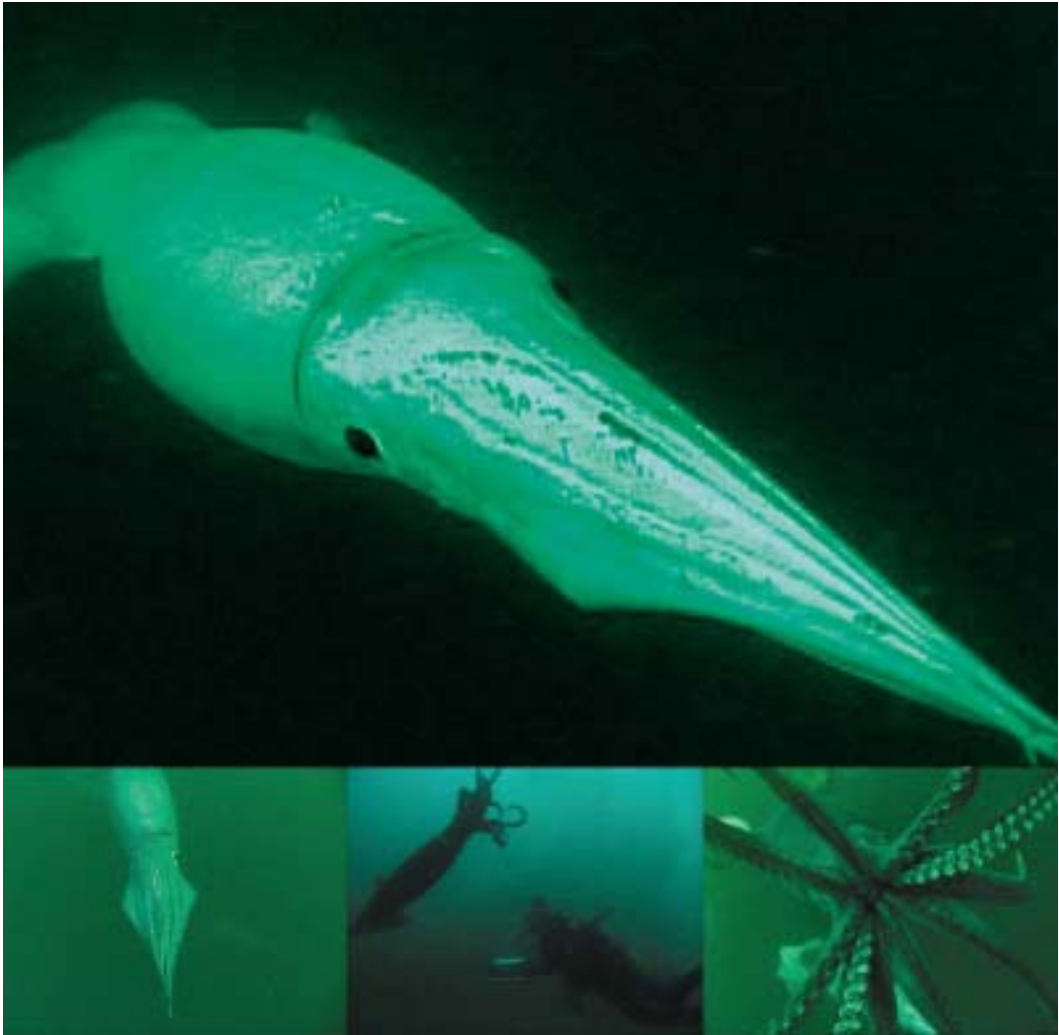


The Adventurers' Club News

Volume 52

December 2008 / January 2009

Number 7



Photos by Capt. Scott Cassell – Undersea Voyager Project

The Giant Humboldt Squid
Big, Fast & Very Smart

The Adventurers' Club News

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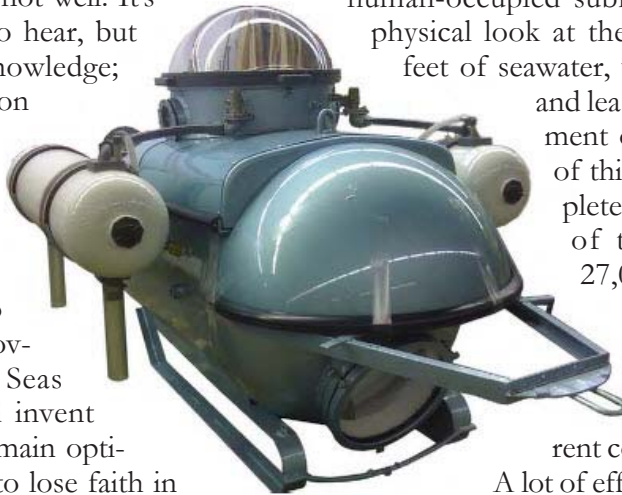
The Undersea Voyager Project – UVP

Capt Scott Cassell

UVP is a nonprofit company conceived by Scott Cassell and member Bob Oberto (#1124). It was launched December 15, 2008, at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California, to considerable public and media interest. This is the story of UVP, told by its founder, Capt. Scott Cassell.

Ours is a water planet. We came from the sea, and just as it holds our past, it is also vital to our future. And the truth is, the oceans of our earth are not well, which means we are also not well. It's a tough message to hear, but one we must acknowledge; the quality of life on this planet and perhaps our very survival are at risk.

It seems as if humankind has one choice, one path to survival: To rediscover the Earth and Seas with integrity, and invent with empathy. I remain optimistic, and refuse to lose faith in humanity; our species is wonderfully innovative and can create fantastic things. Our future is still a matter of choice, and knowledge provides the power that drives



The GREAT WHITE Submersible

The Great White is a highly modified and upgraded K-250 submersible originally designed by the honored Capt (Ret) George Kittredge. It is depth rated to 250 feet with an umbilical consisting of power, communications, and telemetry and safety strength member to the surface ship. Named after Scott Cassell's friend, mentor, cameraman, deep submersible pilot and explorer, Ralph White, the Great White employs state of the art technologies that provide an extended range, higher speed and much improved life support (12 hours nominal with 72 hours emergency).

folks to make the correct choice.

