

The
Adventurers' Club News

Volume 52

October/November 2008

Number 6



Photo by Ricardo Flores (#1120)

Local Adventure – Downtown Los Angeles from Hahn Park

The Adventurers' Club News

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

October/November 2008

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIRECTORY	INSIDE FRONT COVER
ARTICLES	
NIGHT OF HIGH ADVENTURE (N.O.H.A.)	1
OTGA – DWAYNE L. MERRY	4
RALPH WHITE TRAVELS STILL...	5
OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS	7
WHAT'S HAPPENING	9
BOOK REVIEW: STARMAN JONES: A RELATIVITY BIRTHDAY PRESENT	10
THRAWN RICKLE	11
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	11
THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB	12
FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS	21

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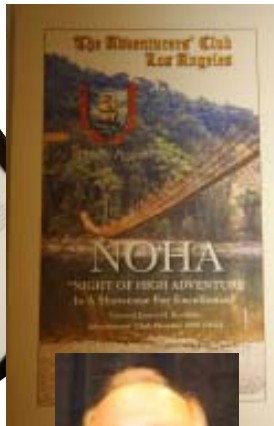
Number 6

Night of High Adventure – 2008

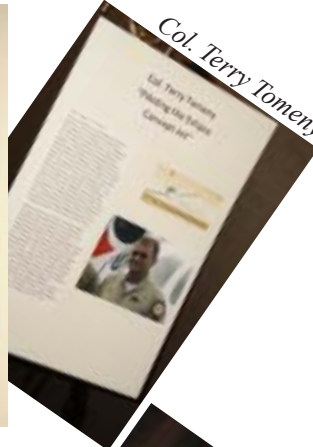
Robert G. Williscroft, #1116

N.O.H.A. 2008 was a smashing success, thanks to Rick Flores and all the folks who helped him make this one of the most successful N.O.H.A.s the Club has ever had. What follows is a collage of speaker photos from the gathering, plus a shot of each table and the table's occupants. Thank you all for participating!

Dr. Randii R. Wesson



Col. Terry Tomery



Peter Jensen



Moderator Alan Feldstein



Paul Isley



Jim Dorsey

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

N.O.H.A. – 2008 Tables 1 through 8



Table 1



Table 5



Table 2



Table 6



Table 3



Table 7



Table 4



Table 8

N.O.H.A. – 2008 Tables 9 through 17 (no Table 16)



Table 9



Table 13



Table 10



Table 14



Table 11



Table 15



Table 12



Table 17

(N.O.H.A. continued on page 4)

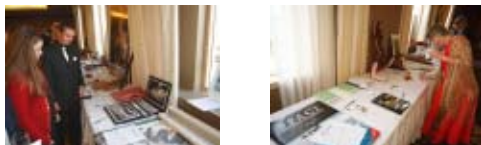
N.O.H.A. – 2008 Tables 18 through 19



Table 18



Table 19



The Silent Auction brought in over \$3,000.



Paul Isley took this Club Flag to the bottom of Lake Baikal, and presented it to the Club at N.O.H.A. 2008

OTGA – Dwayne L. Merry

Editor



Dr. Dwayne L. Merry, member #850, departed on The Great Adventure on September 27, 2008, according to his daughter, Jordana.

Dr. Merry was an anthropologist and archaeologist who lived for a year with a tribe of camel nomads in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and who traveled the world collecting material for his popular 1977 travel television series, and spent the last several years producing DVDs in the Dr. Merry's Nomad Travel Series on Peru, Mexico, Italy, Germany, France, and Japan.

Past President (1980) Dr. Merry was a Non-Resident member who had moved to Florida, but kept us in mind through his dues and receiving the *Club News*. Jordana informed us that "He was always so fond of being a part of this organization, and I know it gave him immense joy for many years."

Jordana held a memorial service on December 6th in Corona del Mar attended by several Club members.

Ralph White travels still...

Dr. Rosaly Lopes

Some of you have asked me about Ralph's travels around the world. Here is a summary table. Not bad, 16 countries so far and every continent except Antarctica.

Thanks to all of you who have helped so far. I have many emails and photos too. Many great adventures and many more to come.

