been the only home we have ever known.

With that step, Armstrong cracked the door to the future, giving us a glimpse of a tomorrow where humans spread throughout the universe. You and I – all of us – were there at the inception. This is pretty heady stuff. It's the glue that binds fellow members of the Adventurers' Club together – this surge to go where no one has gone before.

It is with a bit of melancholic nostalgia, therefore, that I note the end of the Space Shuttle program. As Americans, we face a temporary hiatus of not being able to get off-plan-

et on our own vehicles, but the American entrepreneurial spirit is advancing on many fronts. Soon, anyone with the necessary means can make orbit. But space travel isn't just about going into orbit.

It took sixty-six years to get from Kitty Hawk to the Sea of Tranquility. We are forty-two years into the other side of that period, and are about to blossom forth in virtually every direction.

I predict that twenty-four years from now, our Club will be hosting adventurers just returned from Luna, Mars, or even from the Asteroid Belt. Future Goddards, Odiers, Dorseys, and Gannons will regale us with tales that redefine "Off the beaten path..."

The Adventurers' Club today reflects humanity's past and the myriad ways its members winnow out its remaining secrets and record the remaining vestiges of its long path from yesterday to today. As we transition from a planet-bound to a space-faring civilization, I predict that, more and more, Club members will focus on the completely untraveled path that lies before us.

We will always have those who fly or sail around the globe, the polar explorer, the deep sea diver, the mountaineer...but out there is endless – down here isn't. We hold that future in our hands.

The password for the online full-color edition is "acla1108".

## BOOK REVIEW: HERO – THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF LAWRENCE OF ARABIA

Michael Korda, Harper, New York, NY, 2010, 784p; 6 x 9 hardcover. ISBN: 978-0061712616. Review by Marc Weitz (#1144).

Few capture the imagination like Lawrence of Arabia. As the author notes, were he not a real person, you would have to invent him. Michael Korda's excellent new biography skillfully whisks you along with Lawrence on his adventures and delves deeply into the life of this amazing, yet complex individual. With the hero theme in mind, Korda commences his tale in 1917, describing the actions that transformed Lawrence into Lawrence of Arabia.

With breathtaking descriptions, Michael Korda recounts how Lawrence unites the tribes into battle groups and teaches them how to attack a superior force with hit-and-run attacks, sabotage, and avoiding decisive battles. These are lessons that are carried forward by Middle Eastern insurgents into modern times. It was also Lawrence who wrote manuals on how to quell such insurgencies – strategies that are still in use today.

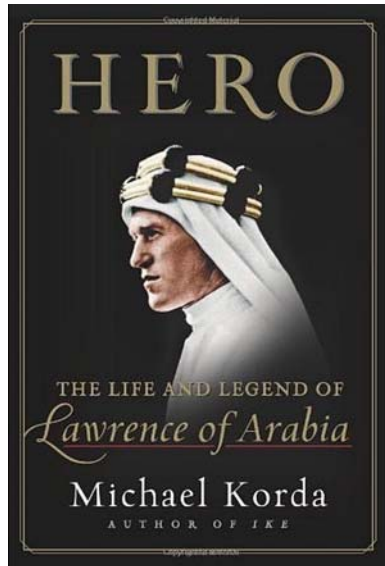
Korda then goes back in time to tell of Lawrence's parents, illegitimate birth, and childhood. Adhering to the hero theme, the author tells

about how the young Lawrence prepared himself for his heroic role in World War I, without knowing about his future destiny. Lawrence taught himself Arabic, studied and read the great war treatises and about history, turned himself into a crack shot, learned photography, and mapmaking.

Following the war, the book chronicles Lawrence's declining mental state – attributing the cause to shell shock and guilt over leading the Arabs to fight for a homeland when he knew that England and France

would betray them after the war. He insisted on enlisting in the RAF under an assumed name – a poorly kept secret that caused endless headaches for those in the government. His hard work and intelligence, however, led to a number of innovations for the RAF. Much is said about his brilliant writing and the creation of his literary class, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

The book is well-researched and an exciting read. It takes the reader to another time and lets him experience a little of what it must have been like to be Lawrence of Arabia.



## What's Happening...

### Walt Ehlers – 90 & counting...



Photo Lince Weatherby

Walt Ehlers, Frank Haigler & former California Governor Pete Wilson

Medal of Honor recipient Walt Ehlers (#1119) celebrated his 90th Birthday this month with 150 family and friends who traveled from across the country for his birthday party, including distinguished guests like former California Governor Pete Wilson.

