

The Adventurers' Club News[®]

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Number 9

Photos - Bob Iannello



Bob Iannello's First Halibut

The Adventurers' Club News

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE*Larry Schutte #1121 - President*

The Club had another slam dunk month of great meetings. Dave Banks, Marc Weitz, Father Gregory Boyle and Rick Flores all hit it out

of the park! Many thanks and congrats to all! Each night had its own special dynamic and flavor all its own, which makes our club the special place to be on Thursday nights.

September looks to be the same high level of presentations from rickshaw racing in India, the most expensive Mercedes ever auctioned, around the world twice in a small plane, and more.

Big props to Pierre Odier for stepping up and taking the point as Program Chairman. He has a special philosophy as to intermixing interesting outsiders with our own members to provide a great mix of personalities and subject matter. Well done.

I might add Pierre's totally on his game as to NOHA and all the endless details it takes to make this event happen. I'm close to officially closing the deal for a group of Navy Seals to present this year, however; as you

know, with the tragic event in Afghanistan last month, they're preoccupied for now. Stay tuned for conformation, which, I suspect, will happen before this goes to press.

We welcomed Steve Hodel as a new member in August. Steve presented a great documentation of the Black Dahlia Murders on March 10th, that had us all spellbound. We're very lucky to have him as our newest member. On August 18th, Doug Brown, also a new and well deserved member, presented a beautiful Nazi knife from WW II to the Club. Mike Gwaltney mentioned it was from a German army Brown Shirt division. Mike seemed to be drooling over the knife and, I think, wants it for his museum. Perhaps we should lock it in the case by the library!

At the point of sounding redundant, please donate objects for the NOHA silent auction. The night of Father Gregory Boyle presentation, John Goddard donated several more objects from his extensive collection to the silent auction. Much appreciated, as always, John.

Well, that's a wrap from the podium. Membership is on an upswing, attendance is up, and there is an intoxicating vibe at the club. Come on down any Thursday night to get some for your self! Yea!

The Birthday Halibut

Bob Iannello (#1100)

Photos by Bob Iannello

I went diving last week in Santa Monica, on a reef just south of my favorite dive site, the *Star of Scotland*, and speared my first Halibut.

It has been a great year, I reached the young milestone of 60 years, and I speared my first Halibut.

The dive plan was to test out some items I made for the Nikonos and photograph the *Star of Scotland*.



Bow of Star of Scotland

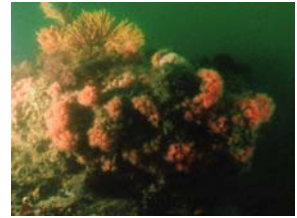
The GPS put me near the *Star*, but I discovered that my depth sounder was dead (batteries died). By the time I got to the site the seas were bigger than expected, and the swells were rolling in. I knew the visibility would be bad. Knowing that I was unlikely to find the *Star of Scotland* in poor visibility without the depth sounder, I headed to another dive site, one that would be a little easier to find.

I located a man made rock pile (reef) just south of the *Star*. It had a

much larger area, and I would be more likely to drop the hook in the



Bob's 37-in, in-season & legal halibut



Reef surface

middle of it. Even with bad visibility I expected at least "to feel it with my feet." And any dive is a good dive.

When the GPS said "Here," I dropped the hook and prepared to dive. I entered the water and descended my anchor line with spear-



GoPro mask-mounted video

gun in hand and a GoPro Video attached to my mask using, for the first time, a mount I made.

Who would have guessed what was waiting for me when I reached the bottom of my anchor line? Not one, but two Halibut!

Well...I had no excuse. I had a loaded spear gun in hand, no place to go, and

no people to meet, so I took the shot.

I got the Halibut. It was thirty-seven inches long – legal and in season.



Bob with his halibut



Fillet lessons

It was a short dive, eighty feet for twelve minutes. Most of that time was getting my dive gear untangled from all that line the Halibut

pulled from the Spear gun. I edited out that part of the video. It's on the "cutting room floor." How does that saying go? "I'd rather crash and burn, than look bad around the Boat." You know what I mean.

Not only was the dive successful, but the video mount worked great. I was on a roll, so back at home I

checked YouTube on how to fillet the fish. (Never did one of these before.)

I also used YouTube for various recipes on how to cook it. The filleting and the recipes worked out great. Got about fourteen pounds of halibut steaks out of



14 lbs of fillet

that fish. It sure tastes great when you get it yourself. It is fun to prepare it all sorts of ways. I already had friends over to dinner, and had to give some of it away.

Here is the rest of the story. I discovered that my computer has a built-in video editor – *Windows MovieMaker*. I used it to edit my video. I added a sound track, and some captions. Then I signed up for a YouTube account, and up loaded the video. My first YouTube video is now published: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GI48Bu-o3Lw>

I originally made the video to show at a Club meeting, thus the #1100 on the credits page. I'll bring it to my next meeting.

It was a most fun dive, a most fun day, and – as usual – wonderful to be alive and enjoy this life and all the Adventures it brings.

Robert G. Williscroft #1116 – Editor



On a personal note this time. When I returned from the South Pole back in 1982, I spent several months in Boulder, Colorado, debriefing at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offices there.

I was invited to speak at a local chapter of the L-5 Society – a group of highly intelligent, well-educated people with a common interest in all things *Space*. I met a young woman there, Jill Steele, who completely captivated me. To my lasting regret, circumstances ultimately made it impossible for us to remain together, so that we ended up going our separate ways.

Fast-forward nearly thirty years.

Some of you may know that a bit over a year ago I found myself suddenly, completely on my own. I pulled up stakes and moved to the Lewis-Clark Valley.

