

The

Adventurers' Club News

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The Adventurers' Club News

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N.O.H.A. – Night of High Adventure

Robert F. Zeman #878

The annual Night of High Adventure (N.O.H.A.) was staged again in Santa Monica, and once again featured top notch speakers in a show-case for excellence.

President Vince Weatherby called the gathering together after we were piped in by bagpiper Greg Elliot. The traditional toasts were given by the youngest member, John Collett, newest member, Larry Schutte, the oldest member John Booth, and the longest member Gene Wallace.



Gene Arias returns Club flag

Two expedition flags returned

Pierre Odier went to Borneo to study two remote tribes in Kalimantan. His boat broke down on the way up river and he hopped on another with his gear and guide. The natives had long earlobes and carved totem poles.

Gene Arias accompanied the Flight of Discovery a partial recreation of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Despite a helicopter

crash killing three participants, the team of geologists, botanists, anthropologists and scientists continued on over sections of the route in ten states. Gene ran parts of the route and took photos.

Adventure by Sea

Ted Ralston has been connected with experimental Polynesian voyaging through interests in the Pacific and outrigger sports. He explained that Polynesian voyaging came from west to east

against the prevailing wind. It required an excellent plan, precise navigation, strong social support, and onboard life support.

Ironically, Easter Island – which is 1,000 miles west of Chile – was settled before Hawaii and New Zealand. Captain James Cook studied the thoughts, traits, languages and behavior of Pacific Islanders and noted the similarities. Ted showed a line drawn south from Molokai and past Maui

(N.O.H.A. continued on page 2)

and straight to Tahiti.

The old Polynesian boats were twin-masted with a double hull. Woody Brown served on the ground crew for Lindbergh, set soaring records,



Ted Ralston

surfing Makaha and Christmas Island, and also studied the design of the old boats. He helped design a replica with asymmetric hulls on a catamaran. Others helped out including Hobbie Alter, Ben Finney, Tommy Holmes, and Myron Finney.

Finding their way was done by training in stars, currents, swells, and birds flights. From his home in the Carolines, Mau Piailug brought the haven-finding skills passed down from the ancient mariners.

Their successful replica voyage was coordinated by the Polynesian Voyage Society.

Adventure by Land

Jo Anne Van Tilburg is an archaeologist and the Director of the Easter Island Statue Project, a comprehensive field inventory and stylistic analysis of the monolithic statues for which the island is world-famous.



Jo Anne Van Tilburg

Only one-third the size of Catalina, Easter Island (Rapa Nui) has been home to upwards of 10,000 people

in the past. Thor Heyerdahl's wrote about Easter island in his book *Aku Aku*. But the first major expedition to the island was led by Katherine Routledge and her husband William Scoresby Routledge. They landed March 28, 1914 and camped there for 17 months. There were hardships on the voyage and then food shortages, bad weather and a life-threatening native uprising while there.

The Routledges conducted dozens of excavations of statues and mapped sites throughout the island. The population had increased from the 1860s when smallpox decimated the population to 111.

Jo Anne arrived in 1982 via jet for archaeological studies. With the help of dozens of volunteers including Jim Heaton she surveyed about 80% of the island and noted locations of 887 statues and statue sites.

The Rano Raraku quarry is where 95% of the statues were carved. Carving began in the interior about 1000 A.D. and continued on the exterior until at least 1500. The largest statue or moai is 20 meters long and weighs 200 tons but the average weight is eight tons. About 90 to 100 have head-dresses which come from another quarry.



Easter Island

Interestingly, Jo Anne's guide was the

Guests of the Maasai

James Michael Dorsey #1081

We stepped out of the car into the hot blowing dust of southern Kenya, and into a different world.

A dozen stately Maasai in bright red and purple robes surrounded us. Ebony colored hands reached out for ours in welcome, and two different ways of life came together.

This was not a “cultural” village where a safari company paid the people to dress up, sing and dance for tourists. We came as personal friends of an elder.

This was the family of my friend, Moses, and what a long strange trip it was to get here.

I met Moses Pulei about three years ago at the Los Angeles Adventurer’s Club. He was well dressed, articulate, and I pegged him as a successful young professional. Only later did a mutual friend tell me he is a Maasai warrior who lives part of the year in a dung hut in Kenya.

Moses is about to receive his Doctorate in Philosophy from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena where he lives most of

the time with his wife Brittany, and daughter Charis. He will become only the sixth known Maasai to receive a Ph.D. He also speaks nine languages.

“You must visit my village some-time,” was the invitation he issued at our first meeting. Intrigued by this man who moves so easily between two very different worlds, I set this as a goal.

Just over two years later, my wife, Irene, and I were standing under a blazing August Kenyan sun shaking hands with his uncles and aunts, nieces and nephews. Moses smiled broadly as he introduced us to each person. He was dressed in a bright

red Shuka (Maasai cloak) with his walking stick, that no Maasai man would be without. On his feet were traditional rubber sandals made from a truck tire, and he wore beaded earrings and necklace.

I was seeing my sophisticated friend from Los Angeles in his home element, and he was stately.

There were about a dozen people present

(Maasai continued on page 4)



Moses Pulei with Jim Dorsey and ACLA Flag

Guests of the Maasai

(Maasai continued from page 3)

with many more in the bush tending cattle.