### Dave Banks posts “Hollywood Postcard” on Club Facebook page



On the 28th of June, Doug Brown, Fred Kaplan and I started our Beirut L.A. photo tour at Pinks (mmmmm) and ended up on Hollywood Blvd. Beyond the tourist, there is another side to life in La La Land and on the Boulevard. Our next tour will be the L.A. River. The date is to be determined and will be posted here. Stay tuned and keep shooting. Dave Banks (#1156) reports

### Alan Feldstein shoots the rapids



Photo Alan Feldstein

I had never even been to the Grand Canyon and now here I was going down the river that was flowing almost twice the normal rate, through huge rapids and seeing incredible starry nights, a full moon you could read by, big horn sheep, gorgeous side canyons with waterfalls and pools to bathe in with water the color of opals. Truly amazing.

What really made it great was the incredible group of people I went with who I now consider new friends. Want to see more? Watch the video on the Club's Facebook page.

### Steve Bein chases storms

Steve Bein (#1057) spent a week in Nebraska chasing storms, driving up to 600 miles a day. He describes it as hours of boredom followed by thirty minutes of high-level excitement. He did not see any tornados, however, so he returned with no good photos and only a sore back to show for it.

*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...."*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Unlike most of our brothers who begin the great adventure with death, I have begun my journey a bit early.

Four days ago while I was lying in a hospital bed, my doctor walked in and said, "You should be dead!" Not much for bedside manner, but I always appreciate honesty. I had had a bad limp for some time, which I chalked up to a bum knee and aging hip, but I went in for a routine check up.

I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, obviously not what I was expecting to hear, and went back for a cat scan to determine if it had spread – it had not.

No sooner was I out of the big donut than the doctor said I had a giant embolism in my leg and had to get into surgery right away. This explained my limp and my inability to perform in the field lately as I was accustomed to doing. Twenty minutes later they had inserted a "filter" into my femoral artery that is supposed to intercept the embolism if it decided to travel to my heart, and this was followed by the news that I also had embolisms in both lungs and my other leg, all potentially, immediately lethal.

Suddenly, the cancer was not that important. It was at this point that the doctor told me these embolisms almost always erupt and kill the victim. Normally, such embolisms are the result of stage four (final) cancer, and mine was caught quite early, which baffled the doctors. In fact, they told me they had never seen this in four decades of practice. Now this is where it gets weird. After a prolonged interview, they decided the embolisms were directly caused by my adventurous lifestyle, traveling a lot on long international flights where I had not moved about enough to keep the circulation going, and countless hours sitting in cramped vehicles on expeditions. Of course, this is the long term result of years of such travel, and it had been building for quite some time.

It was the reason I had collapsed on the

side of a volcano in Ethiopia on my last expedition, and should have killed me then, but it was not my time. Still, I have been a walking time bomb for several months now.

I am not writing this to gain sympathy, as you guys are not the kind to give it or want it either. We all have our medical problems and no one likes to hear about someone else's regardless of what it may be.

I am writing this in hopes of letting my brother adventurers know about a danger in what we do that I had never even considered, and also in hopes that those among you who may be suffering similar ailments may learn that you are not alone.

If I had my life to live over I would do exactly the same things, go to the same places. When my time comes to depart this earth, I hope it is on an expedition to some remote area I have never seen, rather than lying in a bed hooked up to a lot of tubes waiting for the end.

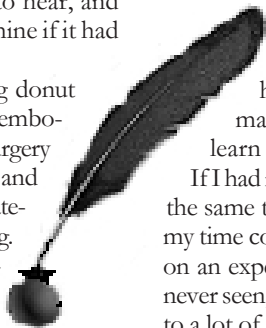
I am being treated for the embolisms with daily self injections that should clear things up in a few months, and will soon begin radiation treatment as I cannot undergo surgery while on blood thinners.

I am sure there are those among you who are living with worse problems at the moment, and choose to not speak of them for one reason or another. Cancer is no longer an automatic death sentence, and if what I have written here helps or gives comfort in any way to just one of my brother adventurers, then sharing my story has been worth it.

I choose to think of this as my latest adventure, and when it is over I plan to have many more – with many of you. Just remember to move around a lot on those overseas flights.

– Jim Dorsey #1081

*Thanks Jim. Perhaps your candid words will save a Club member's life. In the meantime, I personally wish you a speedy recovery, as I know the rest of the Club does as well – Editor*



## THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

June 9, 2011

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Larry Schutte** welcomed a good crowd tonight.

**Larry Stern** #1112 and his wife Judy returned from a three and a half week photo safari to Zambia, Victoria Falls, and South Africa. He was fascinated by the communication between the animals and the birds.

**Allan Smith** attended the Mule Days Festival in Bishop. It was started by Bobby Tanner, owner of Red's Meadow packing and Dave McCoy.