Date	Name	Location	Comments
Feb 24, 2008	Rory Golden	Harland and Wolff, Belfast, Ireland	Titanic slipway
April 15, 2008	David Dolan	Amboseli National Park, Tanzania	Foot of Kilimajaro
April 15, 2008	David Dolan	Treetops, Tanzania	Where Elizabeth became Queen of England
April --, 2008	David Dolan	Westminster Abbey, London	Above the graves of the David Livingston and Charles Darwin
April --, 2008	David Dolan	Outside Royal Geographic Society, London	Between the statues of Ernest Shackleton and David Livingston.
April 17, 2008	Rosaly Lopes and Bob Nelson	Vienna, Austria	From the top of the Ferris wheel at the Prater gardens
April 18, 2008	Paul Isley	Cairo, Egypt	Great Pyramid at Cheops
April 19, 2008	Haley Jackson	Took ashes down on the Alvin	Off San Diego
May 2, 2008	Sarah Bansemer	Les Tuilleries Gardens, Paris	Sarah is the wife of Roger Bansemer, an artist who was in the Titanic 2000 expedition
May 4, 2008	Sarah Bansemer	Col de Pre near Beaufortain, France	At 1703 metres
May 5, 2008	Rory Golden	Summit of Djouce Hill, County Wicklow Ireland	2,000 ft. Regular hike of Rory's.
May 9, 2008	Valerie Moore	Texas	"Castaway" movie location, at the very end of movie
May 24, 2008	Haley Jackson	Took ashes on a zero-G flight	Flight out of Las Vegas
May 24, 2008	John Crellin	Isle of Man's TT motorbike race. Ashes were carried during practice laps by John Crellin. Ashes then scattered by Sean O'Connell at the memorial to Joey Dunlop, a famous biker.	Rory Golden/Sean O'Connell arranged for this to happen. Newspaper article about it.

(Ralph continued on page 6)

Ralph White travels still...

(Ralph continued from page 5)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Comments</u>
June 8, 2008	Rory Golden and Rosaly Lopes	St. Peter's, the Pantheon, and the Coliseum, Rome	Behind a statue in St. Peter's, in hole on the floor in Pantheon, over beast pit in Coliseum
June 13, 2008	Rosaly Lopes	Castel Gandolfo and Sistine Chapel, Rome	Castel Gandolfo is Pope's summer residence. In an urn overlooking a beautiful lake. In crack on a shelf on the Sistine Chapel.
July 4, 2008	Krista, Darren, and Kaia Few	Fuji, Japan, into the wind and on top of lava rock	Would have been Grandma Pixley's 96 th birthday
July 4, 2008	Rory Golden	Friar Island, Connamara dive site, Ireland	In a bottle filled with fresh water, on a permanent dive 20 m down
July 22, 2008	Rory Golden	Summit of Carrantuohill, Ireland's tallest mountain	1050 metres
August 4, 2008	Rosaly Lopes	Saxon Reef, Great Barrier Reef, Australia	13 m down, during same time as Tommy's scuba certification dive. 6 month anniversary of RBW's death.
August 4, 2008	Jim Dorsey and Pierre Odier	Altai, China/Mongolia border	By an ancient stone monolith that local people said was put there by Genghis Khan's army
August 14, 2008	Krista, Darren, and Kaia Few	Badaling section of the Great Wall of China	During Olympic games
August 21, 2008	Paul Isley and Anatoly	Lake Baikal, Russia	During MIR dives on lake
August 28, 2008	Marie Martin and fellow shipmates	Lindessness Lighthouse, Norway	Ralph's birthday
September 3, 2008	Rosaly Lopes	Beach at Noordwijk, The Netherlands	Opposite the Huis Ter Duim grand hotel
September 13, 2008	Rosaly Lopes	Capilano Canyon Bridge, North Vancouver, and Granville Island, Vancouver	From rope bridge over Capilano Canyon, and from boat mooring opposite Public Market in Granville island

Official Election Results

President

Allan Smith (#1069)



1st Vice President/Program Chairman

Steve Bein (#1057)



2nd Vice President

Jim Heaton III (#1020)



Secretary

Gene Arias (#1107)



Treasurer

Rick Flores (#1120)



Past President

Robert DeMott (#1080)



(Ultimate Adventurer continued on page 8)

New Board Members:

Stuart Bird-Wilson (#1134)



Larry Schutte (#1121)



Vince Weatherby (#1060)



Robert G. Williscroft (#1116)
(reelected)



Unexpired term Board Members:

Steve Peterman (#986)



Bob Walters (#1047)



What's Happening...

Claude Hulet Hosting 32nd Symposium on Portuguese Traditions



The Symposium on Portuguese Traditions is an annual forum dedicated to the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information about the language and culture of the far-flung, Portuguese-speaking world, past and present. Its sessions are open to all who share that interest.

The Symposium welcomes the widest range of pertinent topics, since it traditionally has no fixed theme.

Papers may be presented in English or Portuguese, and are limited to fifteen minutes reading time. However, papers may have 20 pages, if accepted for publication in *Encruzilhadas/Crossroads*.

Registration forms, complete Programs of recent Symposiums, and Contents of recent issues of *Encruzilhadas/Crossroads*, may be found at www.humnet.ucla.edu/spanport/portsymp/portsympmain.html

Night of High Adventure – N.O.H.A. a BIG success!



The 2008 Night of High Adventure was a smashing success. The silent auction earned the Club over \$3,000, and the overall attendance was a record. This month we feature the speakers and photos from N.O.H.A. 2008.

Dues increase for 2009

As costs go up, the Board has had no choice but to raise the dues and price for meals. Commencing with November, meals will cost \$18.00. By any measure, this still is a bargain when compared to any similar meal in a restaurant – appetizer, salad, main course, coffee or tea and dessert.