The women were glorious with their long dangling earrings and layer upon layer of necklaces. Maasai are world renowned for their beadwork and everyone had turned out in their very best to welcome us. Only a couple spoke some English, learned at local primary schools, but language was no barrier. They accepted us as friends straight away.

Moses told me only one other white person had been to this village besides a couple missionaries, Dave Dolan from the Adventurer's Club.

The boma (village) is called Maili-Tisa and it means "Nine Miles," the distance south to the Tanzanian border. It sits in Namanga, Kenya, East Africa. It is hot, dry and desolate.

Moses pointed to the nearby hills with his walking stick and said there are many leopards there and quite a few Cape Buffalo. This was his way of telling us not stray far from the village without an escort. Then I noticed all of the men carrying spears.

He bade us to follow him and we walked through the only opening of a circular wall of thorn bushes that formed a shoulder-

high barrier around the boma. These thorn walls are traditional to keep out predators. A large thorn branch is dragged into the opening after the last person enters at night.

Inside the thorn fence, smoke from cooking fires pervaded the air. We observed several



Maasai ladies in bright red and purple robes

small, round, shoulder-high huts made from mud and dung smeared over a tree branch frame with thatched roofs. We ducked to enter and made an immediate turn once inside. I filled the opening and almost

got stuck. This entrance helps to keep out the weather and confuses any predator that might breach the thorn wall. Next there was a tiny wooden pen where newborn goats are kept at night. This keeps the newborns warm till they get older, and they are also a last line of defense, braying out if an animal should enter, waking all inside the hut.

A fire glowed in the center where Chai tea was kept ready throughout the day. The only ventilation was a tiny hole in the side of the wall and smoke was chokingly thick.

We squatted on the dirt floor and were given sweet Chai. The four of us filled the hut, and my shoulders brushed both walls as I wedged myself into a sleeping platform.

(Maasai continued on page 7)

(N.O.H.A. continued from page 2)

great grandson of Juan Tapano, Katherine Routledge's chief assistant in the field. Johannes Van Tilburg, Jo Anne's husband and architect also aided in the surveying.

They also conducted an experiment that proved that native islanders could move statues with relative ease over as much as 15 km.

For more information read Jo Anne's book *Among Stone Giants*.

Adventure by Air

Frederic A. Madenwald spent twenty-two years in the Air Force. After retiring he joined the Boeing Company as an experimental test pilot. He finished his career with 5,503 hours in fifty different aircraft with zero accidents.

Mr. Madenwald showed a history of flight starting with the Wright brothers. The brothers developed the wing, propeller, stabilizer and controls for pitch, roll and yaw. They were geniuses in their thinking.

Planes developed rapidly but could go into a death spiral until 1915 when a method was devised to get out of it.

Charles Lindbergh started flying mail planes and crashed five of them. But on his trans-Atlantic flight he was only three miles off by dead reckoning and he had enough gas to fly on to Rome.

Jimmy Doolittle was the first to take off and land in 00 visibility in 1929 using avionics.

Frederic then got into supersonic flying showing the Bell X-15 being dropped from a B-52. He took time out to introduce Bob

Gilliland in the audience, chief test pilot of the Lockheed-built SR-71. Using ramjet technology it flew more than mach 2.5.

Frederic has flown the F-22 stealth fighter and the F-35 joint strike fighter. He was involved in production testing of the F-15 and F/A-18 aircraft.



Two F/A-18 Hornets in flight

Adventure – Beyond



Paul Weissman

Paul Weissman is a senior research scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory where he has worked for 32 years. He specializes in the study of comets, using both theoretical and observational techniques.

The four parts of a comet are the coma, nucleus, dust trail and ion trail. The head is the very front of the comet while the nucleus behind is a big and dirty snowball about eight by five kilometers.

Paul showed a slide of his "office" which was sitting at the base of the 200-inch giant telescope on Mt. Palomar. It has been in operation for 58 years and is operated electronically.

(N.O.H.A. continued on page 6)

The Galileo spacecraft was launched from a rocket to Jupiter. A comet hit the night side of Jupiter but Galileo was positioned to take pictures of it. Galileo transmitted excellent pictures of Jupiter just prior to impact. Temperatures reached 2,000 degrees Centegrade.

For the future, JPL wants to send a craft to circle a comet, study it and try to land on it.



The eight major planets

Adventurer of the Year – Bob Gannon

Bob Gannon took off some years ago for a flying trip around the world in his Cessna 182. He landed in 75 airports in 21 countries before crashing in Kenya.

Undaunted, Bob started again to circle the world in 2000, but this time heading west. He has flown through the south Pacific, southeast Asia, Africa and his plane is now in Brazil. He is going down to Antarctica and then up South America. He has landed in 550 places in 51 countries. Our congratulations to Bob Gannon – Adventurer of the Year.



Bob Gannon and Cheetah

The program would not be complete without thanks to all who put it together from organizer Jim Heaton, MC Jim Dorsey, photographer and auction coordinator Gene Arias, president Vince Weatherby, video and audio supervisor Steve Lawson and many others.

Jo Anne Van Tilburg said that an explorer is a person who travels in search of geographical or scientific information. An adventurer is a person who pursues dangerous or risky undertakings. We saw and heard excellent examples of these tonight.

(Letters continued from page 15)

programs have done the basic groundwork, making the job of program chair easier and we have benefitted by them. Just look over the past year to see how successful outside assistance has been.

