

The Adventurers' Club News

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President Allan Smith presenting Speaker Ryan Spencer with his certificate

The Adventurers' Club News

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE - Looking Forward*Allan R. Smith #1069 - President*

Greetings Fellow Adventurers, As the year is flying by and football season is right around the corner, it is hard to believe we are more than halfway through 2009. We have had some stellar

programs and that will most certainly continue through the year.

Our attendance has been holding solid and this has been a profitable year for our Club. You may have noticed that nothing has been sent out for NOHA and there is a reason for this. With escalating costs for the venue and the state of the economy, the Board had several discussions and determined that it was best to postpone the "Night of High Adventure" until next year. Jim Heaton has been handling the club facilities and most recently had some work done on the air conditioning. It seems to be working great. Thanks Jim! We are also working on getting the Club animals cleaned along with some general maintenance work.

I have been in touch with Jeff Blumenfeld of Expedition News, a news agency and PR firm for the adventure

and expedition community. It has been around for 20 years and I have been able to secure a free subscription to their newsletter for all members of our Club. The subscription rate is \$36 per year normally and I trust you will enjoy it. They will send us a PDF version and it will be e-mailed to the membership. For those of us that seek sponsorship for an expedition, I think you will find this invaluable. If anyone wishes to not receive Expedition News, then please let me know.

On this note, we are working on getting an updated Club roster completed by year's end. It is vitally important that you send in any change of address, phone number or e-mail that you have. Please contact Pierre Odier or myself with your updated information. If you are not sure if you have been updated, please ask us.

Some of our members have had serious illness or death in their family. Please note that you are in our thoughts and prayers. If there is anything your brother adventurers can do, please do not hesitate to let us know.

A new refrigerator (refurbished) has been purchased for the cooking staff and as I am told this is long overdue but much welcomed by Emily. We have asked her to cut back on the number of meals

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Looking for Ernest Hemingway

Jim Dorsey (#1081)

Grand Bahama, while grand, is a tiny speck of Bahamian Island soaked in rum and populated by those searching for a lifestyle that does not require their Bahamian presence

Soon after arriving, I was smitten with the large and beautiful shells known as conches. These are the shells you see natives blowing to warn of the impending arrival in the movies of white men. When clean and polished, they are beautiful and sell for a pretty penny all over the Bahamas to tourists foolish enough to pay tourist prices for them.

After seeing what the shells cost in the stores, I was determined to find my own on the beach no matter how long the search. Lo and behold, no sooner had I set foot on the virgin sand than a conch was laid at my feet by an incoming wave.

The only problem with this conch shell is that it still had a live animal inside. In fact, the animal itself is called a conch and the shell takes its name from its inhabitant. In the Bahamas, conch is the local delicacy and it is prepared as many ways as Bubba had recipes for shrimp in Forrest Gump. It is a tasty white colored mollusk.

Had I not been in such a hurry to procure my own shell, I would have noticed that the restaurants have giant piles of discarded conch shells without the animal outside in

the back all over the island. They are there for the taking So much for patience.

Now a conch is not just going to give up its home and slither out because a tourist wants its shell for a souvenir. My conch in particular had withdrawn deep into the inner recesses of its shell and had curled up tight in defiance. After prodding and poking to no avail, I came up with a grand strategy.

Being quite young and stupid at the time, I decided the best way to get the conch out of the shell was to put it in the shower stall of my condo, plug the drain and fill the shower with several inches of Lysol. Don't ask why. That is how my then as of yet unformed brain worked back then.

Feeling good that I had outwitted a dumb conch and would have my souvenir conch soon, I departed with my wife on our motorbike for a local bar.

Now this was not just any bar, but a well-used watering hole known as Harry's. Back in the old days when Ernest Hemingway used to come to these waters to take a few marlin, he liked to top off his day by bending an elbow at Harry's. I had to see it while on the island.

At first glance, Harry's is nothing more than a shack made of piled palm fronds. It is the history that draws one to this unimpressive establishment. Inside we were

(Looking continued on page 2)

greeted by a tall muscled man the color of deep ebony. Under his tight T-shirt, muscles rippled and he had a gleaming gold tooth in the front of his mouth. His name was Henry and if I was to typecast a Caribbean bartender, this is the guy I would pick.

I ordered a lager; Irene had a rum fizz and we asked if he had any Hemingway stories. He laughed and I figured he probably heard that a dozen times a day. He told me he was just a small boy when Hemingway frequented this bar but his father knew the man. In fact, his father had boxed with Ernest.

I had heard stories of how Hemingway when in his cups (athletic supporters), would slam a \$100-dollar bill on the bar and challenge any man to go three minutes with him, bare knuckles. There were few takers but occasionally someone was willing. Ernest usually used the money to buy a round for the house after thrashing his opponent. I had also heard of a very large person in Cuba who supposedly fought him to a bloody draw but had no notion of anyone ever having beaten him. His ability with his fists was only rivaled by his skill with the pen. Of course, it was also this very pen that helped to enhance the reputation.

Henry told me his father had not only gone the three minutes with Hemingway but had beaten him. A good story but who knows. Certainly I was not the one to challenge it and a good story was what I had come for. In fact, if Henry's father looked anything like his son, I have no doubts he could have beaten Hemingway.

Henry then pointed to a large glass container high on a shelf behind the bar and

asked me if I knew what the liquid was. The container appeared to contain two liters tall and full of yellow liquid. My first thought was one I cared not to share but when Henry read my mind, he nodded his head yes and laughed out loud.

When he laughed his muscles rippled, his gold tooth caught the light and he seemed a character straight out of a Hemingway story.

He told me that after his father had beaten Hemingway, Ernest, not to be outdone, produced another \$100-dollar bill and offered it to the man who could outdo him with eliminating liquid waste from his body.

Apparently there were several takers for this bet, the people being mostly full of rum and ready to do it anyway for free, not to mention not having to get beat up in the process. Several containers were produced, money was laid out, for side betting was inevitable at this point, and a crowd gathered around the bar as various manly members both famous and infamous were brought forth.