One evening while I was surfing the Web, I found a reference to Jack Steele – Jill’s father.. I followed up, only to discover that he had passed away, and found myself on his memorial page, put together by his daughter, Jill. Impulsively I posted some words about Jack (whom I had not met, but knew a lot about), and left a personal note for Jill.

To my delight, she responded, cau-

tiously. We began to correspond, and I discovered that she was still living in Denver with her twin twelve-year-old boys who were entering high school and sixteen-year-old, high school graduate, daughter. (Obviously smart, like their mother.)

We agreed to meet in Denver to determine if our long-dormant personal relationship had any legs. Our meeting was a spectacular success! It was as if thirty years had simply vanished. Later, Jill joined me in Los Angeles where many of you met her at a Ladies’ Night.

Three weeks ago, I moved from my apartment in Clarkston, Washington, to a house in Lewiston on an Idaho hillside overlooking the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. Two weeks ago, Jill and her children joined me. I flew to Denver, loaded their belongings onto a U-Haul truck, and we drove tandem with her RV for 1,200 miles of spectacular landscape. We are now sorting through stacks of boxes and thirty years of separate existence as we prepare to join our lives going forward.

We will soon have the wedding that should have happened thirty years ago. We’re both a bit older now, but she still is that beautiful young woman who captured my heart so many years back. The circle finally is complete.

The password for the online full-color edition is “*acla1109*”.

BOOK REVIEW:**CIRCUMNAVIGATING LOW KEY**

Captain Woody Henderson, Sheridan House, Dobbs Ferry, NY, 2010, 238p; 6 x 9 spftcover. ISBN: 978-1574092998. Review by the Editor, adapted from material supplied from publisher and other sources.

Captain Woody's account of his around-the-world adventure on his thirty-three-foot sloop, the *Low Key*.

Starting out with his girlfriend, on a boat not designed for the rigors of the open ocean, the plan to do some sailing in the Pacific turned into a global adventure. From nearly losing *Low Key* in Mexico, to waterfalls in a Polynesian paradise; tribal Kava ceremonies in the Yasawas, and love lost in Australia; brewing his own beer, soloing the Indian Ocean and getting buried under her waves; sailing the perilous East Cape of Africa, enduring South Atlantic calms, getting to know Caribbean crew and Cartagena locals; limping through the Panama Canal and banging up the coast of Baja; there's a little something here for everyone.

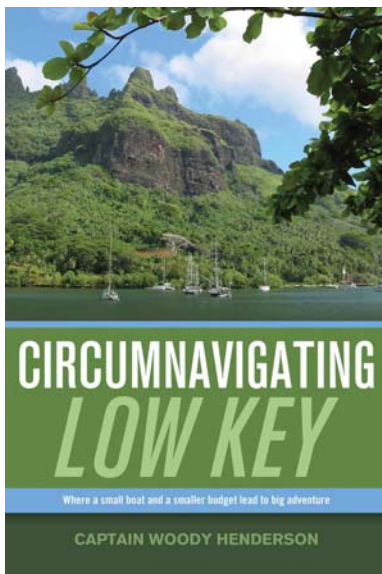
If you are a fan of Capt. Woody's writing style in *Latitudes & Attitudes* magazine, you'll thoroughly enjoy this book. If you are thinking of sailing around the world on a sailboat, don't read this book unless you want that wanderlust to come on even stronger.

While you won't gain any deep insights into the mentality of why we cruise the world on small boats, you will have a good time tagging along with Capt. Woody learning about the nuances – good and bad – of setting out on such an adventure.

Great summer reading. It reads pretty much like a log of his trip and many of the stories are entertaining. The prose is very light and conversational and you'll probably find yourself returning to this one on those rainy days when you need a tropical fix.

Woody Henderson has written the column "Captain Woody's World" in *Latitudes & Attitudes* magazine for eleven years. Having started out as volunteer crew on a cruising boat, he found his first paid-for-sailing-job on the Royal Yacht of Selangor. He has taught sailing, skippered private yachts, and delivered boats worldwide. Based in Southern California, he holds a USCG 100-ton license, and is a member of the Hermosa Beach Yacht Club.

Circumnavigating Low Key is available online and at bookstores everywhere.



What's Happening...

Frank Haigler OTGA

Frank Haigler (#825) departed On The Great Adventure on July 28th.

Frank was born on May 3, 1919. He was a boy when he first met Medal of Honor recipient John Finn who ended up marrying Frank's adopted sister. He joined the Marines in 1942, and took part in the Normandy invasion. Later, he was awarded the silver star for his bravery under fire in Okinawa.

Frank was a Fulbright Scholar, and became a Medical Doctor, specializing in OBGYN and Anas-



Photo Robert DeMott



Photo Robert DeMott

In 1998, Frank wrote these words. He speaks to us from a quickly disappearing past, one that changed the world forever, and in which he played a significant role. I leave you with them:

Many years have passed. As the twentieth century comes to a close, so ends the final chapter on the greatest conflict in our world's history. The flower of our youth passed into obscurity. Thousands



Photo Vince Weatherby



Photo Vince Weatherby

Frank Haigler, John Finn & Walt Ehlers

teology. He worked at the famed Mayo clinic for a time.

Frank was a past president of the Los Angeles Adventurers' Club, and attended club meetings often. He collected military vehicles, including even a tank or two.