It is the search for knowledge that led me to create the Undersea Voyager Project. This five year continuing mission will use human-occupied submersibles to take a physical look at the first 100 to 1,000 feet of seawater, which is the largest and least explored environment on Earth. One goal of this project is to complete a circumnavigation of the earth – some 27,000 miles – underwater, all the while searching for new life and assessing the current condition of the seas.

A lot of effort has gone into the study of the deep oceans, but the Undersea Voyager Project is the first major program with the goal of collecting data in the upper mid-range of all of the world's seas.

(UVP continued on page 2)

The UVP Project

The Project's primary mission will be to access the current condition of observed portions of the oceans using a process known as scientific transects. The information gathered by this process will be used to advance and communicate scientific knowledge and understanding of the oceans to a global audience, including children all across the earth via the Internet, using Web Casts, Real-time Web Conferencing and Web Streaming. A world wide community of scientists, engineers and educators will be invited to participate with research programs that can be placed on our submersibles or support vessels.

The Program's other mission is to provide the next generation with real-life heroes and role models. All aspects of the project will be documented in great detail, and shared with worldwide audiences through a number of mediums. Audiences of all ages, but especially children, will be able to follow the real-world adventures of scientists, technologists, engineers, mathematicians and explorers as they confront the mysteries and creatures of the open ocean. Science, math and engineering will not only be seen as a cool, hip route to adventure, but also as a positive pathway to successful, rewarding and Earth-benefiting careers.



GREAT WHITE at the Long Beach Aquarium

The Undersea Voyager Project made its official debut on December 15, 2008, at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California. The first in-water activity is scheduled to begin in the spring of this year, when a manned submersible known as *Great White* will dive to a depth of 250 feet in Lake Tahoe. Traveling 100 miles along the circumference of this majestic lake, the *Great White* will perform water quality testing and will search for animal life, ship-

wrecks and signs of trash and other pollution.

During the one-month duration of the Project, the team will also perform vibro-core sampling of the three earthquake faults to assist scientists in their efforts to determine their stability. Also planned is a video survey of a submerged forest of trees 2,000 years old in nearby Fallen Leaf Lake.

After the completion of the Lake Tahoe mission, the *Great White* will be upgraded and configured to travel submerged (and tethered) at depths between 100 to 200 feet deep along a 60 mile undersea route from Long Beach to Avalon Harbor to Catalina Island, and back over a period of three days. A transect will be established to count species in situ and collect water, plankton, and plastics samples for analysis by associated scientists.

Next up for the *Great White* will be a 400-

mile transect along the California Coast at a depth range of 100 to 250 feet, going from San Diego to LA and around the Channel Islands. This project will provide an outreach opportunity as well, involving students from various programs including children at risk, children with disabilities and disadvantaged children. These groups will have the opportunity to go to sea on the support ship during local submersible operations during the performance of the transect.

Using the real-time link made possible by the umbilical feed to the support ship's HD monitors, the *Great White's* cameras and voice communications will

provide students with an opportunity to interact with the crew of the submersible. In this way the students can enjoy the safety and comfort of the mother ship but at the same time be directly involved with the historic data collection of the *Great White* and crew.

Following the completion of the initial California missions, the *Great White* will be

moved to the Sea of Cortez, where it will travel some 500 miles from north to south, again at depths of 100 to 250 feet. This 40-day mission will begin in late summer 2009, and will follow a route selected for its richness and diversity of undersea life, and also because it is a region that faces pressure from commercial fishing, poaching, and nearby land development.

Areas of study will include the investigation of shallow hydrothermal vents, assessment of commercially fished species populations, the study of CO₂ absorbing planktons to gather climate change data, and extensive water sampling for toxicology. Working

closely with the Algalita Foundation, the Undersea Voyager Project will seek out the presence of plastics and dissolved petrochemical residue in the water column and collect bacteria. Sought-out encounters with pelagic species (Humboldt squid, marlin, sharks, whales, etc.) will take center stage in the associated documentary.

By the spring of 2010, the *Great White*

(UVP continued on page 5)



The VOYAGER – SeaMagine Triumph Submersible

The Voyager is a highly specialized, three-occupant ABS Class Deep Diving Submersible. The Triumph Model represents the latest technology for deep, one-atmosphere submergence. This 3-person vessel (1 pilot & 2 passengers) has a standard depth rating of 1,500 feet (457m). The spacious 60 inch acrylic cabin offers an exceptional field of view in all directions including directly below the occupants. The Triumph is ideally suited for attempting the first-ever underwater sampling transect that circumnavigates the world's oceans.



Capt. Al Adams departed on the Great Adventure on January 1, 2009. Al was Club President in 1972, served on the Board for another two years, and was the *News* editor in 1985.

Al, author of *Sea-Quences*, was also a Fellow of the Explorer's Club, logging some 346,000 sailing miles since 1929. Among other accomplishments, he sailed an 83 ft. schooner through a 140 mph hurricane, crossed the Bermuda Triangle, made eight sailing passages to Hawaii, and sailed in three Trans Pacific and two Acapulco Races.

Al sailed Lake Titicaca, cruised the Islands of the Kingdom of Tonga – Vavau, Haapai, and Tongatapu, and carried first Expedition Flag to be signed by a King.

He captained the 150 ft schooner *Enchantress* to Alaska, and he cruised the Aegean, Adriatic, Mediterranean, the Cyclades Islands, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Greece,

Italy, and the Coast of Albania.

Al was a member of the scientific expedition *Espirito Santo* to Marum Volcano, New Hebrides. He paddled a dugout canoe down Sepik River, New Guinea, and he sailed around Cape Horn.

Al also made a two year cruise on his own cutter, *Southwind*, from Los Angeles to Panama, Florida – including all the islands of West Indies. He completed a 50,000 mile trip around the world in “80 ways,” and he safaried in Africa, New Britain, and New Guinea.

Al was recipient of both Seaman and Boatman of the Year Awards, and, for a rescue he made, was presented the Coast Guard Auxiliary's “Outstanding Search and Rescue” bronze award and the Bronze “A” award, the highest Coast Guard civilian award.

A memorial in Al's honor will be held at the Club on March 26.

