

The

Adventurers' Club News[®]

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92nd ANNIVERSARY!



1921 – 2014

The Adventurers' Club News

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Martin Bloom (#1147)- President



M a n y clubs experience a problem attracting and retaining new qualified club members. Without new

members, a club goes through a stagnation period where it seems that only the “same-old” people show up at meetings. To break out of this phase, it is important that new members become involved with the club and eventually take over important positions. The younger the better!

There are many good reasons why our Club should continue to grow, but the most important is to develop new friendships and share the common passion of adventure. Isn't that why we all joined the Club in the first place?

I guess the first place to start the process of getting new members is to stop, step back, and see where our Club is at the moment. Is it the same people at every meeting, assuming the responsibility for running the Club? Is membership dwindling? Are people getting bored? I would suggest that all the current Club members write down the benefits of having the Club

– and send them to me. What does being a member mean? Can you get those benefits on your own?

The second phase would be for you to jot down your goals for the Club. Would these goals mean more benefits for the members? The more benefits you can offer new people, the more inclined they will be to join the organization and take part in it.

Finally, list all the reasons why getting more people involved in the Club would be a good idea.

The purpose of a club evaluation is to get everyone fired up about attracting new members. It also arms all of us with ammunition to use when approaching other people about becoming a member of the Adventurers' Club. For example, when talking to someone about the Club, you can explain many more benefits about being in the Club than that person might have considered before.

At this point, I think the Club can start to think about new ways of attracting new members. You have to attract new qualified people to the Club before you can get them to join. I would be willing to bet that at a Club meeting, at least twenty new ways to get people to come out to a meeting could be put forward for more discussion.

(President's Page continued on page 21)

Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles – 92nd Birthday

Bob Zeman (#878)

Editor's Note: We intended to feature the Club's 92nd birthday celebration last month, however, Walt Ehlers' untimely departure OTGA changed those plans. With Walt possibly looking over our shoulders from wherever he is, we ask you to join us in celebrating 92 years of Adventure.

The gala combination Ladies' Night and Open Saturday evening started with members and guests arriving at 5 PM to a beautifully decorated Club House, compliments of Ms. Ari Arroyo. Multi-colored balloons, banners, streams of confetti hung everywhere. The Club



Photo Martin Bloom

Vince Weatherby & Gary Hareland with birthday cakes

never looked more festive. Guests arrived and arrived and arrived, until there was little or no room left for even the slimmest party goer to be able to move. The house was packed with 141 members and guests.

Wine flowed (our master of the canteen Jeff Holmes (#1148) broke all of the Club's previous sales records), people mingled, hors d'oeuvres were plentiful and the "buzz" of the evening's sound was a welcome earful to all of the participants. People of all ages were there, men and women in their 20's to

our Club members up into their 80's. It was a joy to behold and the beginning of great things to come.



Photo Martin Bloom

Martin & Trish Bloom

Joseph Steele and his tireless staff prepared dinner. Joseph really out did himself: Prime meats, chicken, Portobello ravioli, delicious accompaniments rounded out the delicious meal that was served by wait staff in white shirts and wearing bow ties – what a treat from the usual evening's meal at the Club. It was our 92nd birthday, so we splurged!

As the guests ate, drank and talked, Bernie Harris (#1063) was after President Martin Bloom many times to ring the bell and announce "five minutes to show time." After several tries Martin finally acquiesced and told Bernie, give a ten-minute-to-show-time warning. Bernie rang the dining room bell loud and clear, and announced in his deep voice, "Ten minutes to show-time." Then Bernie

counted down the minutes, while everyone ate the beautiful cakes designed and baked by Ari Arroyo, one with the Club's logo and the second displaying "1921 – 2014."

With the clear message that the show would start soon, everyone finished dessert and filed into Chase Hall for the beginning of the evening's presentation of *Eight Summits*.

As the crowd took seats and settled down, President Martin Bloom welcomed the 141 members and guests to the 92nd birthday of the Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles. "This is excellent," he proclaimed, "so many smiling faces!" And he asked loudly, "Is everyone having a good time?" The assembled members and guests shouted Yes! with thunderous applause.

His welcome continued as we settled down to learn the reasons why we were there that night.

He proclaimed to the audience that the first reason was to wish our "grand old club" – The Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles – a very happy 92nd birthday.

He then asked that all of the Adventurers' Club members stand and be recognized – "hear...hear" – to we gentlemen – and a Very Happy Birthday to our grand old Club rang out. Then he thanked all the guests for joining our birthday celebration. He added, "I hope this is the beginning of our greatest, most wonderful year ever!"

Next, Martin offered some Club history. The Club can trace its roots

back to a meeting in 1908 with Teddy Roosevelt and his friends who created the idea of an Adventurers' Club. Four years later, in 1912, thirty-four men sat down at the *Adventurers' Club* first dinner at Joel's Restaurant in New York City in the year 1912. They were soldiers, sailors, hunters, trappers, travelers, journalists, authors, and scientists. At that dinner, they conjured up four toasts that have become traditional to the Club: "To Adventure, the Shadow of Every Red-Blooded Man;" "To the Game;" "To Every Lost Trail, Lost Cause, and Lost Comrade;" and last "To Gentlemen Adventurers."