To those who have helped, a giant thanks. Please continue supporting our new program chairman, Paul Isley, in the same way to continue our tradition of excellence.

Steve Bein #1057

We all reach out to you, Steve, with a heart-felt thanks for a superb job giving the Club perhaps the best year of programming yet. – Editor

To the Editor:

What a marvelous job Bob Zeman does reporting the events. This one [on N.O.H.A.] is superb. I don't think I could match it if I tried. I hope you keep up the good work.

Bernie Harris #1063

Bob certainly does a superb and consistent job of keeping us up to date on Club events. I add my own thanks, Bob, since without your contributions, this magazine would be much less – Editor

(Maasai continued from page 4)

Moses sat down to “Eat the News” with his cousin. This is a tradition where a returned traveler relates all that has happened since his departure. The listener responds with a series of low sounds after each sentence to let the news talker know he is being listened to. The result is a melodious interaction that takes on a cadence quite pleasing to the ear.

Moses’ cousin nursed her baby during this exchange, oblivious to all but the news.

In the center of the village is a round corral made of tree branches where the older goats are kept. Cattle are in a separate corral and guarded all night by spear toting watchmen.

Animals are central to the Maasai way of life.

That evening Moses told us it is a tradition to honor guests by sacrificing a goat. One was selected and taken into the bush, where it was smothered to death by two warriors.

They told me they consider this more humane than cutting its throat. I did not agree, but was not there to judge. We were being paid an honor, and I respected their customs.

Once the goat was unconscious its throat was slit, and the younger boys jockeyed for a taste of its blood. This

blood, mixed with milk, is a staple of the Maasai diet.

The goat was slow roasted over an open fire, and we entered a communal dining hut, sitting under a poster of Bob Marley, to eat with our fingers. The meat was delicious and a heaping tray was passed around several times. Our chairs were made from tree branches covered with goat hide. I would have liked one for my TV room back home. Moses sat at the table head, telling story after story of life in the bush as a child; how his grandfather taught him to track animals, and how Maasai boys were

required to hunt a lion with a spear to become a man. This practice was outlawed by the government in the early 1970s, as too many lions were being killed, but some people still practice it covertly. He showed us a scar on his leg that he received during a lion hunt.

As he talked, his relatives took turns walking past the hut, sticking their head through the opening and smiling before disappearing, not wishing to intrude, but as curious about us as we were of them.

We were fascinated by his tales of life among wild animals, and could have lis-

(Maasai continued on page 8)



Sacrificing a goat

tened all night, but it had been a long day. We were invited to stay in the huts but the sleeping area was too small for me to fit. ***I was told not to worry because leopards do not like white meat*** Moses had thought ahead and erected a tent outside the boma walls. All the children gathered because they have never seen a tent before. They called it an “Instant Hut,” and are fascinated that the zipper makes the entrance disappear.

Maasai love to joke and tell us not to worry when the leopards come, (not if, but when!) because everyone has a spear. (Everyone but us.) When I asked about the safety of sleeping outside the thorn wall, I was told not to worry because leopards do not like white meat!

Inside the tent, we watched as tiny hands from outside poked and prodded this strange mobile home. More and more people arrived from other bomas who had heard of the exotic visitors living inside. Throughout the night, people ran their hands over the nylon walls. We invited three small boys inside who sat with wide eyes and giggled at this alien creation. One elderly grandfather bent to peer inside but we could not entice him to enter. He left, laughing and shaking his head. Beside the constant flow of curious people, a goat went into labor right outside, and we realized there would be no sleep that night.

They called us before dawn, and I entered a dung filled corral to photograph the women milking goats and cattle. It was like walking in mush. They were

much amused by me and smiled for my camera as they worked. Irene was handed the baby goat, born minutes ago right outside our tent. One life was given in our honor and another born to take its place, Maasai karma.

The grandfather who would not enter our tent asked Irene to step into the goat pen, saying they liked her, and she would keep them calm. She waded into the dung carrying the newborn baby and was surrounded by bleating young charges.

The young boys arrived to take the cattle out for the day's grazing. Maasai boys begin tending cattle at about age four, and it is serious business. Maasai measure their wealth by the number of livestock a village owns. They never enter the bush without a spear, and lions fear the sound of their cowbells because it is well known that they will take on a lion with a spear to protect their cattle. Moses related a story about Maasai visiting the zoo in Los Angeles. He said when they approached the lion enclosure the big cats cowered in the back of it.

First thing in the morning, Moses was already on his cell phone. Men lined up to talk with him and he excused himself to “take a meeting.” Standing under a tree, deep in conversation, I realized he is a very important man out here. This was his office, and he was working. One of the men told me, “Maasai can't walk five feet without having a meeting.” I saw this was true.

I asked Moses if he has tried to explain his other life to his family, and he replied that he had, but most of it was beyond their comprehension.

His goal is to help them receive an education like

his own. He ***Moses called everyone together and presented me with a spear.*** was sponsored by

World Vision as a child, the NGO that helps those less privileged to go to school and progress through life.

Traditional Maasai do not believe in education as we in the West do. Why would you need schooling to tend cattle or be a warrior? Moses' father called it "White Man's Magic," and his resistance prevented Moses from starting school until he was almost nine. In high school, he walked twenty-eight miles each day, wearing his shuka to save his uniform. He bathed in a cattle trough before entering the classroom. Missionaries helped him secure scholarships, and he ventured from Africa to Whitworth College in Washington State where he excelled, and became student body president.

