

The Adventurers' Club News

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Jim Dorsey and Pierre Odier at Angkor Wat

The Adventurers' Club News

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE – Looking Forward

Allan R. Smith #1069 - President



Greetings fellow adventurers:

A busy time is in store for the club as we kick off the first of our two annual business meetings. You will be nominating the officers and board of directors for 2010 and as I always say, the club is only as successful as you make it. Please consider running for a position or nominating a member that you think will be interested and help move the club forward.

Our condolences go out to fellow member Robert Williscroft and his family. Many of us know Robert Williscroft's girlfriend Michelle, as she is a frequent visitor on ladies nights and a welcome guest that brightens up the evening. It is with great sadness that I inform you about the passing of Michele's son Jack, who died from complications related to asthma. If you would like to send your condolences, her e-mail address is shellswan@argee.net.

Chef Emily's new (refurbished) commercial refrigerator is working great and she is obviously very happy with it. The club had a large turnout for fellow member Emory

Kristoff's program. Unfortunately, I was off on adventure and on a river trip down the San Juan River exploring the Anasazi ruins, petroglyphs and pictographs. One outstanding trip that really makes you feel closer to the Native Americans that lived in this region.

We have several non-club events coming up and please be sure to read more on them in this newsletter. I am working on reciprocity with several other clubs' around the World and this will be a nice addition to our membership as we travel the World. It is very important that you send over your contact information to the club and make sure that this is up to date. Please send it to the club or myself at Allan@dreamquest.tv and make sure that your address and contact information is current and correct. Most importantly, we have notices going out via e-mail and if you are not sure we have your current e-mail, please send it over again. Better to be safe than sorry and we don't want you to miss any club mailings.

Finally, please support our new editor Bob Zeman and send him over your news and better yet, the club would love to read your stories. Write up your latest adventure or one of your best "past" adventures, as we would love to read them and it helps make the editors job easier.

At the Killing Fields

Jim Dorsey (#1081)

The bright red skull and crossbones sign at the trailhead are all the incentive I need to tread lightly.

Supposedly, the temples have all been swept for landmines, but the surrounding jungles are said to still contain over six million unexploded surprises. These signs are a dramatic reminder not to leave the dirt path.

I had been on this very spot a year before and this area was covered by the jungle. Had I wandered beyond where I stand now at that time, I most assuredly would have encountered a mine.

On this, my second trip to Cambodia I am traveling with Pierre Odier to photograph the Killing Fields. I have once again hired Soukhoeun as our guide, for he is reliable, and has a feel for this business. He has twice pointed into the impenetrable greenery around us and brought my focus to the tiny steel tripods that are the detonators of these little killing machines. He tells me to only step where he has, and his tread is so light I cannot hear his footfalls upon the leaves.

Only two weeks before, near this very spot, and on a picnic with his family, he froze in terror as he felt cold steel poking his behind. He had sat on an anti tank mine but did not weigh enough to detonate it. He was in a "Cleared" zone at the time.

Today we are far out in the jungle at a place unknown on any map. It is only people like Sokhouen who can tell of what happened in these remote places of death,

and it is only from photos taken by people like me that the world has any chance of knowing.

But that is life in Cambodia. Perhaps it is the immediacy to death that makes these people so happy and among the friendliest I have ever met. Perhaps living in the poorest of nations, knowing one can be vaporized at any moment, gives one an appreciation for life, those of us accustomed to western luxury can never understand. Still, I pray that the Cambodian Mine Action Committee, whose signs abound out here, have done their job well.

At Tol Sleung, the most infamous of the Khmer Rouge interrogation centers, I wandered through rows of blood stained cells before exiting a room piled high with skulls. At Choeung Ek, the killing field made famous by the movie of the same name, a 50 foot glass stupa full of skulls screams at the visitor about what happened here. Parking lots of these now famous fields are full of teenagers, the children left behind when their parents went to their death. Their only hope of survival now is begging from tourists who wish to see these gruesome places. Some hold photos of their slain relatives in hopes of inspiring sympathy and generating some money.

At Som Rouong Kmong, a former monastery, there is a giant crater now grown over with young grass. It is here that 250 young monks became the first to die, followed by 3,000 civilians, and one older monk shows me his drinking cup. It is the top of his own brothers' skull. He tells me

(Looking continued on page 3)

(Looking continued from page 2)

it is his personal reminder of the past and what will happen to him one day soon.

Wherever you go in Cambodia, you will see skulls, for rather than hide the genocide of six million people, the Cambodians have chosen to put it center stage. They have learned from their own history and choose not to repeat it.

On the trail to the cave at Phnom Suntouk, a site where over a thousand people were hurled over a cliff to the rocks, two hundred feet below, Soukhoeun points at a small clearing and tells me it was here that a friend had been bitten by a cobra. When I ask if the man lived, he gives me that puzzled look that tells me I am asking an absurd question. There is no medical attention in this part of the world.

It is his matter of fact delivery of this news that chills my blood. We pass through dozens of webs with spiders the size of my fist to find the cave wall lined with skulls of those whose life ended here. As we leave I see the dark tail of a massive cobra disappearing into the brush just ahead of us.

On our final day together, on the sun baked road to Beng Melea, are brains are being fried from the heat, and my spine is warring with the springs of my seat on every bump. We are hailed to a stop by a soldier in the middle of nowhere. He waves his AK-47 in our general direction and tells Soukhoeun we must pay him \$3 US dollars to continue on his road. I make it a habit never to argue with a man holding a gun, especially in a third world jungle.

I fumble through my pockets and find a crumpled \$5 bill, thinking it a cheap enough

bribe for our lives. The soldier holds it up to the light as though he can tell if it is real or not, then sets down his rifle and gives me \$2 US dollars in change. As we pull away, I see him smiling and waving in the rear view mirror.

Bouncing along in a cloud of dust, I begin to laugh at the absurdity of what we are going through. In this area, we have a fifty- fifty chance of being shot for no reason at all. And I know the money we just paid will go into the pocket of a local war lord while those around him continue to starve.

Soukhoeun shrugs his shoulders and smiles at me. "Cambodia," he says, and that says it all.

website, www.jamesdorsey.com

Kickoff Bash

Bob Oberto announced that on October 10, 1928 the C.A. Larsen departed San Pedro Harbor with Commander Byrd and three aircraft for Antarctica. One plane never made it back.