**Steve Bein** went down to Mexico to view his boat. He left his camera on the boat and his passport in L. A. but he got across the border at Tecate.

**Bob Zeman** had lunch with Sebastian Junger, author of *The Perfect Storm* and *War*.

**Roger Haft** flew to North Dakota, but his rental car had no license plates so he could not drive into Canada.

**Ric Flores** and **Martin Bloom** took up the opportunity to soar with **Bob Oberto** at Llano. Ric showed video of soaring over Mt. Williamson, Mt. Baden Powell, and Devil's Punch Bowl. **Bob Silver** attended also but did not soar.

**Vince Weatherby** showed photos of **Walt Ehlers** 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Former Governor Pete Wilson attended.

**Jay Foonberg** is going to Anchorage to run a half-marathon and then he flies to Hong Kong to run. Jay noted that the famous photo of the flag raising on Iwo Jima showed no

faces. A later staged photo did show faces, but the first one by Joe Rosenthal made history.

**Allan Smith** and his wife are going to a wine country festival in Calaveras to celebrate their 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Steve Bein** is going to Wyoming and then may do some storm chasing.

**Nils Rasmussen** #1028 writes that he is living in Denmark now.

### Astronomers Without Borders

**Mike Simmons** is the founder and President of Astronomers Without Borders. Its slogan is that Borders Vanish When We Look Skyward.

His talk focused on astronomy in Iran. He showed an ancient Zoroastrian Fire Temple with the stars in the background. The country is mostly



mountainous, and he went to the Zagross Mountains to view an eclipse. Along with him were astronomy students who happened to be almost all girls in their twenties.

He traveled to Isfahan to give a talk. Television cameras filmed him at the tomb of Omar Khayyam in Nishapur. He also went to the tomb of the poet Hafez.

In the city of Shiraz, he viewed a demonstration called self-flagellation but looked more like a line dance.

He viewed the ruins of Persepolis which was burned by Alexander the Great. Some of the fine detail of the stone work remains from 2,500 years ago.

Mt. Damavand at 18,000 feet high provided a good backdrop for the stars. Nearby he saw the tomb of Cyrus the Great in Pasargadae.

He had viewed the transit of Venus on June 8, 2004. Interestingly, the transit will be viewed again on June 5, 2012 for the second and last time in this century. The transit is when Venus crosses the face of the sun. It allows for a direct measurement of the distance from the Earth to the Sun by observing it from different locations.

The people of Iran are very interested in astronomy and Mike was able to ship them good telescopes for viewing. They viewed a meter shower.

Mike also went to Kurdistan and Iraq. A telescope dome was damaged by artillery fire in the Iran-Iraq War. Then the place was looted.

Astronomers Without Borders has expanded greatly, and now has groups in more than 100 countries. He closed with a beautiful night photo of Old Faithful.



Photo Steve Bein

## June 16, 2011

Marc Weitz (#1144)

### Returning from Adventure

**Chuck Jonkey #1026** – Invited on a 6-week trip to India by a couple of his guitar students who paid for his airfare. He had a chance to study Indian music with Ravi Shankar who invited him to play in Washington, but it fell through due to funding.

### Leaving on Adventure

**Bernie Harris #1063** – will fly to Portland for a fly-in and then visit the *Spruce Goose*.

### Other news

**Roy Roush #864** is feeling better and will return to the Club soon.

**Vince Weatherby #1060** introduced our newest member, **Bob Seiderman**, as member #1159. Bob started in the art world in the 1960s, designing many world-famous album covers.

Photo Steve Bein



### Omo Valley of Ethiopia

**Jim Dorsey #1081** took us to one of the remotest places in Africa, the Omo Valley in Ethiopia. Legend has it that this is the site of the Garden of Eden. A genetic study traces the origin of man to Ethiopia 65,000 years ago. The fact that the languages bear no resemblance to those outside the valley is a testament to the

*(Minutes continued on page 10)*

valley's remoteness. There were no roads till the 1960s, and the first trekking company did not arrive until 2000. Most people still live in mud huts and have little modern technology. The inhabitants are in tune with their environment; they can identify the scent of animal urine from a mile away, tell the species of the animal, and its sex. They can tell the weather by the feel of the air on their skin. Even so, the natives of the Omo Valley have quickly adapted to taking advantage of outside travelers, as Jim noted.

This is Jim's fifth trip to Africa. He began in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. To get to the Omo Valley he traveled by public bus through the Rift Valley to a place near the Kenyan border. The public buses were crowded affairs, where Jim had to share space with live-animal cargo. Arriving in the area, he took Pierre Odi'er's advice on getting to know a culture, one should start by finding its largest market and talking to the people.