Thus, the first Adventurers' Club was inaugurated and such are the personnel and spirit of all of the Adventurers' Clubs. From this original Club have sprung *The Adventurers' Club, Chicago*, in 1912; *The Adventurers' Club, Los Angeles*, in 1921; *The Adventurers' Club, Copenhagen*, in 1937; and *The Adventurers' Club, Honolulu*, in 1955.

Martin stated that the second reason for the evening was to view the world premiere of Club past president Allan Smith's (#1069) epic movie *Eight Summits*, a (Birthday continued on page 4)

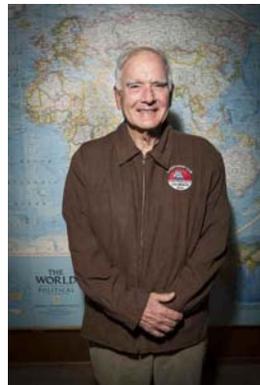


Photo Mark Edward Harris

Bill Burke

Birthday

(Birthday continued from page 3)

tribute to a mountaineer and great man, Bill Burke (#1157).

He proceeded by giving some background on Bill. At age sixty in 2003, Bill promised his family that he would retire from the practice of law.



Photo Mark Edward Harris

The Bill Burke family

When he first retired, he decided that it was important for him to take up some kind of safe and sedentary hobby, like golf or tennis. So, after much thought and research, he finally settled on high altitude mountaineering – so much for a safe and sedentary hobby. Bill then took a high altitude climbing course in the Cascades and returned to climb Mt. Rainier. After Mt. Rainier was Mt. McKinley (Denali) in Alaska, the highest mountain on the North American Continent. Since then, Bill has climbed the highest mountain on every continent on this planet, and he summited the highest one, Mt. Everest on May 23, 2009, becoming the oldest American to reach the summit and return. He was 67 at the time. He is the only person to climb the highest mountain on every continent after reaching sixty.

To emphasize what kind of a courageous adventurer Bill is, Martin quoted Theodore Roosevelt: “It is not the critic who counts; nor the man who points out where the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and blood. At best, he knows the triumph of high achievement; for if he fails at least he failed while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.”



Photo Mark Edward Harris

Bill Burke & Allan Smith

At that point he asked everyone to please put their hands together and join him in welcoming two great adventurers, award winning film maker, adventurer, and the producer of *Eight Summits*, Allan R. Smith, and one of the world's premiere record-holding mountain climbers, Bill Burke.

Bill Burke stepped to the mike to loud applause and thanked everyone. He introduced his wife, Sharon, and thanked his family for supporting him in his efforts. He also saluted the

climbing community and recognized one climber in particular, Doug Scar-



Photo Allan Smith

Allan & Bill at Everest Base Camp

borough, an officer in the police department at L. A. International Airport who showed up at Everest base camp in 2011 with virtually no climbing experience. Doug eventually summited in 2013.

Allan Smith thanked the audience and spoke of the film's value as a recognition to Bill and to climbers everywhere. He thanked his wife, Holly, who was present, for her support and for allowing Allan to accompany Bill on his double-summit attempt in 2012.



Photo Allan Smith

Allan & Bill at Everest Base Camp

Bill has a climbing partner, Ollie Dillon. Ollie, Bill's and Sharon's grandson, was born with a rare disease that renders him speechless, but he and Bill

enjoy going out for bicycle and motorcycle rides. Bill claims that Ollie is his inspiration and they spend many hours together forever bonding.

Next, *Eight Summits* began to play, to the audience's delight. Most of the movie concentrates on Bill's treks to Mt. Everest and his eventual climb of the highest point on earth. The trek from the south side of the mountain starts in Kathmandu, Nepal. Then the expedition flies to Lukla, a small



Photo Allan Smith

Allan & Bill at Everest Base Camp

village with a dangerously small airstrip. They proceed to trek thirty-five miles on an up and down course to Everest's first base camp. The trek to base camp passes Namche Bazaar and Tamboche. There are ceremonies along the way with prayer flags, burning of incense and dancing in hopes for good weather.

In addition to the freezing weather and the high winds, there are other major concerns. One is there is only 35% oxygen at the top of Everest compared to sea level. A climber named Ted Atkins devised one of the first oxygen life support systems using a coke bottle and a condom so as

(Birthday continued on page 6)

Birthday

(Birthday continued from page 5)

to use oxygen more effectively.

Khumbu Ice Fall is treacherous because of blocks of ice next to gi-



Photo Bill Burke

Bill on Everest Summit

ant crevasses. Ladders are set across the chasm, and one-by-one each climber crosses carefully, especially when the ladders wobble and the winds come up. High altitude sickness often interferes with a climber's ascent. Part of the rigors of climbing Mt. Everest is that a climber must climb to successive base camps and then descend a few times to build up the red hemoglobin cells in the blood. These bind with oxygen in the blood and become oxy-hemoglobin to transport oxygen to body cells. On the other hand, it also binds with carbon dioxide, becoming a carboxyhemoglobin, which removes the carbon dioxide.

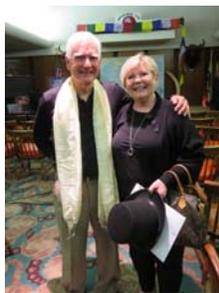


Photo Martin Bloom

Bill & Sharon Burke

This was Bill's third trip to Mt.

Everest. The film brings us next to 2012 and Bill's try for a double-summit from both the south Nepalese side and the north Tibetan Chinese side, with Allan along to film it.

Their preparations were excellent and the equipment worked well.