The contest began with men straining and groaning. One by one they finished their task until only Henry's father and Ernest were still producing. Finally Henry's father was done but Hemingway kept going and going like an energizer bunny.

When Hemingway finished, the container was full and no one could doubt who the most prodigious water maker was. Hemingway again bought a round for the house and staggered off into history. The prodigious results of his output were preserved in the very jar in question before me now

and the results have been there ever since.

At least that is the story Henry told me. We finished our drinks, thanked him for his time and left to ponder the validity of his story. I decided on my ride back to the condo that if the story was true, it was certainly a great one, and if not, I would have been proud to have made it up. Even if it held nothing other than colored water, that container was worth thousands of drinks over countless hours.

When we got back to our condo, an angry landlord was waiting for us. It seems the housekeeper had entered in our absence and screamed when she found a dead mollusk lying inside the shower stall.

May 7, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

Acting first vice president Vince Weatherby filled in tonight as president.

The bell was tolled for Craig Watrous #1089 who went on the great adventure. Craig lived in the Sacramento area and had been a friend of Bill Burchette for 45 years. He was a retired fire fighter and had worked on setting up communication networks for fighting fires. He joined Jim Heaton, and others on a trip to the Philippines a few years ago with Ted Williams. Craig also had a collection of classic cars.

Bernie and Devera Harris leave on Monday for a week in Kona on the smoking island. He is going to see Kilauea and the Mauna Kea telescope.

Roger Haft is planning a trip in the late summer to Sweden, Norway and Iceland.

Bob Zeman is leaving in a week for the Four Corners area. He will be hiking and

exchanging information on the finding of the body of Everett Ruess which had been missing for 75 years. Everett was the brother of our member Waldo Ruess who passed away September, 2007.

Bob then passed around a letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating that the Club qualifies for exemption from income tax.

Gene Arias said that all who are interested in accompanying Fred Hareland on the trip to the Naval Museum at China Lake need to get their paperwork in by May 15 to satisfy the security requirements.

Member Sharing

Alan Feldstein left for Europe at age 20 for a planned two months. In Monte Carlo he won enough money to last him another two months and he visited Israel also.

While in his late 20s he got interested in rock climbing. He climbed in Joshua Tree, New York and the east buttress of Mt. Whitney. But he slipped in Moreno Valley and smashed his ankle requiring four surgeries.

The doctors said his climbing career was over but eight months later he was back climbing and continued for a year.

He then took up kayaking and has kayaked up and down the Pacific coast and even off Tanzania.

Alan believes that to be an adventurer one has to leave their comfort zone; be willing to take a risk, and be willing to fail. He loves East Africa—walking around, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro and going on sa-

(Minutes continued on page 4)

fari.

As a lawyer he put together a coalition to oppose the Food and Drug Administration on its efforts to ban ephedra. And he acted as agent and road manager for the first rock concert of John Mayo in Mexico which took place in a bullring. There were 8,000 seats but 10,000 tickets were sold and the group had to make a hasty exit after the show.

Jim Dorsey was in awe of the quarters when he first came here. He has kayaked the entire rim of fire of the Pacific coast from Alaska to Mexico in sections. He has worked as a naturalist in San Ygnacio, the only place where whales interact with people.

Thanks to Pierre Odier he has been able to study remote cultures. He is going to West Africa in a few months with Mike Gwaltney, Alan Feldstein and Pierre to study the voodoo cultures.

Jim and Irene just returned from Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. At Kutna Hora in the Czech Republic they visited the underground church vault where 40,000 skeletons from the fourteenth century are kept in an ossuary. They attended a concert every night in Prague.

While in Budapest he crawled through the caves beneath the city. There are 20 miles of caverns, tunnels and ropes. Unfortunately, his finger broke. Doctors treated it and he is wearing a large brace.

Jim has given 17 programs at the Club but his most memorable adventure was crossing the desert in Mali with the Tuareg nomads dressed as a nomad. He lived with the Dogons for two weeks. They did run into bandits but bandits fear the Tuaregs.

Claude Hulet grew up on a farm in Michigan with a dog and a horse. He learned to farm and shoot crows with a single-shot Winchester he bought at age 14 for \$6.54. Prior to World War II he got his private pilot's license but he never used it.

He entered the University of Michigan and loved chemistry. But he also took courses in English and Spanish and literature courses in each language. He concentrated on the Romance Languages his senior year. A good professor took his case for a degree all the way to the Board of Regents to insure that Claude graduated.

Claude joined the Army and was offered a school. He chose cryptography. He was then asked where he wanted to be stationed. He picked Brazil. Here again authorities gave Claude opportunities. He spent two and a half years in Natal where planes were sent prior to flying across the Atlantic.

After the war, he went to Guatemala and set up a library. He finished up his doctorate in romance languages at Washington University in St. Louis. He wrote the first history of Brazilian literature in Portuguese after interviewing many Brazilian novelists. He was then hired by UCLA.

Claude has put on 32 symposia on Portuguese history and traditions. At the last one, there were 31 papers presented. He feels grateful to have known people upon whose shoulders he has stood.

Bob Silver believes in Classic Cars for Fun and Profit. He taught a class at UCLA in the late 1970s and attendance grew by session. He was interviewed by Ralph Story. He brought in Bud Cohen as a guest lec-

turer. After Bud died, his collection was put up for auction a 1936 Mercedes Benz 500K Special Roadster.

At an auction, Bob was an agent for a prince of Monaco and ended up buying an 8-cylinder Mercedes with a 5-cylinder combustion chamber for \$400,000. At the time, this was the most expensive car ever bought at auction. He paid \$23,000 to ship it to Paris and then got a flat bed truck to drive it to Monaco. The driver got a ticket for driving too many hours without sleep and Bob had to drive the last leg.

Another venture brought him to Ecuador to take two LVT alligators (dredge vehicles) up a river to dredge for gold. Bob wanted to do a film of the project. But the project took time.