(UVP continued from page 3)

will be in the Gulf of Mexico, performing a thousand-mile transit along the US coast. Again, the mission's primary goal is to sample a transect of open sea at a depth range of 100 to 250 feet, investigating targets such as thermal "seeps" and artificial reefs (abandoned oil rigs and shipwrecks), which will be studied for potential environmental impact, both negative and positive. Of special interest on this transect is the ever increasing "Dead Zone" in which phosphates and other inorganic toxins form and have a profound impact on life in and around it.

How it began

Some of the most amazing creatures on our planet live in the dark cold of the open sea. They exist in the murky and often hostile world where man has only recently ventured; and with all of our technological mastery we have only witnessed just two percent of this vast and mysterious realm.

As a child, I knew man should explore Earth's inner space, and, in my heart, I somehow knew that I would be among those explorers.

One cold winter day when I was six years old, our family went to the movies. I could not have dreamed that this outing would set my life's course. The film was Disney's version of the Jules Verne classic *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. I was enthralled by the action unfolding on the giant silver screen, to the point where I felt physically tired by the time the movie ended.

The movie deeply affected me – especially

during the scenes where the giant squid attacked the *Nautilus*. The next day I visited the school library and learned that giant squid were REAL! At that moment, I knew my life would revolve around submersibles and giant squid. After all, how many kids don't like monsters or dinosaurs? The difference, my "monster" was real – living in the present and not impossible to encounter. My childhood imagination flourished, and has not abated to this day.

Ultimately, the goal of the Underwater Voyager Project is to complete a 27,000 mile, round-the-world underwater voyage in the purpose-built three man "Triumph" SEAMagine submersible

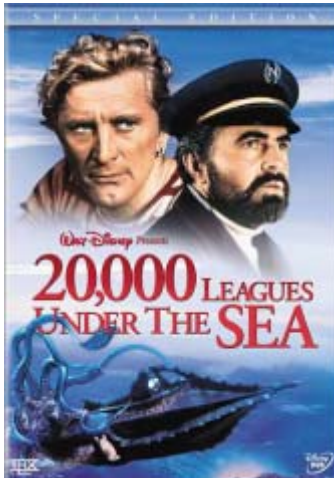
named *Voyager*. This is an exciting and unprecedented undertaking, and there will be more news on this phase of the Project released at a later date. For now, let's just say that some folks have suggested this project rivals man's first steps on the moon.

The bottom line is that I am not special, nor rich, nor do I have delusions of grandeur. I am simply a diver who has made a choice. The sea is in trouble, and I intend to bring her current condition to the world, so that people can use factual knowledge to make changes that will ensure her survival and therefore our own. Our children deserve that.

The Red Giant

It's the summer of 2006. My research team and I had just placed a camera on a small (4.5 feet overall length) female Humboldt

(UVP continued on page 8)



1954 poster

BOOK REVIEW — FIDALI'S WAY: A NOVEL

Author: George Mastras, Scribner, New York, NY, 2009 (400p; hardcover), ISBN: 978-1-4165-5618-3
Review supplied by Gene Arias (#1107)

Fidali's Way is the gripping debut novel by George Mastras. Based on the author's own experiences traveling through Asia and the Middle East before and after September 11th, Mastras — who has worked as a screenwriter and has written for several television series including most recently the Emmy Award-winning drama *Breaking Bad* — proves he can write great fiction as well. His novel is filled with wonderful characters, smart dialogue and bold action-packed scenes. Mastras' gift of thrilling story telling shines as he transports readers through the Himalayas, the tribal areas of Pakistan, and into Kashmir.

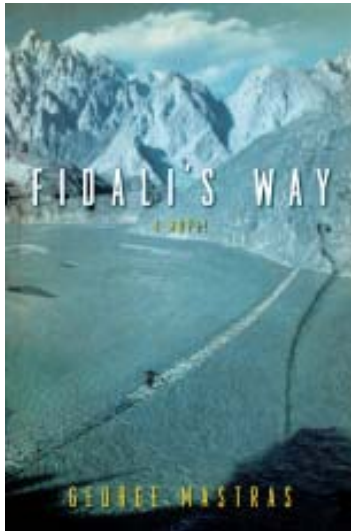
Fidali's Way starts off with a bang. American Nick Sunder has spent several months backpacking through the Middle East and Southeast Asia with a beautiful French woman named Yvette. When Yvette is found brutally murdered in the tribal lands near Peshawar, Pakistan, police suspect Nick and they immediately arrest and torture him. Staging a dangerous escape, Nick flees to the mountains of Kashmir, the center of a brutal conflict between the Indian military and Kashmiri separatists. With the help of a friendly Kashmiri smuggler-phi-

losopher named Ghulam and his mysterious, silent and self-sacrificing companion named Fidali, Nick reaches a mountain village in Indian-occupied Kashmir called Gilkamosh.

In Gilkamosh, Aysha Fa-had — an idealistic, pretty young woman who is the village's doctor — struggles to keep her medical clinic open despite violent threats by the Border Security Force patrolmen. As mujahideen enter the village, Aysha is reunited with her teenage love, Kazim Ullah Baig, who is now a seasoned mujahideen in charge of a group of separatists. When Nick arrives in Gilkamosh and meets Aysha, their lives become dramati-

cally affected by an act of terrorism on this small village and Nick finds himself immersed in the complicated divide between competing forces — fighting for more than just his own life.

Mastras demonstrates his knowledge of the region throughout this grand novel — it is packed with authentic detail. A sweeping story with diverse and interesting characters, *Fidali's Way* is a timely look at this politically complex region that continues to struggle with the relationship between Islam and the West.



What's Happening...

Bob Gannon's continuing round-the-world adventure



Lucky Lady Too and Gannon in Poprad, Slovakia at the foot of the High Tatras

Bob Gannon (#1066) continues his round-the-world flying adventure.

He reports: "Well, I am back on the flying adventure. Returned to Bucharest yesterday. *Lucky Lady Too* is ready to head to Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, Oman, and hopefully park somewhere in U.A.E.

"Winter is coming on strong here. Something I have tried to avoid so far. Turkey will be the 100th country that the two of us have flown into in the eight plus years we have been at this. Will see if I get into Syria!"

His trip thus far:



Mike Harker spends New Year's in St. Barth, French West Indies



Mike Harker, who regaled us with his 11-month west-around circumnavigation aboard *Wanderlust 3*, has spent the winter in the Caribbean, and will soon commence an east-around circumnavigation. That means next summer in Croatia, where he has many friends, and next New Year in Thailand.