They were excited when they reached base camp, but the weather turned bad. The ropes necessary for climbing that were scheduled to be completed by May 5th weren't in place. Bill made trips to camp one and camp two to build up his red blood cells. By now other climbers had arrived in base camp, and the weather reports foretold an ominous outlook.

Bill decided that the prospects from the south side were dismal, and flew back to Kathmandu for a truck trip to Tibet. He loaded his gear and the truck took off. Unfortunately, at the border all trucks had to be unloaded and the contents carried across the border for screening. This caused a massive backup due to the inefficiency of the process.

Bill finally arrived at the base camp at 17,056 feet. Then his team hiked up the miracle highway to intermediate base camp at 20,336 feet, and advance base camp at 20,992 feet.



Photo Martin Bloom

Kevin presenting Bill with the prayer cloth

There crampons were attached as they climbed the north col headwall. Camp one was at 23, 616 feet, camp two was at 25,581 feet, and camp three was at 27,224 feet.

After achieving this, there are three long steps to the top. Bill reached the second step at 28,200 feet high, but he had to keep his hands moving to prevent freezing.

He then asked himself two questions: Could he reach the top? His answer was yes. Could he make it

est mountain on planet earth.

Editor's note: Bill's climb is underway as you read this.

After the movie, Bill and Allan were applauded. Kevin Lee (#1163), who has climbed on Mt. Everest, presented a prayer cloth to Bill. Kevin had this cloth given to him by the Dalai Lama in Dharmasala.

Then Kevin and Steve Bein (#1057) re-issued the 2012 expedition flag to Bill for his 2014 attempt on the north side.

Stewart Deets (#1168) conducted a raffle. The big winner of the money was the wife of Claude Hulet (#1114). Other prizes given were a hunting/camping knife in a case and a photo of a brown bear and her cub.

At this late hour in the evening President Martin Bloom closed the proceedings by thanking everyone in the audience and asking everyone to return to the World Famous Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles.

Overall, the Club's 92nd birthday party was a huge success.



Photo Martin Bloom

Reissuing Expedition Flag to Bill

back safely? His answer was maybe. He had already experienced the death of a sherpa at the base camp on the south side. And Dr. Eberhard Schaaf had died while climbing on the south side. 2012 was not a good year for weather. He finally decided the risk of continuing to the top was not worth it. Better not to proceed for *he who fights and goes away will live to fight another day*.

That fight will come this year as Bill Burke once again matches his skills against the harsh elements of the tall-



Photo Martin Bloom

Allan & Bill



Okay – I’m really late with the April edition of the *AC News*. For that I apologize, but life sometimes has a way of interfering with our best intentions. Like the last two days: Yesterday was in the mid seventies, and we are expecting six inches of snow today. Good thing I’m working on the magazine.

The 92nd birthday bash sounds like it was an event worth visiting. It is almost hard to imagine 141 people crowding into the Club. As I think about it, there is no real reason not to aim this high for every meeting. Will we have 140 people for every meeting? Not likely, but there is no reason we can’t keep the numbers up.

When you guys invited me to join you back in early 2006, typical meeting attendance was twenty-five to thirty. We seem to be close to doubling that now. This is a good thing! I also understand that our average age is getting younger. This is another good thing! Without younger members continuously filling our ranks, obviously, we will no longer exist one day.

Jay Foonberg wrote a moving Letter-to-the-Editor about Walt Ehlers that appears in this edition. One point he makes in his letter is that Walt received a battlefield commission. Jay

asked me to be sure to let Club members know about this.

People who know me well sometimes consider me to be a political junkie. While I do not intend to make this a political column, I do have an observation. I have been watching all the political shenanigans that are taking place at the national level in America right now, and I watch how this national debate is often reflected at the local level across the country. Other than finding myself occasionally immersed in the immediate situation, my overall take is that we as Americans have something unique in human history. The experiment in self-government that our founders created some 238 years ago (not 400 as at least one national politician believes – although Columbus did arrive on our shores some 522 years ago) is working pretty well. As a nation we have observed some dramatic changes in direction from one administration to another, but they all have transitioned peacefully. There is no reason to believe that the next transition will not be equally peaceful. Think about what we represent in the world in terms of economic and military strength, and then consider how we generally behave when compared to other great powers of the past.

Speaking for myself, I’m pretty impressed.

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

March 6, 2014

Bob Zeman (#878) Photos Graham Mackintosh

We had four plus tables for dinner tonight. President Martin Bloom (#1147) welcomed all.

Charles Carmona (#1136) had been to Tanzania twice to train citizens in the art of gemstone cutting. He also went to Belize to study the health of coral reefs.

Rich Abele returned from a trip to the United Arab Emirates including Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. There is no shortage of petrodollars.

Bob Ianello (#1100) drove over to Inspiration Canyon near Barstow. He found the abandoned housing complex of the Lesterdale mine. He enjoys touring on his dirt bike.

Peter Jensen (#1101) is going to Port Chicago in the Bay Area to dig for old bottles.

Dave Dolan (#1087) is going to the annual meeting of the Explorers' Club in New York. Two of the recipients of awards will be Walter Munk and Elon Musk. Dave is then going to Miami and Cuba.

Vince Weatherby (#1060) told of a friend who was scanning Google maps and saw an interesting profile. His friend ascended a large hill and found a 1919 Best tractor. It had been driven up the hill decades ago to dig a mine. Of the 300 built only about 10 still exist. And this one is still in good condition.

