

The Adventurers' Club News[®]

Volume 56

August 2012

Number 8

ATTEND ADVENTURE-CON
World-class speakers
and moderators
October 17-20,
2012



Adventure Mini-Con – Saturday, July 14

90th ANNIVERSARY YEAR!



The Adventurers' Club News

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

August 2012

Volume 56 Number 8
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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Marc Weitz #1144 - President



Our July 14th Saturday Seminar was a success. It was our second time trying this, and it was another

fun day at the Club. You can read the write-up of the event on page 2 of this newsletter. These events are a warm-up for our Adventure Convention (Adventure-Con) on October 17-20, culminating with the Night of High Adventure dinner (NOHA). Tickets are available from our website, at the Club, or by calling (800) 838-3006. Individual days are \$50, NOHA is \$85, and the whole package is \$196. If the Saturday seminars are any indication, there will be a lot of people there and a lot of fun.

Important Announcement

Beginning September 6, 2012, dinner prices are going up to \$20, and there's a new \$10-charge for non-members who come to the lecture

only. This charge is waived for non-members who buy dinner.

I'd like to thank member Jeff Foonberg #1126. He's been working hard on a project to backup all the DVDs we record of our programs. The DVDs will be stored on redundant hard drives. Members can ask for a copy of any program for the minimal price of a blank DVD, which is approximately 50 cents. I'd also like to thank Stuart Bird-Wilson #1134 for donating a badly needed vacuum cleaner to the Club.

Speaking of badly needed, a number of members are behind on their dues. The Club needs your dues to operate. A guy named Vinny and I will be visiting all late-payers with a baseball bat. Horseheads will be sent all those who don't respond. Seriously, your dues are necessary to enjoy the privileges of the Club. It's simply not fair to the members who do pay. I will telephone those who are late and letters will be sent. I know enforcement has been lax in the past, but those members who haven't paid will no longer be in good standing. Pay your dues and come to the Club.

Members who haven't paid their dues will no longer be in good standing

thank Stuart Bird-Wilson #1134 for

Adventure Mini-con

Marc Weitz (#1144)

For the second time, the Club opened its doors on a Saturday for a daylong adventure seminar. The first such event in June had been a success. This Saturday attracted yet more Club members and visitors. People arrived in the morning to find a spread of pastries, orange juice, coffee, fruit, and other sweets. People met, mingled, and chatted for an hour before the program began with member Dave Barr #1140.

Follow Your Dreams, Regardless of Obstacles

Listening to Dave Barr speak makes you want to drop everything in your life, buy a motorcycle, and travel the world. Dave Barr is one of those men who enjoys every bit of life and conveys enthusiasm to everyone he meets. Dave came to talk about riding a motorcycle around the



Photo Dave Barr

Dave Barr on his Harley world after losing both his legs serving in the military. The story of his loss is horrifying. He was in Angola when his vehicle went over a landmine. The explosion propelled Dave

into the air like a missile. From the air, he watched the vehicle explode into flames below him as he continued higher. He fell back to Earth landing amongst the flames and wreckage. Right away, he saw his legs were useless because his feet were in his face. The flames were cooking him alive, and he couldn't escape. A brave officer reached into the fire and pulled this enlisted man to safety. It was 14 hours before Dave was given medical treatment or any sort of painkillers; he was conscious the whole time.



Photo Dave Barr

Dave Barr at Steep Point, westernmost point in Australia

But this didn't stop Dave. Before long, he received his prosthetic legs and asked to return to service. A photo shows Dave in combat, lying on his belly, and firing a machine gun with many of his wounds still bandaged. After the army, Dave was hungry to see the world. He got himself a 1972 Harley-Davidson and set off around the world solo. He covered six continents and 83,000 miles. He traveled through the Sahara, Namibia, and Gobi deserts. Dave

solved problems as they came. When one of his prosthetic legs broke in



Photo Dave Barr

Dave Barr skydiving

some third-world country, he simply visited a machine shop and had the guy weld him a fix. Dave is an amazing man with amazing adventures. Nothing slows this man's lust for life.

The Adventurist: My Life in Dangerous Places

Everyone knows Robert Young Pelton from his book, *The World's Most Dangerous Places*. Robert is an iconoclast whom this Club attracts, another person who didn't fit the mold of society growing up, but whose dreams and passions drove him to travel and adventure.

Pelton was born in Edmonton, Canada. As a teenager, he had the dangerous jobs of lumberjack, cutter, tunneler, and driller before becoming a not-so-dangerous copyeditor. He began his career as a businessman, working with Steve Jobs and helping launch the Lisa computer. In his 30s, he left business to turn his attention to doing what he truly loved: traveling to dangerous places. He visited

war zones and rebel camps, sending back articles and hoping to get published. Soon, he was writing articles for *Soldier of Fortune* and *ABC News*. He barely missed getting blown up by a terrorist group at the Speke Hotel in Uganda. It wasn't long before



Photo Robert Young Pelton

Robert Young Pelton in Southeast Asia

people were seeking out Robert as a consultant on doing business in dangerous places.

The theme of Robert's talk was about being bold and doing what you love. Like the Nike slogan "Just Do It," Robert wanted adventure, so he simply went out and found it. He monetized it by building a reputation



Photo Robert Young Pelton

Robert Young Pelton in Baghdad

as an adventurer and writing articles. Eventually people began to pick up these articles, and he was recognized

(Adventure continued on page 4)

for the adventurer he is. He knew the life that he wanted to lead and went after it.