Finally they got to dry ground and started drilling. The hole started at four feet wide and expanded to eight feet. But then they struck a river of water and Bob's scuba skills were tested. More to come. —

May 14, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

Steve Bein returned from 10 days of storm chasing in four states. He started in Dallas and the group chased one small tornado. It was the only one in their drive through Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

The highlight was a two-hour lightning storm. The biggest hail were golf-ball sized but residents talked of hail getting up to the size of a grapefruit.

Rick Flores told of a segment of the backbone trail hiked by Steve Peterman and he. The backbone trail goes 60 miles from

Will Rogers Park to Pt Mugu State Park. But some of it crosses private property which is legally not open to hikers. Rick and Steve hiked the 10 miles on the western end.

Chuck Jonkey invited all to an Indian and Bali music concert at UCLA this Saturday featuring Balinese dancers.

All who want to go on the petroglyph tour at China Lake on May 30th must have their paperwork in by Saturday March 15th.

Mapping the World

Will Tefft works for Map Link, a wholesaler of maps in Santa Barbara. It started as a travelers' supply company and then moved on to maps and sold the supply company. Interestingly 50% of Map Link's sales are to foreign customers.

Brazil has the largest unmapped area of any country. One-third of Brazil was mapped by the army, one-third by civilians and the remaining third is technically unmapped.

Will was proud of an expedition he led to central Asia using a Soviet map and ground truthing (update verification) to adequately map the area and this included China and Tibet. When asked about restrictions imposed by the government, he said there were none. But times and moods can change.

There was a good map of Tashkent but the Soviets did not print maps for mass production. The Soviets did an excellent job of mapping but sometimes they put out false maps changing the scale on the map.

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One Tibetan map uses Chinese characters, one uses Tibetan characters and one uses English.

Map Link has also put out atlases for 11 western states that are quite detailed. Mappers drove more than 50,000 miles and talked to a few hundred persons for the California atlas alone. The California atlas took six months of work to put together. It is now in its fifth edition.

Satellite imaging is useful but interpretation is needed for an accurate map. Map Link has two large maps of Tehran—one in English and one in Farsi. Indonesia is the only Islamic country which sells its maps over the counter.

Will noted that the mapping of India back in the 1800s under Sir George Everest was done in secret due to politics and other factors. Map Link does not deal in antique maps.

Regarding trends, Will said that the Thomas Brothers street maps will decline because of the popularity of automobile locators. But thematic maps dealing with a theme will prosper such as one he showed on the Australian outback.

Will's associate Bill Spicer used to work for National Geographic and said that its map makers are split into three areas—those that appear on the pages of the magazine, those that are inserts and map products.

The best atlases in the world are Oxford, London Times and National Geographic.

Will's talk drew the largest variety of persons in the audience asking questions of any that this reporter can remember.

May 28, 2009

Bob Zeman

President Allan Smith welcomed all including new member Carl Rimple. Carl was presented with copies of the by-laws, roster, badge, his certificate (and a bill for dues per Bob Silver.) Carl #1142 has been a sailor, carpenter, logger, mountain guide, airborne medic in the Air Force, teacher and other professions. He has been to the bottom of Death Valley and the top of Mt. Rainier. Allan is going to Washington, D. C. to film a tour of the White House. While there, he will meet with Emory Kristof. Bernie Harris returned from a week on the big island of Hawaii. He and Devera drove around seeing the smoke and sulfur fumes and walking through a lava tube. At the observatory on Mauna Kea he saw 23 telescopes of various sizes. Viewing through an 11-inch Celestron telescope, he saw the rings of Saturn and two moons. Jay Foonberg enjoyed his extended cruise from Singapore to Dubai. He was impressed by the 2,500 pagodas in Pagan, Burma with real gold. The Shwezigon pyramid is covered with gold leaf. He rode an elephant in Phuket and also visited Cochin and Mumbai. Money is finally running short in Dubai and work permits are being cancelled at a rate of 1,500 per day.

Roger Haft and Jim Heaton had lunch with Knut Oxnevaad who is in town.

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cooked so that we do not have waste. Therefore, it is important to call in for your dinner reservation so she can accurately prepare.

On a final note, we are moving forward on selected items for purchase by the membership. Coffee cups, mouse pads, pins, tie tacks, table flags and more will be coming soon. Hopefully, in the next News we will have an order form with a

of each item for purchase.

“Stories of the Adventurers’ Club” will soon be published. thanks to all those that submitted stories and photos. Please remember the Club is what you make it and if you know of anyone that might make a good speaker or for that matter a good member, please let the Board of Directors or Program Chairman Vince Weatherby know

August 6, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

Jay Foonberg returned from running two more half-marathons in two weeks. He passed around his running shoes and jersey for members to see. The shoes have a tracking device that the organizers use to make sure the runners actually reach certain checkpoints on the course.

Robert Williscroft spoke of his adventures with a trespasser, his shotgun and the LAPD.

Rick Flores and Jim Dorsey went whale watching out of Santa Barbara and the number of species and the quantities were the best.

Roger Haft is leaving on his trip to Scandinavia. His first stop is to see our member Christian in Icel friend of Allan Smith in Oslo.

Bob Oberto is going down to Ecuador and asked for information from the members.

New member Tom Buttenbach was inducted into the Club.

Pierre Odier introduced Bob Silver as the

evening’s speaker. As usual Bob regaled the stories of his trips to the Middle East and Pakistan. As some members noted, the film and slides were, as some members said “from the 1920s,” it made for a great evening with good laughs.

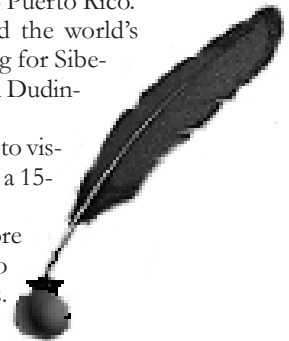
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bill Altaffer writes that he has traveled extensively with his family in July to Puerto Rico.

Bill, who has been called the world’s most traveled man, is leaving for Siberia to places like Perm 36 and Dudinka via the Jenisey River.

He has obtained a permit to visit Wake Island in December, a 15-year quest.