Steve Bein (#1057) is flying to Alaska to photograph the northern lights.

Bernie (#1063) and Devera Harris are off on their next cruise to San Diego, Santa Barbara and Baja.

Adventures in Baja California

Graham Mackintosh gave his first program to the Club twenty-nine years ago. In 1979 he had hitch hiked his way down to Cabo San Lucas. He back-packed the perimeter of Baja in 1983 to 1985.



Hiking Baja

He survived by eating fish and distilling seawater. He collected seawater and boiled it. It steamed and he sent it through pipes to condense. He was able to make a gallon of water per day. He also would dig a hole and put plastic over it. Water would percolate on to the plastic. This also attracted lizards. He would walk in the early morning and late in the day.

At times he would come upon a fish camp and the men were nice and hospitable. At one, the motor broke on the boat he and the fishermen were on. He took a flash photo which was seen by others and his boat was rescued at night. The men drank a few beers that night.

He later caught a ride in a pickup truck that drove too fast. It went around a turn and rolled. He was not scratched but the truck was totaled.

The best beach combing he ever saw was at Scammons Lagoon where he

(Minutes continued on page 10)

found liquor, MREs, boat winches, gun shells and lobster.



With his burro

Scorpions abound and they can be deadly but he survived. He saw some petroglyphs when he went inland, and he saw some small settlements. Snorkeling was good and he found a

moray eel.

His pack weighed sixty to seventy pounds, so he decided to get a burro. His first burro was hard to pack and it had to lead. Near Magdalena the burro started to sink in quicksand before he rescued it.

At this point, Graham remembered giving a program at the Club when Wayne Barker was president and Bob Sandwick was program chairman.

In 1997-98 Graham hiked with a burro from Tecate to Loreto. He was well supplied with beer for this 1,000-mile journey. He visited the missions along the way. The first was built in 1697. Some are in good shape and some in ruins.

This was a wet winter and he crossed many rivers. The rain brought out the colorful wildflowers. He stopped at a bar called Cielito Lindo and everyone liked his burro including the soldiers.

He took a week off from hiking to do some whale watching in San Ygnacio. Later he hiked to Santa Rosalia and Mulege.

His next adventure was to spend four months camping in the mountains near San Pedro Martir. The highest peak reaches 10,124 feet.

While camping he encountered coyotes and California condors. Of course there were thunder showers.



The Baja Trail

On an island, Angel de la Guardia, he was marooned for two weeks. He had a kayak with him. He observed gulf opaleye, puffer fish, dolphin, and even whales. He was spotted by a helicopter that later dropped a parachute containing beer, schnapps and chocolate. He had to put plastic over everything so the ravens would not eat it. This island was so remote he spotted a six-foot spectacled rattlesnake waiting to eat a chuckwalla. He also observed birds, including a booby, egret and an oystercatcher.

Graham's presentation was extremely well-done with each slide telling a story, and an easy flow from one to the next.



Marooned on Angel de la Guardia

March 20, 2014*Bob Zeman (#878)**Photos Mike Clark*

We had a good crowd tonight with Martin Bloom (#1147) presiding.

Bernie Harris (#1063) reminisced that he and Jay Foonberg (#1126) had talked with Walt Ehlers (#1119) a couple of months ago, who said that he wished he could be back at a meeting with the adventurers.

Rich Abele was welcomed into the Club as member 1172. He was introduced to the Club about a year ago by Ralph Perez and Steve Bein. He has run a marathon, is a guide on the USS Iowa and recently he and Nancy Miller gave us a program on Antarctica.

Bob Oberto (#1124) returned from cross country skiing in Mammoth and a diving trip off the big island of Hawaii.

Rich Abele (#1172) visited all seven emirates of the U. A. E. including Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. There is no trash, no crime and no unemployment.

Haitian Vodou

Haiti has a population of about eight million and is extremely poor and undeveloped, Mike Clark told us. The once large forests on its share of Hispaniola have been destroyed. Thus there is nothing to prevent extreme rain and hurricane damage. The people are poor and there is high unemployment.

Little rebar is used in construction; there is no trash pick up, and there is a sunken ship in the harbor that blocks entry. Mike had photos of the collapsed Catholic cathedral and presidential palace. Some tent cities still exist.

Vodou is the dominant religion of



Haiti. The fundamental principle is that everything is spirit. There are peaceful and beautiful vodou ceremonies as well as violent and brutal ones. It is a legal religion and not underground but it is private.

The purpose of a ceremony is for one to be possessed. There are rituals and ceremonies that last from hours to days.

In a Rada peaceful ceremony, a small animal like a quail is blessed and then sacrificed. Its blood is drained and then poured on the altar. Later more small quail are killed. Rada connotes cool, calm and peaceful and the prominent color is white.

Despite the fifteen or so animals sacrificed in a ceremony, all of the carcasses are taken outside cleaned and then cooked so no meat is wasted.

Large animals such as cows are sacrificed in a Petro. Here zombification exists in both myth and reality. Petro connotes aggression and restlessness. Both ceremonies include drum-



Mike by a grave used in vodou ceremony

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(Minutes continued from page 11)

ming, dancing, smoke and rum. Participants dress in red and blue for the Petro.

Mike was able to photograph close up both a Rada and a Petro ceremony.