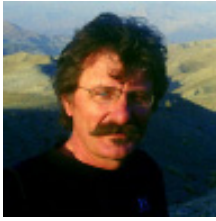


Photo Robert Young Pelton

Robert Young Pelton

In the Footsteps of Scott and Shackleton: Voyage to the Ross Sea

Captain Abele felt humbled by the Cspeakers who preceded him, but it was soon clear that Captain Abele

Photo Rich Abele



MV Spirit of Enderby

fit comfortably in with the two badass adventurers who opened the day. Rich's life of adventure began in the U.S. Navy, where he served two tours of duty in a Vietnam and captained two naval vessels. Rich commanded a minesweeper out of Los Angeles Harbor during the Cold War, to protect the harbor from mines in case war broke out. He left the military and went to work at Rockwell, participating in programs to develop the C-17 Airlifter and the B-1B Lancer Bomber.

In his retirement, Rich set off on an expedition to Antarctica following in the footsteps of Shackleton and Scott. He boarded the *MV Spirit of Enderby*, which left from New Zealand and sailed into the Ross Sea. He

visited the expedition huts of Scott and Shackleton, which remain well preserved and pristine in the frozen temperatures. From there, the expedition surveyed the wildlife in the area, including penguins, seals, sea lions, and killer whales.



Photo Rich Abele

Capt. Adele with King Penguins

Rich doesn't sit still when he's home. He runs marathons, treks, and climbs mountains. He also volunteers to restore cabins near Death Valley.

Conclusion

The theme of all three adventurers who spoke today was going after what you want. They all grew up with a love adventure and did something about it. It was all about just doing it. For Dave it was overcoming losing his legs; for Robert, it was escaping the mundane business life; and for Rich it was leaving his comfort zone and never stopping.



Photo Steve Bein

Young, Adele & Barr

The second mini-con brought together those who love and live adventure. Don't miss Adventure-Con October 17-20, culminating with the Night of High Adventure. See page 8 for details and to purchase tickets.

THE THRAWN RICKLE

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

Robert G. Williscroft #1116 – Editor



I do miss attending the Club regularly. I can't say that I miss California and its convoluted laws and restrictions on individual liberty, but I do miss the Club and you fine members who attend regularly.

Jill and I are hoping we can attend Adventure-Con in October. We're making our plans now, and will try to be there. We're looking forward to renewing friendships and meeting new friends.

Some of you have been following the Olympics, I am sure. What do you think of the coverage this year? Personally, I think there is way too much airtime with people I don't know or care about discussing what is happening, rather than just showing as much of the games as possible. For me the Olympics has always been about the thrill of winning and the agony of defeat. I enjoy learning about the perseverance of a double-amputee South African who made a respectable showing as a runner against runners with all their appendages, but I don't really want the opinions of five different so-called experts on why he is so motivated.

The dog days of Summer are upon us here in the L-C Valley. The days are hot and dry with the nights a bit

cooler. The kids are home from school, so throughout the region the weekends are filled with family activities and trips into the wilds by four-wheeler, boat, or horse.

Dog days? Well, about 2,500 years ago, Sirius (the so-called "Dog Star") would rise just before or at the same time as the Sun, signaling the beginning of the hottest time of Summer. The Romans thought the interaction of Sirius with the Sun caused the Summer warming – hence the Dog Days of Summer. We know this not to be true now, of course, and because of the precession of the equinoxes, Sirius no longer rises with the Sun during late July through mid August. But the name has remained with us, reminding us of the changing nature of the universe in which we live.

Speaking of the Universe, I have question: Who among you would volunteer today to become a member of the first Mars exploration team? This is a serious question. Although our average membership is past middle age, we have several younger members (including our illustrious President), and I personally know several older members who would not hesitate to volunteer for such a mission, I among them. So let me hear from you. Would you volunteer for a Mars exploratory mission?

The online full-color edition of the *News* is freely available at the Club website.

BOOK REVIEW:

THE ADVENTURIST: My Life in Dangerous Places

Robert Young Pelton; Broadway, New York, NY, 2001, 5.5 x 8.5 softcover, 268 p, ISBN: 978-0767905763, Review by the Editor from material supplied by online sources and the publisher.

The *Adventurist* is one man's story, a story that will change the way you think about travel, survival, where you have been, and where you are going.

Enter the world of Robert Young Pelton, adventurer extraordinaire, author of *Come Back Alive* and *The World's Most Dangerous Places*, a unique, tough-guy's guide to where not to travel (required reading at the CIA), and host of his similarly named TV series.

The Adventurist blasts across six continents and spans four decades of hard-core living with its dispatches of mayhem, adventure in exotic locales, survival against formidable odds, memories of pivotal events, and memorable portraits of the people that have shaped Pelton's life.