On October 10, 2009 a kickoff bash was held at the Proud Bird near the Los Angeles airport for the recovery of the first plane to land on the Antarctic Continent.

Andrea Donnellan reports that she has been to Antarctica several times and has seen the plane on two occasions.

She will attend the bash along with **Robert Byrd Breyer**, grandson of Admiral Byrd; Dick Rutan, first unrefueled non-stop flight around the world; and Nathaniel Kahn, filmmaker and producer.

Webster's defines epiphany as a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something..."

I'd spent most of my adult life in the business world, hiring people, organizing factories, marketing my products, and generally chasing a buck. I was pretty good at it too. I'd owned a couple of different companies, and we'd found our own little niches.

But I'd never been really satisfied with what I was doing. I knew what we made was good, knew the jobs we created were good for our workers, but knew too that the world would be no worse off without our special little tools.

In 2002 I heard about a modern Don Quixote. He lived in Cambodia and he was trying to make his country safe by clearing one landmine at a time, wherever he could find them.

My wife and I went to Cambodia to find him and to visit the remarkable treasures that remain from the ancient Angkor Empire.

This modern day Don Quixote called himself Aki Ra. He'd been a child soldier in the Khmer Rouge, gotten his first gun at 10 and had laid tens of thousand of landmines that were still wreaking havoc on his country. He'd decided, 10 years before I met him, to help make his country safer ... one landmine at a time.

By the time we met, he'd cleared nearly 50,000 landmines; all by hand and always for free. While doing this he and his wife

had adopted over a dozen maimed and orphaned kids to raise as their own. And both were in their 20s.

I had my epiphany sitting on his dirt floor in his Landmine Museum at the end of a rutted road in Siem Reap.

I knew as clearly as I'd ever known anything that if he could do that, I could help. I HAD to help. I knew I could make a difference right there, right now. And that old catch phrase punched me right in the face: "If not me, who? If not now, when?"

My wife and I came home and started a 501c3 charity that raises money to help him clear mines and UXOs. In 2007, after the government closed his museum and banned him from any further mine-clearing work, I closed my business, and pretty much moved to Cambodia to help him found his own non-governmental-organization (NGO) called Cambodian Self Help Demining. It took us most of a year, but now Aki Ra clears with a team of deminers, with the governments blessing.

We're about to finish clearing our 3rd village. Nearly 50 families are now farming land that was killing them a year ago.

Not bad work for a 61 year old fat man.

May I become at all times, both now and forever, a protector for those without protection, a guide for those who have lost their way, a ship for those with oceans to cross, a bridge for those with rivers to cross, a sanctuary for those in danger, a lamp for those without light, a place of refuge for those who lack shelter, and a servant to all in need.

- Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama

(Minutes continued on page 4)

June 4, 2009

Bob Zeman

Vince Weatherby filled in as president for Allan Smith tonight.

David Dolan introduced Peter Marathi, a member of Parliament from Kenya. Parliament decides the nature of business that the government must conduct. Peter had been in New York state because it had aided Kenya in the set up of a media center. He is visiting Hoag Hospital which has also been of great help to his republic.

Shane Berry returned from five weeks of traveling overland from Lake Titicaca to Rio de Janeiro. In the altiplano of Bolivia he mountain biked down from 15,500 feet altitude to 11,000 feet. The silver mines of Potosi are dangerous and over the years 4 million people have died in the mines.

Pierre Odier returned from driving a four-wheel drive vehicle from Tehran to Kashgar, China. He drove through Turkestan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and this segment signified that he had now circumnavigated the world by vehicle in segments.

Pierre brought back two police hats from Iran and Uzbekistan. But he spent some time at the police station in Turkmenistan trying to get a third hat. As an American in Tehran, he was greeted warmly by the people.

Reda Anderson returned from Las Cruces, New Mexico where she had put **Ralph White's** ashes in a rocket. But the rocket only got to 48,000 feet not 60,000.

Steve Bein is planning a 50-mile bicycle ride along the L. A. river.

Sid Hallburn brought his student Man-

ny, a martial arts expert who demonstrated the Samurai sword. The sword moves date from the Tokogawa era which ended in 1603. The sword ceremony involves three bows—to the master, the sword and the clan.

The Synergy Moon Project

Randa Milliron is the co-founder along with her husband Roderick of Interorbital Systems (IOS). She is involved in aerospace engineering assembly and design, specializing in high-temperature composite materials.

The company is trying to win the \$30-million X-prize which is awarded by Google to the first private space vehicle to hold six persons and orbit in space for a week. The prize is \$20 million for first prize if the task is completed prior to December 31, 2012. They are building an orbital spacecraft, a launch vehicle and an interplanetary spacecraft.

The mainstay is a liquid rocket engine. Propane tanks attached to the hull were hard to design to get proper pressure at 40,000 feet. Three Neptune vehicles are being developed each with more propulsion.

There are about 15 companies trying to build rockets for space exploration but only seven are also building an orbital spacecraft to try for the prize. The most famous company is financed by Virgin Atlantic's Richard Branson.

Branson is only taking deposits for sub-orbital flights whereas IOS is going for orbital flights. IOS has 48 members from 15 countries and is based in Mojave.

IOS wants to provide low cost space trav-

el between the Earth and its moon. It would use a floating ocean launch. A future spaceport is being considered on an island near Tonga.

Once on the moon they will use a lunar hopper, an open ended vehicle weighing 2,500 pounds on which the astronauts stand. The plan is to set up base at the Shackleton Crater which has light and ice.

A fee of \$5 million has been proposed for an orbit at an altitude of 300 miles.

But one person is willing to put up \$68 million for a week in space in Soyuz.

June 11, 2009

Bob Zeman

President **Allan Smith** welcomed a good-sized crowd. He has just returned from filming the east wing of the White House. While there, he met and talked with **Emory Kristof**.

Dave Finnern returned from a trip to El Dorado Landing which is the farthest north landing used when ships used to go up the Colorado River from the Sea of Cortez. It is near Black Canyon. Dave's new book is now out titled "Lost Below." It describes some of the shipwrecks of the southwest.