Frank was close friends with John Finn and Medal of Honor recipient Walt Ehlers (#1119). He was a significant asset to our Club, always upbeat, and full of energy and zest for life. We will miss him greatly.

upon thousands upon thousands, in endless columns, marched into eternity. They never grew old, never aged into maturity, never fathered a future generation. In their youthful exuberance they were destined never to feel the developing infirmities of age. Yes, their passing from our scene was generally quick and sudden. Their youthful brilliance illumi-

nated our world but for a moment and then, just as quickly, faded. And in the darkness of their passing, over these past fifty years, our river of tears has ebbed and flowed. The mothers and fathers, the wives and sweethearts, the sisters and brothers, and all the countless friends and comrades have swelled the torrent of our grief. The price we have paid can never be measured. For every experienced loss there are countless other losses. It has been said, "It is easy to die, but it is never easy for those of us left behind." The chimes of our clocks continue to whisper the gentle message: A generation is winding down. Our freedom, our honor and our dignity is the legacy our fallen comrades have left to us.



Franks military decorations: Silver Star, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, Marine Good Conduct, Marine China Service, American Defense /w/ star, American Theater, Asiatic – Pacific Theater /w/2stars, European Theater /w/ star, WWII Victory, National Defense, Korean Service and Marine Reserve Service.

Allan Smith achieves world-wide fame



Photo Allan Smith

Past President Allan Smith is showcased in the *Alaskan Airlines & Horizon Air Magazine* for the month of July. This is on every plane of theirs throughout the world! Allan was awarded the Videographer Award for Excellence in Videography in filming the *Bali, Indonesia* episode of the television series *Exotic Worlds*. Furthermore, *Rescue Men* has won the North Carolina Press Corp Award for the best documentary of 2010.

In the last couple of months our brother has become visible on the international stage. We wish him the very best going forward.

Kristjansson visits China studio

Kristjan H Kristjansson (#1141) recently visited China's largest film studio. Get the details at the Club's Facebook page.

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...."

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

July 21, 2011

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Returning from Adventure:

Bob Oberto #1124 – Went to Edwards Air Force Base and flew a Pawnee towing an Air Force sail plane.

Jay Foonberg #1126 – Was recently inducted into the 1,000-mile club with United Airlines. The pilot announced his accomplishment over the public address. Three people clapped. He also ran a half-marathon in Anchorage. He said that there are people who run a marathon in all fifty states, but he has decided to run half a marathon in half the states. Jay also traveled to Hong Kong and Shanghai, saying that the East Asians are kicking our butt when it comes to innovation and technology, with new buildings and high-speed rail.

Leaving on Adventure

Michael Gwaltney #1128 – Off to Costa Rica & Panama in two weeks.

Other Announcements

Roy Roush #864 – Returned to the Club after an extended illness due to an infection. The infection entered through a cut and tried to shut down his organs. It is often fatal, but Roy persisted and survived.

Ralph Perez #1150 is heading to the arctic on a jeep tour.

Stragglers Prisoners of Conscience

Shane Berry #1093 brought Dr. Craig B. Smith back the Club to speak after he gave a very interesting talk last year on the construction of the Great Pyramids in Egypt. Tonight, Dr. Smith returned to discuss his new book, *Counting the Days: Stories of POWs, Internees, and Stragglers of World War II in the Pacific*.

Dr. Smith was introduced by his friend

of fifty years, Russ Spencer, whom he met as a student at UCLA. The two formed an engineering company together focusing on the effect of earthquakes on nuclear power plants. Dr. Smith eventually quit the company to take up writing.

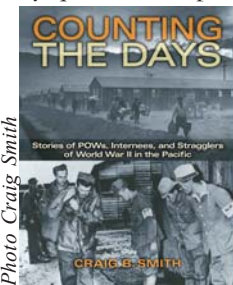


Photo Craig Smith

Aside from writing a book about the construction of the Great Pyramids, Dr. Smith has written books on *Extreme Waves* and *Lightning: Fire from the Sky*.

Dr. Smith's new book covers the lives of six POWs in the Pacific Theater of World War II. The lecture began with a background of the Japanese military buildup leading to the war. Japan's emperor sought to modernize his country and build a great Pacific empire. To inspire his forces, he reintroduced "bushido" or the "way of the samurai." Tojo, the Japanese prime minister, said that based on this code, surrender was shameful. The fierceness of this creed helped Japan to conquer a huge part of the Pacific by 1942. Their success was so swift that Japan was unprepared for the 100,000s of prisoners that followed these conquests. When these islands were later liberated, many POWs were left behind.

Dr. Smith began to research prisoners on both sides for this period. He traveled to Washington D.C. where the Marines were very accommodating and gave him an office and access to the National Archives. Dr. Smith then told the five stories chronicled in his book.

Dr. Smith began with the tale of Masahi Itoh. He became interested in Itoh when

he discovered Itoh's leather-bound diary in the National Archives. A document inside the diary said that Itoh was killed on Guam on December 25, 1946, more

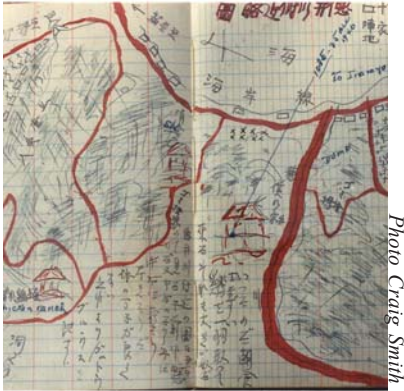


Photo Craig Smith

Map from Itoh diary

than a year after the war ended. The diary described Itoh's life hiding in the jungles of Guam. Dr. Smith decided to investigate Itoh's story. Itoh began the war stationed in Manchuria and then was ordered to the Marianas Islands. Itoh's diary described their occupation of Guam and how they prepared for the American invasion. After Guam was liberated by the Americans, the surviving Japanese soldiers hid in the jungle rather than surrender. Under bushido, surrender was shameful. Some of the stragglers came forward after a while, but the American military had to move on from Guam even though some stragglers remained. To seek out these stragglers, the U.S. Army created the Guam Combat Patrol (GCP), a paramilitary group. Itoh was among those stragglers hiding in the jungle. One day, Itoh and his companion stole a cow from a village. The GCP tracked them to their hideout. Itoh heard the patrol coming and hid. The GCP found Itoh's

diary and presumed that they had killed him. It turned out they had killed one of his companions. Itoh hid in the jungle until 1960. The GCP brought back Itoh's captured companion to talk him into surrendering. Itoh had no idea how many other stragglers were left in 1960.