"I don't blame anybody for anything," Pelton explains, but considering his descriptions of his abusive parents and his harrowing stint at

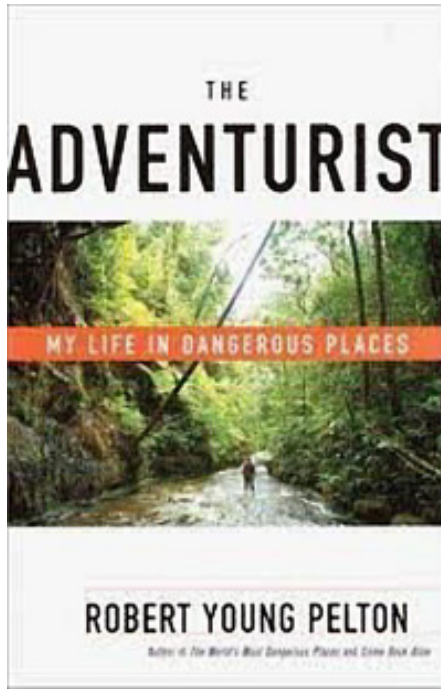
"the toughest boys' school in North America," it is difficult not to draw connections between the privations of Pelton's youth and his nearly obsessive need to confront danger – and the people who survive it – in order to feel alive.

Although at times Pelton's prose style is about as subtle as a Sabre Jet ("It was time to live like the wind and then to die like thunder"), *The Adventurist* delivers on its "invitation to you to join me on the wire. To take that first step, look forward, fight your fears..." It offers views

of places and experiences that most readers would otherwise never know.

Behind Pelton's exploits lies something deeper: "I am happy running, at high speed, through danger, past even the most remote and unseen places. There is something here that is deeper than religion, a timeless window to what makes life worth living."

The Adventurist is available online and from booksellers everywhere.



What's Happening...

Rick Flores does Arizona...

Rick Flores #1120



Photo Rick Flores

Rick & Doris

Had time recently to take a short weekend vacation in Flagstaff with Doris and my godson Daniel. Except for the very ordinary food, we had an extraordinarily good time. It rained the entire trip, which for most people would be a problem; but for a guy with a new full frame camera it was heaven.

We had time to go to the Grand Canyon, Sunset Crater Volcano, and the Wupatki National Monument. Miraculously, every time we got to a destination it would stop raining, but the wondrous and photogenic clouds would remain, so that my shots were transformed into something special.

It was the first trip Doris has taken in the last two years. Her knee still hurts, but she didn't let it show too much, she was a real trouper and she told me she had a great time.

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...."



Photo Rick Flores

Grand Canyon immediately after rain

Ralph White in St. Petersburg, Russia



Photo Jim Dorsey

Jim Dorsey (#1081) reports that he and Michael Gwaltney (#1128) spread Ralph White's ashes at the grave of Tolstoy in Saint Petersburg, Russia, last month.

ADVENTURE-CON 2012

**Celebrating our 90th Anniversary Year
October 17 – 20**

The Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles®, with assistance from "The Worlds Fair of Clubs" and The Adventurers Club of Chicago, presents a 4-day conference with world class speakers and moderators, culminating in the Night of High Adventure (NOHA) at the Odyssey Restaurant

Allan Smith and Bill Burke – Everest Expedition

Greg Frazier – Remote Motorcycle Explorer

Danee Hazama – Ancient Polynesian Voyager

Emory Kristof – National Geographic Photographer

**Stephen Lowe – IMAX Film Director of
"Volcanoes of the Deep Sea"**

**Richard Lutz – Chairman of Oceanic and Underwater
Department at Rutgers University**

Georgia Durante – Precision Stunt Driver

Matt Rutherford – Solo Ocean Sailor

Pasquale Scaturro – World-class Expedition Leader

**Anatoly Mikhailovich Sagalevich – Director Russian
Deepwater Submersibles Laboratory**

Each day will have outstanding speakers on different topics and includes snacks and dinner. Each day will have amazing personal experiences and dynamics as all participants, speakers and attendees mix, talk and break bread together. Tickets on the Club website or call (800) 838-3006. Individual days are \$50, NOHA is \$85, and the whole package is \$196.

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

June 21, 2012

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Those Returning from Adventure

Steve Bein #1057 – Bill Nord led Steve and some other members on a safari around downtown Los Angeles to photograph vagrants.

Those Leaving on Adventure

Bob Silver #728 – Traveling to the Dakotas to visit an old friend over the Independence Day holiday.

Chris Dyrek (Guest) – Leaving for Fiji for a surfing trip.

Other Announcements:

Kevin Lee #1163 – gave an update on Reda Anderson. She has stage-4 pancreatic cancer, but she may try to make the July 14th Adventure Seminar.

Around the World in a 25-Foot Yacht

Twenty years have passed since member Ed Boden #659 spoke at the Club. In November 1962, Ed left on a thirteen-year sailing trip around the world, returning in 1975. Ed began with a quote from Mark Twain, saying “Always tell the truth; then you don’t have to remember anything.” Ed added that he’s amazed at the things he remembers that just ain’t so.

Ed worked at JPL in the late 50s and early 60s before retiring in 1962 for his voyage. He departed on Friday, the 13th of July, and flew to England to look for the kind of boat he wanted. He eventually settled on a 25-foot, wooden boat named *Kittiwake*. He sailed from England across the Bay of Biscay to France. He crossed through France by way of rivers and canals getting iced in in Dijon.

This ice broke, and he carried on to Marseille where he spent two weeks cruising the Southern Coast of France. He hopped around the various islands and Mallorca, eventually meeting ten young ladies looking for a ride. Ed gladly obliged.