Today, he is associated with the Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, and is working hard to give back to society, busy with numerous Church sponsored projects such as bringing water to the area, and creating shelters for battered women. He is involved in countless charitable projects, and is in great demand as a guest speaker. He is trying to preserve the old ways while slowly bringing his village into the modern world. He must walk a fine line to do this.

The Maasai are traditional nomads who used to move their villages to follow game. He told me when he first went to school in America and came home, he was never sure exactly where his village would be.

Today, they have no intention of moving. They now have piped in water, thanks to his efforts, and are transitioning to farmers, as part of the "New Africa." This is obvious from those among them dressed in t-shirts and jeans, and who have heard of the Internet but have no idea exactly what it is.

Before we left, Moses called everyone together and presented me with a spear. It was used long ago in a lion hunt, and was the highest honor he could pay me.

The Maasai are among the last tribes in Africa to cling to the old ways, and many

I won't have any goats, but will sacrifice a hamburger in his honor.

people ridicule them for this. We

witnessed first hand an ancient way of life that will most probably vanish in the next few years, some of it from outside influences, and some by choice.

Before I got into the car, I told Moses that when I see him next time back in Los Angeles I won't have any goats, but will sacrifice a hamburger in his honor. This sent his head back in laughter, and I saw my old friend who moves so easily between two very different worlds.

At home, weeks later, I still have the smell of this village with me. It is dung and dust, smoke and cattle. It takes me back at will.

Active Local Members by ZIP Code

At the request of several members and under the gentle prodding of Bob Silver, we have produced this membership listing for active members located in the Greater Los Angeles area, organized by ZIP Code. If you have no way to get to the Club, or if you just want to share your ride, check your ZIP Code and see if any members live near you or on your route. Then look up their phone number or email in the official membership list, and set up a ride sharing arrangement.

(You can pull this section out of the magazine, and keep it near your phone.)

ZIP Code	Name	Member No.	ZIP Code	Name	Member No.
90004	Heaton III, James	1020	90266	Robinson, Jerold	1123
90015	Bollerup, Jens	1105	90274	Lowell, Robert	1108
90017	Horowitz, Thomas	924	90274	Walters, Robert	1047
90031	Storms, L.C.	914	90275	Jensen, Peter	1101
90039	Schutte, Larry	1121	90291	Grober, David	1068
90039	White, Ralph	942	90301	Peterman, Steven	986
90041	Odier, Pierre	988	90402	Harris, Bernie	1063
90042	Rozaire, Charles	744	90620	Ehlers, Walt	1119
90046	Seyfried, Henry	881	90703	Berry, Shane	1093
90048	Venola, Richard	1071	90703	Stern, Lawrence	1112
90049	Dahl, David	993	90717	Gairola, Vimal	1075
90056	Benner, Robert	707	90720	Booth, John	869
90064	Bein, Steve	1054	90731	Lane, Mark	989
90064	Yowell, Robert	1090	90731	Litchfield, Richard	1118
90066	Flores, Richard	1120	90732	Ghormley, Justin	998
90068	Hall, J.	1018	90807	Kehler, Henry	568
90069	Melchior, Ib	892	91011	Gilfof, Tom	1055
90078	Borthwick, Derek	1061	91011	Goddard, John	507
90220	Seaman, Robert	806	91011	Hulet, Claude	1114
90220	Waters, Donald	1104	91101	Nochebuena, Rogelio	1103
90232	Dorsey, James	1081	91101	Perez, Robert	958
90241	Steverson, London	1015	91103	Richards, William	1053
90249	Silver, Robert	728	91104	Frank, Robert	1084
90255	Motoyama, Tad	1110	91105	MacCready, Paul	959
90255	Sechrist, Robert	828	91106	Aronoff, Robert	837
90266	Garrett, Marv	1083	91106	Yamada, David	969
90266	Isley III, Paul	1088	91107	Glackin, Dave	1067