He still wants to spend more time in the Stans and also to hike in the Pamir Mountains.



EPIPHANY

Bob Zeman #878 - Editor

As a result of the resignation of Robert Williscroft as editor, I have volunteered to serve as the new editor. Robert did a great job compiling the meeting write-ups, obtaining feature articles, adding photos and in color and in general raising the quality of the News to a much higher level. I and the rest of the Club members thank you Robert for all of your efforts.

In addition, Robert has generously volunteered to assist me in my transition as I learn a new computer program--Adobe PageMaker and the tasks required to compile, edit, and publish a quality News.

I have had conversations with other members and I will continue to do so to ensure that we get good material for the News. If you have any ideas for additions, subtractions or changes, let me know and I will take them under consideration.

This issue is composed mostly of write-ups of past meetings that are an important part of our Club history. In the future, we will be more current and there will be more space devoted to feature articles, letters from members, upcoming programs and tidbits from the past.

I talked with Don Waters and he had a good idea called Epiphany. His thought is that at some time in our lives we as adventurers have come to a crossroads or point where we have a chance to change our direction. He called this our epiphany.

A good example came at a recent meeting in which Neil Mendt gave a program called Last Stop for Paul. Neil made a movie which is being shown about scattering the ashes of his deceased friend Paul around

the world.

Neil's epiphany came when he was in school after spring break. Many of his friends had returned to school with great tans and stories of exciting times in different places. Neil vowed that next spring break he would do the same. Well, he did. On the next spring break he took off and came back with a tan that turned to sunburn and peeled. But he endured this and started taking trips whenever he had future breaks or vacations when he started his full-time job.

I am sure that many of you have similar epiphanies in which you decided that there must be more to life than your current routine. I believe that these epiphanies would be interesting to our members and that most could relate to this.

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

A project started in 2008 and is always ongoing is the cataloging of the Club's trophies (heads and horns.) A rough draft has been prepared of the roughly 600 plus items along with whatever description we may have, the donor and other related circumstances.

Many thanks go to Robert De Mott who as president took care of the tough jobs and allowed others to work on this. Mike Gwaltney, Rick Flores and Bob Zeman compiled the info, took photos, labeled each item and are creating a master index.

The password for the online edition is "acla0908".

BOOK REVIEW -

THE BIG YEAR: A TALE OF MAN, NATURE, AND FOWL OBSESSION

Author: Mark Obmascik, Free Press, A Division of Simon & Schuster,(268p; paperback), 1. Review by Bob Zeman (#878)

Every January 1, a quirky crowd storms out across North America for a spectacularly competitive event called a Big Year—a grand, expensive, and occasionally vicious 365-day marathon of birdwatching.

For three men in particular, 1998 would become a grueling battle for a new North American birding record.

Bouncing from coast to coast on frenetic pilgrimages for once-in-a-lifetime rarities, they brave broiling deserts, bug-infested swamps, and some of the lumpiest motel mattresses known to man.

This unprecedented year of beat-the-clock adventures ultimately leads one man to a record so gigantic that it is unlikely ever to be bested.

One of the birders is Sandy Komito, who had started and built a large industrial cleaning business. In his late 50s, he knew men who lusted for a new wife or a Porsche or even a yacht. Komito had no interest. What he wanted was birds.

At one point chasing a MacGillivray's warbler in Yosemite, he spotted three climbers on the 3,000-foot face of El Capitan.

He told a nearby woman. She said that one of the climbers was her boyfriend, Mark Wellman. He's a paraplegic.

Wellman, paralyzed below the waist, was the climber who had captivated the world in 1989 by taking seven days, four hours, and seven thousand pull-ups to conquer El

Capitan. That had launched his career as a motivational speaker.

Why is he doing it? Komito asked. Why do you birdwatch? the girlfriend countered. It's a rush. It's the same as when I skydive.

The book traces the travels and adventures of Komito, Al Levantin, and Greg Miller as they fly, boat, drive and hike from the Dry Tortugas to Attu to southeast Arizona, Rio Grande Valley, Cape May, Plum Island, High Island and offshore to places well-known to serious birdwatchers.

The question comes up about cheating. How does anyone really know that the three birders really saw all of the birds that they claimed to have seen.

The author does spell out all of the receipts, witnesses, weather reports, times of sunrise and sunset that he checked and states that he could not find a single case of fraud.

But he did find cases where one of the three missed a target bird in a far-off location on one trip and subsequently took another trip to spot the bird.

The other reason is why cheat. There is no cash prize, no trophy, no trip to Disneyland for the winner. If you cheat in a Big Year, who are you cheating?

This is a truly entertaining and informational book.

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

March 5, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

After a delicious steak dinner served by **Emily** and **John**, the members gathered for a meeting of sharing.

Charles Carmona returned from attending his 31st gem and mineral show in Tucson.

Steve Bein returned from a weekend of photography at Mono Lake and Bodie.

Don Waters donated a bust for the NOHA live auction.

Steve Bein donated some statues from Ghana, an impala horn, paintings from Ecuador and a sweater from Guatemala.

Member Sharing

Certain members were allotted 10 minutes to share their life's history/adventures.

Bob Aronoff started off stating his parents came from Latvia and Poland. Bob's mother got a food franchise in Massachusetts but his parents came to California for his father's health. Bob went to UCLA and then worked for the General Accounting Office and later for Touche Ross where he met Charlie Ross. He also worked for Citi Investing. Bob has traveled to Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Europe, New Zealand, Australia and Korea. He has been to Japan nine times.

Mike Gwaltney's parents were from the UK and he was born in Suffolk, VA. He moved to Huntington Park at age 13 and met Jim Dorsey. He joined the Army and went to jump school. He made eight or nine jumps a day including being dropped into a crevasse in Alaska. He joined the Hun-

tington Park Police Department and started collecting police hats. He was the first police officer invited by the government of Lithuania to train officers there.