Dues for 2009 are:

Regular Member	–	\$350
Associate Member	–	\$350
Non-resident Member	–	\$120
Emeritus Member	–	\$80

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...."

BOOK REVIEW —

STARMAN JONES: A RELATIVITY BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Author: Robert G. Williscroft, Starman Press, Carson City, NV, 2008 (20p; 9 x 7), ISBN: 978-0-9821662-0-8
Reviewed by Dr. Frank Drake (#1132)

One of the greatest joys of childhood is imagining the mysterious worlds and happenings brought to children through books. We all remember the fairy tales and imaginary adventures planted in our minds by the readings of our loving parents, or our own forays into the mysteries of reading.

Many grown children, maybe most, can recall in great detail the goings-on and dialog in books read to them, or in bedtime stories told by parents. These memories enrich their own sense of self, and sometimes give guidance in understanding the events in their lives, and in making major decisions about their future.

Most childhood stories are fictional, and often are replete with amazing phenomena that don't happen in real life. They are fun, to be sure, but not informative when it comes to what is possible. In these books, Dr. Williscroft attempts to enrich children through stories, fictional for now, but nonfiction some day, based on little-known wonders of the universe that ARE real and quite amazing.

Children, and most adults, are unaware of many phenomena of the universe that we don't sense in everyday life, yet are more and more important to us. For example, there is light in "colors" that our eyes can't see. Everything in the uni-

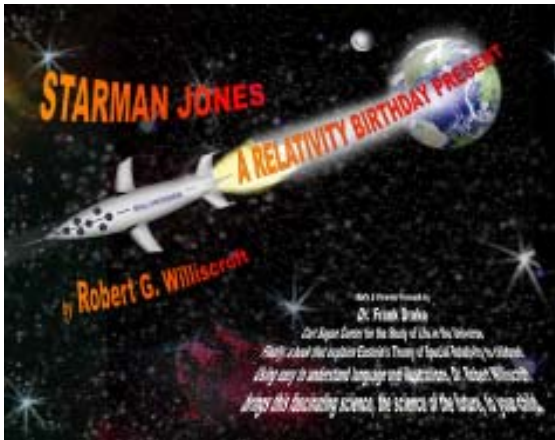
verse is made of tiny, tiny invisible particles that make possible television, computers, nuclear energy, the light of the sun and stars – and, indeed, sometimes can even be hazardous to us and make us sick.

Dr. Williscroft bases *A Relativity Birthday Present* on one of his son's favorite stories when he was little, on an unseen yet major phenomenon – the Theory of Special Relativity. He hopes to plant the concepts of Special Relativity in your child's mind, just

like tales of fairies are planted by other children's stories. He hopes that in the future, as your child encounters this and the other subjects of this series in school, the memory of these enchanting tales will bubble to the surface, and your child will readily understand and cherish concepts that otherwise would be perplexing.

This is an ingenious experiment that worked for Dr. Williscroft's own son. I genuinely hope that it works for your child, too, and that each new story in this series will enrich your child as much as they did his son. In fact, I sincerely hope that this experiment will prove to be very successful for all children!

A Relativity Birthday Present is available online at relativitybirthdaypresent.com, from Amazon, and by special order wherever books are sold.



THE THRAWN RICKLE

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

Robert G. Williscroft #1116 - Editor



I have been asking for some critical input. Well, this month I got some, to say the least.

Last month in the Meeting Minutes section for August 28, Bob Zeman gave us a write-up

for Pierre Odier's very interesting presentation of his trip to Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. Apparently, Bob made a couple of minor mistakes in his account that were picked up by Pierre (naturally, since he is intimately familiar with the material).

To compound the problem, I pulled some photos from Pierre's website and captioned them incorrectly. Unfortunately these mistakes were not brought to my attention until after we went to press.

As I said, I got an earful from Pierre. From one perspective, Pierre is right, of course, since there were mistakes in the write-up. What surprised me, however, was Pierre's initial take that the errors were

purposeful. Fortunately, we got all the issues ironed out, and Pierre is now satisfied that human error rather than "gotcha" was the underlying cause of the problem. The online version has been corrected. You can note Pierre's corrections in his letter to the Editor below.

Neither I nor Bob purposely did anything to misrepresent Pierre's material. Since I am the editor, I accept responsibility for the (minor) errors. Now, let's move on!

N.O.H.A. was a smashing success. Read the article and look at the photos in this issue. Much of the credit goes to Rick Flores who spearheaded this year's effort. He had a lot of help, but without Rick, it would not have happened. Thank you Rick!

The *Ultimate Adventurer* has died because nobody submitted a continuation for this issue. If you want to continue the fun, please one of you fantastic writers pick up the baton and submit another installment. At the very least, put the characters into deep freeze.