He never touched alcohol until recently. The two young German nurses he had as crew told him a glass of wine three to five nights a week would be good for him. No wonder he's smiling.

How much does it cost to cruise some of the best places in the world? "Over the last year, I've averaged about \$900 a month," says Harker. "That includes everything, except my boat loan."

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...."

Squid and released her. We'd been working in an area of the Eastern Pacific where that was home not only to schools of these squid, but also sperm whales. For years I'd watched these whales dive and return to the surface.

Conventional wisdom would have said that our "squid cam" would have a good chance of becoming whale food. But sperm whales have a specific dive signature when feeding, and by all appearances, they were not feeding on the small Humboldt squids also found in this area.

After determining that the whales weren't eating the



Humboldt Squid – 8 to 12 ft long

Humboldts, I realized that large squid often eat small squid. Therefore, it was likely that giant squid were actually coming up from the depths to feed on the Humboldt squid. It's a theory we hoped the "squid cam" would confirm.

Hours later we recovered my little "camera squid" and after reviewing the video footage, we were astonished to learn that at a depth of just under 1,000 feet, she barely evaded an attack by a giant squid of unimaginable size. The giant was so big and close to the camera that the specific anatomical structures that I would have used to properly identify the species could not be seen, so I have come to call the animal the "Red Giant."

The species-specific structures commonly used to ID a squid include wing (fin) shape and size ratio to the mantle, eye shape, chitinous ring-teeth shape and tentacle club size and shape. Unfortunately none of these things could be seen in the video.

Based on the water visibility and the fact that several other Humboldt squid were in the camera's-field-of-view just moments prior (offering an effective scale), I estimate the "giant" at 35 to 50 feet in length. Using only the size estimate, it lends me to believe the "Red Giant" was an *Architeuthis dux*. But, I can't prove it.

I have even repeated this scenario twice more and still can't make a positive ID. All I know is that it is very big. Next year I'm going back with deep sea power and light support with a better camera system. Stay tuned!

With all the money and decades of time people have spent on trying to film the Giant Squid, placing cameras on Sperm whales, baited drop still frame cameras, and deep diving brightly lit submersibles supported by huge ships – we still have nothing. Then, on a shoestring budget I am able to film them three times with three efforts. I'm not tooting my own horn but rather pointing out that anyone that takes the time to listen to the sea will learn what is needed. Empathy is everything.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE – Past, Present & Future

Allan R. Smith #1069 - President



As the saying goes, “You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.” As I believe, we can’t look to the future without learning from the past, and with the honor of being your

president, I find it important to look at the history, traditions and by-laws that have made our Club so outstanding, and build upon those as our year moves forward.

With society what it is today, we are often running at warp speed, and forget the little things, for instance, where did our Club come from? What traditions have made the Club what it is? When Jack Roulac created the Club in 1921, did he ever think it would turn into what we now have in 2009? For the new members, and a refresher for those who have been around awhile, below is an excerpt about the Club.

Thirty-four men sat down at the first dinner of the Adventurers’ Club given at Joel’s Restaurant in New York in the year 1912. They were soldiers, sailors, hunters, trappers, travelers, journalists, authors and scientists. Four toasts were offered: “To adventure, the Shadow of Every Red-Blooded Man;” “To the Game;” “To Every Lost Cause, and Lost Comrade;” and last, “To Gentlemen Adventurers.” Thus was the first Adventurers’ Club inaugurated and such are the personnel and spir-

it of all of the Adventurers’ Clubs. From this original Club have been founded The Adventurers’ Club, Chicago, in 1913; The Adventurers’ Club, Los Angeles, in *To the Game!* 1921; The Adventurers’ Club, Copenhagen, in 1937; and The Adventurers’ Club, Honolulu, in 1955. The Club has always attracted the best and the brightest of the world’s most adventurous spirits.

A group of The Adventurers Club members, residing in Los Angeles, met informally many times in 1921.

Under the leadership of Capt. Jack W. Roulac, they perfected plans for the organization of The Adventurer’s Club in Los Angeles. The Adventurer’s Club of Chicago forwarded copies of their Constitution and other papers, together with a flag, and on February 13, 1922, the Articles of Incorporations were filed with the Secretary of State for California. The Club has met every Thursday (holidays excepted) at locations ranging from The Wilton Studio, Chamber of Commerce Building (beginning March 8 1922) to the present headquarters at 2433 North Broadway (beginning April 7, 1994).

Pretty remarkable, to think we are all here because of these individuals.

2008 was a successful year for the Club. Not without our financial hurdles, but overall one to be proud of. Our program chairman delivered stellar programs for the second year running, including some from our own members Rick Flores, Ken Freund, Bill

(President continued on page 10)

(President continued from page 9)

Altaffer, Jim Dorsey, Peter Jensen, Pierre Odier, John Goddard and many others. N.O.H.A. was truly one of the best ever and with one of the most successful silent auction's ever. Our members regaled with stories of adventure and shared camaraderie with fellow Explorers Club members and the Society of Women Adventurers.

The year brought in many new members: Dave Barr #1141, Kim McCoy, #1127, James Cameron, #1129, William Morse, #1130, Gordon Cucullu, #1131, Frank Drake, #1132, Ezekiel Chaidez, #1133, Stuart Bird-Wilson, #1134, Keith Bates, #1135, Charles Carmona, #1136, Don Malarkey, #1137, Fredrick Hareland, #1138. We welcome you all with open arms.

But we also lost members that went on the great adventure. For their spirit, we will never forget them, David Clark, #1091, Robert Seaman, # 806, and Ralph White, #942. By February we will have a nice tribute on our web site to the members that have gone on the great adventure.

As we look forward to 2009, my goal as your president, is to have our web site

updated, which is nearly complete as I write this. A New Club roster will be out by the first of February, and many great speakers are already scheduled. N.O.H.A. is already in the planning stages and getting off the ground. Should any members wish to assist with N.O.H.A., please contact Rick Flores or myself. We will also continue video taping the speakers and I will still archive the presentations to DVD for the Club.

One thing I feel especially passionate about is staying in contact with members that are nonresidents of the LA area. Please know that we think of all of you every Thursday, and I will be making periodic calls in the future to say hello. Just because you are not a simple drive to the Club, please drop us a line and let us know how you are doing, as your voice is just as important.