Photo Ed Boden

Kittiwake

Along the way, Ed was adopted by a kitten that decided to live on the boat. Ed named the cat “Cactus,” since he liked to scratch at Ed’s bare feet. The cat kept him company as he crossed the Atlantic to Barbados at the height of the hurricane season. At this point, Ed’s friend Allen came up to tell the story of another voyage when he and two other men were sailing in the same area on a quiet night and heard a loud bang that spun their boat around. The three men awoke and came on deck when a second loud bang spun the boat back the other way. The sound of water rushing into the boat followed. They went downstairs to find that the boat had been struck and damaged on both the starboard and port sides. Whale skin was stuck in the broken wood. Twice a whale had struck them. To complicate things, the pump didn’t work. They were sinking and faced a

(Minutes continued on page 10)

1,500-mile trip by dinghy to the nearest port. They tried to lift one side out of the water, only to have water rush into the cracks on the other side. Finally, they got the pump working. The next day they were able to patch up most of the damage and limit the flow of water to a manageable amount. The boat limped the remaining 1,500 miles back to port. According to Allen, this incident took place near the spot where the *Essex* was struck and sunk by a whale in 1820. This was the inspiration for the story of Moby Dick.



Photo DiQ

Aitutaki

Allen sat down, and Ed continued the retelling of his voyage. He carried on to the Marquesas and Tahiti. Ed spent eight months hanging out at the famous Quinn's Bar, a rowdy place notorious for its wild ex-pats getting drunk and fighting. Ed stopped at one island that had not been visited by a boat in seven years. He visited Tonga and ran into a cyclone in Southeast Asia. He went down to Australia and New Zealand where he found a little work repairing boats to make some extra money. Having some money, he traveled up to Singapore where he said, "They think of the right way of doing something, and that's how they do it." He moved on to Penang, which he

mused must have been what Singapore was like seventy to eighty years ago. He sailed on to Galle, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon). There he had a scare while eating popcorn and drinking coffee. He felt chest pains and thought that he was having a heart attack. He turned on the BBC, which happened to be doing a program on heart attacks, and discovered that it was only indigestion.

From there he sailed to the Seychelles and then along the Eastern Coast of Africa past Madagascar to Durban. He spent several weeks there working on his boat and then visited St. Helena, where Napoleon was exiled for the second time.

Finally, he made it full circle after thirteen years. He called it the best experience of his life and says that after that, the rest of his life is gravy.

June 28, 2012

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Those Returning from Adventure

Bob Zeman #878 – Visited Lake Tahoe to watch the Western States 100.

Bob Walters #1047 – Visited his *pied-à-terre* in Washington where debris from the Japanese tsunami has begun to wash ashore after its slow trip across the Pacific.

Brian Cruickshank #1158 – Visited Honduras with his wife. Roatan was a tourist trap, so he and his wife traveled to the mainland to see the real Honduras. The other tourists were aghast that he'd take such risks.

Those Leaving on Adventure

Roger Haft #1098 – Off to the Baltics and Russia.

Steve Bein #1057 – June's speaker,

photographer Bill Nord, organized a photographic safari through downtown Los Angeles. Steve went along to photograph vagrants.

Main Program

Tonight's speaker was unable to make it. In his place, Pierre Odier #988, newly returned from his 85-day expedition to drive the Silk Road, spoke to the Club briefly about his trip. (For more on this trip please read the July 19th minutes, in which Pierre does a full presentation about his expedition.)

For the rest of the program, the Club watched a D V D a b o u t m e m b e r Ed Artis #1155, co-



Photo Knightsbridge

Unloading boxes at an orphanage

founder of Knightsbridge International, to provide humanitarian relief to people in areas too dangerous for other NGOs. Ed was a restless child who got himself into all sorts of trouble. A judge offered him a choice of juvenile hall or the Army. Ed chose the Army. There, he got his first exposure to dangerous areas. Ed wanted to help those who lived in troubled areas, so he began providing humanitarian aid to the off-the-beaten-path places that needed it.

Photo Knightsbridge International



"The Knights of Malta" – Sir Ed Artis, Sir Jim Laws and Sir Walt Ratterman

July 19, 2012

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Tribute to Mort Loveman

Mort Loveman #1001 went On the Great Adventure. Many attendees paid tribute:

Brian King (Guest – Friend of the Family) – Mort encouraged people to

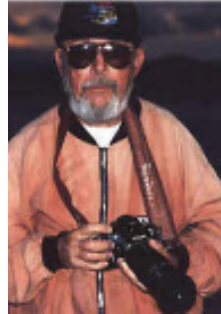


Photo Loveman Family

travel. When Brian was a teenager, Mort took him to lunch and asked him where he wanted to travel. Brian said Europe. Mort asked for Brian's credit card, which Brian reluctantly turned over. A day later Mort returned with his card and a ticket for Brian to go to Europe.

Bernie Harris #1063 – Mort had many adventures in his life and claimed that, at any given moment, he had 200 trips he could talk about.

Chuck Jonkey #1026 – Traveled with Mort to Senegal a few years back.

Steve Bein #1057 – Traveled with Mort to Mongolia.

Gary Mortimer #1086 – Used to work with Mort at the Beverly Hills School District.