The password for the full color online edition is "acla1009".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

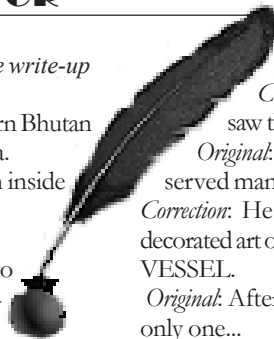
[Pierre sent us the following corrections to the write-up of his August 28 presentation to the Club]

Original: He made it by car to Tashi Gang eastern Bhutan and crossed the border in a vehicle to Bundila.

Correction: He made it by car to Bomdila from inside India after the crash.

Original: The Brokpa tribe lives near there.

Correction: From there he traveled to a region to find the Serudukpan tribe relatives of the Bhutanese Brokpas.



Original: In each village that he visited he saw the Dzong..

Correction: In ONE village that he visited he saw the Dzong..

Original: He was snowed in for two days and observed many treasures.

Correction: He was snowed in for two days and saw decorated art objects and A SOLID GOLD LIBATION VESSEL.

Original: After his visit he drove to another village, the only one...

(Letters continued on page 21)

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

January 31, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

Editor's note: We missed publishing the January minutes. This is the final one.

Bill Morse returned from a month in Cambodia near Siem Reap. He is working with a local named Akira who is knowledgeable in finding and defusing land mines. He is working on setting up a NGO (non-governmental organization) to obtain funding and support. But Bill has to return to Cambodia to finish the procedures in March.

Peter Jensen rode on his bicycle 128 miles through Death Valley from Shoshone Pass to Scotty's Castle. The temperature was 46 degrees.

Shane Berry is leaving for Belize and Tikal. He will drive along the Hummingbird Highway, canoe on the Belize River, do some bone fishing and dive on Caulker Cay.

Jim Dorsey leaves for Baja to his whale camp where he guides. A BBC photo group will also be there.

Robert Williscroft said that a cable tv company is doing an adventure series. Anyone interested in auditioning should contact Robert.

Larry Schutte has set up the video equipment and will train others to use it. Otherwise, keep your hands off.

Steve Bein showed some beautiful infrared photos of Death Valley which he took. They included the rocks on the race track or dry lake bed.

Roger Haft showed a short film clip of Julia Roberts meeting a 400-pound old orangutan in Borneo.

80 Hikes in 80 Weeks Within 80 Miles

About two years ago, Rick Flores was working many hours and getting a bit overweight. His doctor recommended taking some hikes.

Rick took him seriously and has taken a hike every Saturday morning except two for



Downtown Los Angeles from Hahn Park

more than a year and a half. He showed a photo of the classic hiker (Bob Silver) and a photo of the modern-day hiker.

Rick takes a small day pack with the 10 essentials and never camps out. He has been in the Santa Monica Mountains, Angeles National Forest, San Bernardino Forest and Los Padres but he limited his program to the first two.

The Santa Monica Mountains stretch from Griffith Park to Pt. Mugu and are 12 miles wide at the widest point. It holds native grassland and giant coreopsis along with poison oak. He has hiked along the Ray Allen Trail and the Chumash Trail.

He showed scenes from MASH movie in Malibu Creek State Park. He has hiked many of the canyons including Zuma, Leo Carrillo, Las Flores and Tuna. Zuma is the best but it involves rock hopping. Many times, Rick went with Steve Peterman.

In the Angeles Forest, Rick has hiked Bear, Tujunga and Eaton Canyons. He showed slides of the Vetter Mountain fire watch cabin and Fish Canyon with its four tiered falls.

He had slides of the Echo Mountain funicular and train. Remnants of the old hotels and viewing spots still remain. More than three million visitors went there from 1893 to 1936 when the fire occurred.

Rick had nice slides of birds of the area including a white-headed woodpecker. And he showed the flowers including Humboldt lily which looks like a mothership taking off.

The Devil's Punchbowl is right on the San Andreas Fault and is a popular destination.

His final slides were from Kenny Hahn Park of the skyscrapers in downtown Los Angeles with the snow covered Angeles Crest mountains in the background.



September 4, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Robert DeMott** welcomed members including **Ken Freund** and **Dale Hall**.

Ken was dressed in a shirt of Malaysian Airways which just sponsored a 2,600 km motorcycle ride of his through northern Borneo and Brunei. It rained every day and the bikes did break down.

Jerry Robinson was guest of the Explorers' Club of Chicago. He said that **Keith Bates** is working on a networking site for adventurers. Jerry also spent a few days at Coffee Creek Ranch where he did some

horseback riding, shooting and other activities in the Trinity Alps.

Bob Oberto is back from a quick trip to Hawaii. He stayed at Bellows AFB resort. He dove on a Corsair wreck, went soaring and saw the environmental raft.

Steve Bein is into bike riding and has ridden 800 miles so far.

Roger Haft leaves a week from Friday for the Gaspé Peninsula and Canadian provinces.