We were saddened to hear that **Don Taylor's** wife passed away. They had been married for 69 years. Don has been flying for 68 years.

Tom Dahlgren sailed a 30-foot boat from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles.

Joe Valencic returned from three months in Vancouver, B. C. The advances in underwater technology are tremendous. Diving suits are currently being designed for a depth of 1,000 feet and the user can ma-

neuver some mechanical "hands."

Joe showed a carbon-fiber and water-cooled craft that at two feet long is the world's fastest remote controlled boat. It weighs a few ounces and holds a five megapixel camera that can be used to chase dolphins. It can also carry a GPS with position updates of 10 times a second.

Bernie Harris is cruising the inside passage of Alaska with his wife and two grandchildren.

Roger Haft hopes to meet up with **Chris Christianson** in Iceland on his Scandinavian trip.

Allan Smith is going to Leadville, Colorado for two days of rafting on the Arkansas River. He is preparing for a longer trip in 2010.

Red, White, Black and Blue

Tom Putnam became interested in the world War II battle of Attu Island in the Aleutians and decided to make a film of it. He was able to obtain combat footage and mix it with current footage and narration by two veterans of the battle for a PBS Special. Attu Island was the only North American invasion of the U. S. in WWII.

It took Tom seven years to make the movie. He brought along Bill Jones and Andy Petrus who were front-line combat veterans. They stayed in the Coast Guard Loran station, the only full-time inhabitable place on the island which is 20 miles by 35 miles in area.

The Japanese had taken the island on June 7, 1942 and captured the 22 Aleuts and missionaries back to Japan. At the end of the war only half had survived to return.

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In early 1943, the tide of battle had turned. The Japanese believed that the Americans would attack Japanese-occupied Kiska first and kept their single soldiers there. The married ones were sent to Attu.

There was no response from the Japanese as the invasion landings began in cold foggy weather in May, 1943. It was so foggy that the landing craft circled for four to five hours before landing. The ground was volcanic ash and many of the vehicles were mired down in the ash.

The American troops had trained for the invasion in the desert under General Patton.

There were about 3,000 Japanese troops on Attu and they had all of the high ground on Engineer Hill. When the weather cleared and American troops started up the icy hill called the Hogback, the Japanese snipers drove them back.

The casualties were heavy. The slopes were steep up to 50 to 60 degrees. Bill Jones took 11 hits—five to his clothing and six to his body during the battle. The Japanese were running low on supplies after 17 days of fighting and ordered a banzai charge to our supply base. They charged down the hill and made it past the hospital area where they killed those in the tents and set fire to some of the tents. But they were stopped short of the supply base.

This was the end of the Japanese resistance. Of about 3,000 Japanese on the island only 18 survived the battle.

For the Americans, 658 ground troops died and many more of the air crews perished. The American casualties were the second worst after Iwo Jima of any island

campaign.

The American general was replaced after the battle.

Frank Haigler was stationed on the battleship USS Nevada as an anti-aircraft battery officer at the time and remembered a lot of fog and confusion.

As a monument to the battle, there are 11 titanium starbursts on the island each weighing six tons. Because of the Japanese atrocities including the killing of the hospital patients, the veterans thought the monuments should be dedicated only to the Americans who lost their lives.

As an aside, Attu attained great popularity among birdwatchers in the 1980s and 1990s because it lies directly on the migration route for birds heading north in May.

WE HEARD FROM Peter Jensen

I spent the month of August on three islands. Vancouver Island was first where I scrubbed a bicycle ride the length of the island from Port Hardy to Victoria due to illness and an injured back.

Next was a week camping on Catalina where I mountain biked, kayaked, hiked and dove every day.

Then I stayed a week in Oahu. Highlights were free diving, hiking to Manoa Falls, hiking up the old railroad trail at Koko Crater to enjoy the view at the summit from the WWII lookout post and hiking out to Makapu'u Lighthouse.

Unfortunately, on the return flight, a passenger died. This was a reminder that life continues for the rest of us.

June 18, 2009

By Bob Zeman

President **Allan Smith** welcomed a large crowd to ladies' night. Margaret Weiss, a retired military pilot, noted that 300 of the original 1,300 WASPs are still alive and a new medal has been approved for those who were ushered out of service as soon as the war ended.

Sid Hallburn introduced his friend Manny who donated two Asian flutes to the Club. Manny had given us a demonstration of the samurai sword last week.

Paul and P. J. Isley visited **Dave Barr** at Lake Isabella. Dave is a firearms expert. They also met with Dick Rutan in Mojave and then flew to Oregon with Dick. Dick handled the take offs and landings in the Cessna 320 but P. J. did most of the flying.

Marie Martin and Bob chatted with Chuck Yeager and his wife at the annual meeting of the Fighter Aces Association. Marie is a member of the whirlybirds.

Don and Jean Waters cruised to Alaska and saw member Ed Morris on the ship.

Rick Litchfield is back after cruising in his sailboat between St. Bart's and the Virgin Islands.

Pierre Odier who just returned from a driving trip from Tehran to Kashgar decided that two weeks at home in Eagle Rock was too much and is leaving in a few days for Cambodia.

Bob Gannon was in town. He had just flown from Cyprus to Gibraltar with stops in between in Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Sardinia and other places. He has now flown to 125 countries.

Allan Smith is leaving for Leadville,

Colorado to check out a descent of the Arkansas River. Later he plans to do a film on an actual running of the river.

Chuck Jonkey is leaving for the Peruvian altiplano to study the culture and music.

Jay Foonberg wants to go to the Galapagos in October and is looking for a roommate.

Postcards from Jay on his cruise on the Indian Ocean to Burma and from Pierre on his trip through central Asia just arrived.

Now They Call Me Infidel An Introduction to the Law of Sharia

Nonie Darwish was born and raised in Cairo and the Gaza Strip. Her father was a chief of military intelligence and was assassinated when she was eight.

She attended Muslim schools and learned ant-semitism and hatred in the Jihadist sayings and poetry that were fed to her daily. And these concepts were heightened during the 1967, 1973 and other Arab-Israeli conflicts. The speakers from the Mosques exhorted this propaganda daily.