Like most Ethiopians, many people in the valley chewed the narcotic plant qat. Qat can also be smoked. Jim saw a woman smoking a pipe and asked if he could buy it. She agreed

to sell it, provided that he shared a smoke with her first. In addition to qat, Jim tried the potent honey wine produced in the area.

In the valley, the huts are built tall.

*Photo Jim Dorsey*



*Jim with the king of the Konso Nation*

Soon after being built, the huts are consumed from the ground up by termites. By building them tall, the natives ensure that the huts remain usable as they are shortened by the termites. Sometimes the natives will have make adjustments to the sides to make sure the huts stay

straight. The huts are designed to resemble the faces of elephants, which used to roam the valley before being hunted to extinction.

At 7,000 feet, the valley can get very cold at night. The natives had an innovative way to warm their huts. After Jim went to bed, they would send in goats and sheep. The breath from the animals kept the hut warm. In the morning, they would pick up the animal dung from inside the huts and dry it for fuel.

For safety, Jim hired a soldier who turned out to be more hassle than he was worth. Despite paying him for the whole journey, the soldier soon took off, leaving him without protection.

In the valley, Jim visited a camel market, the Red Cliffs, and met the king of a local tribe who attended Oxford. The king's mother used a mop as a wig.

Crossing the Omo in a rubber canoe, Jim then met a French expat, and former legionnaire, who guided him farther into the valley. Here he met the Dashenesh tribe who make hats out of soda caps. The Africans respect their elders. They treated Jim well, calling him papa, and invited him to meet the elders. Having no written language, the history and traditions are kept verbally by the elders. They say that when an elder dies, it's like a library burning.

In this part of the valley, the entrance to the huts were two feet high, requiring Jim to crawl in. The natives make jewelry out of whatever trinkets they can find. Few of the women wear tops. The gun culture in the valley is strong. Like us, their kids begin by playing with toy guns. Jim's soldier escort told him that it would be provocative to enter the valley with a gun. Jim noted that they were the only ones without a gun, despite the restrictions.

Jim met the Mursi tribe, who walk around with guns, but wearing prim-

itive African dress. Jim was told that they are a violent tribe. They refused him permission to stay the night, and only tolerated him long enough for him to give them money for showing

*Photo Jim Dorsey*



*Jim with a Mursi mother*

off their various tribal costumes. Jim would pay for each photo, after which the tribesman would disappear into his hut and emerge wearing a new costume. He would then poke Jim with his a gun and say, "photo." Despite the supposed remoteness of the valley, this seemed like a well-established practice to mulct tourists for all their worth. This was

far from Jim's expectation of a pioneering journey into a remote area to find untainted cultures.

The tribe still wore their famous lip labrets for the benefit of the tourists. The tradition began during the slave era, when they hoped that by rendering their women ugly the slave traders wouldn't want them. This proved not to be the case. At puberty they make a slit in the lip and insert a wooden plate. The lip is enlarged by inserting successively larger clay disks.

It was P.T. Barnum who made this tribe famous by displaying them as freaks and calling them "Ubangi," which is a made up word that doesn't

*(Minutes continued on page 12)*

mean anything. Jim asked his guide what the tribe did with all the money they collected since they still live a relatively primitive lifestyle. Jim was told that they spend all their money on liquor and bullets. Jim saw four Mursi villages in five days.

*Photo Jim Dorsey*



*Jim with Mursi warriors*

The Hamar people were the last tribe Jim visited. The Hamar make purses out of gourds and wear cowry shells because of their vulvic symbolism. The big event in the Omo Valley is the bull-jumping ceremony. It's a sacred ceremony where one can only attend by invitation or by simply bribing a local tribesman. Jim took the second option. The ceremony is a violent rite of passage where a boy becomes a man by successfully running across the backs of five live bulls

The ceremony takes place on a dry lake bed. Jim found drinking water using the same method as the locals: by following baboons to a water source. The ceremony takes two days and includes a dance. Tribes from all over the valley attend. Everyone provides their own seating at the event by carrying a portable stool. There is

not much to these stools. Jim tried sitting on one and thought the seat might come out his mouth.

The dance ceremony was led by a woman who was known as a first wife. First wives cannot be divorced. The women shout insults at the men who respond by whipping them. The more scarred and injured a woman is, the more the tribe respects her. Women without scars are ostracized in their old age for not being a good member of the tribe.

The father of the hopeful bride-to-be arrives with all his cattle to demonstrate his wealth. The boy then picks

*Photo Jim Dorsey*



*Jim with Danenesh Elders*

the bulls based on their calmness. The bulls are lined up and the ceremony begins. He must run across the bulls' backs five times. If he is successful, then the man takes his bride and a wedding follows the ceremony. If he fails, then the women of the tribe beat him mercilessly. He can try again the following year. After the wedding the man spends 28 days in isolation before moving into the home of his bride. Jim ended with a video clip of the ceremony.