Mike received a hat from a Johannesburg police officer and in turn gave him a bullet-proof vest. It helped save a life. Mike still needs police hats from 23 to 27 countries and is going to west Africa to reduce that number. He also operated a police memorabilia museum in Huntington Park that is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Roger Haft was born in Cincinnati and enjoys hiking, camping and riding trains. His mother drove a car from Cincy to Oklahoma. He has delivered time cards, met the president of Chrysler, sold cars in Australia and sold locomotives. He is now a property manager.

Vince Weatherby is a fifth-generation California and ran track, wrestled and was a state champ in skeet shooting. He became an EMT and went to the police academy. He likes to buy, restore and sell antique cars. He specializes in British sports cars from the 1950s and 1960s. He has traveled to Alaska and Argentina.

David Yamada is from Pasadena and went to Fort Bliss in Texas with the Army. He attended college and law school and became an attorney. His uncle was a mariner who brought oil to Japan. His father was interned in Gila Bend during the war. David met Emil Barjak on a trip to the Yucatan to see a tapir. They missed. He also went to Copper Canyon with Ken Senter, Dave Reed and Pierre Odier. And he took a hunting trip to Zimbabwe to

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shoot bush meet. In 1986 he went with Senter, Tim Schweigart, Emil to Mopte and Timbuktu. He has ridden the Trans-Siberian Railroad, the Australian train, and been to Egypt, Jordan and Oman.

Bill Morse was born in Jamestown, NY and moved to Texas and then Rolling Hills. He joined the Army and traveled to Europe and Asia. In 2002 he met Akira in Cambodia. Akira has cleared 50,000 land mines but there are about 5 million left. He also has adopted maimed children. Bill formed a group to aid Akira and enabled him to get a NGO (non-geovernmental organization) certificate and a license for demining through a class in England. Akira has found numerous weapons caches, AK-47s. Bill brought back two mines to show the members.

Sid Hallburn was raised in South Gate and danced and boxed at an early age. He has performed with Judy Garland, Debbie Reynolds, Gene Kelly. He was also student body president at USC. He still works with youths teaching them entertainment and he has received an award from the state for his volunteer efforts. His own teacher is a former of the Rascals and is now 101.

Sid demonstrated moves to defend against a drawn knife and a hand-held gun.

March 19, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

Paul Isley returned from a visit to his son at Emory-Riddle in Florida. He went to the range to shoot an AR-15. Paul also visited with Gordon Cucullu who has finished his book called Inside Gitmo—The

Truth Behind the Myth.

Bob Walters decided to drive the inland route to his place in southwest Washington. There was snow and ice between Yreka and Bend. His visit was days of sunshine interrupted by squalls.

Paul Isley is flying to Taipei and then to Shanghai. He and Jerry Robinson will be giving talks, visiting customers and attending trade shows.

Jim Dorsey is leaving for his last whale watching expedition of the year in Baja and then he is going to Prague. He alerted those in the audience to a National Geographic Special on Saturday night on salmon in the Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea.

Robert Williscroft attended the retirement of the Mystic (Deep Submergence Research Vehicle-1) in San Diego. Robert was the only one in attendance who had served on both the Pigeon and Ortolan mother ships as chief diver and navigator. See the February/March 2009 issue of the Club News for more details.

Adventures in Mongolia

Bob Oberto introduced Dr. Andrea Donnellan who is a geophysicist at Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Andrea went with a small team to do reconnaissance on geologic faults in Mongolia.

Since 1900 there have been seven earthquakes exceeding 7.0 on the Richter scale in Mongolia. These have left faults that have been relatively undisturbed over the years. One rupture is 350 kilometers long and all have permafrost around them that helps preserve them.

One of the team was a specialist in dating horses' teeth. Ever since the days of Genghis Khan the Mongols have been excellent horsemen. Even today they gallop rather than trot. There are a number of camels in the area.

In the country the people live in gers also known as yurts. But there are large apartment complexes in the capital of Ulan Batar. The residents of the gers move about every three to six weeks for better grazing. But in wintertime they stay for six months.

The people collect dung and burn it to cook the sheep. Andrea drank tea which was made using mares' milk. The natives also make dried cheese out of mares' milk. Andrea and her team filtered all water.

There are small volcanoes but the last eruption was 20,000 years ago.

Andrea drove to Lake Hatgal near the Russian border and just south of Lake Baikal. They spent three days aboard a boat taking mud core samples. The lake is incredibly clear. The hotel near the lake was nice but the Russians took all of the electrical equipment when they left so she had no electricity.

The flies are quite bad in the summer but Andrea went in September. She had nice photos of petroglyphs on the rocks and swans and vultures in the air. She also visited lava tubes and noted the landscape was similar to the Owens Valley.

She showed a slide of a large plug of magma about 20 feet high that came through the sediment.

Genghis Khan built a walled city and gave the Mongolians a sense of pride which they cherish today.

When the Russians came, they took the uranium out of the mines. Then Americans and others mined gold using cyanide. This did pollute one or more rivers.

She did venture a bit into the Gobi Desert where there are some huge ruptures but she saw none.

March 26, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

President Allan Smith, Vince Weatherby and Bob Thomas met with our landlords and were pleased with the results of the negotiations.

Shane Berry went to the Carrizo Plain. This area along the San Andreas Fault is about halfway between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo. The wildflowers were blooming.

Steve Bein showed some beautiful photos from Mono Lake.

Gary Mortimer is going to gold basin in Arizona to look for meteorites. He is also going to Egypt to dive at Alexandria and the Red Sea. There is a shipwreck in the Red Sea with two locomotives that was sunk by stuka dive bombers.

Rick Flores and Steve Peterman went hiking in the Sedona area.

Jim Heaton has recovered from his health problem and is leaving for four days in Belize on a church mission.

Allan Smith is going to Bishop for the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Then he is flying to North Carolina for the Outer Banks History Conference.

Allan presented a Nazi belt buckle to Mike Gwaltney.

Bob Gannon sent a card from Iraq. He is

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in Basra donating \$10,000 worth of medical supplies and seven boxes of toys to the Children's Hospital there.

A Tribute to Al Adams

Our former president Al Adams went on the great adventure earlier this year at the age of 96. He was a marine surveyor who grew up in Rocky Ford, Colorado.