Not all Muslims follow Sharia Law 100% but she grew up in a police state where Sharia was enforced.

Nonie emigrated to the United States in 1978 and is grateful to live here. She has three children and has felt compelled to speak out and write books.

Under Sharia Law, polygamy is approved; loyalty is expected of women but not men and there is no community property. She noted that Mohammed had 11 wives plus concubines.

When she returned to Cairo in 2001 she saw poverty, unemployment and radical Islam. The newspapers were critical of the United States and Israel. After September 11th, she called eight friends and all believe that 9-11 was caused by Jews.

Nonie wrote a letter to the local women's club that was then sent throughout the U. S. This got her widespread recognition.

Islam was started in the seventh century. But Sharia Law did not start until about 150 years later when it was imposed on regions conquered by the Muslims. It grew for centuries and was only expelled from Europe in 1492. In the 1800s, it went into a decline along with the Ottoman Empire. But it has grown to 54 countries.

She believes that if religion expands to control a state, then it is no longer a religion. Muslims believe that Islam should mold every aspect of life; nothing is personal or private. The state becomes fascist.

A principle of Sharia Law says that a Muslim head of state must do offensive and defensive jihad against Jews, Christians and non-believers to establish and promote Islam. Anwar Sadat did not do this and was assassinated.

A head of an Islamic state cannot be charged for Hudood crimes (such as murder and robbery) but he must enforce the laws against others.

Most Muslim leaders want peace but underlying groups want to enforce Sharia Law.

Under Sharia, a Muslim man can marry a Christian woman but the children are Muslims. The Christian wives have no claim to property on death but their children are

heirs.

Criticizing or defaming Islam or Mohammad is punishable by death. And this is why President Obama in his closing remarks in Prague said that the U. S. will never criticize Islam.

August 6, 2009

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

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

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

Roger Haft is leaving on his trip to Scandinavia. His first stop is to see our member Christian in Iceland. Next he will visit a friend of Allan Smith in Oslo.

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

New member **Tom Buttenbach** was inducted into the Club.

Pierre Odier introduced **Bob Silver** as the evening's speaker. As usual Bob regaled the stories of his trips to the Middle East and Pakistan. As some members noted, the film and slides were, as some members said "from the 1920s," it made for a great evening with good laughs.

July 9, 2009

Bob Zeman

President **Allan Smith** said that due to the economy, Night of High Adventure has been postponed.

Don and Jean Waters returned from a cruise to Alaska. Don has learned to beat Pierre to the podium to avoid being up-staged.

Pierre Odier returned from Cambodia where he reported that Aki Ra's wife had died. Cambodia and Thailand are at war over a borderland temple and Pierre was able to avoid it. He also noted that fighting and disruptions are occurring in Tehran which he left in June and Urumqui and Kashgar which he left a few weeks ago. Bob Silver wants to know what's going to happen when he leaves the Club tonight.

Pierre's next trip is to Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso.

Vince Weatherby said that he, **Frank Haigler** and **Sid Hallburn** attended a party for John Finn. John had been awarded the Medal of Honor for his action in shooting at Japanese planes on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor.

Frank noted that as a 10-year old, a 16-year old girl named Alice lived with his family. She later married John. John Finn will celebrate his 100th birthday on July 26, 2009 on the USS Midway in San Diego. Frank will attend because he received a ticket from his former baby sitter Alice.

Branding Calves in Wyoming

Charles Carmona and his wife Betty were invited by his uncle to a branding of calves in Torrington, Wyoming in

May, 2005. The weather was cold in this flat part of eastern Wyoming. He noted that the eastern part of the state is flat and sparsely populated even though Cheyenne and Laramie are in the east.

Branding of the calves is still done as a tradition although all calves have ear tags and a high frequency tracking device. The whole community turns out for branding including the children. The calves are herded into a makeshift corral while the mothers are outside complaining.

Part of the branding process includes removing the testicles of the males. This is done humanely with no bleeding so the males will get lazy and fat. There is only one pay day a year for ranchers.

It takes about three cowboys to hold the calf down and a fourth to hold the hot iron.

Noble Cause Foundation

Cornell Ilescu founded Noble Cause to protect and preserve the legacy of the greatest generation.

Cornell was born in mid 1930s and his father worked in an oil refinery in Ploesti, Romania. These fields supplied most of the oil for the Axis war machine.

The first Allied raids on the oil fields were launched from Bengazi, Libya and were mostly unsuccessful. But Patton's army took Sicily and then southern Italy.

From bases at Foggia and Bari raids were launched on Ploesti and other targets. Many Allied B-24 Liberator bombers were shot down. Cornell's father would then try to rescue the surviving downed pilots.

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

More than 3,000 pilots and crewmen died in these air raids. In the biggest raid on August 1, 1943, 177 B-24s took off and 53 failed to return. Of the 88 that made it back, 55 suffered battle damage. Of the 1,765 men who flew the mission, 446 were killed or MIA and more than 100 were wounded.

Cornell's father often took his seven-year old son Cornell with him to try to rescue pilots from down planes. At one time Cornell had to watch a barn while injured pilots hid and his father tended to other matters. But Cornell was given some of the best chocolate he ever tasted.

In 1966, Cornell escaped to Yugoslavia. He then hiked to Italy and made it to the United States in 1970.

He wants to build a monument wall with the name rank, position in the plane, date of birth and date of death of each of the crewmen who flew on the raids on the Ploesti oil fields. He noted that on one raid five medals of honor were awarded.

He was given a pair of pliers, cap and flight jacket over the years by pilots and still treasures these. He takes these when he visits veterans' hospitals and events with his friend **Sid Hallburn**.

Interestingly, his father owned a 1939 Buick in Romania. Cornell was able to trace the Buick to New Jersey in 2005 and bought it for \$9,500. He uses it in veterans' parades. This car was used in the rescue of many pilots.

July 23, 2009

Pierre Odier wanted to thank again Shane Berry for bringing 18 guests to the Club last week. The dinner and pro-

gram were well organized. And the tables were set so that members mixed with guests. Thank you Shane and thanks for Ryan Spencer's excellent program.

Jay Foonberg will be running the San Francisco half-marathon this weekend and the Chicago half-marathon the following weekend. Jay is over 70 so his times are in contention for high finishes in his age group.