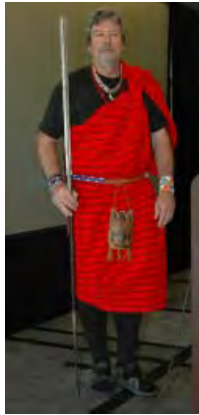
ZIP Code	Name	Member No.	ZIP Code	Name	Member No.
91107	Smith, Michael	1058	92587	Schilling, Frederick	1031
91203	Jonkey, Charles	1026	92592	Clark, Harry	1092
91203	Loveman, Morton	1001	92596	Epstein, Marvin	926
91222	Eshe, Richard	751	92612	Dolan, David	1087
91301	Oxnevad, Knut	1106	92626	Collett, John	1115
91302	Breindel, Michael	1049	92627	Glaser, Hans	1097
91302	Much, Hubert	1023	92627	Weatherby, Vince	1060
91304	Oedy, Tom	1113	92629	Mueller, Robert	723
91320	Collins, David	1011	92630	Valencic, Joe	1109
91344	Haft, Roger	1098	92633	Brown, Joseph	928
91344	Wahlroos, Sven	978	92649	Boelsems, G.	1102
91351	Janes, Loren	704	92651	Wallace, Eugene	481
91355	Corey, Robert	691	92653	Lawson, Steve	1032
91357	Sidell, Chester	734	92658	DeMott, Robert	1080
91362	Hagopian, J.	634	92659	Du Bose, Guy	921
91364	Roush, Roy	864	92679	Wimbrow, Mike	1076
91403	Arias, Gene	1107	92683	Carr, William	855
91413	Meyers, Bruce	973	92705	Enderle, Maurice	804
91504	Mortimer, Gary	1086	92805	Williams, Ted	999
91510	Gilliland, Robert	888	92821	Burchett, William	1079
91602	Williscroft, Robert	1116	92835	Haigler, Frank	825
91604	Feldstein, Alan	1094	92870	Robert C. Thomas,	1122
91604	Goddard, Jeffery	1010	93012	Baily, John	1117
91750	Sandwick, Robert	909	93021	Freund, Kenneth	1046
92026	McCartney, Richard	652	93101	Armstrong, Heaton	1064
92075	Schweighart, Timothy	983	93103	Birnie, Robert	961
92084	Adams, Al	688	93117	Soenke, Alan	741
92128	Brown, Bil	708	93463	Hobgood, Richard	802
92201	MacDonald, Douglas	758	93546	Altaffer, William	1095
92211	Rosenberg, Marvin	853	93923	Chase, H.	664
92234	Makinen, Harri	981	94108	Morris, Edward	1003
92395	Reese, Larry	1099	94707	Lawler, David	1073
92530	Finnern, David	1065	95356	Smith, Allan	1069
92543	Williams, Robert	905	95621	Clark, David	1091
92557	Iannello, Robert	1100	95628	Watrous, Craig	1089
92570	Reed, David	870	96094	Kyle, Chester	899

What's Happening...

N.O.H.A. – 2006



Gene Wallace & John Collett



*Master of Ceremony –
Jim Dorsey*



*Bob Walters, Susan Arias &
Ralph White*



John Goddard & Sir Edward Artis



John Collette & Paul Isley's son PJ



A group of members & guests



*Piping the commencement –
Greg Elliot*



Jim Heaton & London Steverson

Adventurer of the Year



Jim Heaton (1020) presents the Adventurer of the Year award to Robert Gannon (1066) for his continuing exploits flying his Cessna 182 around the world. To date he has landed in 550 places in 51 countries. Congratulations from all of us to the Adventurer of the Year, Robert Gannon!

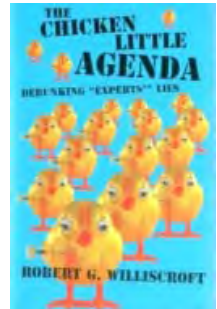
Bob is now on his way through South America to Antarctica



Bob Gannon and his "Lucky Lady Too," with a cheetah at a grass strip outside of Kruger National Park in South Africa

Robert Williscroft Interviewed by Michael Medved

Robert Williscroft (1116) (Editor of *The Adventurers' Club News*) was interviewed on the nationwide Michael Medved Show on November 24, 2006. He discussed his book, *The Chicken Little Agenda – Debunking Experts' Lies*.



Monkey Skullduggery



Pierre Odier (988) recently visited the wilds of Borneo where he was given this beautiful, carved monkey skull. It may be more than a century old, and is a unique, one-of-a-kind artifact from this primitive land.

Editor's Note:

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

BOOK REVIEW -

Survive!: My Fight for Life in the High Sierras

by Steve Bein #1057

Author: Peter DeLeo, Simon & Schuster, New York, NY, 10020, hardcover, (256p; 6 x 9) - ISBN: 0743270061

When Peter DeLeo and two friends set out one winter Sunday morning in 1994 on a sight-seeing and photography trip over the central Sierra Nevada mountains in California in a Maule M5, they had no idea that they would soon be fighting for their lives with the odds stacked very much against them.

Their plane crashed in a remote rugged area in the High Sierras. They were all injured. DeLeo had broken ribs, a shattered ankle, and a badly damaged shoulder. After assessing their situation, they decided that the passengers should remain with the plane while DeLeo would hike out to bring back help.

DeLeo left their limited emergency supplies with the plane's passengers. He was hampered by his injuries, but DeLeo was determined to get help. He found or improvised shelter at night, carefully warmed himself during the daytime, drank from small pools of melted snow and ice, and slowly but steadily made his way toward

civilization.

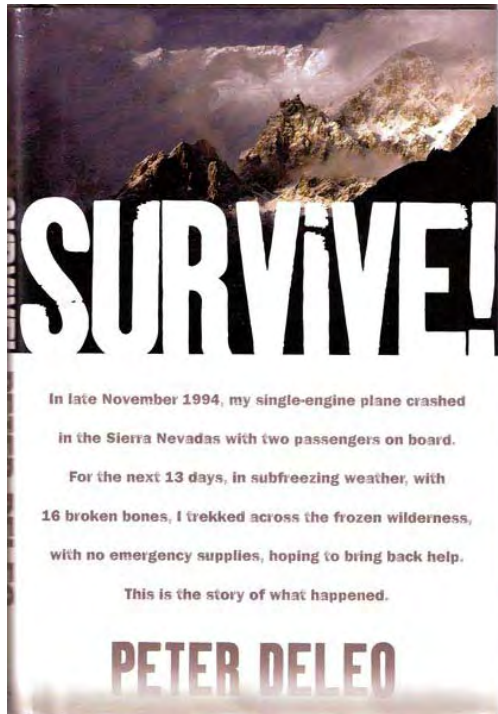
Suffering from exhaustion and on the verge of collapse, he found a hot spring that provided him with temporary warmth and insects to eat. Injuries, dehydration, malnutrition, and a two-day blizzard slowed him, and a rockslide nearly killed him just as he glimpsed the valley and highway that he so desperately sought, but DeLeo's courage saw him through.