Photo Craig Smith

One of Itoh's caves on Guam

Dr. Smith wasn't aware that Itoh was still alive until he happened across a reporter who remembered Itoh's story and made the connection. Smith tracked Itoh down in 1987 and invited him to come to Guam. Itoh agreed and made the trip to Guam. In Guam, Itoh took Dr. Smith



Photo Craig Smith

Itoh receiving his diary and other items

through the jungle and showed him some of the caves where he had hidden. The jungle had regrown since then, and Itoh could only find some of the spots. They had a ceremony, and Dr. Smith returned Itoh's diary. Itoh said he waited so long to surrender because he was ashamed, and he felt it was better that his family continued to think he was dead. The last straggler in Guam was Soichi Yokoi,

(Minutes continued on page 10)

(Minutes continued from page 9)

who was captured by two Guamanians in 1972. The last straggler of the war was Hiroo Onoda who was coaxed into surrendering in 1974 in the Philippines. To get Onoda to surrender, his family came with loud speakers urging him to leave, but he thought it was a trick. Finally, he met with a reporter and told him that he would only surrender if his commanding officer told him to. It turned out that his commanding officer was still alive. He was flown to the Philippines and, in his WWII Japanese uniform, ordered Onoda to surrender.



Photo Valley Sun

Garth Dunn after the war

The next of the prisoners profiled was Garth Dunn, who was a Marine stationed in Guam when the Japanese invaded. He was taken prisoner and put into a Catholic church for holding. Eventually, he was loaded onto a ship and taken to a POW camp in Japan where he was forced to sleep on benches and straw. Each prisoner had to learn to say their name in Japanese. They were awakened at dawn each morning and made to work the entire day for a bowl of rice. He was transferred twice more, first to Osaka and then to Hirohata for the duration of the war. Regularly beaten by guards, he was forced to work in a Mitsubishi steel mill. Returning after the war, he tried to find the camp, but all remnants had been destroyed. The steel mill remains.

Next was Simon Peters, who was a Russian engineer working in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded. He had

been working in a gold mine in Mindanao and was now sent to a night club turned prison camp called the Happy Light Cafe. Simon and his wife Lydia escaped and returned to their home, which was now occupied. The current occupants allowed them to take some clothes and other belongings. They slipped into the jungle where they tried to survive by growing food. They were eventually rescued by the American who found them near death. Returning after the war, they visited the Happy Light Cafe, which was still there and hosting cock fights.

Next, Dr. Smith talked about Mitsi Takahashi, who was a U.S. citizen born in Malibu to a family of farmers. After the war began, she and her family were interned at Manzanar. Here, she met her husband and was married. Mitsi was pregnant when the camp closed after the war.

Moving quickly now, in the interest of time, Dr. Smith talked about Kazuo Sakamaki. Sakamaki commanded a two-man



Photo Historic Naval Ships Association
Kazuo Sakamaki takes a turn around HA-19, the submarine he piloted the morning of the Pearl Harbor attack.

midget submarine, which was ordered to enter Pearl Harbor and torpedo boats on the day of the attack. However, the

sub's compass failed, and the sub hit a reef. He and his partner tried unsuccessfully to blow up the sub. His partner was killed, and Sakamaki was soon picked up by an American patrol and became the first Japanese POW, and the only Japanese POW for the first seven months of the war. He was sent to the U.S. mainland where he remained stubborn about his loyalty to Japan. By the end of the war, he had changed sides and tried to talk other prisoners into seeing the American way. After the war, he returned to Japan to help rebuild.

Dr. Smith concluded by describing how each of the subjects ended up after the war. Dunn went to USC and got into marketing. Simon Peters & his wife moved to the U.S. and worked for Pacific Gas & Electric. Mitsi became a bookkeeper, working into her old age. Itoh was a hero in Japan and became a security guard. Sakamaki became president of Toyota Brazil.



Photo Shane Berry

there is another Marine guarding heaven's gate. **Bob Silver #728** followed by saying that he was the essence of the Club, a great story teller, and never exhibited hubris. **Don Waters #1104** said he was a great contributor and a model member. **Bob Walters #1047** talked of his Okinawa campaign and his Silver Star. **Bob Benner #707** had known Frank for 25 years. **Roger Haft #1098** ended the tributes with a humorous story of Frank: After the Club had been graffiti'd a few years back, they called the police to report it. An officer came to the Club and told the members that the Club is not in the safest of neighborhoods and that they should consider leaving the Club in groups of threes and fours. Frank called out from the audience that half the members are armed. The cop, taken back by the defiant remark, began asking suspicious questions of Frank after the meeting until one member informed that cop that Frank was a Silver Star recipient; that shut him up.

Returning from Adventure:

Ken Freund #1046 – Led a motorcycle tour in West Virginia where four cyclists crashed in one day. Also, traveled to France, Holland, Belgian, and watched the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Leaving on Adventure:

Jeff Goddard #1010 – taking his kids river rafting along the Upper Kern River.

Steve Bein #1057 – leaving for New Foundland in 1 ½ weeks to go bird watching.