Those Returning from Adventure

Bob Zeman #878 – went bird watching with Arnold Small, a famous bird-watching expert who has a ton of programs.

Alan Feldstein #1094 – 1) Kayaked to Gladstone's in Marina del Rey in 4-foot

(Minutes continued on page 12)

(Minutes continued from page 11)

swells. 2) Traveled to Seward, AK and claimed to be able to see Russia. 3) Took a seaplane into Redoubt Bay.

Neil Mandt #1152 – Been away from the Club in the last year traveling and making films. He estimates that he's been around the world 3 or 4 times in the last year. He shot a TV show in Bangladesh and shot show about the only licensed MMA fighter in China.

Lauren Dixon (Guest of Neil Mandt) – Spoke of her 20-day trip through Europe and elsewhere.

Shane Berry #1093 – Went hiking with Rick Flores #1120 and his dermatologist to Malibu Lake.

Ken Freund #1046 – Returned from Europe where he saw San Marino and Greece. He returned to the U.S. and led some motorcycle tours in North Carolina.

Gary Mortimer #1086 – Lives in Arizona and leads people on tours through the state.

Those Leaving on Adventure

Steve Bein #1057 – Off to Lake Tahoe.
Neil Mandt #1152 – going back to China and Tuscany.

Eighty-five Days on the Silk Road by Land Rover

Pierre Odier #988 drove in the footsteps of Marco Polo, following the famous explorer's route from Venice to Beijing by car. He and his fellow expedition members drove Land Rovers the entire way and, as far as Pierre knows, became the first people to drive the road in its entirety. He visited fifteen countries in eighty-five days.

They left from Venice during carnival. Pierre hates Venice but loves carnival.

Venice has always been touristy, but Pierre found prices out of control, paying \$12 for a Coke and \$150 per person per hour for a gondola ride. Still, Venice had its share

avant-garde artists' installations



of a 13th century castle was into a loft. An

Pierre Odier

showed the Euro being devoured by ants. From there, they moved onto Slovenia and Croatia, two countries trying to recoup their image from backward, former Soviet countries to modern European states by restoring their historic buildings. Pierre doesn't drink and spent most of his nights enjoying the folk music and dancing. However, these countries retain some of their communist culture with tight, overly paranoid security all around.

Pierre continued along the Silk Road to Hungary where he visited a memorial to the martyrs of 1958 and watched an old lady on the street with an ornate and ancient street organ, not to mention finding a statue of Ronald Reagan. In the mountains, he visited a town where craftsmen still make things the old-fashioned way, by hand. There are no factories here. Each trade is performed by a skilled craftsman who apprenticed and learned his skills from the masters.

The ancient city of Rome sits atop the old cities of Rome. Ancient cities tend to build on top of themselves, so that under any modern building can be found the older ones and yet still older ones

beneath. As happens to all European travelers, Pierre soon saw enough churches.

Pierre loved the mixture of cultures found in Turkey, which sits at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. The Hagia Sophia exemplifies this as it was once a church, now a mosque, and is now used by Christians and Muslims. Muslims don't believe in images and therefore decorate their mosques with ornate calligraphy. Like Rome, the caverns beneath Istanbul revealed the more ancient parts of the city. While taking pictures, Pierre met a man of faded aristocracy. His famous family once had wealth and title, but he now resides in a beautiful, old building that was dilapidated and outdated. Outside Istanbul, the poor live in buildings cobbled together from whatever material can be found. Yet, these structures have proven especially sturdy through many earthquakes. Pierre moved on to Cappadocia, a region of soft sandstone where homes, businesses, and churches are hollowed out of the rock. Looking like something out of a science-fiction film, the place has its touristy side and a more remote side. Pierre chose the less touristy spot hoping to experience something more real. During religious persecution, Christians hid their churches amongst the stone caves.

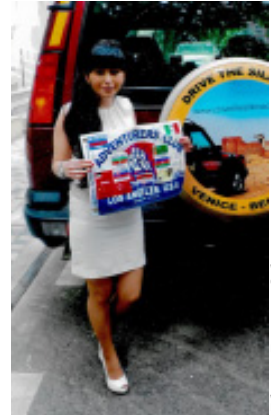
Pierre moved on to visit Ani, the old capital of Armenia, now part of Turkey. Pierre lamented the mistreatment of Armenians and says that Turkey should just give it back. There is nothing but uninhabited ruins in the city. In Armenia, Pierre visited a café called, "KGB: Still Watching You." Yerevan is growing from Armenian ex-pats in the U.S. who send money back home. The Armenians are

also known for carving beautiful churches into mountains. Pierre traveled up to Georgia and then Azerbaijan, saying that Baku was a beautiful city. While in Baku, Pierre visited with Leyla, the young Azerbaijani woman who wrote the passionate letter published in the March 2012 *AC News*.

Leyla had recently married, much to Pierre's disappointment. He visited an ancient, Stonehenge-like site where he

dropped his camera's sun shield into an open grave where it had to be retrieved by one of the guides. Pierre moved onto Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and towards China. He entered China in the area where the Muslim Uyghurs live, a people heavily oppressed by the Chinese government.