*Photo Steve Bein*



**June 23, 2011**

*Bob Zeman (#878)*

**L**arry Schutte welcomed all including **Milt Valois #974.**

**Chuck Jonkey #1026** records tribal music around the world. He approached a master carver with his electric guitar made out of oak. The master carver took two months to make beautiful carvings for the guitar which Chuck showed to the members.



Photo Steve Bein

**Bob Oberto** has a job flying at Edwards AFB. He flies a Pawnee crop duster to aid in testing sailplanes.

**Larry Stern** has taken two bicycle trips of 54 and 60 miles to keep in shape.

**Bob Silver** told of obtaining a Mercedes 170S cabriolet from Werner Von Braun.

Deep snowdrifts have caused **Ralph Perez** to drop his quest to hike the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada. He completed 700 miles and still has hopes to complete the length of the trail in California.

We received a postcard from **Bob Gannon.**

**Bob Zeman #878** had lunch with USAF Major General Susan Helms. She is the commandant of Vandenberg Air Force Base. She was in the first class of females to graduate from the Air Force Academy and she was

also an astronaut on the *Endeavor.*

Pam Madden is moving to San Jose. She donated a number of items for the NOHA auction. Her father-in-law was **Samuel Lutz.**

**Dave Banks #1156** introduced new member **Doug Brown #1160** whose mother was a Harvey girl. Doug has backpacked in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Grand Canyon and a remote area of Yellowstone. Doug noted that he met Julia Seton, widow of Ernest Thompson Seton. As a young boy, Ernest founded the Woodcraft Rangers, which were a big influence on the founding of the Boy Scouts of America.



Photo Steve Bein

**Circumnavigation – Low Key**

**D**ena Barnes sailed with Captain Woody Henderson from California to Australia. She introduced Captain Woody, who writes for the magazine *Latitudes and Attitudes.* In addition to writing, Captain Woody organizes sailing trips and also delivers boats.

The boat used to circumnavigate the world was a sloop-rigged 33-foot California yacht called *Low Key.* It is made of fiberglass with a fin keel and a skag-hung rudder.

The two left for Hawaii in May, 2004, and then spent twenty-seven days sailing to Nuku Hiva in the Marquesas. They arrived in time for the

*(Minutes continued on page 14)*

*(Minutes continued from page 13)*

Haeva Festival and witnessed the adult dancers along with the children. In Moorea they swam with sting rays.

They sailed west to Suvarov in the Cook Islands on the way to Tonga.

*Photo Capt. Woody*



*Capt. Woody & Dena*

The steering system they used worked great, but its usage is limited to a 45-foot long boat. The boat was designed with a flattened keel, which made it faster, but a leak developed at the rudder post which was difficult to repair. They sailed to Sydney and then up the eastern coast of Australia to Darwin. Dena left the boat and Captain Woody then sailed west to Cocos Island where he stayed a week.

He then sailed a long leg to Durban and then to Cape Town, where he was invited to the yacht club.

From Cape Town to Brazil took thirty-one days; a pod of about 200 pilot whales joined him for a day. As he approached the coast, he could see the outflow of the Amazon River more than 100 miles out. This fresh water is safe to drink.

*Low Key* sailed on to Cartagena, Bonaire, San Blas Islands, and

through the Panama Canal. North up the Mexican coast with stops at Puerto Vallarta and Zihuatenejo got him home to California.

*Photo Capt. Woody*



*Capt. Woody, Dena & friend*

His water maker pumped out one gallon per hour, so he showered with salt water and rinsed with fresh. He agreed it is a good idea to use a harness, but it involves much clipping and unclipping. He slept in three-hour shifts, and states definitely that a GPS is much better than a sextant.

He also carried an EPIRB (Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon.) This device sends a signal which is picked up by satellite. The Coast Guard can then receive it and respond.

*Photo Steve Bein*



**June 30, 2011**

*Bob Zeman (#878)*

**P**resident **Larry Schutte #1121** who is always quick with the quips welcomed members, guests and a few women, including Pam Madden. Pam is moving out of the area.

**Steve Bein #1057** returned from storm chasing through the six-state area of the northern high plains. The group drove 300 to 600 miles per day. One hailstorm lasted 40 to 50 minutes. Another rainstorm was so heavy that the windshield wipers could not keep up. They saw no tornadoes.