Ken Freund is heading for India and Bhutan for motorcycling.

Shane Berry said the tour to Warner Springs on November 9th is full and he has started a waiting list. Thirty adventurers will look for tourmalines.

Bob Walters says the Navy is holding an open house at Seal Beach. **Bob Silver** remembered that he flew in Vollmer Jensen's seaplane and landed on the base decades ago.

There were more donations of auctions items – bullwhips from “**Indy**” **Steve Bein** which he showed did work; a collapsible sling spear for diving; a shirt with a holster and a knife sharpener, all from Steve. **Irene Dorsey** donated a silk purse from Cambodia. **Alan Feldstein** came up with two large paintings, jewelry and a book. **Paul Isley** donated a copy of **Don Malarkey's** book on Easy Company Soldier. **Jerry Robinson** gave a copy of an early flying machine.

Two Journeys Around the World

On August 29, 1981, Dave Barr was driving a light armored vehicle in Angola when it hit a mine. He went deaf in one ear and was engulfed in flames. He was pulled free and taken by helicopter gun ship to a haven.

(Minutes continued on page 14)

After an 11-hour delay he was operated on.

He was transferred to Pretoria for nine months and 20 days of recuperation. He had lost the bottoms of both legs but he walked out of the hospital.

He modified a Harley Davidson motorcycle for his disabilities and added an electric starter.

On September 12, 1990 he sold everything and headed north out of Johannesburg. He believes that life is a privilege and not a right. Freedom is not free.



Dave crossed the Limpopo River to Zimbabwe and then went on to Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zaire. There is a hard road across the Sahara but there are also robbers and he sometimes veered off and got stuck in the sand.

Dave reached the border of Algeria and motored on to Tunis, France, England, Belgium, Norway, Sweden and the top of the Barents Sea. Then it was over to Alaska and Dead Horse Camp on Prudhoe Bay.

He headed south on the gravel road through Alaska and through the U. S. to Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Sao Paulo and Patagonia. He was riding a HD sportster 883.

After a brief rest, he flew to Europe where he motored through the rain of France, Belgium, and Germany.

Then it was east to Poland and Minsk where the temperatures dropped below zero. The Russians still revere their efforts in the Great Patriotic War.

Going over the Urals got even colder and

had more snow. He had to go through a strict routine to keep from freezing at night and in the morning. But he broke a shock absorber. He got it repaired and made the 9,800 miles to Khabarovsk and Vladivostok.

He flew back to Moscow and headed north to Nickel. Nothing grows within 50 miles of this mine due to pollution. He headed south to Sweden and Germany.

His total after 14 years of riding was 96,000 miles. Dave is in the Guinness Book of World Records for the first to go by wheel from the Atlantic to the Pacific and also the first to circumnavigate Australia.



September 11, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

First Vice President **Paul Isley** filled in for President **Robert DeMott**.

Unfortunately, **Bob Seaman** is ailing and in the hospital after recently celebrating his 85th birthday.

Our treasurer **Roger Haft** collected the money for the meals and then said he was leaving in six hours (that's 2 a.m.) for his trip to the Canadian provinces.

Rick Litchfield flew in from Puerto Vallarta where he is working on a marina project. He is going back to Puerto Vallarta and Mexico City. From there he flies to Paris and then Istanbul where he picks up a yacht to cruise Turkey and Greece. He then puts the boat on a plane for the Carib-

bean. He will cruise the windward and leeward islands and Curacao before transiting the Panama Canal for P. V. again.

Donations for NOHA included a bottle of Seagram's V. O. from 1945 and a Havana cigar.

Steve Bein donated a replica of a sjam-jac whip made out of rhino skin, a panoramic photo of Great Cypress Swamp in Florida, a bicycle seat bag and a carrying case for a small tripod.

Science, Freedom, Beauty and Adventure

Rosalyn Lopes, a volcanologist who has named more moons than any other person, introduced our guest speaker Julian Nott. Julian was described by the Smithsonian as “the leading figure in applying modern science to manned balloon design over the last 20 years.”

Julian was born in Great Britain and immigrated to the United States about 20 years ago. He has a Master's degree from Oxford. He has 74 ballooning records and has reached a height of 55,000 feet in a balloon. And he has met Prince Charles.

His company started by bidding on a Navy contract for balloons and competing against Goodyear. Even though the director of the Navy for procurement took bribes from Goodyear (and was later sent to prison), Julian's company won the contract.



Nott Launch

The Montgolfier brothers built the first balloon to carry pas-

sengers but they did not want to test it. So a condemned criminal was the first to ascend. Many of the Montgolfier principles are still in use today.

Blimps that Julian helped design have flown at the Olympics from 1984 to 2004. He designed a pressurized balloon cabin and piloted it to a world altitude record. One of these cabins will be displayed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

A popular theory is that aliens created the Nazca lines in Peru. But Julian showed that the ancient natives could have used a balloon with a basket similar to those used as a boat on nearby lakes. Cotton was available.