Many people believe that today there are no true adventures to be had. But all they need to do is attend a meeting at The Adventurers' Club and dream big & dare to fail.

(Letters continued from page 11)

board meeting. I think the time should cut off at seven minutes with two minutes for questions. That way, we would be able to get seven or more members to talk without as much pressure.

As it was, we will soon have more experience with this, and perhaps will consider one of the end of the year meetings for a 2009 new members showcase night. – Steve Bein (#1057)

I believe that everyone who was present really enjoyed the idea. Thanks. – Editor

I received the following note from member and former Adventurer of the Year Bob Gannon (#1066), referring to a webpage link to photos of his continuing round-the-world adventure. For you Web-literate members, the link is http://www.earthrounders.com/cgi/gannon_kosovo.php
To the Editor:

Would you be able to forward this on to the editor of the newsletter? I would appreciate it.

I AM the editor, Bob! But thanks for the link. I'll feature your photos in a forthcoming issue. – Editor

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

Robert G. Williscroft #1116 - Editor



This issue finishes out one year and conducts in the next. We have a new president, Allan Smith (#1069), and a significantly changed Board. We are looking for some major changes in our Club.

This not to imply that our outgoing President, Robert Demott (#1080), and the outgoing Board members didn't do their best for the Club, but that as we move into a future world governed by the Internet and high-technology, we are now looking to our new President and Board to bring our Club into this ever-changing, and sometimes strangely different world.

It appears to me that the key here is to retain the best of our Club traditions that have stood the test of time, while embracing the best that the modern technology-driven world has to offer.

For example, many people today no longer use checks – or even cash, for that mat-

ter.. They pay their bills online using their bank's online facilities, or even using PayPal, which roared onto the Internet landscape a couple of years back with a reliable and secure method for paying anybody anywhere who has an email address.

Imagine, if you will, being able to sign on to a secure portion of the Club website, and review any past program right there in your home on your PC screen. Or imagine inviting a friend whom you believe is qualified to be a member to complete an application online, for rapid processing by the membership committee.

Here is another potential capability that thrills me: Imagine on your next adventure, sharing that adventure with your fellow Club members in near real time by establishing a link to a new section of the Club website, where your adventure will unfold as it happens – as you upload your video clips and daily log to our site. What a powerful and marvelous way to rejuvenate a sense of adventure in our widely disbursed membership.

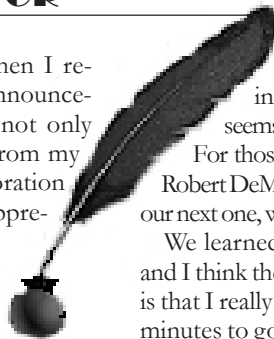
The password for the full color online edition is "acla0901".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

What a marvelous surprise I found when I returned home and opened my mail! The announcement of my XXXII Symposium – and not only that, but also a photo depicting a scene from my research with respect to Portuguese Exploration of the 15th and 16th centuries I am most appreciative. – Claude Hulet (#1114)

When a distinguished member has a significant accomplishment, everyone wants to know about it. So – Thanks. – Editor



To the Editor:

I want to thank all who participated in the talk last night. From the feedback, it seems as if it went very well and was well received. For those who were not able to participate, Vince, Robert DeMott and Bob Walters, Please be prepared for our next one, which is on March 5.

We learned a lot that we would not have known and I think the concept went well. One thing I learned is that I really wanted those who were still talking at 6 minutes to go longer. We can discuss this at the next

(Letters continued on page 10)

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

October 2, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

After the first session of the annual business meeting, President **Robert DeMott** opened the social meeting. First vice president **Paul Isley** said that he had visited Graham Hooks in the bay area. Graham builds submersibles and had one partially built and almost sold to Steve Fossett before his death.

Gary Mortimer, Shane Berry and Rick Flores went hiking in the Mammoth Lakes area. They hiked into Saddlebag Lake on the eastern edge of Yosemite and also went up to Mono Lake.

Derek Borthwick is flying to Sao Paulo for his fourth trip to Brazil in two and a half years. He donated a nice carving from Africa for the N.O.H.A. auction. He also donated a SR-71 belt buckle.

Steve Bein has applied for membership in the Chicago Explorers' Club. He is off to Chicago to hear about two men who skied to the North Pole. He will also be having lunch with Roz Savage in a few weeks.

John Haslett donated his book *Voyage of the Manteno* to the NOHA auction. John inscribed the book.

Venezuela and The Lost World

Shane Berry traveled to Venezuela in January, 2005. He landed in Caracas and went by bus to Canaima. Because of the violence in Caracas, the blinds were drawn in the tour bus so possible gangsters would not rob the bus because they did not know if soldiers were inside.

From Canaima, Shane's group flew to Ciudad Bolivar. This was right outside the

National Park of three million hectares.

The main attraction are the tepuis which are massive mesas rising almost perpendicular



Roraimus Tepui

lar from the surrounding land. Angel Falls was named by American Jimmy Angel. It falls 3,212 feet down Auyan Tepui and is fed by rain.

Shane went via powered boat up river into the park. He did not land on top of the tepui but he showed photos and said that 77% of the flora is found no other place in the world. The frogs have no legs.

It is possible to hike up but the climb takes five days. Arthur Conan Doyle in his book "The Lost World" popularized the area but Shane said there are no dinosaurs. He did apply some red dye to his face.

Shane later flew to Santa Elena and then to the Orinoco delta, the second largest delta in the world. Despite the threat of



Angel Falls

pirates (his canoe was equipped with a real rifle and a wooden rifle), he saw egrets, macaws, toucans and monkeys. Coconut husks are burned to drive away mosquitos. Yuca is a popular meal.

October 19, 2008 – N.O.H.A.*Bob Zeman (#878)*

President **Robert DeMott** welcomed more than 150 members and guests to our annual Night of High Adventure at the Sheraton Delfina on October 19, 2008.

Bagpiper **Greg Elliott** piped us in stopping in front of **Bob** and **Jane Ianello** with the Marine Corps hymn. Once in the dining room we saw the fantastic layout of donated auction items. The members went all out in coming up with memorabilia that reflects adventure around the world.