**Bernie #1063** and Devera **Harris** flew his plane with the AirVenturers to the old McClellan AFB, and then on to Portland. Meeting Bill and Pat Murrell, they toured the spruce goose in McMinnville, Oregon. They then took a Columbia River boat cruise and went to Astoria where they met **Bob Walters #1047** and Marie Martin who came over from southern Washington. There was rain on their planned departure day so Devera flew back commercially, while Bernie flew solo through the clouds and rain back to Santa Monica.

**Alan Feldstein #1094** returned from his fifteen-day raft trip down the Colorado River. The water flowed at the high rate of 23,000 cubic feet per second. On a hike, Alan got separated from his group for an hour and a half, but all trails lead to the river. One boat flipped and the water maker was lost.

We had a guest who turned out to be a former student of **Pierre Odier #988**. The student and others were escorted to West Africa years ago by Pierre.

**Jeffrey Goddard #1010** and his wife drove to Snowflake, Arizona. They passed many burned areas.

**Bob Ianello #1100** and his wife drove to the Hualapai Reservation in Arizona. Here one can drive down to the Colorado River for a one-day raft trip. They were picked up by helicopter and later went to the skywalk. Bob is USMC retired and now rides dirt bikes in the Big Bear area. He rode 82 miles in one day but that convinced him not to ride more. So he ran a checkpoint for the big 200-mile ride.

We received postcards from **Bob Gannon #1066** in Niue and the Solomon Islands.

**Vince Weatherby #1060** reported that **Frank Haigler #825** is out of ICU and doing better, but he has to return for more surgery.

**John Goddard #507** donated for NOHA artwork done by a Masaai lady in Arusha, Tanzania. The design resembles a Javanese batik.

**Steve Bein #1057** donated a survival knife and a painting by one of Akira's students. He also donated a Damascus barrel shotgun.

**Steve Lawson #1032** went rafting with his daughter on the lower Kern River. In one drop, Steve was tossed into the cold water.

*(Minutes continued on page 16)*

**Lord of the Cello** Photos Shane Berry

Allan Smith met Marston Smith (no relation) and was impressed with Marston's performance.

Marston performs worldwide on a unique 6-stringed electric cello of his own design mounted on medieval battle armor. Marston sometimes believes he used to live as a romantic in the middle ages. He is a true showman.

As he strummed his cello, he told of growing up and riding dirt bikes. He had an organic garden, studied archeology and music. He performed with many combos giving shows in the Southern California area.

Unfortunately, the Las Flores Canyon fire in November, 1993, destroyed his home. Marston set his cello down and took up sculpturing using bronze. His sculptures are now on display in Palm Springs.

He got back into music and has played the cello in Malta, Rome, Florence, Istanbul and he even went to

Burning Man four times. He has also played at the Stash Castle, which is outside of Rome. He hinted that the legendary Stash may be a vampire.

He has performed on the Tonight Show, Cirque du Soleil, International Jazz Festival, and in the Las Vegas casinos. His music has been in films including *Out of Africa* and *An Officer and a Gentleman*.

Marston has also performed for Rupert Murdoch, Tony Blair, the Clintons,



and the Schwarzeneggers. We were fortunate to hear him perform. Thanks to Allan Smith who helped set this up.



Pres. Larry Schutte explains to Marston that the coveted Club Medallion is a Chick Magnet

**July 7, 2011**

Bob Zeman (#878)

**Pierre Odier** #988 filled in as president and program chair tonight, showing he still remembered the duties he performed years ago.

**Ric Flores** #1120 and **Shane Berry** #1093 hiked up Mt. Baldy last weekend where they were attacked by bees. It also rained heavily.

**Bob Walters** #1047 was able to view a working PT boat in Washington.

**Steve Bein** #1057 went down to Ensenada to view his boat.

**Bernie Harris** #1063 is flying to Camp Pendleton with the Air Venturers. In late July he will travel to Western Australia for his nephew's Perth wedding. Bernie and Devera will also visit Darwin and Ayer's Rock.

**Don Waters** #1104 remembered sailing with his young son years ago. His son left recently on the TransPac race.

Unfortunately, the Orange County contingent missed tonight. **Frank Haigler** #825 had one operation and is due for another.

Night of High Adventure is set for October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have speakers. **Steve Bein** #1057, **John Goddard** #1010 and Pam Madden have donated a number of items for auction.

A cruise to Catalina using the boats of members is tentatively set for July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Charles Carmona** #1136 is scheduling another trip to the tourmaline mines of northern San Diego County on November 6<sup>th</sup>. It will include an underground tour.

## Northern and Eastern Cambodia

**D**aniel Robinson has been a writer for the *Lonely Planet* guidebooks since 1989. His two most recent books are on *Borneo* and *Cambodia*. Tonight he took us through the Cambodia book telling us of the research and testing he does.