Al sailed about 310,000 nautical miles and circumnavigated the world at age 60. His motto was to see as much of the world as you can while you are still a part of it.

Bob Aronoff presided over the tribute and he and others told anecdotes of Al's remarkable life. He remembered that Al gave each member a teak plaque in honor of the Club's 50th anniversary. He also owned a teak coffee table which came from the battleship Indiana.

Al and his wife Diane dearly wanted to cruise on the last voyage of the Queen Mary. After persistence he was able to sleep in the cabin set aside for royalty. This entitled the couple to sit at the captain's table for dinner. The captain had an interest in female around-the-world sailors and showed the Adams his scrapbook. Al showed the captain a picture of his wife in the scrapbook and the captain was fascinated.

Al was president of the Club in 1972. He started the plaque showing donors to the Club building fund. He also donated all of the burgees from the world's yacht clubs that are on display in our quarters. Gary Mortimer is his cousin.

Al had a hobby of building ships' models. He also has a rod and reel from Zane Grey. This rod and reel once caught a world

record billfish. Jim Heaton remembered that his living room is paneled in teak.

Pierre Odier remembered that Al wrote a book called Sea Quence that told a portion of his adventures. And Joe Brown enjoyed boat day with Al and Henry Kehler. Frank Haigler remembered hiring Al to survey a boat he was planning to buy.

Al owned at least eight boats over time. He transited the Panama Canal once and did sail around South America.

In the video, a piece of carved ivory was shown. It was round with a hollow inside in which were intricate carvings of ivory all attached like a long necklace.

There was not enough time to finish the two videos and this was not surprising since Al did cram a lot of adventures into his life.

April 16, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

President Allan Smith welcomed a good crowd and a few guests.

Guest Carl Wemple told of a neighbor who fought on the beaches of Tarawa during a three-day invasion during World War II. Unfortunately, there is much filth and garbage and the friend has produced a movie special on it to be shown on television April 24th at 8 p.m. The title is "Return to Tarawa."

Jay Foonberg returned from his second visit to Iwo Jima. While there he spread the ashes of Ralph White on Iwo and also on Guam. Access was severely limited partly due to the island being a Japanese military base and also because a Japanese officer

toured the caves awhile ago and became asphyxiated and died. Jay also completed the Huntington Beach half-marathon in under three hours.

Jerry Robinson went with Paul Isley to the hortiflora expo in Shanghai. There were 350 booths in the show and they were the only Americans among the Orientals, Europeans and Africans. They were showing their tillandsias.

Previously Paul had gone to Taiwan to give two presentations. After the expo Paul and others went to a restaurant but Paul got sick due to a kidney stone. He was taken to a hospital and given lots of water. For three days he got bloated. Finally, he booked a flight home and took a morphine injection. The morphine did relax him and he frequented the airplane restroom multiple times. Even still, the doctors here in South Bay still drained 800 ccs of water from him upon his return.

Our peripatetic flyer Bob Gannon recently flew from Dubai to Qatar to Kuwait to Iran and then to Basra. He was on a medical mission in Iraq where the Corps of Engineers is building a medical facility. Leaving Basra, he flew to Syria and then Cyprus where his plane is now sitting.

Bob Oberto went to Llano in the high desert to set up a soaring day with the Club and the Women Adventurers. The sailplanes are ready.

Jay F. will have a booth at the UCLA book fair this weekend. Then he has a long flight to Singapore. There he will board a boat and cruise to Phuket, Myanmar, India, Cochin, Bombay and Dubai.

Shane Berry is leaving for 32 days in

South America. He is flying to Bolivia and will visit Lake Titicaca and southern Brazil doing some bike riding and seeing desert, wetlands and jungle.

Larry Schutte will be diving the Channel Islands this weekend. He is preparing for a trip to the Bay Islands in Honduras.

Steve Bein hopes to see a white buffalo in Wyoming on his trip there. But he noted that a white buffalo is the stuff of legends.

Pierre Odier is leaving in two weeks for Teheran. He plans to drive a land rover through Afghanistan, Khazakistan, Uzbekistan, go around the Taklimakan Desert and arrive in Shanghai.

Alan Feldstein is going kayaking in Elkhorn Slough while visiting his son at UC Santa Cruz.

The planned launch of Ralph White's ashes into space has been postponed until May 2nd near Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Enter the Forest

Chris Nyerges believes in getting more out of less. He says there is no magic pill for surviving in the forest but one can eat and live well.

He showed us a magnesium fire starter and a mule fat stick spun in a hole to generate a spark. It is also possible to use the bottom of an aluminum can. Mugwort makes good tinder when dried.

Yucca is not really a food unless it is dying. But it can make great fiber for nets and also rope. One can weave it or braid it for shoes as the Indians did. The fresh yucca can be soaked to make a soap. And this soap can be tossed into a pond to stun the

(Minutes continued on page 16)

fish.

One can scrape the spines off a prickly pear cactus and eat it raw or cooked.

One can crush the leaves of a California bay tree and use it to flavor tea.

Eucalyptus leaves are good for breathing and infections.

Creosote is good for stomach cancer and Mormon tea is also nutritious. Both are found in the area between Victorville and Las Vegas. But they are banned because a very small number have taken them in concentrated form and died.

Mustard was brought by the Spanish friars to bloom and guide the Spanish between the missions. But of course it spread. The seed makes mustard and the leaves are edible. Hedge mustard is used as wasabi.

Lambs' quarter is a type of spinach and is also nutritious. So are dandelions which taste good when cooked. Sow thistle is another green that is a close relative of lettuce.

One can eat the leaves, flowers and pods of wild radish but stay away from the root. Mallow or cheese-weed is edible.

The nasturtium flowers are edible and make a good salad or soup.

California olliberries are edible as are the dried toyon berries. Buckwheat makes a good honey.

The Indians used to crush and heat acorns to eat but this entailed a lot of work.

The Indians were immune to poison oaks because they ate it.

The California pepper came from Brazil and the wood is used for bowls.