Prototype balloon for Saturn's moon Titan

There is a large hangar in Tustin near the airport. Balloonists can use this to build and inflate balloons and then walk them out.

Julian has built the first balloon to fly in India. The goal for his new balloons is to fly for 100 days.

The Cassini spacecraft is now orbiting Saturn which is one billion miles away. Saturn has a moon called Titan which is near

(Minutes continued on page 16)

Mars in size but is covered in clouds. Titan has a thick atmosphere and temperatures reach a couple of hundred degrees below zero, Fahrenheit.

The Jet Propulsion Lab where Rosaly works wants to learn more about Titan and is working with Julian on this. Julian has developed a hot air balloon heated by radio isotopes. The hot air will escape but it can be replaced.

The plan to set up this robotically-controlled balloon is to toss it out. The fabric will float to the top and the weighted end will drop. Julian has even built a structure that can reduce temperatures to those on Titan. The test balloon functioned as it should.



October 9, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Robert DeMott** welcomed members and guests and they have been active.

Shane Berry canoed the Colorado River below Laughlin and down past the Topock Gorges.

Bill Morse returned from six weeks in Cambodia. He participated in a de-mining operation in Mochica Park near the Thailand border. He was stuck for five days during a bridge washout. He did get to eat duck and venison. And Bill is returning in January.

Marv Garrett attended the Reno Air

Races. This is the 45th year of the Races in Reno. He remembered attending them in Cleveland in the 1930s when Charles Lindberg, Amelia Earhart, Jimmy Doolittle and the German pilot Ernst Udet would show up. At least one time Roscoe Tanner jumped out of the cockpit followed by his pet lion.

This year Bob Hoover and two air Force generals attended. There were planes that were 45 years old as well as an F-22 which exceeds Mach 2.

Bill Morse and **Paul Isley** are leaving for Kathmandu in two weeks. Along with a few others, they will hike the trail to Mt. Everest base camp. They expect to exceed 18,000 feet at times on the trek.

Shane Berry showed slides of the trip he took to the eastern Sierra with **Gary Mortimer** and **Rick Flores**. They hiked the bristlecone pine forest, drove to Mono Lake and Tioga Pass and hiked into Toney Lake. Rick displayed his first caught trout.

We received postcards from **Marie Martin** in Norway, **Bob Walters** and **Roger Haft** in New Brunswick.

The War in Iraq

Gene Arias joined a California National Guard unit. He introduced his Colonel Marc Breslow although Gene normally is standing at attention reporting to his unit commander.

Col. Breslow introduced his wife Alice, herself a Chief Warrant Officer and a student of his from his high school ROTC unit. The student has been in all 48 states and is reporting for duty in the Marine Corps in five days. The Breslows have a daughter in Afghanistan and a son who spent a year in Iraq.

Marc is currently in charge of the ROTC unit at Kennedy High School in La Palma and has spent 27 years in the U. S. Army. He spent a year on the staff of General Petraeus in 2007. He has spent time in Korea, with the U. S. Navy at sea, in Syria, four years in Europe and as part of Desert Storm.

On 13 November 2006 he saw a TV special on forces in Ramadi. He signed up to go and was sent to Fort Benning for training and deployed to Baghdad in late December, 2006.

Marc described Iraq as a large ammunition dump. Before the surge we could take a place and secure it but we could not hold it. The Sunnis are the best and most qualified and should be the successors but the Shias are from the direct bloodline of Mohammad and Iran supports the Shias.

He described Donald Rumsfeld as a technocrat who believed that technology will win the war. It did not work. Marc did smoke cigars in Saddam's old palace but there were murders every night when he got to Iraq.

General Petraeus, who wrote the book on counter-insurgency, was brought in. We had tried to establish a system of mayorship in the towns and provisional governments in other areas. But we ignored the tribes. We then involved the tribes and the government is working.

A difference between the Vietnam War and this war is that the Viet Cong were incompetent. The insurgents are incompetent. They can set off suicide bombs (mostly with suicide bombers from other countries) but they cannot follow up.

Regarding Afghanistan, at the start we were successful. But we allowed the coalition forces to be under the control of

NATO and it did not retain control.

The war in Iraq has sucked Al Qaeda into fighting on our terms. Al Qaeda had to fight in Iraq and could not use suicide bombers in the United States. The bombs going off now are drastically reduced from before the surge.

We can track the source of rocket attacks and have subdued Anbar Province and Dai Ala. Now it is on to Mosul. In World War II, there were 480 Americans killed in action per day; in Iraq the number is three per day.

Colonel Breslow criticized the press for using stringers to report on attacks and often the reporters do not leave the Green Zone. And numerous times, General Petraeus had to read something on which he had been misquoted.

He expects that Iraq will be stabilized in 16 months but the concern now is that the Kurds are unwilling to compromise. Iraq has to import gasoline because it has only one refinery. Oil is the Achilles tendon of power.