The traditional toasts were then given:

By the youngest member of the Club **Steve Lawson** – “To adventure – the shadow of every red-blooded adventurer!”

By the oldest member of the Club **John Booth** – “To the game!”

By the newest member of the Club **Charles Carmona** – “To every lost trail, lost cause and lost comrade!”

By the longest member of the Club **Bob Gilliland** – “To all adventurers!”

President DeMott introduced **Paul Isley** and **Steve Lawson** who returned Club flags.

Last August Paul flew to Ulan Ude on the eastern shore of Lake Baikal to dive in a Mir submersible to the bottom. Lake Baikal is 400 miles long and 30 miles wide. It contains more than 20% of the world’s fresh water.

The submersible was designed and built by member **Anatoly Sagalevitch** and was performing scientific studies on the contents of the lake. They viewed a bright blue sponge at the bottom.

Steve Lawson and **Peter Jensen** traveled to Port Isabel which was a ferry port in the north of the Sea of Cortez and about 150 miles south of Yuma, Arizona. In the 1870s miners, infantry and supplies were shipped to Port Isabel and then ferried north into the American southwest.

The project had been in the planning stages for 13 years. The dry dock is still visible. For awhile members **Dave Finnern** and **Tom Oedy** joined in the project. Because of the receding of the Colorado River mouth, there is much mud in the area and it is hard to get around. The boiler is all that remains of the old steamer. Steve did bring back some mud on the flag.

From Concept to Oshkosh in 226 Days

Terry Tomeny retired from the Air force and recently was the director of Flight Test Engineering for Eclipse Aviation in Albuquerque, NM for the development and certification of the Eclipse 500 Very Light Jet.



The Eclipse 500 Very Light Jet

This Very Light Jet has 2,700 orders for this six-seat airplane with two turbofan engines.

The next project was to design and develop a four-seat V-tail single engine jet with sexy ramp appeal. It would have a

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(Minutes continued from page 13)

1,250 nautical mile range and a 41,000 feet ceiling and weigh less than two metric tons. Terry was the project pilot for this plane and he worked with Vern Rayburn, employee number 16 at Microsoft.

The plan was to direct the airflow over the nose and down the fuselage top to the engine. A 22% scale model was tested in a wind tunnel and it worked. The computer simulation was almost exactly as proven by the tunnel.

Then came fabrication and assembly. Workers worked seven days a week. At 70 knots the nose gear could lift off. The plane was painted.

Terry then started the flight test program. He flew 19 sorties for 20-plus hours and the plane performed well. Acrobatics were good; glide ratio was excellent, cruising speed was excellent but the climb was only fair.



But the plane did get to Oshkosh in time for the Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in. His motto is “When Opportunity Knocks, Answer It.”

Search for Life in the Universe

Two big questions are “Where Do We Come From?” and “Are We Alone?”

Dr. Randii Wessen has been an employee of the California Institute of Technology’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory for 24 years. He was the Navigator Program System Engineer. This program’s goal is the detection

of Earth-like planets around other stars.

Stars are classified by luminosity. He gave seven classes – O, B, A, F, G, K and M. O stars have the brightest luminosity but last the fewest number of years. One has to go to F class to find a star with a life that does not burn out too early. We are no longer limited in planetary star systems to those with only one sun.



Main Sequence exhibit

In searching for possible habitats we need to find three things – liquid water, organic compounds of carbon and hydrogen and an energy source of light and heat.

Venus is Earth-sized but not Earth-like. It rains sulfuric acid. Space does not necessarily kill organisms but they can live for a very long time. If we were to have a tree of life, we would find that we as a people are closely related to corn and mushrooms.

Dr. Wessen described various search techniques such as studying rate of velocity, astrometry, transit changes in brightness,

micro lensing and direct imaging.

Fortunately, we have progressed to accept the intelligence and findings of Giordano Bruno who in 1584 said that there are countless planets and count-



less suns. For this he was burned at the stake.

At this point, acknowledgments are in order. Alan Feldstein was our Master of Ceremonies. He introduced the speakers and promoted the silent auction urging all to bid on items where they did not see his name.

Others who helped were Steve Lawson on the audio-visual equipment, Steve PETERMAN, Pierre Odier and bagpiper Greg Elliott.

Infidel in the Sahara

Member Jim Dorsey is interested in the Tuareg nomads who founded Timbuktu. Jim found Halis Al Moctar, a Tuareg guide who is computer savvy and operates out of a cyber café.

Jim and Pierre Odier flew in to Bamako and were met by a tall man in blue robes. It was Halis. They drove to Timbuktu which was the end of the old trade route carrying gold, salt and slaves.

Tuareg men cover their faces, but the women do not. The children use tablets in school that have been in their family for generations. There is the call to prayer but it is done by CD now.

Jim viewed the former homes of Rene Callie and Gordon Lowery. Timbuktu is a low, brown city always battling the sand and the wind.

Jim and Pierre drove out of the city and through its outskirts filled with tent people. There are no roads leaving the city but the guide knew the way via landmarks. At oases, there are water wells. They can descend 300 feet. Water is hauled up and put

in barrels. The birds drink first and then the animals.

Aravan is a former foreign legion post. Life consists of eating, sleeping, family, friends and conversation. Families live in portable yurts.

At one point Jim saw a caravan of 300 camels. Each carried a 400-pound slab on each side. Camels can drink 100 gallons at once. They have an opaque eyelid.

After a few days, Jim left the Rover to ride a camel. He sat 10 feet in the air. The camel tried numerous times to bite him.

As Jim approached the city after 10 days in the Sahara, a tourist approached him with cameras around his neck and took a photo. This tourist is thinking that he has a pose of a true lord of the desert.



Adventurer of the Year – Peter Jensen

Peter Jensen rode his bicycle from the Santa Monica pier across the country to Coney Island. He thanked his wife and family for their support as he was awarded the trophy from Robert DeMott as Adventurer of the Year



– 2008. He presented a framed plaque of the jersey he wore with a map of the United States on it.

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At the end of the Night of High Adventure for 2008, a photo was taken of the Club members in attendance.



November 6, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

The meeting went long tonight because the business meeting took almost an hour and John Haslett had an excellent program on the history of rafting.

Bob Silver made a generous donation to the Club and a member said that he was buying air time.