White sage can be used for a tea and the leaf can be used as a styptic.

From the carob tree we get a brown pod that is a fruit. It can be eaten of the ground but one has to spit out the seeds. It was planted in neighborhoods before it was found that the branches get overloaded and fall off. It was believed to be the food of John the Baptist when he was in the desert.

Wild cucumber is not edible nor is the root but the seeds can act as a narcotic. Another narcotic is jimson weed.

All in the audience learned something tonight.

April 23, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

The car buffs were in attendance as President Allan Smith called the meeting to order.

Bernie Harris, who owns a Bugatti, and his wife returned from a cruise of South America. They flew to Rio and saw Christ of the Andes before four days at Iguasu Falls. They then cruised to Montevideo, Buenos Aires, and the Falklands where they saw hundreds of penguins. Bad weather prevented them from going around Cape Horn so they went through the Straits of Magellan stopping at Ushuaia.

They then went up the Pacific coast stopping at Magdalena Island which was filled with penguins, Punta Arenas, Valparaiso and Santiago. They stayed four days in Santiago because the late arrival of their ship caused them to miss their flight home.

Alan Feldstein enjoyed his day of sea kayaking the Elkhorn Slough. He saw many sea lions, and pups and also otters.

Larry Schutte enjoyed his weekend div-

ing off Santa Cruz Island. He viewed many lobster, garibaldi and sea bass. One diver panicked when surfacing into the kelp and had to be calmed down.

Bob Oberto enjoyed his day of soaring at Llano with Rick Flores and others. The barbecue was good.

Allan Smith went to Las Vegas for the national convention of broadcasters. He visited with Joe Valencic and Steve Waterford.

Pierre is still planning a flight to Teheran but now it is via Moscow. He will then drive through Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kirgystan to Shanghai.

Jay Foonberg urged all to visit him at the UCLA book fair booth #214. Jay will then fly to Singapore and board a boat for Phuket, Myanmar, Cochin, Mumbai and Dubai.

Steve Bein is going storm chasing. The group will set up their photographic equipment outside of the super cells.

Bob Oberto is going to Lake Tahoe as part of the undersea voyager project. The lake is 1600 feet deep and he will be there for a month studying three earthquake faults.

Bob Zeman summarized the story of Everett Ruess, brother of former member Waldo Ruess. After 74 years, Everett's body was found on Comb Ridge by some Navajos. There is a detailed article on it in the current issue of National Geographic Adventure.

The Petersen Automotive Museum

Dick Messer went to USC and then joined the army becoming a general's aide. He then went to law school and got involved in a hotel syndication. This led to him getting a degree in hotel man-

agement and moving to Las Vegas as a hotel manager and later a casino controller.

He helped open the Bonaventure hotel in Los Angeles and in 1982 built the Burbank Hilton. As manager he was always on call so he retired in 1994.

Bob Petersen took some photographs of hot rods which he put together to advertise his show. The photographs sold well and he took some more which turned into Hot Rod magazine in the late 1940s. He later started Motor Trend, Guns and Ammo, Boating and 50 other magazines. He collected cars and opened the Petersen Automotive Museum in 1994.

The building is an old Ohrbach's Department Store with now windows on the first two floors but a big parking garage. It occupies a whole block.

Petersen asked Dick to manage the Museum. Dick said no but later said yes when he found he could drive each car. Originally the Museum was a partnership with the County but the County did not put forth much effort so Dick left in 1996.

In the next few years, Petersen bought out the County and recalled Dick in 1999. Dick has been there for nine years and is the director. It is a 501(c)(3) educational organization for tax purposes. About 200 school children tour the Museum a day and 1,500 per month. The Museum even provides a free school bus to transport the students.

There are four Dusenbergs among the 350 cars. There are nine galleries.

The Hollywood Gallery includes the Chevrolet Jack Nicholson drove in "Chinatown". There is a Gurney eagle which was built in Santa Ana. There is also a Davis

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which was originally built in 1922. The 1967 Dodge Coronet is on display as a muscle car. There is a Rolls Royce 1926 Silver Ghost.

Carl Breer was the chief engineer for Chrysler for 24 years. A steam car named for him is on display. The Baker electric car was enjoyed by women because it was high and they could wear a hat. There is also a round door Rolls with a round door.

Two cars next to each other are the GT-40 race car and the passenger auto to which it was modified the GT-4.

The Museum has a Veyron which is the fastest at 253 miles per hour and most expensive car in the world. Audi/Bugatti made the car which cost the Museum 1 million Euros. It is equipped with four computers.

There is a car driven by a propeller and a two-wheel car with outriggers. These are located in the Misfits of Motordom gallery.

The alternative power gallery includes the EV-1 from General Motors, a 1963 turbine car and a Nissan hydrogen-powered car. But it had to go to Port Hueneme to fill up.

Dick showed slides of the Batmobile and Greased Lightning used by John Travolta in "Grease." He also has the Cadillac given to Rita Hayworth by Ali Khan and the car is fully documented.

Other galleries include the Bruce Meyer gallery of classic hot rods, the Otis Chandler gallery of historic motorcycles and the racing corridor of historic race cars.

The Museum has events on its third floor, lecture series, programs for schools and teachers and summer day camps. Dick was proud that the Museum is debt free and that it can sell excess cars to raise funds to buy better cars.

April 30, 2009

Bob Zeman (#878)

A large crowd showed up to see a member of each of the first kayaking/rafting descents of the Blue and White Nile.

Guest Ralph Perez was introduced. He is planning a 2,000 mile jet ski race around the Aleutian Islands.

Dave Finnern flew to the Florida Keys to dive to photograph an old shipwreck. But the trip was cancelled due to bad weather. Weather is a bigger concern there because the Keys elevation is low. Dave did try to sail in the bad weather but turned back.

David Dolan returned from nine days in Kenya and Tanzania in March. He met various political leaders and also ate roasted goat. David also met a man who remembered that David had taken a photo of him in 2000.

David was also able to attend the annual Explorers' Club banquet at the Waldorf Astoria. He has been program chairman of the Southern California chapter and he received a certificate of merit.