For the restaurants and hotels, he has to verify the address, phone number, prices and yes, even the name. He does not eat or stay at each one, but he does drop in, and he verifies independently the quality. Every day is a mission taking up to twelve hours of work.

*Photo Daniel Robinson*



*Daniel and his Camry, which had to be winched up a wet-season detour on the way up to Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia*

He showed a number of slides where the road had washed out and how the cars and trucks dealt with this. Obviously, he has to note that certain roads are subject to being washed out in the rainy season.

There are many remnants of train tracks in Cambodia. And the natives are resourceful. They construct plat-

*(Minutes continued on page 18)*

*(Minutes continued from page 17)*

forms about five feet square on top of two axels. A motor at the rear attached by a belt to an axel propels the railway tram. Upon approaching another tram, there is a pecking order and one is dismantled to provide room for the other tram.

A big problem in Cambodia is destruction of the environment. It is perpetuated by both the poor people

*Photo Daniel Robinson*



*Daniel Robinson atop Bokor Hill Station in Cambodia, with the Vietnamese island of Phu Quoc in the background*

and those in power. The poor cut down valuable wood such as teak and try to sell it. Those in power grant a concession to dredge sand out of the river which causes loss of fish and mangrove habitat. The sand is sent to Singapore for use in construction.

Daniel was impressed by the number of people who have cell phones. Motor bikes are also common.

He drove to Chi Phat to report on a village in the jungle. Here he saw many cars impounded for illegally harvesting logs.

At a popular hotel, a fence separated the hotel grounds from the jungle.

The macaques eagerly came to the fence to view the tourists.

Up on Bokor Mountain was a former palace, hotel, and casino built in 1921. The buildings along with the post office are now skeletons. There are also caves in the mountains.

Daniel also reported on the Khmer Rouge. He showed the home of Ta Mok in Anlong Veng. He was a military commander in charge of the massacres. Ta Mok died in 2006 and his tomb is available for viewing. About two million were killed by the Khmer rouge before the Viet Nam army stopped it. Daniel also had photos of the place where Pol Pot was killed.

He closed with views of the Prasat Preah Vihear Temple near the Thailand border.

Construction started in the 9<sup>th</sup> century when the Khmer ruled. The temple was dedicated to Shiva.



*Photo Steve Bein*

## **July 14, 2011**

*Marc Weitz (#1144)*

### **R**eturning from Adventure

**Jeff Holmes #1148.** As an attorney representing the working poor, Jeff took a few days off to visit the Central Valley and some of those whom he represents. He said that it is a totally different world. Jeff also mentioned that the Yosemite Valley has seen an unprecedented rainfall this year, creat-

ing new and unnamed waterfalls.

**Eric (Guest)** – Shot the last roll of Kodachrome motion picture film. It was the last to be processed after the deadline for developing the film. The footage is of a reenactment of OSS swimmers that resembles film shot in the 1940s.

**Shane Berry #1093** – Reported on **Ralph Perez #1150** who has been hiking the Pacific Crest Trail for most of the summer. He has now reached Alaska but will have to return to complete an unfinished portion in California where he got snowed out.

**Bob Walters #1047** – was staying at a cabin in Washington when the neighbor's cabin suddenly exploded. His wife, there alone, saw an old lady struggle out of the cabin and into a lawn chair. The lady was an invalid and couldn't move farther. Bob's wife tried to move her away with much difficulty until some men showed up to help. Apparently, the woman was suffering from smoking ailments, and one of her oxygen tanks exploded. When the ambulance arrived, the first thing she wanted was a smoke.

**Doug Brown #1160** – Accompanied fellow member **Dave Banks #1156** on a late-night photo shoot around Hollywood Blvd.

### Leaving on Adventure

**Bernie Harris #1063** – Off to Australia for a wedding and has successfully recovered from recent surgery.

**Doug Brown #1160** – Leaving Sunday for Cedar City, Utah, for the Shakespeare Festival.

## Rafting the Grand Canyon

*Photos Dave Gunn*

**D**ave Gunn, a backpacker, climber, fisherman, mountaineer, and river rafter, was introduced by fellow member Alan Feldstein #1094.

Dave has rafted down the challenging Colorado River four times, and he came to



*Dave Gunn*

talk about his rafting adventures. Both Alan Feldstein and Allan Smith #1069 are good friends who have accompanied him on two separate trips. Dave affectionately referred to one as “Single-L” and the other as “Double-L,” based on the different spellings of their names. Their friendship was evidenced much playful banter during the presentation.

Since Dave's first commercial trip down the Colorado River in 1984, he's returned three times on his own private expeditions. Dams have reduced the original 1,000-mile downriver trip to just the 226 miles between Lee's Ferry and Lake Mead. The river is much safer now, but still has its share of manageable risks and elements of unpredictability.



