

# The Adventurers' Club News<sup>®</sup>

Volume 57

November 2013

Number 11



Piper Greg Elliot; Speakers Robert Young  
Pelton, Mireya Mayor & Maria Baltazzi, and Award  
Recipients Apa Sherpa, Kevin Lee & Emily Steele

92<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR  
See page 2...  
"N.O.H.A...."



# The Adventurers' Club News

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

November 2013

Volume 57 ..... Number 11  
Publisher ..... ACLA President, Rick Flores (#1120)  
Editor ..... Robert G. Williscroft (#1116), Centennial CO 80122  
Cell (818) 613-9445; [aclaeditor@argee.net](mailto:aclaeditor@argee.net)  
Asst. Editor ..... [OPEN]  
Club Phone (323) 223-3948 (24 Hrs) ..... [www.adventurersclub.org](http://www.adventurersclub.org)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**FRONT COVER: N.O.H.A. – PIPER GREG ELLIOT; SPEAKERS ROBERT YOUNG PELTON,  
MIREYA MAYOR & MARIA BALTAZZI; AND AWARD RECIPIENTS APA SHERPA,  
KEVIN LEE & EMILY STEELE – PHOTOS BY MARTIN BLOOM**

<b>DIRECTORY</b> .....	<b>INSIDE FRONT COVER</b>
<b>PRESIDENT'S PAGE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>NIGHT OF HIGH ADVENTURE – N.O.H.A.</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>WHAT'S HAPPENING...</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>THRAWN RICKLE</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS</b> .....	<b>21</b>

### **PRESIDENT**

Rick Flores

### **2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRES**

Mike Gwaltney

### **SECRETARY**

Eric Flanders

### **ADDRESS**

2433 N Broadway  
Los Angeles, CA 90086

### **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRES**

Ralph Perez

### **TREASURER**

Roger Haft

### **DINNER RESERVATIONS**

(323) 223-3948

Deadline: Tuesday Noon

### **MAILING ADDRESS**

PO Box 31226

Los Angeles, CA 90031

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Rick Flores (#1120)- President



If you didn't attend the Night of High Adventure last month you missed one of the best NOHAs ever. Martin Bloom and

his team of volunteers put on a terrific sold-out event! Aesthetically and financially we couldn't have expected more than this NOHA delivered.

I would like to personally thank the following Club members and friends of the Club for their participation and help with this great event: Larry Schutte, Steve Lawson, Mike Gwaltney, Doug Brown, Sandra Sheff, Trish Wilkinson, Stewart Deats, Shane Berry, Irene Berry, Ralph Perez, Mark Weitz, Ari Arroyo, Pierre Odier, Allan Smith, Steve Bein, Lillian Roberts, Bill Burke, Stuart Bird-Wilson, and Amanda Padoan.

Special thanks to Martin Bloom for going beyond the call for his work as NOHA Chairman. And a warm thank you to speakers Mariya Mayor, Maria Baltazzi, and Robert Young Pelton for giving us three fantastic presentations!

My congratulations go out to Kevin Lee for being named Adventurer of

the Year and to Apa Sherpa for receiving the first lifetime achievement award from the Club. I couldn't think of two more deserving adventurers!

The good news from the business meeting last month is that the ACLA Board is set for next year. Doug Brown will be the new 1st VP, Stewart Deats is the new 2nd VP, Roger Haft is the returning Treasurer and Eric Flanders is the returning Secretary. The returning Directors will be Mike Gwaltney, Bob Silver, and Jeff Holmes, they will be joined by new Directors Kevin Lee, Chris Dyrek, and Bernie Harris. Our new President, Martin Bloom, will lead the 2014 Board; as he showed during this year's NOHA, Martin has great managerial abilities, so I think that we will be in very good hands next year!

Unfortunately, due to my increasingly complicated personal life, I will not be able to fulfill my obligation as Past President on next year's Board. I want to thank Mark Weitz who has agreed to serve as the Past President in my stead. I have been on the Board in one capacity or another for almost as long as I have been in the Club; I have thoroughly enjoyed being President this year, but it will be my final year as an active Board member.

## Night of High Adventure

Bob Zeman (#878) & Martin Bloom (#1147)

Our annual gala event, The Night Of High Adventure, was attended by 166 members and guests at the beautiful Odyssey Restaurant. Our guests were attired in handsome tuxedos, beautiful gowns, unusual native costumes, and military uniforms for the occasion. The ballroom was beautifully decorated with formal table settings while on the far right end was a display of more than 180 items setup for the silent auction. As the five-o'clock hour approached all guests were treated to a full hosted bar that lasted two hours as well as an array of tasty hors d'oeuvres.