DeLeo refused to go to a hospital until he guided a helicopter to the crash site to rescue his friends.

The book is a wonderful read. It is one of the "read until you drop" type of books -

very hard to put down, even at meal-times. As with the survivors of the Baatan Death march, this was not a chosen task, but its description is as riveting and compelling. Do yourself a favor and find a copy.

The book is available in most book stores and directly from Amazon.com and other online outlets.



THE THRAWN RICKLE*From the Ancient Scottish: thrawn = stubborn; rickle = loose, dilapidated heap*

Robert G. Williscroft #1116 - Editor



I am lagging behind my production schedule again this month, due – this time – only to my own heavy schedule. Sorry about that.

In last month's magazine, we featured an article written by Pierre Odier. This was an article that many of us had anticipated, and I wish to thank Pierre for getting the article to me so quickly. In Pierre's presentation on November 30, he commented in passing about censorship, and I thought it would be in order to explain what this was about.

When members (or even non members for that matter) submit articles for publication in *The Adventurers' Club News*, usually these articles are simply recitations of an adventure in which the writer participated. From time to time, however, a writer will submit an important article that contains specific points of view. I welcome

such articles, of course, because they supply depth to our magazine. Nevertheless, because the Club holds no opinions, when I receive articles like this, I place a disclaimer with the article so that there is no question in the reader's mind that any such opinions are those of the author, and not of the Editor or the Club.

A careful reading of the disclaimer preceding Pierre's article will show that I was enthusiastic about the article, was delighted that Pierre wrote it as he did, and that I did not censor any part of the article. The only changes I made to his submitted text were grammatical and form changes. Even these I presented to Pierre for his approval before publication.

A reminder that *The Adventurers' Club News* is now available online, and in full color. Commencing last month, the online edition features full color photographs (where they are available). Click "Adventurers' Club News" on the side bar of the website. Then click on the edition you wish to view. You will be asked for a password. Enter the lowercase letters "acla" followed by the year and month; so for this issue, enter "acla0612".

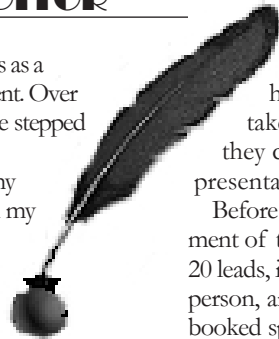
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I have served the club for the past 6 years as a director, program chair/1st VP and president. Over the years members and non members have stepped up to help with programs in many ways.

I want to take this moment to extend my gratitude to those who have assisted me in my duties to help make the club better.

Over the years, I developed a program chair's policy of asking those who suggest speakers to contact



them, verify that they would be interested in speaking to us and making sure we have contact numbers. Also, many have taken time to listen to a talk by the person so they could be sure they made outstanding presentations.

Before my education and the necessary development of this policy, it frequently took, at times, 10 to 20 leads, including research, to find how to contact the person, and an unbelievable number of hours per booked speaker. Lately, those who have suggested

(Letters continued on page 6)

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

November 16, 2006

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Vince Weatherby** welcomed a ladies' night crowd to the Club.

Paul Isley said that he and **John and Carol Goddard** had a great tour of the inside of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory courtesy of Andrea Donnelin and Bob Ioberto.

Peter Jensen returned from a short backpack on Catalina Island from Two Harbors to Little Harbor.

Steve Bein had to drive up to Wyoming and the weather turned cold and snowy after leaving Salt Lake City. He made it safely to his off ramp by following a truck. But he spun out on the ice on the exit ramp. He continued on with no scratches.

Don Waters and his wife returned from a cruise on the QE2 from New York to Southampton. There was no adventure but lots of decadence.

Bob and Carol Benner flew to Prague and returned via Charles deGaulle airport. After entering through customs they emerged without their passport. It took another eighteen hours to finally get out of Paris. Moral of the story – always bring along a copy of your passport.

Rick Flores took a hike out to Joshua Tree, NM. On the hike down from Ryan Mountain he spotted bighorn sheep. He got his telephoto out and snapped 68 shots including one beauty of two adults and a juvenile he showed to the Club.

Heaton Armstrong returned from his annual trip to Australia. He visited Sydney and places about 200 miles north in New South Wales. In the old days on Bucketts Way and Thunderbolt Trail the bush rang-

ers robbed the coaches along these trails.

Heaton's guest, Toni Andrews, returned from five and a half weeks in Ethiopia. She spent fourteen days tenting in the Omo River Valley with a medical mission treating 2,300 natives. She then toured northern Ethiopia. Her passion is developing countries and Ethiopia marked her 90th country visited.

Andrea Donnelin returned from Yakushima Island in Japan where she talked with survivors of the 1946 earthquake and tsunami.

Robert Williscroft will have an interview on his book by Michael Medved on the day after Thanksgiving.

Knut Oxnevaad sent us a postcard.