Bokors are sorcerers or priests or priestesses for hire who are said to serve the loa with both hands. This means they practice both dark and light magic. Their black magic includes the creation of zombies or people who are alive but have lost control of what they say and do. Drugs usually enhance this transition.

The loa are divided into nations of



Photo Jill Durso

Vodou ceremony

which two are the Rada and the Petro. But all of these nations derived from the religions of West Africa. Since the immigrants in the 18th century came from different tribes, the unifying factor was vodou.

About 40% of the population practice vodou and almost everybody believes in it.

Mike ate a lot of chicken and rice while in Haiti. The aids rate is alarming. He visited the graveyards and temples where the spirits are stored in an upside down jar.

Mike's presentation drew many questions from the audience.



Mike

March 27, 2014

Doug Brown (#1160)

Photos Sane Berry

Welcome

After the ringing of the eight bells by Stewart Deats (#1168), President Martin Bloom (#1147) called the meeting to order with the traditional standing silent toast to honor absent and departed members wherever they may be.

President Bloom highlighted a Club banner commemorating the Club's first fifty years and hanging on the wall in the staircase. Bob Silver (#728) was recognized and honored as a member who joined the Club during those years.

Guests

Shane Berry (#1093): Over 20 guests, including his wife, son, and brother.

Rick Flores (#1120): His wife and other guests.

Kevin Lee (#1163): Eli Amador.

Paul Straub (#1153): His wife and others.

Mike Gwaltney (#1128): His wife.

Jim Dorsey (#1081): His wife.

Doug Brown (#1160): His fiancé.

Other members bringing one or more guests: Robert DeMott (#1080), Jeff Holmes (#1148), Steve Bein (#1057), Stewart Deats (#1168), and Pierre Odier (#988).

Those Returning from Adventure

Steve Bein: Traveled to Alaska to view the northern lights, which did not cooperate. Temperatures reached -20°F.

Rick Flores: Traveled with Pierre Odier to Costa Rica. They visited the prison on San Lucas Island, Puntarenas, Monteverde, Carara National Park, and the La Paz Waterfall Gardens.

Roger Haft (#1198): At the March 2014 Club board meeting, Bernie Harris (#1063) simulated a heart attack to demonstrate the value of the Club's defibrillator.

Bob Silver sold off the last of his car collection, which he has maintained since he retired in 1970.

Charles Carmona (#1136): In Arusha, Tanzania, Charles is spearheading the establishment of a school that will teach local residents the art of gem cutting. Equipped with this new skill, residents can now keep gems at home for processing rather than shipping them out of the country.

Those Leaving on Adventure

Bob Zeman (#878): A lunch is scheduled with Dave Foreman who co-founded Earth First.

Bill Burke (#1157): Departs March 30 to arrive April 1 in Nepal. He travels April 11 from Nepal to Tibet. Bill's objective is scaling Mt. Everest from the more dangerous north side. At age 67 in 2009, Bill ascended Mt. Everest from the south side, thus becoming the elder statesman of all US climbers. In 2012, Bill attempted to climb Mt. Everest from both sides in the same season, a monumental achievement, but had to turn back before reaching the summit because his supply of oxygen was judged insufficient by his guide. After a careful examination, the oxygen "fact" proved to be false.

Iceland Odyssey

Shane Berry and Rick Flores had normally taken vacations together exploring the Colorado Plateau in Utah and Arizona. In July 2013, they decided to do something completely different and em-

barked on an 18-day adventure in Iceland. In preparation for this adventure,



Icelandic waterfall

Shane and Rick contacted Kristjan Kristjansson (#1141) who lives in Iceland. The country is a starkly beautiful, sparsely populated (300,000), and infrequently visited country, at least by Americans. They explored Iceland in an SUV to remote, serenely beautiful, and wild places rarely visited by Americans. In this country where the sun never sets, the photographic opportunities were abundant and spectacular; there are glaciers, over 2,000 waterfalls, the largest national parks in all of Europe, the largest bird colonies in Europe, hot springs, seismic fault lines, volcanic curiosities, columnar basalt and incredible vistas.



Husavik farm house

Traveling on the ring road around the country and improvising an itinerary, they stayed in guest houses, hostels, campsites, and huts eating the Icelandic national food: hot dogs. They also enjoyed smoked

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(Minutes continued from page 13)

brown trout, cod, Icelandic lamb and hverabraud which is a rich brown bread baked in geothermal heat. They took a rain check on puffin, whale and sheep's head.



Icebergs and glaciers

Shane and Rick traveled the Iceland Ring Route, which is 830 miles. The cost of an SUV is \$200 per day.

Iceland is a popular destination for Europeans, but not for Americans.

Lupines were in bloom everywhere, but they are not native to Iceland. In fact, they are called devil weed by the residents.



Notyh Coast Vista

Northwest of Reykjavik, they visited the Látrabjarg Bird Cliffs, the largest of its kind in Europe and home to millions of puffins, razorbills and guillemots. Winds were estimated at 100 mph. In the area, a Hummer pulled over to the side of the gravel road to let Shane and Rick's Jimmy pass. The Hummer teetered on the edge, but was saved. Otherwise, the ground was giving way and

the Hummer would have tumbled down the hillside.

Godafoss, in northern Iceland, is the Waterfall of the Gods. Here, in 999 or 1000, Iceland's Lawspeaker made Christianity the official religion of Iceland. He threw statues of the Norse gods into the waterfall. Nearby is Lake Mývatn, where "Mono Lake meets Yellowstone."