Martial Arts Demonstration

Before the main speaker, **Sid Hallburn #1125** brought in Linda Pugliese, a five-time martial arts champion, to give a short martial arts presentation. Dressed

(Minutes continued on page 12)

July 28, 2011

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Tribute to Frank Haigler

It was announced to the Club that **Frank Haigler #825** has gone on the great adventure. Many people were deeply struck by this news. The program began with a tribute to Frank. Those who knew him got up and spoke of their memories of him. **Roy Roush #864** spoke first calling him the most exceptional man he ever knew, that he brought a genuine quality to the Club, and that

in her karate gi, Linda demonstrated a number of moves on stage with a staff.

Fran Capo: Fast-Talking Woman Adventurer

Fran Capo, an adventurer, comedienne, and fast-talking world-record holder with an exuberant style and New York Italian charm, entertained the Club with stories and humor of her activity-rich life. Fran holds the world record as the fastest-talking woman. She has authored two books, *Myths and Mysteries of New York* and *Adrenaline Adventures: Dream it, Read it, Do it!* Fran has appeared on over 300 TV shows.

Pierre Odier introduced Reda Anderson who brought in tonight's speaker. Fran took the stage with the kind of commanding presence and energy that one would expect from the world's fastest talking woman. A diminutive brunette with dark hair and a New York accent, there was little doubt the Club was in for some fun. With comedic style, Fran regaled the Club with stories.

Fran began by saying how much she loved the Club and what an unusual place it was. Nowhere else could she come out of the bathroom to find a woman practicing karate moves in the sitting room. After hearing the story of Frank, she was concerned at how many people were in armed in the Club and felt that added to the pressure to put on a good show.

Fran started talking fast in the 5th grade and says that it has benefitted her all her

life; she can chew out her husband at 603 words per minute. She started her career doing stand up and radio, at one point doing a Mae West impression. One day a radio station asked if she would read the traffic report. After going on the air the first day, a reporter called and asked how long she had been doing traffic. Not wanting to say "one day" or disappoint the reporter, she said she was on the ra-

After hearing the story of Frank, she was concerned at how many people were in armed in the Club and felt that added to the pressure to put on a good show.

dio to break a record. Asked which record, Fran simply said "fast talking." Not knowing the monster she created, the reporter printed her story. The phone began ringing and soon Larry King wanted her to come on his show to break the record. Never having done this before, Fran was on the spot. She called Guinness for an explanation of the rules for breaking the record. They told her that she could either read Shakespeare or the Bible. She read the Bible and was able to set the record on the first try.

Fran believes that her "can-do" attitude comes from her parents. Her mother told her that nothing is impossible, and her father told her to find the humor in life. She tries to give her son the same encouragement by telling him that there is no such word as "can't." At times, her son took this too literally. At one point, her son's elementary school teacher calls Fran and says her son is being disobedient. When she tells him that he can't go outside, the son responds, "there is no such word as can't." Fran tells the teach-

er to put him on the phone and tells him nicely, “It’s not that you can’t go outside, they don’t *want* you to go outside. Ok?”

Trying to instill a sense of adventure in her son, Fran took him on little adventures during school breaks. Hearing that manatees are soon going extinct, she took her son to go swimming with them before it’s too late. They flew down to Florida and took a boat at the crack of dawn. Fran wonders why all animal adventures start at dawn and why the animals just can’t sleep in. The boat took them to a safe spot to go swimming where there is sign saying, “no crocodiles.” This sign, she is told, ***One day, it gets in her head that she wants to take up climbing and decides that summiting Kilimanjaro is her goal.*** Demonstrating how success breeds success, Sandra

After the trip, the son returned to his class to tell his story. This resulted in another call from her son’s teacher who tells Fran that her son is making up stories about feeling moss on a manatee’s back. Fran informed the teacher that this is true. The teacher becomes indignant and told Fran to stop taking her son around the world because it is not fair to the underprivileged kids in the class. Incredulous, Fran got her son into another class.

Fran prefers to lead an interesting life. Traveling the world, she calls up her boyfriend and tells him stories about seeing shrunken heads. The boyfriend laments why he can’t have a girlfriend who calls him up about normal things.

One day, it gets in her head that she wants to take up climbing and decides that summiting Kilimanjaro is her goal. She unsuccessfully tries recruiting friends to come with her, but they keep dropping out with lousy excuses. Eventually

she forces her son to come along. They fly to Africa and sign up a guide who wants to take her up the western side because there are fewer people and it’s more challenging. Four days of suffering got them to the top where Fran, always having to be different, has dragged some of her books to the summit. She sets up a table and chair and holds a book sale and signing for the other hikers at the top. The amazing scene was photographed with worn-out hikers, at the top of Kilimanjaro, lined up to sign her book. This photo was distributed around the world.

Day O’Connor’s son sees the photo, calls Fran, and invites her on a trip to see the Titanic by submarine. They tell her she can only go if she doesn’t have high blood pressure, is not claustrophobic, or have excessive flatulence. This last requirement worried her. She researched what defined excessive flatulence and found that the average person farts twelve times a day, so she began counting. Confident that she was under the 12-fart average, she was ready to go on the trip.

They told Fran that she would be down for 12 hours without a bathroom break and to thus avoid eating or drinking beforehand. She was accompanied on the trip by the trip leader, a Russian, and a Japanese woman who annoyingly repeated to Fran, in a bad accent, that she was the first Japanese to see the wreck of the Titanic. The Japanese woman wouldn’t stop talking and keeps making unreasonable demands that she wants to

(Minutes continued on page 14)

(Minutes continued from page 13)

photograph the whole ship. The Russian and Fran are going nuts being locked up with this woman for twelve hours. At the Titanic, she also did a book signing, limited to those in the sub. Coming back from the Titanic, she brought to the Club souvenirs of styrofoam cups that shrunk due to the depth.

Her son is an adult now. For her son's 21st birthday, she wanted to do something special for him. Not interested in drinking and having already tried eating fire, she took him skydiving.