Steve Peterman said that **Sven Wahlroos** will miss his first Christmas party in twenty years. Sven is up and walking with a cane. He does have screws in his ribs but is going on a cruise against the recommendation of his doctor.

Bernie Harris attended a meeting of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assn.

The Danish Underground

Member **Peter Jensen** introduced his father, Geert Jensen, and daughter. He and his father noted that there are two international flags bordering our map – American and Danish. The Danish flag is the oldest in the world.

Geert said that 1,000 years ago, the Danes were called Vikings and sailed the world. Our member **Ib Melchior** was the first boyfriend of Geert's wife.

Geert Jensen lived in Denmark and was in his late teens and an apprentice when



Geert Jensen holding up a resistance armband

war broke out in 1939. All was quiet though until April 9, 1940 when Germany invaded Denmark. Hundreds of planes filled the air. The first invading troops were friendly.

But all changed with the fall of France. At this

point the black shirt Gestapo came in.

The Danish underground railway started slowly with no rolling stock. Neils Bohr, the first man to split the atom, was sent to Sweden early on.

Some Danes had fought for the Republic in the Spanish Civil War. They were among the first to be rounded up by the enemy and sent away.

Traffic was stopped and anyone without gainful employment was sent to Germany to work. Some were sent to concentration camps.

A little sabotage started as kids in Churchill Club slashed tires. But many were caught and put in camps.

Geert was 5-11 and 170 pounds and full of vinegar at the time. He bribed a horse cart driver carrying food for the Germans and took the food to the Salvation Army to feed hungry Danes.

After doing this for awhile, Geert and his friends received a book on sabotage. They made skeleton keys and got into factories. There they cut belts and drained oil out of

lubricating pans.

This led to a friend showing simple explosives and how they work in a forest. Geert and his friends planted explosives on railroad tracks and blew up trains. The first train carried aluminum.

They became so successful that the Germans put up barbed wire and stationed guards along the line.

One of the German guards that was apprehended by Geert and his friends was a Vienna boy. There were about 5,000 to 10,000 boys living in Austria in 1919 who needed food. They were sent to Denmark to live and were called Vienna boys.

At age 18, Geert finished his apprenticeship and was drafted into the Navy. He spent a few months in training and was sent to a large air field in the north. He wanted to engage in sabotage but could not because security was tight.

He got a job working for the post office and this provided him with a cover in February, 1943.

But in August, 1943, the order came for all Jews to be sent to Germany. Most went to Buchenwald or another concentration camp. The Germans shut down all electricity, water, power and gas to homes and brought in tanks and artillery.

The Danes called a general strike. But Danes going to the local lakes for water were shot by snipers.

By Christmas, 1943 most Jews (Geert calls them Danes) had gotten over to Sweden.

Geert got a job on a fishing boat. The first two weeks they fished and saw nothing. But in the third week they saw some of the first firings of the V-1 rockets. A

(Minutes continued on page 18)

submarine surfaced nearby but the German sailors wanted to trade goods for fresh fish.

By now British mosquito bombers began to target Gestapo headquarters in Danish cities. They were successful but unfortunately, some Danish prisoners were held in the top floors of the headquarters and were killed. One did survive and Geert met him after the war.



Geert Jensen pointing to Denmark

Geert met a Danish couple whose son joined the Waffen SS. He passed on the info to the Danish underground. But two weeks later Geert was told to leave immediately. He left a half hour before Germans came looking for him.

Geert went back to blowing up railroads. By now Germans were tying Danish prisoners to the fronts of locomotive engines to prevent the loss of trains. But the train sabotage continued. A group of Danes would create a commotion. The German guards on the ground would leave to investigate and the saboteurs would plant the explosives in the unguarded spot.

But one time a guard stayed behind and shot Geert as he was fleeing.

Geert had to heal in the hospital.

On May 4, 1945 the war was over in Denmark. The 200,000 German soldiers were starving and left Denmark.

The Jewish Danes came back from Sweden. Their homes were intact; nothing was

stolen nor razed.

It was true that Jews had to pay the boat operators for transportation to Sweden earlier. But the boat operators needed money for oil and gas for their boats. It had to be bought on the black market (from the Germans.)

During the war an order was passed for all Jews in Denmark to wear an armband with the Star of David on it. The Danish king said that he would be the first to wear the armband. So the order was rescinded.

Geert showed us an arm band he had worn to identify himself as a member of the Danish underground.

After the war, Geert learned that his father had been a courier for the underground during the entire span of the war.

He gave us lessons to be learned. Bless the Swedes for their efforts from 1940 to 1945. We are our brothers' keepers. Count your blessings.

Geert's program given at the podium with no power point, slides or other visual help was a tremendous one and completely deserves this long write-up.



November 30, 2006*Bob Zeman (#878)*

President **Vince Weatherby** had the bell tolled for **Tom Lindholm #863**. Tom did sailing and SCUBA diving in Grand Cayman, Fiji, Samoa, New Zealand, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Tuamotos, Hawaii and extensively along the coast of California and Mexico. He also did underwater photography on the Great Barrier Reef. He was in the Marine Corps from 1942 to 45 participating in five major engagements amid two tours in the south Pacific. He spent ten years with the Los Angeles Police Department before becoming an attorney.

Tom served the Club as a mediator during a divisive period of time.