Yes, it is true that Iraq has \$79 billion in reserves but that is not a lot. The old conflicts are still there—Persia versus Arab; Shia versus Sunni.

Israel still has the will to fight and is becoming increasingly concerned about the comments from Mahmoud Ahmenidejab. The Arabs understand action; they do not understand threats.

There is also a concern in Pakistan especially in Waziristan, the hot bed of Islamic rebels.



(Minutes continued on page 18)

October 16, 2008

Bob Zeman (#878)

President **Robert DeMott** welcomed all and as usual had some good quips.

Dave Dahl joined us after a long absence. He rafted the Eek River south of Bethel, Alaska. There were no trout but he did catch salmon, grayling and Dolly Varden. Dave also took a 55-mile pack trip in north-east Yosemite. And he took a pack trip in the Siskiyou. He also tried a trip in south-east Yosemite but was hit by a snow storm and rain.

Peter Jensen said the Miramar Air Show was great. And he kayaked in Naples Bay in Long Beach.

Paul Isley and **Bill Morse** are leaving in two weeks for Kathmandu. A small plane will then take them to their jumping off point from which they will hike 19 days to Mt. Everest base camp and return.

John Goddard obtained a walrus tusk in an Inuit Village in Alaska some years ago. It was carved into a cribbage board with a small detailed kayak and sled carved also. John donated it as an auction item for NOHA. He said that the natives are adept at harpooning a 3,000-pound animal. They use every scrap from a dead walrus including drying meat for jerky.

Our 2008 NOHA chairman **Rick Flores** thanked all who helped on this year's event. He and others look forward to a great evening.

Steve Bein was inducted into the Chicago Adventurers' Club. Steve showed photos of the inside of the Club with its mounted trophies and also the home of Keith Bates. Steve showed Club photos of John

Booth (2), Marlin Perkins, John Goddard and Dana and Ginger Lamb. The Chicago Club admits women members and once had 16 but now there are only two. Dues are high but Steve pays less as a non-resident.

Marooned With Very Little Beer

Graham Mackintosh, a Scotsman, has made a number of trips into Lower California and has just written his fourth book. He was introduced by his friend Jim Dorsey.



Perfect kayaking day

Graham decided to spend two months in early 2006 on Guardian Angel Island which is in the Sea of Cortez just nine miles from Bahia de Los Angeles. He wanted to take his dog but as a Park, this was prohibited.

There were numerous obstacles to his plan – lack of water, poisonous snakes, dangerous winds, drug runners, extreme tides, scorpions, feral cats, cold ocean water and noseums.



Raven-proofed camp

A motorized boat took Graham, his kayak, supplies, 50 gallons of water and 30 cans of beer to the island. The island is 42 miles long and about 10 wide at its widest. It is quite mountainous. But the channel is 4,000 feet deep and upwellings cause the ocean water to be

about 60 degrees.

He set up camp well above the mean high tide line. He had to protect his food from aggressive vultures and ravens. There was driftwood on the beach so fires were no problem.

He did see sea lions, a humpback, gray, fin and blue whales. He also saw a porcupine puffer, gulf opaleye, lingcod and a paper nautilus.

But he was joined by about 15 divers, fisherman/drug runners? He made friends with them but decided to move after a few days because of their noise. He had only a



Home made solar still for drinking water

flare gun, an axe and some rocks. He did hide a survival bag 400 yards away.

He moved to Este Ton which was nine miles south.

On his day hikes he saw much ocotillo, and some prickly poppy and rare penstemon. He also saw chuckwalla, a large rattlesnake and some feral cats which acted dangerous. Among the birds were an osprey, oystercatcher, kingfisher and orange-crowned warbler.

He saw signs of an old mining claim. He ran low on water but was able to fashion a primitive still using a tea pot, some coiled wire, some cold water for condensation. He could make a gallon of fresh water an hour this way.

Happily, halfway through he was resup-

plied including more beer by his friend from Bahia Los Angeles. Some of the persons he met earlier found him and became reacquainted. Fortunately, he saw no evidence of drugs.

But the ocean off the island did have shellfish, squid and lobster. So Graham's health remained good during his stay.

Graham has given presentations before at the Club and as usual he was interesting and entertaining.



October 23, 2008

Bob Silver (#728)

Following a short introductory meeting, President **Robert DeMott** turned the podium over to Bob Silver, who gave a short introduction to his film, and then enthralled the members with a well produced 16 mm film from New Zealand in the 1950s.

Kiwiland: scenes NLA (no longer available)

A private movie shot half a century ago – starting in Rarotonga and proceeding – after a typhoon – down thru North and South Island, New Zealand by former Club president Bob Silver, #728.