Shane Berry viewed the Annenberg Space for Photography exhibit in Century City and recommended it to all.

Charles Carmona is going to the Canadian Rockies for a family reunion.

On his Scandinavian trip **Roger Haft** plans to stop in Iceland and will visit new member **Chris Christianson**. He will also visit a friend of our president Allan Smith in Oslo.

Wilderness First Aid

Steve Goldstein and Mike Stajura give a 16-hour class on wilderness first aid but they condensed it to one hour tonight. Mike is a disaster volunteer and Steve is a ham radio operator. Both men are instructors for the American Red Cross and members of their local emergency response teams.

The class is divided into checking, calling and caring. A care giver should check the patient, the resources and the condition. One should then call for help and plan what to do. Then care should be provided and the patient monitored.

There is a good Samaritan law which has three provisions: (1) One should act in

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good faith, (2) cannot seek compensation and (3) must act as a reasonable person would and not exceed care for which they have not been properly trained.

If possible a respondent should get a sample history—any allergies, any medications, last food and fluid intake, event leading up to the accident and recent history of health and activities.

If possible it is good to treat for shock. In shock blood is not getting to all parts of the body. Treatment includes stabilizing the patient, controlling the temperature and raising the feet about 12 inches.

Steve and Mike showed slides of the various types of carries. They include stretcher, lap, blanket and body carries depending upon the equipment and number of persons available.

Both Steve and Mike had attended **Bernie Harris'** presentation on first aid at the Santa Monica airport and spoke highly of his knowledge and presentation.

July 16, 2009

Bob Zeman

A good crowd showed up tonight thanks to **Shane Berry** bringing friends of his and the speaker. Shane barely avoided a crash on the Long Beach Freeway on his drive to the Club but maneuvered between the wrecked vehicles.

Alan Feldstein certified in scuba.

Dan Young is leaving on a hiking trip to Scotland and then hiking in Croatia.

Bob Walters visited **Ib Melchior** in Hollywood. Ib does not get around much. Born in Denmark, Ib was a spy for the Allies in World War II involved in many operations including rooting out the “werewolves”

whose task was to commit terrorist attacks on Allied stores and troops and try to assassinate General Eisenhower. But Ib stopped them in their tracks. Ib has written a number of books including *The Quest*.

Mort Loveman was in the Air Force in WWII and was in Italy in 1945. He was present at the hanging of Benito Mussolini and his mistress and four henchmen. Mort took a photo of the upside down bodies which he showed.

Members of the Club are invited to a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Apollo XI Moon Landing at the California Science Center on July 23rd from noon to 3:30 p.m. There will be a screening of the IMAX film “Magnificent Desolation.”

We received a postcard from **London Stevenson** and his wife.

Diane Adams, widow of **Al Adams**, donated some old rosters and Club News that Al had accumulated.

A 6-year Odyssey of Travel and Adventure or an Experiment in Unconventional Living

Ryan Spencer graduated from UCLA with a degree in micro biology and immunology. He had saved a little money and decided to take a short trip. He went to work for a company that was bought out by Adobe five years later. Ryan took his “golden parachute and flew to Cook Island, Fiji and New Zealand. He wandered around the islands.

His big adventure was going to the high plateau in Fiji by taxi and being dropped off at night with no one around. He hiked to a spot and was met by a native. He told

him that he wanted to raft the river in a billy-billy. Ryan stayed for three days while a billy-billy raft was built and then he paid for it and rafted to the coast.

Ryan also hitch hiked and surfed in these islands. But surfing on a reef is dangerous.

He returned to his home in Cerritos and then took off in 2004 for southeast Asia. He rode the train south from Bangkok to the islands and did some kite flying.

He and his friend then bought two Russian 125 cc motorcycles and rode from Saigon to Angkor Wat to the highlands above Hanoi. His motorcycle broke down almost every day but he eventually got to Laos. Unfortunately, he got food poisoning and lost 10 pounds in three hours. This laid him up for a few days.

Ryan then flew from Bangkok to Nepal where he spent two weeks in Kathmandu.

He then took a 48-hour bus ride to Delhi where he took a 10-day meditation course and a cooking class.

To earn some money he started designing and making small handbags. He imported material from China, made the bags in India, got publicity in a magazine and shipped them to customers in the U. S. and Europe.

After a year in Delhi, Ryan flew to Europe where he met a girl in Amsterdam. He accompanied her to Madrid where he got to see Ryan Berry, son of member Shane. And they went to Ibiza.

Ryan returned to the U. S. and lived for a year in San Francisco which he did not like.

So he decided to travel to South America by bus in 2006. He made it to Iguazu Falls and the salt flats of Bolivia. In Uru-

guay, by chance he met the sister of his Dutch girlfriend from Amsterdam.

So he flew to Amsterdam to renew the friendship. But his girlfriend had moved on and so Ryan flew to Oslo. He met a friend and they sailed from Oslo to Bergen, Stavanger and Trondheim in three weeks.

Ryan then flew to Madrid to hook up with Ryan Berry. By this time, he had learned Spanish and he got a job with a travel agency. He escorted a group on a 10-day tour of Egypt. He also visited Avila and the Alhambra. And he went to Dubrovnik in Croatia and Cinque Terre.

In late 2008 he took off again for South America. He visited Cartagena, Medellin and hiked to the top of Cotopaxi at 19,000 feet. For \$100 he had a guide, ice axe and crampons. But it was tough because he was not in good enough condition.

He bicycled down the Ruta del Sol from Quito and then took a 113-hour bus ride to Buenos Aires. Then it was a 50-hour bus ride to Ushuaia.

Then came his most strenuous leg as he bicycled north. The wind was strong. He did hike in Torres del Paine and camped in a tent. He viewed the desolation in Chaiten after the volcano explosion. He biked from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and then again in the late afternoon because of the headwinds.

He biked over a 4,338 meter pass and took refuge from the cold in any way possible. His total bicycle mileage was 4,500 miles in 10 months.

Ryan was able to communicate using his cell phone. And he withdrew money using ATMs. He is a polished speaker with a million memories from his travels.