*Raft used to explore the Colorado River down the Grand Canyon*

*(Minutes continued on page 20)*

(Minutes continued from page 19)

John Wesley Powell first rafted the entire Colorado River in 1869. Powell covered 1,000 miles in just 99 days. He did this despite having lost an arm in the Civil War. Dave read periodically from accounts of Powell's trip, and also mentioned Michael Ghiglieri's *Over the Edge: Death in Grand Canyon*, that chronicles the stories of eighty-two people who have drowned in the Canyon. Most are young men who failed to wear lifejackets.

Dave chronicled his journeys with photos and videos supplied by both Single- and Double-L Allans. The trip started at Lee's Ferry in two yellow rafts, down Marble Canyon, not yet the Grand Canyon, through the Badger Rapids.

On shore each night, the expedition set up tents, a cooking area, a hand-wash station, and a latrine. Everything had to be packed in and out, since the National Parks Service imposes strict rules to keep the canyon as pristine as possible. This didn't stop the crew from enjoying their nightly margaritas. Alan Feldstein and Dave volunteered to cook every night to avoid cleaning the dishes and dealing with the toilet, which they nicknamed "the



*Rafting the Grand Canyon – Lee's Ferry*

groover." The groover is a military ammunition case that is used for a toilet so that the waste can be packed out of the canyon. Sitting on the groover

leaves marks on one's tush, hence the name. A toilet seat has since been added for comfort.

The expedition visited Red Wall Canyon, a cavern carved out by the river. Although Powell suggested that 50,000 people could fit in the cavern, Dave said the number is smaller. They visited some exploratory drilling shafts for mines and Saddle Canyon –

a narrow canyon that ends in a pool with a waterfall trickling in. The Anasazi Indians built cliff dwellings in the area and farmed the delta.

Marble Canyon transitioned into the Grand Canyon with some salt formations. These were

held sacred by the Hopi Indians, who forced young men to walk miles to bring back salt as a rite of passage. The evidence of Native American presence was everywhere. One rock was carved into a perfect chair that Dave nicknamed "The Throne." Some of the deltas still hold remnants of buildings and fractured pottery. Along the way, the crew saw a lot of wildlife, including big horn sheep, rams, ducks,

(Minutes continued on page 21)



*One of the many Caves found along the Grand Canyon*

## Forthcoming Programs

- July 21, 2011 – Dr. Craig B. Smith – Stragglers: Prisoners of Conscience  
 July 28, 2011 – **LADIES NIGHT** – Fran Capo – Fast Talking Woman Adventurer  
 August 4, 2011 – David Banks – On Location Shooting in Australia  
 August 11, 2011 – Marc Weitz – Art Deco Architecture in Africa  
 August 18, 2011 – **LADIES NIGHT** – Father Gregory Boyle – Nothing Stops A Bullet Like A Job  
 August 25, 2011 – Ricardo Flores – Backyard Wilderness  
 September 1, 2011 – Dennis Przywara – Racing Rickshaws in India

(Minutes continued from page 20)

geese, bucks and, of course, insects.

The expedition took a break from the river at the Phantom Ranch, where they were able to have some beer. Postcards mailed there are carried to the rim by mule. The expedition made many excursions into the side canyons, where the water is often warmer than the main river. The striations in the rock made for some beautiful photos. One such place was Elves Canyon, where different levels of terraces provide great photos and many climbing challenges. Another interesting feature is the Powell Plateau, which is the largest detached mesa in the canyon. It even has its own species of squirrel.

Allan Smith's expedition had mounted a GoPro Camera to the front of the raft. With this camera, Allan was able to capture some interesting film of their descents through the rapids. Rapids were a constant source of hazard and fun on



*The Grand Canyon as viewed from the Colorado River*

the trip. The canyon drops 40 feet every mile, providing a solid flow of water. In 1966, a landslide created the

Crystal Rapids – very challenging but not as bad as they used to be says Dave. The Lava Rapids formed one of the last hurdles. They resulted from a volcanic explosion a million

years ago and created a 2,000-foot dam that lasted 250,000 years. It is possible to walk around them, but there are rattlesnakes on one side and slick volcanic rock on the other. It's easier to face the rapids. The expedition ended on land owned by the Walapai Indians, who do their best to gouge rafting trips with exorbitant use fees.

Dave's four expeditions were nearly flawless – not even a flipped raft or lost equipment. Minor foot injuries were the most common problem, due to the crew walking around barefoot.



*Photo Steve Bain*



The  
Adventurers' Club News®  
PO Box 31226  
Los Angeles CA 90031

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

August 2011