Fran also does cartoon voices. She was married to her second husband for 17 days. When they would fight, she would hold up an alligator puppet and do the voice of the puppet. The husband would begin arguing with the puppet as though she weren't there. After they split, he refused to sign the divorce papers, so she sent him the alligator puppet and a recording of the alligator voice asking him to sign the divorce papers. It worked.

Fran ended by running through some of her other adventures such as visiting the ice hotel, crawling in an unoccupied polar bear den (and asking how they are sure it was unoccupied), and some of the research she did on her "Myths and Mysteries" book, which discusses the Philadelphia Experiment and an interesting experience she had with a self-professed shaman. Her final bit was to fast-talk the story of the 3 little pigs. She admits that she gets impatient with people who drive or talk too slow.



Photo Steve Bein

August 4, 2011

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Returning from Adventure

Bob Zeman #878 – returned from a birding trip off Santa Barbara. The trip focused on pelagic birds that fly the open ocean and infrequently come to shore.

Leaving on Adventure

Steve Bein #1057 – Leaving Tuesday for New Foundland where he will photograph birds. Part of the adventure will be repelling down the side of a cliff to photograph the birds' breeding area.

Dave Finnern #1065 – Off to Northern Idaho to dive some shipwrecks. Dave estimates that there must be only three divers in all of Idaho. Dave will dive a sunken train and four shipwrecks.

Other Events:

Steve Hodel was inducted as member #1161. Steve is a former LAPD detective and author of numerous books about the Black Dahlia Killer, who, it turns out, is his father.



Photo Steve Bein

On-Location Shooting in Australia

Pierre Odier #988 introduced tonight's speaker by saying he had been watching TV and saw this amazing man shooting a documentary in Egypt. Later, Pierre learned this person was Dave Banks #1156. Dave is a cameraman who has shot news stories in Afghanistan, documentaries, and the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Tonight, Dave spoke of his work on two extreme athletic events produced for reality television: the Eco-Challenge and the Marathon des Sables.

Dave began working for ABC sports thirty years ago and has been involved in the business ever since. He went freelance in 1985 and has spent his time crawling through small tunnels in the Middle East to film documentaries. While shooting in Egypt, he was informed that Osama Bin Laden offered \$19,000 for the head of every American in Egypt. Thinking that his head was worth twice that, Dave and his production staff hired security to get them safely through the shoot.



Photo Dave Banks

Filming rescue in Australia

In 1998, Dave signed on to supervise the filming of Eco-Challenge. Eco-Challenge was the brainchild of Mark Burnett, who has created other reality series such as Survivor, the Apprentice, and Shark Tank. A little tired of covering sports, Dave was reluctant to sign on, but he was lured by the exotic filming locations in Australia and the challenge of a project that size.

Dave's job was to coordinate the filming of forty-eight, four-man teams competing over a 300-mile course. Dave was

given a \$6 million budget. There were 32 checkpoints, called "Passport Controls," that had to be covered. Dave used a flowchart to track the teams throughout the course. Over the ten-day competition, Dave averaged 2.6 hours of sleep per night. Over 500 hours of film was shot of the event. The logistics were the most challenging part. This meant getting the cameras in the right spots to film the competition, whether it was on a cliff, in a river, or mounted on a helicopter. Seventeen cameramen were used to film the event. Beyond the actual filming, the crew of 300 needed to be housed and fed, which required a military-style camp. Dave had never handled anything this big.

The competition itself covers three diverse Australian landscapes: the outback, the desert, and the sea. The coed teams begin in Northern Queensland and have to race to the finish by climbing, hiking, running, kayaking, swimming, etc. One event requires a team to repel down one side of a ravine, cross a raging river at the bottom, and then climb the other side. The event forces the members to work together. When one member of the Japanese team twists her ankle in the hiking competition, the other three take turns carrying her. Perhaps the most striking example of teamwork was an Irish team composed of Protestants and Catholics. Dave showed the Club a fifteen-minute clip of the competition, excellently filmed with all its grueling reality.

After the clip, Dave lamented that the Eco-Challenge no longer exists. It had started out as groups of amateurs competing, but quickly "went Hollywood," bringing in Playboy bunnies and Navy Seals.

Next Dave spoke of his experience

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covering the Marathon des Sables. A 250-kilometer race through the Moroccan Sahara over six days in temperatures over 100 degrees. Dave's coverage focuses on the dramatic fight of one competitor who won't give up after blowing out her knee. Dave prefaces his clip by describing "summit fever": an affliction of mountain climbers whose desire to reach the summit overrides all reasonable concerns for their safety and welfare. This condition afflicts marathon runners as well.



Photo Dave Banks

Banks on a shoot

Felicia Wilkerson from San Francisco blows her knee with three days and 60 kilometers left in the competition. When we join her at checkpoint 3, she is hobbling a bit and is frustrated by her injury but decides to continue on. As Felicia keeps going, her limp becomes more pronounced and the leg begins to worsen. She struggles more and a more. After sunset, she is still going. A French nurse is monitoring her and tries to convince her to stop, but she refuses. Her leg has now become infected and is white and puffy. Yet, she continues. A vehicle of race officials trails her as she hobbles along and finally falls to the ground. Crying, she struggles to regain her feet but can no longer stand. Weeping in defeat, she realizes that it is over, and that she

must concede the race.

Dave is the cameraman shooting this footage, but the film is shown so dramatically that one forgets there is a cameraman. Dave said that his job is accomplished when the subject is the focus of the audience's attention, and the cameraman becomes invisible to the story.