(Minutes continued on page 14)

Meeting July 30, 2009

By *Bob Zeman*

Chuck Jonkey returned from a month in southern Peru near Chiricho del Carmen. He recorded a boy playing a box drum and he met with a shaman. He also viewed interesting dance. He passed around a real llama head mask.

Frank Haigler returned from the Bay Area where he viewed the military collection of the late Jack Littlefield. Jack had more than 300 tanks, and half tracks. He paid for \$3 million in improvements to a German Panzer tank.

Frank also attended the 100th birthday party for John Finn on the USS Midway. There were 16 Medal of Honor recipients there along with 50 Pearl Harbor survivors and the governor of Texas.

Bob Oberto went to Micronesia for diving. He dove on an island southwest of Kwajalein. He is leaving for South Africa.

Bill Morse returned from three months in Cambodia. His NGO cleared 24 mines from seven hectares. There are 10 de-miners working. A villager found a mine while planting rice. He picked it up and it was an anti-tank mine. It takes 15 pounds of pressure to detonate an anti-personnel mine but 1000 pounds to detonate an anti-tank mine.

Bill is leaving with his wife in October to live in Cambodia and support the project.

Dave Finnern won \$1,500 in Las Vegas. He used it to fly to Barbados to dive for old bottles.

Eight Club members went to Catalina for an outdoor barbecue. They included **Allan**

Smith, Jim Dorsey, Steve Peterman, Ken Freund, Jim Heaton and three others.

Shane Berry is going to Kings Canyon to fish for golden trout.

Shane, Mike Smith, Steve P. and Rick Flores took the tram and then climbed to the peak of Mt. San Jacinto.

Will Tefft returned from a class on nature sound recordings held in the Grand Tetons area.

Last Stop for Paul

Neil Mendt has visited 81 countries. He remembered in school when the other students took off for interesting places on spring break. So Paul learned some Spanish and the next year traveled to Spain. He came back with a bad sunburn and an itch for travel.

At age 17, Neil graduated from high school and took a backpack to Europe.

He made a movie which is a narrative about a friend named Paul who died at an early age. Paul had a dream to go around the world. Neil and his friend decided to take Paul's ashes and scatter them in various countries.

Neil had no crew; the persons in the movie are not actors and there was no script. The two travelers took Paul's ashes to Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia, Santiago, Chile, Spain, Greece and Thailand.

They bought their round-the-world ticket from savings and stayed in hotels to evaluate for reviews for Frommer. Neil used a DVX 100 panasonic camera and all natural light.

The movie shows their antics as the two travelers mingle with the locals and eye the

young girls.

The scenes of attending a cricket match in Jamaica and driving up and down a mountain near Santiago were different and entertaining.

Meeting August 13, 2009

By *Bob Zeman*

The highlight of tonight was the 97th birthday of **John Booth**. John still is a regular attendee and excellent conversationalist as well as impressing those who remember his accomplishments.

Shane Berry returned from a backpacking trip to Kings Canyon out of Cedar Grove. Shane carried a 65-pound pack full of photographic and fishing gear.

Charles Carmona returned from a trip to Saskatchewan. He also stopped at Banff and Lake Louise and the Columbia Ice Field.

Larry Stern rode his bicycle down the coast from Hearst Castle.

Pierre Odier is going to Canada to discuss a possible trip to Asia or the length of Africa.

Mort Loveman is cruising to Cayman Islands, Panama Canal and Costa Rica. Mort is proud that his talks have been published in the L. A. Times for 30 years.

Bob Zeman went out to the Farallon Islands just west of the Golden Gate Bridge. They are best known for being home to horned puffin but black-footed albatross, cormorants, gulls, seals, sea lions, terns and other birds reside there. There are sharks in the water; the guano smells, and there are many flies. So the res-

ident human population is limited to eight.

Charles Carmona is putting together a trip to two gem mines in northern San Diego County. Participants will tour the mines and sift through the latest batch of tailings for tourmalines, opals and other gems.

Allan Smith and **Chuck Jonkey** are going to an orphanage in Tijuana to film conditions.

Gary Hareland asks for interest in an October 29th tour of the armory at China Lake.

President **Allan** passed out copies of Expedition News, a publication by an independent, and wanted to know interest by the members.

China by a Nike Production Manager

Brent Rockne James started working for Nike in his early 20s. He showed an interest in offshore production and was sent to China in 1979 to manage factories. He made numerous trips there accumulating more than a million airline miles.

Prior to Mao, China was really a closed society. Mao ruled from 1949 to 1975 and did open it up although he killed close to 70 million Chinese in the process.

There are about 500 dialects in China although Mandarin is the glue that holds the country together. There were 3,500 characters but Mao reduced it to 1,500. He also gave women rights.

Brett gave credit to Deng Xiaopeng for rescuing the country. The schools are competitive with only the best students moving on. But China has become a better place to market new technology.

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The big problem is lack of water. Another problem is population. One-sixth of the population under 30 are not citizens. And of those under 25, 60% are boys. The Hans make up 92% of the people. Businessmen will have more than one child and pay the fine. And the minorities (non-Hans) can have as many children as they wish.

The area of Guangdong was set aside by China for industrial development. It is not environmentally friendly but one-third of China's GNP is generated here. The climate can be hot and sweltering and it is in the Pearl River delta. To get a passport or driver's license, a worker must go home. They cannot be obtained in Guangdong. All payments are made in cash.

All land is leased in Guangdong. There is a flat tax of 17%. Before, 80% of money paid to workers was sent home, but that is now down to 20% due to the poor economy. Nike built its building and pays about 3 to 4% of its gross in taxes. There are unions but they are not a force.

Most of China's farming is done by ox and plow. Due to the lack of water, China has money and will buy U. S. wheat.

Two years ago all steel produced went to the auto industry; now it goes to construction.

The schools don't teach much history. Mao is barely mentioned. Engineering is important.

Brett was always treated well as a foreigner. The people are great and they are hard workers.

The News and Google and Yahoo are censored. China does have the death pen-

alty and life imprisonment.

When asked about his favorite place in China, Brett said it was the forests in the mountains of Szechwan where the pandas roam.