After the big blow, I put the dinghy overboard and filmed the 52' cutter *Awahnee*, home port Inverness, California, while she dried out. We spent the rest of the day resewing our mains'l. Skipped the Tonga and

Kermadec Islands because we'd already learned how late we were in the typhoon season and headed to Auckland, New Zealand where we tied up at the ferry wharf at the foot of Queens Street, the main drag. Soon we were surfing forty miles west by the white sands near Piha (funny, on the



east coast of the Corumandel peninsula the sands are black). Not crowded but we did run into two well-known Southern California surf figures: Phil Edwards being filmed for a

new movie epic by John Severson.

Later, I had the honor of being introduced to the local hero of mountain climbing, Sir Edmund Hillary who prefers being called Ed.

Travelling south I spent a few days in virgin forests where giant trees were being cut by two intrepid lumberjacks; if I'd had a tape recorder I would have wanted to catch the sound of the thunderous thud as they fell but no because in actuality the only noise was that of their outstretched limbs being caught by their neighbors and the trunk being slowed to the forest floor.

In South Island, they fly fully aerobatic bi-wing mid-30s Tiger Moths for aerial top dressing and my U.S. pilot license permitted me an opportunity to film a loop from the open cockpit.

In Christchurch, headquarters of USN support Operation Deepfreeze, Radm Ty-

ree invited me on a flight to Antarctica (as I was still a Marine Corps Reserve staff sergeant) aboard a ski-equipped C130 with Marine enlisted navigators. A long frustrating story but next I found myself still further south on the same Island asleep in my red new tent in the center of the little quiet city of Queenstown where I had hiked into after midnight during a heavy down-pour; very friendly townsfolk who let me snore 'till midmorning when they woke me with a cup of tea. Nearby they had some 1852 iron monitors cast in Sacramento and after California panned out, shipped to them for their Kiwi gold rush; two days were spent collecting a small stream's water into a reservoir, knocking down long-dry alluvial banks and collecting the finds from the riffles of not quite as old the sluice boxes. Then a chance to join deer cullers, seems that the non-native deer eat new growth and cause devastating erosion and thus there is a 75 cent bounty to shoot them. Days followed enjoying venison, tea, rice, mushrooms and blackberries. The team temporarily slept in small earthen hovels and ignored their mutual flatulence.

A short hike up the west coast where the map was blank and marked "uncharted" and finally by thumb and ferry to the capitol and port of Wellington to embark across the Tasman 1,234 mile bridge to Australia.



Forthcoming Programs

- September 18, 2008** – “Kayaking across Vietnam” Alan Feldstein
September 25, 2008– **LADIES’ NIGHT** – “Calculated Risk: The Extraordinary Life of Jimmy Doolittle” Major Tom Griffin
October 2, 2008 – BUSINESS MEETING
October 9, 2008 – “The Surge and Success in Iraq” Marc Breslos
October 16, 2008 – “Marooned With Very Little Beer” Graham MacIntosh
October 19, 2008 – **NIGHT OF HIGH ADVENTURE**
October 23, 2008 – “Kiwiland” Bob Silver
October 30, 2008 – “From sea to shining sea, a 4,000 mile odyssey across America by bicycle” Peter Jensen
November 6, 2008 – BUSINESS MEETING – CLUB ELECTIONS
November 13, 2008 – Short presentations by Steve Bein and others
November 20, 2008– “Trekking in Patagonia” Claude Vautier
November 27, 2008– [DARK]
December 4, 2008 – **LADIES’ NIGHT** – “Mir Dive in Lake Baikal to 4,000 ft” Paul Isley III
December 11, 2008 – “Siberia in Style” – Bill Alteffer
December 18, 2008 – **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**
December 25, 2008– [DARK]

(Letters continued from page 11)

Correction: After his visit, he drove to another village called Mudang Tage, the only one...

Original: “Caltutta” & “Cognacs”

Correction: “KOLKATA” & “KONYACS”

Thanks for the corrections, Pierre . – Editor

To the Editor:

The Bulletin is beautiful! Only last night I had a chance to open it. It also has the advantage of being able to be augmented with zoom, for easier reading. Congratulations! – Claude Hulet (#1114)

To the Editor:

I never get the chance to let you know what a great job you do with the newsletter. It’s so nice to see color covers. – Gene Arias (#1107)

To the Editor:

The latest issue looks great as always. I would be happy to pay an annual surcharge to keep the color.

I was totally surprised to see my version of the adventure story used. I thought you were going with

what Joe had already written. I just hope the guys find it funny.

Also glad to see Peter Jensen's account in the issue.

Just want you to know you are doing great work, and keep it up

You guys need to get together with Pierre! Thanks.

– Editor

To the Editor:

Thank you for sending and putting together the PDF newsletter. I have long awaited for this to happen to save on mailing, paper and etc. Living in Tahiti makes it so much easier to get the news this way.

I have the Expedition flag still with me, and have made several trips to Taiwan documenting the Indigenous peoples there. I leave again October 11th to put together a photographic Exposition at their national museums and continue to document thereafter.

When I have the time I write an article to the newsletter. – Danee Hazama (#1014)

Great! Looking forward to receiving it. – Editor

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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