Bob Zeman went hiking in Death Valley. He climbed Wild Rose Peak and Telescope Peak. **Rick Flores** and **Steve Peterman** recommended that on his next trip to Death Valley that Bob hike to Ashford Mill which they had done recently. The night sky was beautiful and this was confirmed by the *National Geographic* issue of November, 2008 on page 152.

Pacific Challenge

John Haslett had given us a program on the Voyage of the *Manteno* in which he built a balsa raft and launched it from Ecuador. It sailed up the Pacific coast where it got caught in the doldrums or gyre and eventually sank off the coast of Costa Rica.

The *Manteno* was made of balsa wood logs lashed together by hemp. But shipworms or teredo navalis can eat at the wood unless it is protected by pitch.

John gave a history of rafting which got a huge boost when Thor Heyerdahl, a Norwegian, rafted from Peru to the Society Islands in 1947. Even though he crashed on landing he gave evidence that the south Pacific islands could have been settled by the natives of South America. Heyerdahl's voyage took 101 days and covered 4,700 miles.



Thor Heyerdahl's Kon Tiki

Vital Alsar from Santander, Spain mastered the art of steering using guara. These are eight-foot long by one inch thick by six inches wide pieces of wood that are shoved down between the balsa logs to steer the raft. His first boat *Pacific* weighing 35,000 pounds and measuring 45 feet by 20 feet sank near the Galapagos. But he had later successes.

His attempt was followed by others in the 1950s. De Vere Baker attempted a float to Tahiti. But he and his crew were rescued. However the boat did eventually drift to Tahiti. Baker did raft from Redondo to Hawaii in *Lehi IV*.

John showed us film clips from a 16 mm

movie produced by his friend Robert Amram called Pacific Challenge. In this Vital took a three-raft armada 9,213 nautical miles to the east coast of Australia.

They found out that there are male and female trees. Female trees cut at the night of the full moon work best for rafts because they have the most sap which repels the shipworms.

The crews ate dorado, tuna, and barracuda which they caught. They once caught a turtle. But swimming was dangerous because of the presence of sharks and sea snakes. Of course, falling overboard was a concern and a long rope lifeline was constantly trailed from each raft.

A cat and a monkey were brought along for amusement and they survived. The cameramen on the rafts did their regular chores as well as filming and going the extra mile to keep the photographic equipment dry.

At one point a storm came up and one raft got separated and the mast broke. But it was repaired and the rafts rendezvoused after five days apart.

As the rafts neared Australia, they were met by an Australian naval vessel 400 miles out. They did replenish supplies including



fresh fruit. But this was a false sense of security because they were then becalmed for five weeks. Finally, eight miles from land they were towed in.

This was the longest rafting

voyage in history. The rafts had drifted south to Ballina where they were welcomed by the residents. There is now a museum with a composite raft made from the remains.

November 13, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

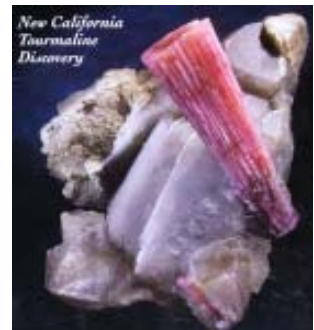
President **Robert DeMott** opened the meeting. He said that *Roy Roush* informed him that **Jay Fiordello**, a former guest of the Club, had passed away. Jay owned the Chez J Restaurant on the Santa Monica pier. Jay dove for lost treasure off of Africa and the Andrea Doria. He also searched for lost aircraft.

On the brighter side, **Ed Boden** visited us from North Carolina. Back in the 60s and 70s, Ed sailed his boat *Kittiwake* around the world. The total trip took 13 years and five days and he was alone on the high seas for 300 days. Ed now has a 1930 Model A coupe which he is rebuilding.

Roger Haft leaves in December for Rwanda and a gorilla trek and Ethiopia.

Charles Carmona organized a trip to the Cryo-Genie tourmaline mine near Warner Springs the previous Sunday and 23 members attended. **Jim Heaton** said it was a lot of fun but freezing cold. The miners use radar with ground penetration to mine the pockets.

Among those attending were **Shane Berry**,



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Vince Weatherby, Mike Gwaltney, Tom Odie and Jim Dorsey. A few actually got down into the mine to witness the setting off of explosives. Shane donated the proceeds to the Club.

Steve Bein kicked off the donations to 2009 N.O.H.A. silent auction with a sharp machete, spear point from the era of the Crusades, a small cushion, and a copy of a Walker Colt 16” pistol.

Steve Bein and Rudy Hadda

As a young teenager, Steve Bein met Rudy Hadda his counselor at a summer camp.

Rudy was born in Poland and raised in Germany. His father had earned the Iron Cross in World War I and loved the Fatherland. But the family was Jewish and the persecution by the Nazis forced Rudy to flee. His father was sent to Buchenwald.

The only place in the world accepting German Jews without papers in 1939 was Shanghai. Rudy lived there until 1950. But he also spent time in Nanking as an entertainer and magician. He also worked at the Navy base in Tsingtao where Frank Haigler spent some time.

Rudy was also a gymnast and represented Poland in the 1948 Olympics winning a bronze medal. With the Communist takeover, he left on the last boat to Japan.

He eventually made it to the United States and became president of the U.S. Gymnastics Association. He stressed the need for gyms in elementary and high schools. He also got to know Bela Karolyi, coach of Nadia Comaneci.

Rudy has worked as a magician at the

Magic Castle. He says that he is not fluent in Japanese or Chinese but he can converse in these languages. He is now 87 years old and is glad for the opportunities he had in the U. S.

Steve then got up and showed slides of his raft trip of the Snake River through Hell’s Canyon 35 to 40 years ago. The weather was warm. Steve brought along his fishing pole and was catching many smallmouth bass.



November 20, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

Bill Morse returned from the trek to Mt. Everest base camp that he took with **Paul Isley** and others. Bill and Paul had flown to Nepal and then to Lukla. There was a lot of descending down to rivers that had to be crossed and then ascending. One gets the impression that there is no flat ground in that part of Nepal. Paul got up to 18,450 feet of elevation at Kala Pattar.