After this drama, Dave ended on a light note with a staged clip he was trying to shoot of camels majestically walking before a setting sun - the glowing, orange sun silhouetting the camels and creating an iconic Saharan image. All the while, two men on walkie-talkies are giving stage directions to the camels. "Ok, turn the camels around. And hurry up, the sun is setting." "Roger that, camels don't turn on a dime."



Photo Steve Behn

August 18, 2011

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Returning From Adventure

Bill Morse #1130 – returned from Cambodia where he has been working for a de-mining NGO. He successfully de-mined a mountain located near Angkor Wat. **Pierre Odier** #988 helped by sending over books to raise money.

Charles Carmona #1136 – returned from a trip to Columbia, BC, and Whistler.

Larry Stern #1112 – went to DC to visit their kids and got a private tour of the White House from one of their kids' friend who works there.

Jay Foonberg #1126 – ran the Providence Marathon and finished second in his

age group; the others were all dead. His finishing time was, as always, “same day.”

Allan Smith #1069 – traveled to the ghost town of Rhyolite, located near Death Valley, to do a project. He was featured in Alaska Airlines Magazine.

Leaving on Adventure

Doug Brown #1160 – will visit the Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier courtesy of **Martin Bloom #1147**.

Nothing Stops a Bullet Like a Job

Adventure, the search for different cultures, and anthropological study usually require travel to far-off places. Tonight the Club found all this in the nearby neighborhood of Boyle Heights where Father Gregory Boyle has been working to end gang violence by offering the former gang members a job, a purpose in life, and hope. With his motto “Nothing stops a bullet like a job,” Father Boyle created Homeboy Industries. Homeboy Industries has created jobs for gang members in their bakery, cafe, silk screen, and other businesses. These men and women – with criminal records and passed over by society – are given a chance to earn a living and have a purpose through these enterprises. Father Boyle believes that people join gangs out of despair and desperation. Simply giving these people an opportunity to earn a living, even in a beginning position, is more attractive to these men and women than life in a gang.

Father Boyle grew up in a comfortable neighborhood in Los Angeles. He started working in Bolivia, and when he

became an ordained priest, he decided that he wanted to work with the poor. The church assigned him to the Dolores Mission in a Boyle Height, the poorest parish in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. The year was 1986, just before the “Decade of Death” that ran from 1988 to 1998 – the period of extreme gang violence in the Los Angeles area. Father Boyle’s parish covered the largest public housing area west of the Mississippi.

Father Boyle sat in his church and realized that the gang members would not come to him; he would have to go see them if he wanted to help. He walked through his parish on the first day and was stopped by the LAPD. A white man walking in this predominately Latino neighborhood was usually a sign that he was there to buy drugs. He explained to the cops that he was the new pastor at the Dolores Mission, and he was walking his parish. The police told him, “We don’t advise it.”

Father Boyle at first tried shuttle diplomacy between the rival gangs hoping to establish cease-fires and peace treaties. He asked whether they would go to school if he could get them in. They all said yes. However, no school would take them, so they started their own school. This brought the gang members into the church, but some of the original parishioners were not happy about this. Father Boyle said sardonically that some people felt that churches should be hermetically sealed from “evil people.” After school, these people needed jobs. No businesses would hire them, so he started his own. Father Boyle began Homeboy Industries



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in an 80-year-old building. Homeboy Industries is the largest gang intervention program in the country.

Father Boyle calls himself an expert in nothing, but he's worked with gangs for the last twenty-five years. Attempting to connect with the Club, he said that we travel to make things happen, to create kinship. Creating kinship between former enemies is what he does through Homeboy Industries. He quoted Mother Teresa who said, "We have forgotten that we belong to one another." Homeboy Industries stands with those who are easily hated or have no voice. Gang members have taught him everything he values, including texting, which, he says satirically, "is better than talking to people." Father Boyle then shared with the Club a number of stories about his time with Homeboy Industries.

He was driving to Palm Desert with two older gang members, whom he calls "homies," when one homey received a text from a guy named Snoopy who works at Homeboy. Snoopy says that he has been arrested for being the ugliest vato in all Los Angeles, and that the homey has to come down to the police station to prove them wrong. Father Boyle and the two homies broke out in laughter. Father Boyle found it amazing that a kinship could form between these two former enemies and rival gang members to the point where they could share that kind of joke with one another.

Father Boyle told of Cesar whom he tried to help find a job, but it never worked out. Cesar told Father Boyle that this time would be different, and he decided to give Cesar one last shot. He got on the phone and found Cesar a job. Months later it worked out for Cesar,

and he returned to Father Boyle's office glowing with pride. Cesar said to Father Boyle, "Do you know who I have to thank for this?" Father Boyle blushed and was about to say "you're welcome" when Cesar said, "God... You didn't think I meant you?" Father Boyle quickly finding his humility said, "God. Yes, of course."

Homeboy Industries has a free tattoo-removal service that started with a guy named Frank who came in one day with a tattoo across his forehead saying "Fuck the World" and wondering why no one would offer him a job. Homeboy Industries runs the Homegirl Cafe "where former gang women with attitudes are glad to take your order." One day Diane Keaton came in, and a waitress named Glenda approached to take her order. Halfway through the order Glenda asks Diane if they know each other. Ms. Keaton, trying to be modest, says, "we probably met somewhere." Glenda then says, "I know. We've done time together."

Father Boyle was able to help a gang member named Bandit who sold crack for 15 years before coming to Homeboys saying he was tired of being tired. Father Boyle gave him a job. Bandit now owns a house, has a wife, and kids. Father Boyle blessed his eldest daughter before she left for college, becoming the first in her family to attend college. The daughter wants to become a psychologist and study the criminal mind, she says as she nods towards her father.