August 20, 2009

By Bob Zeman

President **Allan Smith** is going climbing in Leadville. He and Paulito Scaturro will attempt Mt. Elbert, the highest of Colorado's fourteeners and then he will go to Mt. Massif. **Don Waters** noted that as a GI years ago at Fort Carson he did climb Mt. Elbert and the flowers were beautiful.

Robert Williscroft was pleased to report that he had been completely exonerated for defending his property and the judge will expunge the record.

Bill Burchette returned from his 36th year at Pebble Beach as a judge in the classic car concours.

David Yamada and his wife took a

cruise and did see the six and a half minute eclipse of the sun as well as sailing around Iwo Jima.

Bob Oberto returned from El Salvador. He enjoyed the ocean and also visited the Mayan ruins at Tazumal.

Allan Smith and **Chuck Jonkey** visited an orphanage in Tijuana for girls. They are beautiful children from six months to 18 years. But Tijuana is in the heart of a drug cartel. They saw no Americans and most of the factories are shut down.

Dave Finnern got the stomach flu and had to switch his dive plans from Barbados to Bermuda. Bermuda is home to about 300 shipwrecks including one going back to 1609.

Alan Feldstein returned from diving off San Clemente Island for two days.

Jay Foonberg is still looking for a partner to the Galapagos.

Allan said that he has secured a subscription to Expedition News. He will e-mail it to those interested.

Steve Peterman said that the Sixth Annual Memorial to Frank Guernsey is scheduled for October 17th. The featured speaker is Zac Sunderland, who recently sailed solo around the world at age 17.

Bob Zeman issued the July/August edition of the Club News and asked all for contributions to future issues.

Classic Car Restoration

Bob Mosier grew up in Santa Monica. As a teenager he lived near Phil Hill who won the world driving championship in 1961 driving a Ferrari.

Phil had a 1931 Pierce Harrow that sold for \$8,500 new. Bob could put things to-

gether at an early age. After completing a field technician school in high school, Bob went to work for Phil in 1969 restoring Phil's 22 cars.

Bob noted that Phil could really focus. He was intense and cat quick. Phil and his partner restored 54 cars. They could do it all—body work, engine, upholstery, wiring, etc.

They restored a 1937 Packard 12 that entered the Ambassador car show and won best of show.

Bob went out on his own in the mid-1970s. He just finished work on a 1937 Bugatti. It was a job worth more than a million dollars but the car is now worth \$12 million. It took 26 months to restore the car and it was one of only 42 built with an S chassis.

Cars are judged on authenticity, scratch and rust. With no deductions, then the judging becomes subjective.

Most of the original specifications on classics are available. Since lacquer paint is not allowed, Bob uses acrylic urethane paint which is almost the same finish.

Bugattis were built originally in 90 days. The 1937 car cost \$32,000 new.

Probably the most famous car in the world is the 1908 Thomas Flyer which won the first around the world race. The body was badly furred in the 1950s but the engine and frame are all original.

Ken Freund said that he was friends with a man in Cuba who is a master at keeping old cars running.

The oldest car that Bob worked on was a 1904 Franklin. He has hundreds of techni-

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cal books in his library.

Unfortunately, at times he will discover a fake. And the fakery goes back a few owners. This can result in big lawsuits.

Bob surmised that the 2.9 liter Alfa of 1938 could be sold soon for \$30 million.

August 27, 2009

By Bob Zeman

Vice President **Vince Weatherby** filled in for Allan Smith who is climbing in Colorado.

Robert Williscroft received a letter from Atty. General that he could retrieve his weapon that was confiscated at the police station.

On October 10, 1928, the C. A. Larsen departed San Pedro harbor with Commander Richard Byrd and three aircraft for Antarctica. One plane never made it back. An expedition is planned to recover this the first plane to land on the Antarctic continent. **Bob Oberto** is promoting a kickoff to the expedition on October 10, 2009. The dinner will be held at the Proud Bird near the airport. **Robert Byrd Breyer**, grandson of Admiral Byrd and Dick Rutan pilot on the first unrefueled non-stop flight around the world are scheduled to attend.

We received a card from **Kristian Kristjansson** who was visited by **Roger Haft** in Iceland.

Alternative Views About Global Warming

C. Martin Stickley has a PhD in electrical engineering. He has found evidence of global warming but there is no evidence that it is caused by man.

Greenhouse gas heating of the earth is real. Without the atmosphere of greenhouse gases, the temperature of the earth's surface would be minus 18C. The presence of the atmosphere (and the earth's albedo) warms the earth.

But other natural processes can affect the earth's temperature too and possibly dominate the small effects of additional greenhouse gas heating caused by changes in makeup of these gases in the atmosphere.

1.The earth, heated by the sun, alternately heats and cools with an approximately 1500 year periodic variation. Ice core analyses have shown that this has gone on for at least the past 650,000 years. Thus global warming has occurred before.

2.Historically, a CO₂ rise has followed or come after a temperature rise not led it. It lags the temperature rise by some 800 to 2000 years. There are thousands of years of ice core data that show this.

3.The CO₂ rise during the 20th century cannot explain the temperature changes that were observed during that period.

4.There is an excellent correlation of the earth's temperature rise with the sun's activity as indicated by the cosmic ray flux arriving at the earth. H. Svensmark of Denmark has recently shown that cosmic rays can create molecular clusters in the atmosphere that serve as nucleation centers for clouds. When there are sunspots on the sun (i.e. the sun is 'active'), the high magnetic fields associated with them decrease the number of cosmic rays reaching the earth.

5.The oceans which civer 70% of the earth's surface are enormous sources of heat. Oceans hold as much heat withing

the first three meters of depth as the total heat in the atmosphere. Changes in the ocean's circulation pattern can alter the surface temperatures to an extent that it could mask small increases in temperature due to greenhouse gases.

6. Computer models of climate prediction fail to explain the observed temperature trends over time in the lower troposphere that should be present if greenhouse gas heating was significant.

Meeting of September 3, 2009

By Bob Zeman

President **Allan Smith** and his wife climbed Mt. Massif but turned back at 13,500 feet due to inclement weather. Allan did get to the top of Mt. Elbert, the tallest fourteener in Colorado but he got cramps.