Their trek took 14 days with “rest stops” every few days. It turned out they only had to hike six miles on “rest” days. They did hike up to 10 hours on some days. Bill did make it to base camp. On the way out they trekked to Namche Bazar and the last day was really hard. Bill and Paul did send us a postcard.

Bob Gannon joined us. He is on his 25th leg of his flying trip. He left eight years ago and re-

cently returned from the eastern bloc countries. He has now landed in 99 countries.

Bob said that the citizens of Kosovo love Americans because it just became a country in January, 2008 with the help of the U. S. He left his plane in Transylvania, Romania and he leaves in two weeks for the Middle East.

Jim Dorsey is going to southern Mexico and Guatemala for 18 days to take photos of Mayan ruins.

President **Robert DeMott** then turned the meeting over to **Alan Feldstein** who introduced our program. Alan met Clark Vautier at the UCLA kayaking course. Clark is originally from Hamilton, New Zealand which is near Auckland. He made it to the U. S. via Australia, Canada and other countries.

The Paine Circuit

In November, 2007 Clark Vautier and a few others flew to Patagonia to trek the Paine Circuit. The trek through wild and rugged terrain is 85 miles long and took 10 days.

He flew to Santiago, Chile and then to Punta Arenas. At 120,000 population, Punta Arenas is considered the southernmost city in the world because Ushuaia is more like a town.



The Paine Circuit

From Punta Arenas he moved north to Puerto Natales. The trek circles the Torres del Paine National Park and he viewed the Torres themselves early on. They

are monolithic rock spires sticking up out of the ice bound earth. The group stayed in the



Torres del Paine spires

estancia Hosteria Torres and then set out. For the first few days they were accompanied by gauchos who rode horses and carried their equipment.

They camped at Campo Paine, Lago Dickson, Campo Los Perros and near the Grey Glacier which measures five miles by ten miles. It flows from the Patagonia ice field. One of their final sites was at Lago Pehoe.

Along the way Clark saw many guanacos, many birds, a gray fox and even a cougar. There were footbridges across the many rivers.

The trek is rectangular route with rounded corners. Shane berry remarked that he and Gary Mortimer had done the classic W part of the trek a few years ago.

The winds are strong in the area and many trees show the effects of this.

The Park covers 450,000 acres and was established in 1959. It is about 112 kilometers north of Puerto Natales. Clark's slides were beautiful and showed well the vast expanses in these southern regions as well as the mountains, lakes and glaciers.

Travels with Ralph White

Roger Haft (#1098)

Rosaly Lopes' story in last month's *News* motivated me to see if I could help with the goal of making Ralph the most traveled dead man in the universe. I contacted Rosaly and picked up some of Ralph's ashes. While there, I learned that not only had Ralph been to Rwanda (one of my intended locations) but he had also done a documentary with Dian Fossey on the gorilla jungle I was planning to visit.

I stopped for lunch at Chez Jay in Santa Monica and learned that Jay (who was a good friend of Ralph's and who had also recently died) was also cremated, and I almost wound up with two sets of ashes; but the logistics were too difficult, so I wound up with a bag of Jays peanuts to leave with Ralph's ashes.

Ralph's first stop was on December 23, 2008, at the Fairview Hotel Swimming Pool in Nairobi, Kenya, where Ralph seemed to enjoy all the bikini clad nubile in the area, so I left some of his ashes in a picturesque garden overlooking the pool.

Ralph's next stop was on December 24, at Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda's Virunga mountain range. Ralph was observed by a 500 pound dominant male silver back gorilla and his tribe from a distance of about six feet as Ralph was laid to rest.

On December 25 to 26, we went to a chimpanzee trek in the Nyungwe Forest of Rwanda. Ralph seemed to enjoy the hike but the crawl up the 60 degree slope in the west jungle really exhausted me. The chimps didn't help by hiding from us in the trees.

We moved on to Ethiopia on December 30, where we first stopped at Lake Langano where Ralph enjoyed a swim in one of the few unpolluted lakes in Ethiopia.

The next stop on New Year's Day was a colorful street market in Jinka where Ralph enjoyed cavorting with all the naked natives. After the market, Ralph conversed with the Mursi people at Mursi Mago National park. The Mursi women are noted



Forthcoming Programs

- January 8, 2009** – “Members’ Showcase” Board Members
- January 15, 2009** – **LADIES’ NIGHT** – “Comedy and its Reflection in History” Shelly Berman
- January 22, 2009** – “Pacific Row – Section 1 of 3” Roz Savage
- January 28, 2009** – “International Human Powered Vehicles (IHPV) founder on Bicycling” Chester Kyle
- February 5, 2009** – “The Present Mayan Civilization” James Dorsey
- February 12, 2009** – “High Adventure in the Bering Sea Ice Pack” Dr. Robert G. Williscroft
- February 19, 2009** – **LADIES’ NIGHT** – “Adventurers of a Vatican Astronomer” Br. Guy Consolmagno
- February 26, 2009** – “Balls out mountain biking” Patric Coston
- March 5, 2009** – “Members’ Showcase”
- March 12, 2009** – “Adventures in Turkey” Bora Ozkok
- March 19, 2009** – “Space Women” Randa Milliron, Rosaly Lopes, Andrea Donnallan & Reda Anderson
- March 26, 2009** – Al Adams (#688) Memorial

for having their lips split and a large plate inserted therein.

Then on January 5, we went for a boat ride on Lake Tana, the origin of the Blue Nile. Ralph was appalled by the incompetence of the boat operators dealing with a boat break down on the way back to the dock. We also visited the Blue Nile Falls where Ralph again got wet. Then we visited a number of castles at Gondar, one of which Mussolini used as a headquarters during his Second World War visit to Ethiopia.

At Axum on January 7, Ralph got to spend some time with the Queen of Sheba at her palace. He was disappointed, however, when he realized that we were only fifty miles from Eritrea, but with no way to contact Pierre for advice, we were unable to cross the border.

On January 8, our first stop was at Lalibela where there are some wonderful

churches carved out of solid rock. We then took a mule ride from about 4,500 feet to 7,000 feet up a rock strewn climb, part riding and part walking, to the Monastery of Asheten Mariam where Ralph is high and dry inside the monastery.

Finally, we landed in London on January 11, but by then all we wanted to do was have a drink and a good steak, get a good night’s sleep, and take a shower in the first decent plumbing of the whole trip.





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