Laura Bush decided to visit Homeboy Industries. Prior to her arrival the Secret Service came by to set up security and screen the workers. They were surprised to find that all Homeboy's employees had criminal records. Father Boyle ex-

plained that this was the point. After the visit, Father Boyle and three homies were invited to visit the White House. Father Boyle chose three of the most menacing looking homies, bought them suits and ties, and got them on the plane to DC. Before leaving, one of the homies was unable to get permission from his parole officer to leave the state, even if it was to visit the White House. The parole officer had a case of, “Who are you to visit the White House?” Finally going above their heads, they got him permission to go. The homies, with tattoos showing above their suits, were the ultimate fish out of water story at the White House reception that featured gourmet food, wine, and chamber music. The homies downed multiple glasses of wine and made inappropriate comments about the food in their “outdoor” voices. On the plane ride home an airplane stewardess got to talking to one of the homies who told her all about Homeboy Industries. This homey, Gabriel, who gave tours at Homeboy, described the program in such detail that she cried.

Father Boyle says that former members of rival gangs must work together. They resist at first, but he says that a kinship always forms. He tells the story of Puppet and Youngster who were rival gang members. Sadly, Puppet was cornered and beat up one day on the way home. Puppet was in a coma and brain dead. Youngster, the former enemy, called Father Boyle in tears asking if there was anything he could do, but Puppet died.

Father Boyle finished by saying that Homeboy Industries is a local organization, and he does not want to become the McDonalds of gang intervention, but he has advised people in other cities on how his program works. Father Boyle says Homeboy Industries works because it is homegrown. He has written a book called, “Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion.” Proceeds from the book go to support Homeboy Industries.



Photo: Shane Berry

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Father Gregory Boyle gave one of the most amazing talks ever! It was privilege to hear him speak so passionately his fellow man.

– Shane Berry #1093

Sorry I missed the presentation – Editor

To the Editor:

How have you been lately and how are things up north? I have been working on an article about James Cameron's trip around the moon. It is not quite completed, however, I am wondering if you may

be interested in such an article for the *ACNews*?

You have been doing an outstanding job on our Club magazine and I always look forward to reading the new edition.

You have taken us to a whole new level from the old black and white editions, and we are quite fortunate to have you for our editor. Thanks and Keep Up the Great Work. – Fred Hareland #1138

We look forward to your article. Things up here are going fine. The only real thing I miss from Southern California is the fellowship of my friends at the Club. – Editor





The Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles

NIGHT OF HIGH ADVENTURE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2011

Penthouse Ballroom- Delfina Hotel
530 W. Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, Ca.
310-399-9344

"The Night of High Adventure is a Showcase for Excellence"

Adventurers' Club member General James H. Doolittle, #800 OTGA

The Evening's schedule will be

5:00 p.m.- Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction- Cash or Checks- No Credit Cards

6:30 p.m.- Dinner

7:30 p.m.- Adventurers' Programs

MSL-The Mars Science Laboratory

Scheduled Mars Rover landing in 2012

MSL Deputy Project Scientist, Ashwin R. Vasavada- JPL



On Assignment to the Hot Spots of the World

Carolyn Cole- Pulitzer Prize Winning Photographer of the L.A. Times

Her appearance is conditional depending on events in the world.



United States Navy Seals

Presentation by the Honorable U.S. Navy Seals

Conditional on service needs



10:00 p.m.- Adjourn

Appropriate Dress is black tie, dark suit, or Military Dress for the gentleman; cocktail dresses for the Ladies. Ethnic costumes are equally welcome.

Tickets are \$75.00 per person or \$600.00 per table of 8

MAIL YOUR CHECK(s) to
(see printable PDF form)

The Adventurers' Club
Attn. James Heaton, Tel' 323-465-9500
P.O. Box 31226
Los Angeles, Ca. 90031

Forthcoming Programs

- August 25, 2011** – Ricardo Flores – Backyard Wilderness
September 1, 2011 – Dennis Przywara – Racing Rickshaws in India
September 8, 2011 – Bob Silver – Mercedes Magic via Monte Carlo!
September 15, 2011 – Bob Gannon – The Adventures of an Expedition Flag: A Decade of Global Exploration
September 22, 2011 – Craig Walters – Sudan Today
September 29, 2011 – **LADIES NIGHT** – Dr. James Adams – Greatest Patriotic Married Couple in USA History
October 6, 2011 – David Finnern --Bessie Brady Shipwreck
October 13, 2011 – Vivian Callahan – Adventure in Southeast Asia aboard *The Quest*
October 20, 2011 – Kevin Lee – Sea Slugs, Pole to Pole
October 23, 2011 – **NOHA** – Night of High Adventure
October 27, 2011 – Charles Carmona – Gem Adventures in Sri Lanka

ANNOUNCEMENT



To celebrate the Chicago Adventurers Club centennial, it will be hosting the “World’s Fair of Clubs” on October 19-22, 2011. Over 100 clubs with reciprocity membership from around the world will be in attendance as well as 180 University and College clubs.

Their announcement and invitation to our Club members says in part: This three-day event seeks to reaffirm our passion for adventure, and secure the stability and long-term viability of our clubs. Through seminars, guest speakers and networking opportunities, we hope to continue to blaze a trail for the next generation of adventurers.

Attendance fees are \$350.00 for early registration and \$550.00 at the Door.

A partial list of the events planned include:

- Exhibits
- Adventure Presentations
 - Educational Development Seminars
 - 5 year development planning for clubs
 - Establishment of a world calendar of events
 - Needs assessment for clubs

Invited Guest Speakers:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Sir Richard Branson | Brian Shul |
| Scott Cassell | Don Walsh |
| Emory Kristof | Chris Welsh |
| Stephen Low | Joe Wieland |
| Anatoly Sagalevich | |



The
Adventurers' Club News®

PO Box 31226
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

September 2011