Guest Jeff was in southwest Colorado and wore vibran soles which are very thin. They look like a ballet slipper but the design is taken from a person who studied the Tarahumara runners.

Always on the go **Pierre Odier** flew to NYC, then Buffalo and on to Alberta and Wisconsin. He viewed an antique collection of John Deere equipment. And he was interested in the Mennonites, Amish and Hittites.

Shane Berry is going to upper Saskatchewan, Prince Albert N.P. and Lac la Ronge.

We received a card from **London Severson** in Washington D. C.

Steve Peterman announced the sixth annual Frank Guernsey memorial race.

Walking Through Minefields

Siem Reap is 180 miles north of Phnom Penh and a six-hour bus ride. **Bill Morse** and his wife visited there in 2003 to see Angkor Wat, the capital of the Khmer Empire.

Southeast Asia was established as French Indo-China in 1863. Bombing by B-52s started on October 4, 1965 and 115,273 runs were made until August 15, 1973.

After this, the Khmer Rouge, composed mostly of peasants ordered all in the cities back to their home village. For three years, eight months and 20 days, they exerted absolute control and one-third to one-half of the population was killed. Of 14,000 sent to S21 camp only seven came out alive. In December, 1978 Viet Nam invaded and January 7, 1979 is celebrated as Victory over Genocide day. Leader Pol Pot died in 1998.

The Thais mined the border and today there are three to 10 million land mines and five million unexploded bombs. The population has grown from three to 14 million persons since Victory day.

A handicap organization provides prosthetics to those who have lost limbs.

Bill and his wife wanted to see the landmine museum. Hotel personnel were not helpful but the tuk tuk drivers were. They met Aki Ra.

Aki Ra and his wife have dedicated his life to removing the land mines and adopting those who have been injured.

Bill helped raise money for Aki Ra to buy a Mitsubishi Montero. He went 60 miles

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out with a hammock, bug spray, top ramen and netting to witness a de-mining operation.

Bill learned two rules—do everything that Aki Ra says and don't be first in line.

Bill and his wife have set up a non-governmental organization called Cambodian Self Help. They wrote standard operating procedures. The set up was difficult but they got help from the Canadian Ambassador.

A de-miner can clear a swath 50 to 80 meters long and one meter wide. Even a club in Belfast gave \$4,000 worth of body armor.

Bill and his wife are moving to Cambodia the first week of October for a minimum of two years. He will be the international projects manager and his wife will run the English school.

Bill showed examples of the mines from the small ones to pineapple mines which can disable a tank. The object is to unscrew the cap and pull the detonator out.

Mines are a problem in other countries as well. Accidents still happen in France; there are mines in eastern Turkey, and there are an estimated 23 million mines in Egypt from the Afrika Korps battles.

The country used to have a good concentration of forests but 60% has been lost due to the fighting and forcing the people out of the cities.

WE HEARD FROM

Max Hurlbut, #880, reports he and his wife, Hueih-Hueih are back from their latest Alaska trip.

Max and HH flew to Prudhoe Bay (to

visit our oil, he says) and on to Barrow. They wanted to see the Wiley Post/Will Rogers crash site of 15 August 1935 in Walakpa Bay on the Chukchi Sea. It's only about 16 miles southwest of Barrow—tundra, no roads and no tours. Even the local police chief (of 13 years) has never been there. We found an Inupiat with a 4X4 who drove along the beach to the site.

Will Rogers was probably the best-known aviator of his era. Wiley Post was a one-eyed aviator who set many speed, altitude and distance records. He discovered the jet stream and pioneered the first pressure suit and auto-pilot. He was the first to fly solo around the world.

Post and Rogers landed in a lagoon, in overcast weather, to ask a group of Eskimo hunters where Barrow was. Their crash, on takeoff is sometimes attributed to a failure of their experimental Lockheed Orion (fuselage) and Explorer (wings), combined with oversized gas tanks and pontoons. An on-scene investigation, however, noted Post failed to switch from the dry forward tank to the full aft one. Their Wasp engine starved and they were suddenly out of the weight and balance envelope and too low to do anything about it.

Two (vandalized) concrete monuments are on site. Their brass commemorative plates have been pried off and sledge hammers damaged the bases. It is a sad sight. Across from the small Barrow Airport (named for Post/Rogers) is a beautiful stone monument topped with a little brass monoplane.

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Forthcoming Programs

October 15—Overland from Lake Titicaca to Rio, Shane Berry

October 22—The Lost 49er Expedition, Allan Smith

October 29—Adventures on the Silk Road, Pierre Odier

November 5—Second Session of the Annual Business Meeting

2,000 Miles on a Jet Ski Around Alaska, Ralph Perez

November 12—The Magnificent Adventurers of China Lake, Liz Babcock

November 26—Club Dark, Thanksgiving

December 3—Ladies' Night, Climb to the Summit of Mt. Everest, Bill Burke

December 10—Jeff Goddard

December 17—Annual Christmas Party, Members Only

December 24—Club Dark, Christmas Eve

December 31,—Club Dark, New Year's Eve

Beach Yacht Club and The Society of Women Adventurers cordially invite you to:
 THE SIXTH ANNUAL FRANK GUERNSEY SINGLE-HANDED CHALLENGE
 RACE

October 17, 2009

Honored Guest Speaker: ZAC SUNDERLAND, the youngest american to solo circum-navigate the world.

11:00 am-12:00 pm Racers please check in at Yacht Club

1:00 pm Race begins around the buoys at King Harbor

2:00 pm-4:00 pm Reception for Zac with Grammy-Nominated Kim Richman and his jazz ensemble

4:00 pm-5:00 pm Presentation by Zac Sunderland

5:00 pm-5:30 pm Questions and answers

5:30 pm-6:00 pm Trophy presentations

6:00 pm Dinner (Ribeye steak, chicken or fresh fish)

For race information, call John Ellinwood at 310-645-9550

For slips, call Kathy Sheridan at 818-326-1433

For dinner, call Craig Miller at 310-697-9419 Cost of dinner is \$20 if reserved

An unsponsored trip is offered to Adventurers Club members, families and friends to tour inside and dig at tourmaline gems stone mines in north San Diego County. . The cost of \$55 cash per person. Date is Sunday Nov. 1 from 10 to 4.



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