Snaefellsnes Peninsula Panorama

Geothermals provide over 25% of the country's power generated from five major power plants. The Jarðbodinn Nature Baths were created from an outflow of Iceland's first geothermal power station, built in 1969. Water temperature is 38-40°C (100-104°F).

Seismic activity is common in Iceland. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is splitting Iceland and separating the North American Plate and the Eurasian Plate.

The village of Húsavík, in the north, was a whaling and fishing capital.

Hljóðaklettar, or Echoing Rocks, are bizarre swirls, spirals, rosettes, honeycombs and columns of basalt. These strange forms and patterns create an acoustic effect that makes it impossible to determine the direction of the roaring river.

Dettifoss in northeast Iceland is the most powerful waterfall in Europe with a height of 148 feet.

The village of Seyðisfjörður was the herring capital. Now it is best known as the port for weekly ferries from Den-



Dettifoss Waterfall

mark.

Shane and Rick also visited the city of Reykjavik with two-thirds of Iceland's population; the Dynjandi cascading waterfall; the port and fishing center of Akureyri; the Maar (crater) Viti, formed in 1875; the Hverfjall crater, with a diameter of 0.6 miles; the Jökulsárgljúfur National Park, home of the Rock of Echoes; the waterfalls *Hengifoss* and *Litlanefoss*; the Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, full of icebergs and never frozen; the enormous Seljalandsfoss waterfall; the double-stepped waterfall Gullfoss; and the geyser *Geysir*, where eruptions have stopped altogether for years at a time.

Their adventure ended with a four-day backpacking trek from Landmannalaugar to Þórsmörk. According to some sources, the harsh and otherworldly beauty of the Landmannalaugar-to-Þórsmörk route makes it one of the top-ten hikes in the entire world. On the first day of this remarkable hike, Shane and Rick encountered fierce winds, river crossings and were threatened by the possibility of hypothermia due to the extremely wet and icy conditions. Rick

acknowledged you could die out there. Then he saw a memorial to an Israeli hiker who had died, and not too far from a hut. The outside temperature hovered near 0°F, including a wind-chill factor. In the hut, the temperature was 100°F. The



3rd day of hike – Hills and Clouds

toilet was a short hike from the hut. Nevertheless, one thought twice before leaving the warmth of the hut to take a bathroom break.

The backpacking trek ended next to the still active Eyjafjallajökull Volcano that erupted March 20, 2010, causing great havoc closing down most European airports.



Iceland - July, 2013

What's Happening...

Bil Brown – OTGA

Mark E. Dewey (Bil's grandson)

William Charles “Bil” Brown (#708) passed away peacefully on March 31, 2014, at the age of ninety-three and has joined his loving wife Betty Jean Brown OTGA. Betty passed away on September 15, 2013, in San Diego, CA. Their life together was a beautiful love story. They celebrated seventy wonderful years of marriage.

Bil was born on November 17, 1920, in Peoria, Illinois to Raymond and Josephine Brown. Betty was born on January 22, 1921, in Maquoketa, Iowa to Cecil and Beulah Smith. Bil met Betty Jean Smith in High School and they were married in May of 1943 before relocating to San Diego where Bil was stationed. He served in the Pacific as a Navy Pilot during WW2. After the war, Bil and Betty settled in the San Fernando Valley where Bil became a real estate broker and started Showcase Properties, which specialized in the sale of luxury homes and estates. In the early 1970s Bil sold his business and was very successful as a property developer/broker until his retirement in 1983.



Photo Mark E Dewey

Bil always had an adventurous spirit. As a young adult, he traveled throughout Mexico on his own and learned to fly before joining the Navy.

In 1956 and 1957, after two years of planning with another family, Bil, Betty, Bil's mother and his eleven-year-old son rafted down four major whitewater rivers, documenting it all on film. Bil put together an exciting twenty-minute Travelogue that became a hit on the Rotary Club circuit around So. Cal. A photo of them also appeared in the April 1957 National Geographic magazine.

Bil was a life-long member of Rotary International with many great achievements, while serving in various leadership roles. He was an active member of The Adventurers' Club for many years, and he was instrumental in establishing the local branch of The Explorers Club.

Betty was much more than a housewife; she was an equal partner in their relationship and Bil often credited her for much of his success. For those that knew them,

this was certain. Bil was known as the dreamer, while Betty was the realist. They complemented each other perfectly and have now passed on to The Great Adventure together. Bil and Betty are survived by their two children Kent and Kristi, five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren who all have been influenced by their wisdom and love.

The family would like to thank the staff at Casa de las Campanas for all their care and support to our family. Services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 18, 2014, at the Rosecrans National Cemetery located at 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Dr, San Diego, CA 92106. In lieu of flowers we ask that all memorial donations may be made to Rotary International: www.rotary.org/en/give

David Dolan Update

Bob Zeman (878)

David Dolan (#1087) reported that six months ago he was di-

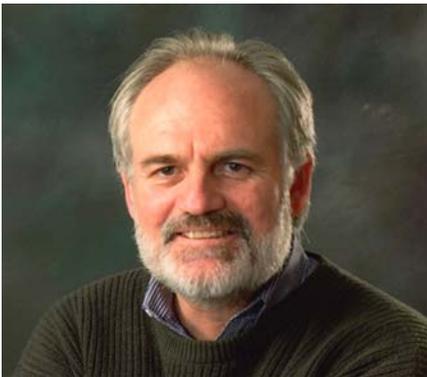


Photo David Dolan

agnosed with a disease of the lungs caused by an unknown environmental agent. He was concerned because his brother and father had died of lung-related disease. He had three biopsies removed and sent to the Mayo Clinic for further evaluation. David spent six days in the hospital and is still recovering. He is now cleared to go up to 9,000 feet and to fly in commercial airliners. He was not previously approved due to his condition so his health and lungs are clearly improving.