Pierre has been to China many times but found this time the most unpleasant. The security, paranoia, and suspicion of foreigners became unbearable. They were followed everywhere. At one point they were given a ticket for a traffic violation photographed 20 miles back. The Silk Road technically ends in Xian where Pierre visited the terra-cotta soldiers. Here, he was watched too but still managed to sneak into the archaeologists-only area to take some photographs. The place has become a tourist zoo, adding to the unpleasantness. Pierre felt reassured to see a bit of the old days: some old men sit-



Leyla in Baku

Photo Pierre Odier

(Minutes continued on page 14)

ting about a corner in Mao work shirts with their bikes. Like Marco Polo, Pierre completed the Silk Road. Now kids in swimming pools will forever shout “Pierre”... “Odier.”

July 26, 2012

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Those Returning from Adventure

Kevin Lee #1163 – Returned from Macchu Picchu.

Martin Bloom #1147 – On July 8th, he went with his wife Trish, Rick Flores #1120, Rick’s wife Doris, and Steve Peterman’s fiancé Lois to Playa del Rey to sprinkle the ashes of Steve Peterman.

Those Leaving on Adventure

Bob Zeman #878 – Going on a cruise to the Baltic Sea.

Flying the F-104 in the US, over Europe and in Southeast Asia

They called the F104 fighter jet the “Starfighter.” Few of these high-speed planes were utilized in Vietnam, and Colonel Thomas P. Mahan was one of those men who flew them into combat. Tom spoke of his life and career with the jet and described the combat tactics used by the high-speed fighters.

Tom first heard of the Club from Stuart Bird-Wilson #1134, whom he knew from the British United Services Club of Los Angeles. Tom brought along his friend Munir Azam, a former Pakistani fighter pilot.

Tom described the F104 as a missile with a man in it. Developed in the mid 1950s, it was developed by Kelly Johnson at the Skunk Works. The fighter had a

maximum speed of 1,328 mph (approximately Mach 2), a combat radius of 420 miles, a service ceiling of 50,000 ft and could climb at a rate of 48,000 ft per minute. These were astonishing speeds at the time. The plane could shoot in a 30-degree arc, as compared to modern planes that can shoot in all directions. The plane was in service for forty-five years and flown by most of our allies. Its mission was similar to the newly developed F-35.



Photo Mahan

Thomas P. Mahan with his F-104

Tom flew the Dutch F104-G from 1966 to 1971. He spent twenty-eight years in the Air Force and developed improvements and tactics for the planes. He got the engineers to write technical manuals that were practical and readable to the pilots. At the time, it was the only supersonic fighter in the Air Force. The Air Force stationed Tom in Germany where he was put on nuclear alert. He’d go on patrol with a nuclear bomb. Tom and his wife learned German and spent much of their time with their German neighbors, rarely spending time with the other American ex-pats. Tom trained the German pilots both in Germany and at a program in Arizona. In Germany, he was stationed at Menningen Airbase.

The Air Force sent Tom to Vietnam for two tours of duty where he was stationed in Thailand. His mission was mainly to be a deterrent rather than for combat. As such, the planes flew with few missiles and more fuel to give them a larger range and longer patrol time. They had four missions: 1) close air support, 2) close escort, 3) MiG defense, and 4) potential strike force. Tom says that his squad was young, and they felt like cowboys; they were bulletproof.



Photo Mahan

Mahan sitting in his F-104

During this period they came up with a couple tweaks to make the plane more flyable. Hours sitting on the plane's small seat could get uncomfortable, so they used an inflatable hemorrhoid pillow for comfort, but the pillow would become a dangerous projectile during ejection. Pilots carried a knife to puncture and deflate the pillow before ejecting. Another innovation was the use of spurs that attached to the pilot's boot and pulled his legs into the seat before ejecting, so their legs would not be caught under the panel and lopped off.

Tom described the combat tactics of the F104. It was not a tight-turning plane, but relied on power and speed. It could corner at 450 knots and 7.3 Gs. Forma-

tion was key to their attack. They'd stack the planes and spread out, giving them an advantage on approach. In combat, the F104 pilot's employed a slashing attack. As the enemy turned, the F104 would fire on the plane and then pull out before the enemy could get behind them. By the time the more-maneuver-



Photo Tarek Saghir

F-104 Starfighter

able enemy had turned, the F104 took advantage of its speed and would be too far away. Once away, the F104 would turn back and repeat the attack. Tom's was the only F104 unit in Vietnam, and they only stayed for a year and a half.

After retiring from the Air Force, Tom became an engineering manager at the Lockheed-Martin Skunk Works, working on several classified projects. Tom then went on to work with weapons contractors Pratt & Whitney, United Technologies Corp, and Northrop, among others.



Photo Peter Buchholz

(Minutes continued on page 16)

August 2, 2012

Marc Weitz (#1144)

Those Returning from Adventure

Allan Smith #1069 – The Coast Guard Aflew him to Ft. Lauderdale to present his film *Rescue Men* and took them out on a new boat called the *Richard Etheridge*. To board the boat, they had Allan jump from one boat to another over choppy seas.

Tom Oedy #1113 – Climbed Mt. Whitney for the first time and returned with a reproduction of the survey marker.

Roger Haft #1198 – Returned from upstate New York to meet his daughter's new in-laws.

Steve Bein #1057 – Visited Lake Tahoe to learn to pilot a submarine.

Bill Burke #1157 – Went sailing with Martin Bloom #1147 and some others, and attempted to climb Mt. Everest earlier this year.