But he wasn't finished. David also attended the Jules Verne Film Festival and the movie "The Wonder of it All" was shown. This was a documentary on the exploration of the moon. Seven of the 12 astronauts who have walked on the moon were there including Buzz Aldrin and all three French astronauts.

Fred Hareland, down from Ridgecrest, attended the de-commissioning of the Deep Submergence Research Vessel. Fred has a friend who was the COB chief enlisted person on a fast-attack submarine.

Henry von Seyfried returned from the Phil-

ippines and said the natives are still restless.

Bernie Harris is going to Kona, Hawaii.

Vivian from the Society of Women Adventurers is going to Lake Tahoe to help with the undersea voyager project.

Allan Smith said the Club had a great tour of the Petersen Automotive Museum the previous Saturday.

Paul Isley gave his talk on the dive to Lake Baikal to the Society of Women Adventurers and will be leaving for Chicago to give the same talk at the Chicago club.

Anatoly's book called *The Deep* is out and on sale. Paul spent a lot of time re-writing the book into English.

It was noted that Reda Anderson is leaving for New Mexico for the launch of the ashes of Ralph White into space.

Fred Hareland said that he will guide up to 18 persons at the Maturango reserve of rock art near China Lake on May 30th. Unfortunately, the paper work for security must be completed in advance.

Allan Smith showed a video of Steve Waterford and his work in Florida. Steve has developed an improved camera for taking footage from a boat in choppy waters. He has also developed a new housing for underwater cameras and has formed his own company.

Against All Odds

Pasquale Scaturahas been to Mt. Everest three times and he is also a river rafter and kayaker.

The Blue Nile which begins in the highlands of Ethiopia and meanders 1,050 miles until it meets the White Nile in Khartoum had never been run continuously

from the source to Alexandria in Egypt.

IMAX agreed to fund an expedition to the Blue Nile. There were 72 persons a plane and a helicopter used to raft, kayak and portage portions of the Blue Nile. They came away with spectacular photos.

But at the end Pasquale and his friend Gordon Brown decided they wanted to be the first to raft the entire length of the Blue Nile. They got \$40,000 and agreed to use the IMAX camera to take footage.

Pasquale was introduced by our member John Goddard who, along with two Frenchmen, was the first to kayak the length of the White Nile in 1951. Many of the problems that John experienced were also experienced by Pasquale including tapeworm, hippos, crocodiles, fierce natives with weapons, treacherous rapids, poor maps, malaria and schistosomiasis.

Pasquale was born in Hollywood and raised in Thousand Oaks. At age 8 he was the only one in his Scout troop that made it to the top of Mt. San Geronio. While an air force mechanic in England, he studied geology in his spare time. And he earned dual degrees in geology and geophysics at the University of Arizona.

After the main effort by IMAX was finished of shooting video of highlights of the Blue Nile, Pasquale and Gordon went to the source which was a spring coming out of a marsh south of Lake Tana. They then had to hike for 75 miles to get to navigable water.

The Blue Nile leaves the lake over a series of rapids and goes past Tassisat Falls which is 153 feet high and is a class VI. It soon drops into a deep gorge in places 4,000

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feet deep.

There is a middle gorge, a grand canyon of the Nile and a black gorge. In the grand canyon they saw no people for two weeks. The two rafters went past Foam Falls where Lou Greenwald, partner of river runner Richard Bangs, died.

There is one bridge across the river at Shafartak where the road from Addis Ababa to Gojam crosses the river.

The river is populated by numerous crocodiles who came close to the rafters. There were also hippos, baboons, colobus monkeys, snakes including a python and birds. A dam was built at Roseires and it has silted up leaving an area about 20 miles across covered by water. Looking for the main channel was extremely difficult.

The two rafters drank water from the river for most of the trip through Ethiopia. Their batteries were solar charged. It took half a day to set up the IMAX camera so they had to be selective. It was a million dollar camera and they had no insurance coverage.

At the Sudan border, everything changed. No more warlike natives, no more treacherous animals, and far less rapids. But security was heightened. In fact they were almost arrested. But a kind military man issued them a letter and this got them through to Egypt. He allowed two armed guards to accompany the rafters.

In Khartoum, a photo showed the merging of the Blue and White Niles. The visible animals now were camels.

Just as John Goddard did, Pasquale and Gordon stopped at Old Dongola, virtually deserted, where a fourteenth-century Chris-

tian church that can be seen for miles. This was the last Christian city in Sudan.

Security was extremely tight at the Aswan High Dam. But on the other side they viewed 27 tourist boats tied up. They were arrested but got off. Finally in Cairo the two rafters finished their 3,250-mile journey which took 114 days.

Along the way they met a 68-year old man. They told him that they had kayaked and rafted the length of the Blue Nile. The old man remembered that back in 1951 he had met three Frenchmen (actually two and one American) who were kayaking the length of the White Nile. The American was John.

Their final episode took place in the ocean off of Alexandria. They wanted to kayak a few miles out to where the fresh water turned to salt water. They did and were arrested and put in jail for a couple of days but then released.

Charles Carmona has tentatively planned a tour of two gem mines in northern San Diego County in late October or early November. This trip would be similar to last year's dig and tour. Participants would sift through the tailings for tourmalines, opals or other gems. These tailings are stoked every day. Notify Charles if you are interested.

Forthcoming Programs

August 20, 2009	–	Classic car restoration, Bob Mosier
August 27, 2009	=	Alternative Views about Global Warming--Dr. C. Martin Stickley
September 3, 2009	_	OPEN
	–	
September 10, 2009	–	LADIES' NIGHT – “The Effect of 9-11 on Law enforcement” Sheriff Lee Baca
September 17, 2009	–	“Great White Shark research” Richard Theis
September 24, 2009	–	LADIES' NIGHT – “Ghost Ships and Sea Monsters” – or “@20,000 bytes under the Sea” Emory Kristof
	–	
Oct/Nov		Tour of gem mines--Charles Carmona

NOTES

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

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



The
Adventurers' Club News

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