David thanked the members of the Club who had sustained him over the past two and a half years during which he went through numerous trials and tribulations. But now he is doing much better.

Dave is going to the annual meeting of the Explorers' Club in New York. Two of the awards recipients will be Scripps Oceanographer Walter Munk and Elon Musk, founder of PayPal, SpaceX and Tesla Motors. Dave is then going to Florida and on to Cuba on a Bowers Museum Fellows Cultural Tour.

Milt Valois – OTGA

Pamela Valois (Milt's daughter)

The strong and forward-looking spirit of our dear father, Milton William Valois (#974), departed OTGA on the afternoon of February 13. Dr. Valois died of consequences of a fall he had sustained the Saturday before. The day of his accident,

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What's Happening...

(What's Happening continued from page 17)

he'd taken one of his daughters to lunch and spent the afternoon sailing his boat with a friend; just two weeks before that, he'd completed a snorkeling trip in Belize with another daughter. Milton "Pop" Valois was ninety-six years old, and had hoped to live to be one hundred.

Pop was born on June 22, 1917, in Pasadena, California. He married his sweetheart, Ann Dowell Hayes, in 1942, before completing dental school at the University of Southern California. He served as Dental Officer and Junior Medical Officer aboard an attack transport ship, the *U.S.S. Crittenden*, for two years in the Pacific, and retired from duty as a Lt. Commander in 1954.

Pop and Mom chose the small community of Sierra Madre, California, for their home and for the site of Pop's dental practice. They reared their three daughters, Pamela, Renee, and Teresa, in Sierra Madre. Both Mom and Pop were very involved in their community. Pop served as President of the School Board, the Kiwanis Club, the San Gabriel Valley Dental Society, and the Southern California Dental Foundation. He was active on the boards of many organizations, and helped establish the Dental Hygiene Department at Pasadena Junior College.



Photo Pamela Valois

Pop's passion was boating. Beginning with a small powerboat, the *Yoyo*, and later graduating to a sailboat, the *Santé*, he and the family cruised the Pacific from Mexico to San Francisco. Countless weekends were passed at Cherry Cove, Catalina Island.

Pop was a member of the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, the Shoreline Yacht Club, and was Commodore of the Cherry Cove Yacht Club. He was awarded "Emeritus" status by the Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles, and was a founding member of the Pasadena Power Squadron. He and Mom traveled through-

out the world, often cruising on small ships.

Pop loved music. After retiring from his dental practice, he joined the Valley of the Sun Theater Organ Society, and the American Theater Organ Society.

But in Pop's own words, "my true love was my wife Ann of seventy-one years, my three daughters, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren."

Pop is survived by his three daughters, Pamela Valois, of Berkeley; Renee Walter, of Phoenix; and Teresa Valois, of Seattle; and by his son-in-law, Lloyd Linford of Berkeley. Four beloved grandchildren, Dana

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keig, Rob Walter, Zachary Linford, and Scott Linford reside in Scottsdale, North Tustin, San Diego, and Los Angeles, respectively. Pop enjoyed and followed the exploits of grandson-in-law, Gordon Keig, and two granddaughters-in-law, Rebecca Walter, and Rachel Linford; and six great grandchildren, Anna and Caroline Keig, Robby and Pearce Walter, and Abby and Joe Linford.

Friends and family surrounded Milton in his last days. We are grateful for the friends, new and old, who sailed with him, kept in touch by phone, and indulged in his local dreams and schemes. Our last words to him were “*À Votre Santé!*”

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: The Los Altos Family YMCA, Dr. Milt Valois Memorial Fund, 1720 Bellflower Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90815. Checks should be made payable to the YMCA.



Milt on his boat

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.

To the Editor:

There is a technical error in the special email to members about Walt Ehlers: Walt was a Lieutenant, not a Sergeant.

There is nothing wrong with being a Staff Sgt. I was an Air Force Staff Sgt. Walt, however, rose far above that rank in the hearts and minds of his fellow Adventurer's Club members. We were among his last thoughts and words. We have all been honored.

Walt was a Staff Sgt. when he earned the MOH in June of 1944. He received a battlefield commission on December 6, 1944 from Maj. General Clarence Huebner, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One).

In one of Walt's photos, one can see that Walt was wearing an officer's uniform, including a Lieutenant's lapel bar. It cannot be ascertained from the photo if it is an O1 or an O2 (2nd or 1st Lieutenant's) bar.

Unfortunately, I was in Fairbanks, Alaska, and could not be at Walt's Funeral.

I will never forget the day that Bernie Harris and I visited Walt in the hospital. Walt was 100% clear and Lucid. Both he and his daughter went on at great length on how much Walt missed being at Adventurers' Club meetings. His daughter took me aside and told me that his legs would not support his weight and that he might never again make a meeting. It was one of the lowest moments of my life to hear this. I presented Walt with a framed history of the Postage Stamp and envelopes with his picture in the stamp selvage. They told me it would go with his wall of decorations at his home.