Those Leaving on Adventure

Allan Smith #1069 – Off to the Pentagon for a special tour by the Marines and then to Borneo to climb Mt. Kinabalu.

Roger Haft #1098 – Leaving for Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Belarus, and Moldova. After this trip, he will have visited every country on five of the seven continents.

Shane Berry #1093 – Hiking in Big Sur.

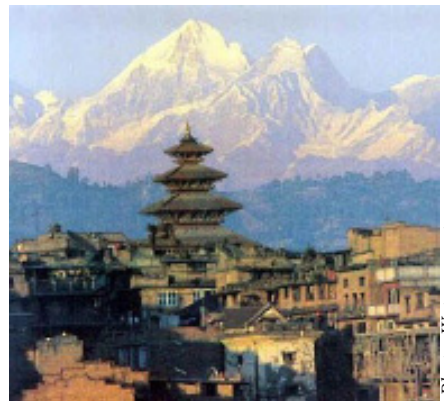
Three Weeks of Backpacking and Climbing Around the Annapurna Massif

Yonni Schwartz is the type of guy who hikes in Nepal for three weeks by himself. Born in South Africa, he grew up in Israel and speaks fluent English and Hebrew. The Club broke out the slide

projector, which miraculously still works after twenty-five years, for his presentation. Yonni came to the U.S. to work on his PhD and has resided here ever since. He's now a geologist working for the U.S. Forestry Service. Yonni spent the last thirty years traveling the world, and came to share his Nepalese adventure with us.

Yonni's first few slides were maps of the Himalayas written in Hebrew. He explained that these maps were not from biblical times but simply ones he bought in Israel. Nepal is split into three geographic regions: lowlands, foothills, and the Himalayas. He flew into Kathmandu, which sits 4,600 feet above sea level. The region existed as a number of small states until united by a Gorkha king in the mid-18th century.

There are three major cities in the Kathmandu Valley. In each of these cities, temples and religious ceremonies are woven into daily life. Prayer wheels, stupas, and temples are found on nearly every block. Yonni awoke before dawn to arrive at the main square, called a Durbar. Here people began their day, like most places, setting up shop, and attending morning prayers. Soldiers jogged by for their



Bhaktapur City – Kathmandu Valley

Photo Waterengnet

morning exercise. Nepal is 80% Hindu and 10% Buddhist. Beautiful and ornate temples are found everywhere. At the Buddhist temples, the worshippers go clockwise around the prayer wheels. A stupa sits atop the temple with the eyes of Buddha painted on each side, watching the people, so they know not to sin. Yonni stood outside a Hindu temple of Shiva, where he was forbidden to enter as a non-Hindu. Vendors sell colorful tikka powders as offerings for the deities. Along the river are platforms where the deceased are ceremonially cremated. Near the river are old-age homes for those who are near



Photo Yonni Schwartz

Machapuchare

death and want to be cremated after they pass. Yonni saw hundreds of sadhus, wandering monks who spend their life traveling from temple to temple.

He spent ten days in Kathmandu before traveling on to Pokhara to begin his three-week circuit, taking him through all three geographic regions, from 300 feet above sea level to 18,000 feet above sea level. He began in the lowlands, which are hot and humid. As he went higher, the building material changed from mud and straw to mud and rocks. In each village, those entering and leaving spin prayers wheels three times. Yonni hiked the valleys near Annapurna, which means harvest. After spending time with people in some of the villages, he said good-

bye to civilization and headed up into the wilderness. Yonni was completely alone. He'd stay the night in abandoned huts but did expect that there would be more way stations and locals to stay with, so he had left most of his camping and



Photo Waterengnet

Annapurna Base camp

outdoor equipment at a previous travel destination, leaving him unprepared for the weather. In the mountains, a snow-storm approached as he crossed a glacier. He found a large rock and fixed a piece of plastic to it for shelter. In this region the trail was less distinct, and rock-slides would often wipe the trail out completely. Most of the pictures he took of himself where timed photos since he was alone. It took him two to three days to return from the mountains before he found himself in the safety of home.

Yonni's next trip will be to South Korea with his Korean wife. That trip will not be as extreme, but he hopes to get back off the beaten path in the near future.



Photo Summitpost

Annapurna

(Minutes continued on page 18)

9:00 to close social, silent auction, etc.

Thursday, October 18 – Richard Lultz, Emory Kristof, Stephen Lowe, Anatoly Sagalevich.

The day of IMAX people with planning and execution and their experiences – exact order to be determined.

1:30 to 2:30 entry, register, social hour, silent auction where appropriate
Speaker order to be determined.

2:30 to 3:35 First Speaker

4:00 to 5:15 second speaker

5:30 to 6:30 third speaker

7:45 9:00 fourth speaker

Friday, October 19 – Georgia Durante, Greg Frazier, Danny Hazama, Matt Rutherford

1:30 to 2:30 entry, register, social hour, silent auction where appropriate(first day)

2:30 to 3:35 First Speaker Danny Hazama 5000 miles sailing the Pacific in using ancient Polynesian navigation, no electronics or motors

4:00 to 5:15 second speaker Greg

Frazier two-wheels almost everywhere, most motorcycle circumnavigations, latest 4th circumnavigation on a Kawasaki KLR 650

5:30 to 6:30 dinner

6:30 to 7:45 third speaker Matt Rutherford, solo nonstop circumnavigation around the Americas in a 25' sailboat

7:45 9:00 fourth speaker Georgia Durante From Mob getaway driver to driver stunt company owner and creator. An Amazing story.