It was good to see **Roy Roush** getting about well after hip surgery. Roy reminisced about **Art Poindexter** who became a prisoner of war at Wake Island.

Roger Haft is leaving for Pearl Harbor and then on to the Marshall Islands and Micronesia.

Our adventurer of the year **Bob Gannon** dropped by. He has flown his plane around West Africa and then across the Atlantic to Natal, Brazil. He took along extra fuel for eighteen hours of flying and needed almost all due to bad headwinds. After Sao Paulo, he is leaving for Uruguay, Argentina, and the Antarctic peninsula.

Burma/Myanmar

In yet another of his intrepid adventures, Pierre Odier left in 2005 to visit minority tribes in the Burmese Golden Triangle.

He arrived in Rangoon after an elaborate

plan to enter the country and avoid conflict with the army. He spent two days there to comply with government restrictions and then flew to Kang Tong capital of Shan State on

*Pierre Odier*

the China, Laos and Thailand borders.

There are 37 different tribes in the area and Pierre visited 14 of them. Just to clear immigration, Pierre had to use his French to disguise his nationality. He first went to the market place to see the peoples of many of these tribes.

The first tribe he visited were the Wa people. A two-hour drive took him and his guide to the trail head and then they had a four hour walk. The village is in a mountain range with valleys thousands of feet deep. Bamboo aqueducts brought water.

The Wa people used to be headhunters. Head hunting was a way to protect them against evil spirits that would bring harm to their families and to their crops. They are now involved with opium cultivation and trade.

While Pierre drank tea, his guide talked with the chief of the village about the condition of the people and the situation with the government. Pierre gradually made contact with the villagers through gestures and gave a gift of cloth and cigarettes to the chief. They then exchanged pipes and started smoking.

Pierre showed pictures of his family and asked about traditions, customs and beliefs. He also asked of the families in the village.

(Minutes continued on page 20)

Using kernels of corn, they reconstructed the village on the ground. He took a photo of this and soon was able to take many more photographs.

He received a guided tour of the village and even got into the chief's hut. At the end, he received a gift of a double-sided comb made out of buffalo horn.

Pierre went out each day from Kang Tong in a different direction to other villages. He saw graves from the Japanese occupation and old English dwellings. He saw a big structure that housed seventeen families. This was a Buddhist temple from the 16th or 17th century.



Pierre receiving yet another plaque

The Paulini tribe is famous for the women with bracelets around their long necks. The length is caused by pushing down on the clavicle. Two girls were being trained for long necks. They live in houses on stilts because of the heavy rainfall and their gardens float.

He also saw many stupas, a large statue of Buddha and a whiskey factory. There are rubies, amethyst and emeralds in the area but Pierre only saw marble figures.

As usual, Pierre's presentation was excellent and he does a superb job of tying in his dialog with the slides.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - 2006

Date: December 14, 2006
Place: AC Meeting Hall
Time: 7:00 PM
Dress: Business or appropriate Ethnic Attire
Cost: \$25 per person (NOT a Ladies Night)
Reservations: Call Vince at (714) 612-9081 or the Club at (323) 223-3948
Deadline: December 7, 2006

Forthcoming Programs

- December 14, 2006** – CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 21, 2006 – CLUB DARK – Christmas Holidays
December 28, 2006 – CLUB DARK – Christmas Holidays
January 4, 2007 – [OPEN]
January 11, 2007 – “Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras, and other sights of 2006” – Steve Bein tells of his diving adventures during 2006.
January 18, 2007 – [OPEN]
January 25, 2007 – “Flying around Africa” – Bob Ioberto & Andrea Donnelin
February 1, 2007 – [OPEN]
February 8, 2007 – [OPEN]
February 15, 2007 – “From the depths of our boiling hot water vents Oceans through eruptions on Planet Earth to Extra-Terrestrial Bodies volcano’s? A complete overview by two principal discoverers!” – Ralph and Rosaly Lopez
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NOTICES

UPDATED ADDRESSES: We need to update our member address list. The only way we can do this is to get feedback from each of you whose address is different from the address on your copy of *The Adventurers' Club News*. If there is any difference at all between your actual address and the one on this issue of the magazine, please write, email, or call us with the correct information. If you write, make sure your writing is legible. If you call, be sure the information you leave on the voice mail is understandable and complete. If you email (and we prefer you use email), send to aclaeditor@argee.net. In any case, please include your complete address, phone number, fax (if you have one), cell phone (if you have one), and email (if you have one).

COVER PHOTO CAPTION

Back row: (l to r) Gene Arias, Larry Schutte, Ralph White, Roger Haft, Knut Oxnevad, Mike Smith, Bob Ianello, Marv Garrett, Robert Lowell, Claude Hulet, Robert Williscroft, Joe Brown, Larry Stern, Dale Hall, Jerry Robinson, Bob Seaman, John Collett, Shane Berry, Bob Gannon, Richard Venola, Bob Benner, Steve Lawson

Middle row: David Dolan, Bob Thomas, Pierre Odier, Paul Isley, Jim Heaton, Vince Weatherby, Bernie Harris, Bob Silver, Dave Glackin, London Steverson, Steve Bein

Front row: Jim Dorsey, John Goddard, Joe Valencic, Bob Walters, Bob Zeman, Bob Gilliland, John Booth, Bob Birnie, Gene Wallace

The
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PO Box 31266
Los Angeles CA 90031

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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