Walt's last words to me, as we were leaving, were: "I hope to make a meeting soon." He was sitting up and smiling with his infectious grin, and waved to us.

There is a saying that every man dies twice: Once

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Letters

(Letters continued from page 19)

when he has breathed his last and then again when no one alive remembers what he did.

Walter Ehlers will never die. He will live forever in the list of the most worthy of all men. He will be remembered as long as there is a United States. I feel honored and blessed to have known Walt.

– Jay Foonberg #1126

Thank you, Jay. – Editor

To the Editor:

Commenting on your editorial concerning global warming, it's interesting how polarizing debate has become. However notice the term "Man Made Global Warming" has been abandon (following the money reveals self-serving politicians, and special interests, are making a fortune preaching the "Man Made" doctrine) for PC "Climate Change." Granted the climate has irrefutably changed over millenniums, and it will continue to do so. Accepting that fact, another fact is earth contracts its heat mainly from the varying intensity of the sun, the amount thereof, dictated by the characteristic and idiosyncrasies of earth's imperfect orbit which varies over time. Leap years are an example of man's clumsy attempt to organize nature's will of time.

Currently we are in a temperate interglacial period, with the last glacial period ending at the conclusion of the Pleistocene era 10,000 years ago. Back then big critters such as camels, woolly mammoths, saber tooth cats, and giant ground sloths disappeared from our own backyard, the Los Angeles basin, due to extinction caused by the warming climate. These interglacial periods generally last between 50,000 to 100,000 years. It should be noted the single, massive volcanic eruption in Finland a few years ago spit into the ozone the conservative estimated equivalent of 200 years of aggregated man induced carbondioxide and hydrocarbons, including everything from the burning of fossil fuels to domestic

cattle farts. Bottom line, the earth and its inhabitants are in a constant state of change and challenge by nature, hence evolution. We, as Adventurers, all have firsthand knowledge of nature's challenges.

Letter to Editor space doesn't allow discussion of the "whys" and "hows" but suffice to say, as a species, we think way too highly of ourselves believing man has caused a shift in historic temperature patterns. When I was a kid, "experts" were predicting the imminent forthcoming of the next glacial period. Can you imagine the hysteria if those "experts" from 45 years ago were correct and we were currently at the end of the interglacial period with glaciers advancing upon New York City? I'll take warm days over that option!

– Peter Jensen #1101

Thanks, Peter. Check out the 2nd edition of my book The Chicken Little Agenda, for the very latest information on this topic. It's available as an eBook on Amazon, and from Pelican Publishing. – Editor

To the Editor:

I really appreciated the Iceland presentation. I look forward to attending the club's events. I find the members and history there to be very inspiring, like few other places.

– Jeff Sorrell (Guest)

We really appreciate hearing from our guests, Jeff. Please visit the Club again!. – Editor

To the Editor:

Another nice job Robert. Enjoyed your T. Rickle column. Attended Ehler's memorial. Was quite moving.

Back from a month of biz travels. Good to be home.

– Kevin Lee (#1163)

Welcome back! We will miss Walt. – Editor

Forthcoming Programs

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- April 24, 2014 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – **OPEN THURSDAY** – Fredrick Gary Hareland – Douglas Mawson's Epic 700 Mile Antarctic Survival Journey
- May 1, 2014 – Dave Finnern & Steve Lawson – Sunken P-38's and Other Sunken WWI and WWII Planes
- May 5, 2014 – BOARD MEETING – 7:00 PM. *The Adventurers' Club Board of Directors meets the first Monday of every month unless there is a schedule change. All Club members are welcome to attend. The location of the meetings varies each month, and will be announced "from the podium." For up-to-date details contact President Martin Bloom (president@adventurersclub.org) or Board Director, Bernie Harris (bnb33@netscape.net).*
- May 8, 2014 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – **OPEN THURSDAY** – Dr. Ross Piper – Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom
- May 15, 2014 – Gary Mancuso – Six Year Journeying in Our Disappearing World: A Personal Tale of the Adventures, Misadventures and Pratfalls of Such a Project
- May 22, 2014 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – **OPEN THURSDAY** – Michael L. Oddenino – The Battle of Balls Bluff
- May 29, 2014 – Fred Grochulski – Transagulas Challenge plus Big Car Engines
- June 2, 2014 – BOARD MEETING
- June 5, 2014 – Chris Morasky – Survival
- June 12, 2014 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – **OPEN THURSDAY** – Marthe Cohn – Behind Enemy Lines: A Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany
- June 19, 2014 – Paul Straub – Solo Circumnavigating the Earth by Plane
- June 26, 2014 – [OPEN]
- July 3, 2014 – [CLUB DARK – Independence Day]
- July 10, 2014 – [OPEN]
- July 17, 2014 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – **OPEN THURSDAY** – Morris Price – Holocaust Survivor: Experience in Auschwitz & Dachau
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(President's Page continued from page 1)

But before our Club goes out to implement these new ideas, I would suggest that we also talk about retaining the new members once they come to a meeting. What steps will we take to ensure they stay excited about being a member of the Club?

In my opinion, those are the basic

steps involved in getting and retaining new members to join The Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles.

Now, I'd like YOU to give some specific examples and ideas that e could use in a "new member program." Send them to me at: president@adventurersclub.org



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