9:00 to close social, silent auction, etc.

Saturday, October 20 – NOHA BANQUET DAY at Odyssey Restaurant

4:30 to 5:30 registration, silent auction, dining hall open for silent auction

5:45 Formal entry to dining hall with bagpipes.

6:00 to 8:00 Dinner, awards, returning expedition flags

8:00 to 10:00 Allan Smith and Bill Burke Everest talk and premier of Everest Film.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Medical problems have kept me out of commission for a while but I am almost fully recovered.

I am now being represented by a media corporation with offices in London and Nairobi that is marketing my work with great success. I am a regular contributor as writer and photographer to the in flight magazines of Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, and Seychelles airlines.

I have two significant publications available online that came out of my recent journey through Russia.

“Padlocks of Love” may be read in the *Christian Science Monitor* in their Home Forum section, (<http://www.csmonitor.com,%7d/>) and “A Russian Life” is on the Perceptive Travel website (<http://www.perceptivetravel.com>).

– Jim Dorsey (#1081)

Hearty congratulations on your recovery and your writing success. – Editor

To the Editor:

I always enjoyed chatting with Mort Loveman who was an enthusiastic and interesting adventurer. He loved telling me about his 90+ programs that he had produced of his travels around the world. And for 31 years his advertisement appeared in the Los Angeles Times of his upcoming presentation.

Mort served his country during World War II in the Air Force. He was a clerk and glad of it because he did not like his chances in the air. He was stationed at Foggia, a large base in Italy.

While there, he took a trip to Milan. He was able to view and photograph the bodies of Benito Mussolini and his mistress Clara Petacci hanging upside down. There was a big crowd. The setting was an Esso gas station in the Piazzale Loreto.

Mort taught photography in the Los Angeles school system. He also roomed at USC with Arnold Small, a professional writer and photographer of birds.

No matter where I went or was planning to go, Mort always had a good story for me about the place. I will miss him.

– Bob Zeman (#878)

Thank you for your thoughts, Bob. – Editor

To the Editor:

For awhile I thought I might visit you up in the Seattle area but you know what they say about the *Best laid plans of mice and men* – and Fred. Anyway, I was invited for a 5-day “Kiddy Cruise” onboard the *USS Ohio*. Just before I purchased my online airline tickets my benefactor called to tell me that the trip was off due to a slipping schedule...Darn It! – Fred Hareland (#1156)

The best laid plans... – Editor

To the Editor:

Dave Yamada recently finished reading my India Journal and suggested that it might be of interest for use in the *AC News*, possibly in serial format. In any event, it may find a place in the Club library.

– Ken Senter (#956)

It's an interesting journal, Ken. I will see what we can do about publishing at least part of it. In any case, it will end up in the Club Library. – Editor

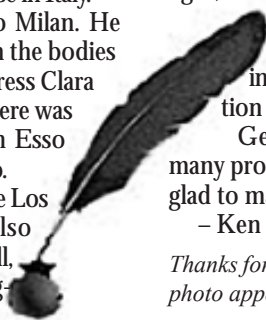
To the Editor:

Here is the photo I promised of Leyla. In the meantime, Leyla got married. Her new name is Leyla Mirzayeva. She was just a delight, and it was too bad she was newly married! We had long discussions on preserving traditional architecture in Baku. We had a very happy connection and remain in contact.

Getting into Azerbaijan presented many problems and expense for me, but was glad to make it to Baku.

– Ken Senter (#956)

Thanks for the report, Pierre. NOTE that Leyla's photo appears on page 13. – Editor



Forthcoming Programs

- August 2, 2012** - Yonni Schwartz - Nepal - Three Weeks of Backpacking and Climbing Around the Annapurna Massif to Annapurna Base Camp and Other Areas
- August 9, 2012** - **LADIES' NIGHT** - Authors Amanda Padoan and Chhiring Dorhe Sherpa - "Buried in the Sky" The Extraordinary Story of the Sherpas on K2's Deadliest Day
- August 16, 2012** - **LADIES' NIGHT** - Jessica Cox - Armless Pilot and Inspiration to All
- August 23, 2012** - Rosaly Lopes - Volcano Adventures Without Getting Your Feet Burned
- August 30, 2012** - Dave Banks - Cue the Camels - Stories and clips of misadventures & mishaps from Australia, Egypt & the Sahara
- September 6, 2012** - Bill and Jill Morse - Moving to Cambodia to support landmine removal: the amazing story of Aki Ra and his life
- September 13, 2012** - Kevin Bains - State of Space
- September 20, 2012** - **LADIES' NIGHT** - Eric Simmel - OSS 70th Anniversary Celebration of OSS Water Team Combat Swimmers
- September 27, 2012** - Bob Silver - India
- October 4, 2012** - [OPEN]
- October 11, 2012** - [OPEN]
- October 17-20, 2012** - **OPEN TO THE PUBIC** - Adventure-Con - 4 days of world-class speakers, culminating in NOHA
- October 20, 2012** - **NOHA**
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Notes



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