At six-o'clock, Piper Greg Elliot led the procession of guests into the main ballroom where everyone was treated to a



*Greg Elliot leading the procession*

video extravaganza depicting members of the Club on adventure as well as adventurous videos from around the world. Larry Schutte (#1121) collected visuals over many months and put them together in a wonderful visual presentation.

Our "silver-tongue" master of cer-

*Photos Martin Bloome*

emony Larry Schutte (#1121) soon opened the get-together with the tra-



*Guests moving into banquet room*

ditional toasts. The longest member of the Club, Richard McCartney (#652), rang out "To gentleman adventurers everywhere." Our oldest member, Milt Valois (#974), said "To the game." The Club's newest member, Chris Dyrek (#1169), sung out "To every lost comrade, lost trail and lost cause," followed by our youngest member, Mark Weitz (#1144), who shouted "To adventure, the shadow of every red-blooded man." The evening was under way.

As we all got comfortable in our seats, we were served a delicious dinner comprising either herb crusted prime rib, Atlantic salmon, or a vegetarian plate consisting of Portobello mushroom ravioli.

After the hour long dinner was completed expedition flags from the year were returned to the Club. First to present his flag was Pasquale Scaturro (#1146) who climbed a 19,200-foot mountain in Sikkim. This moun-

tain was covered with extreme ice and snow, and temperatures dropped to



Photo ATOAI

*Sikkim mountains*

20 degrees below zero with heavy winds. Next, Pierre Odier (#988) returned his flag from Gabon, a country that received only forty tourist visits last year. He trekked to the middle of a rain forest to live with a pygmy tribe. He encouraged villagers to sign his flag and many did; those who could not write simply left their mark. One woman who could not read or



Photo Pierre Odier

*Pygmies signing Pierre's flag*

write now felt she was “worth something” because her “squiggle” was memorialized forever. The last flag brought back came from Ralph Perez (#1150) who told of his attempt to backpack the entire Pacific Crest Trail, from the Mexican to the Cana-

dian borders. He covered more than 800 miles before heavy snows forced



Photo Ralph Perez

*Champion Hike Adventurers' Club Group Shot*

him and other trekkers to abandon their quest.

The invited speakers were on next. Battleground-Rhino Wars was presented beautifully by Maria Baltazzi, a film producer who has traveled to over fifty countries on all seven continents. She was introduced by Allan Smith (#1069), president of Dream Quest Productions.



*Maria Baltazzi*

Maria's talk centered on the plight of the African Rhino. She said that 700 white rhinos were lost to poachers in 2012, and almost 800 have been lost this year. At this rate, the

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

(N.O.H.A. continued from page 3)

African rhino will be extinct by 2026. In her film clip she tore at our hearts as a baby rhino stood at its dead mother's body wanting milk – it was very touching. The only positive came as we later learned that the young rhino was captured and taken to an orphanage and cared for.



Photo familyontheloose.com

Female white rhino with her calf

Poachers use major hardware and rely on corruption to accomplish their widespread decimation. They want the rhino horn which is made of carotene. It is marketed primarily to Asians for “curing” many diseases and ailments including sexual performance. This is not true but the Asians believe it. The rhino horn weighs six to eleven pounds and sells at retail for up to \$25,000 per pound. There were 70,000 rhinos in the world in 1970, but now the population is down to 22,000. The population is being devastated and soon they will be gone – tourists go on safari to see the “Big 5” not the “Big 4.”

The poachers like to go out during the time of the full moon when they are able to take rhinos easily. Maria

assembled a team of three former Navy Seals and one former Army Green Beret to carry and use weapons to look for and take down suspected poachers. Many of the poachers come from Mozambique, in the vicinity of Kruger National Park.

The International Anti-Poaching Organization works to educate people about the dangers of poaching. They have stated that one can get the same medicinal effect (which is none) by simply chewing on fingernails as from ingesting the carotene from rhino's horns.

In conclusion, Maria reminded us of a quote from Jane Goodall who said “If we kill off our wildlife, we kill off a part of our souls.”



Mireya Mayor

Mireya Mayor, our second speaker was a Fulbright scholar who earned a PhD in anthropology.

She was introduced by Pasquale Scaturro; they know each other from being two of the four explorers on the show *Expedition Africa*. Of the four members of that expedition, one

was a navigator, one a journalist, one an wildlife expert, and one was a survivalist. The expedition took sixty days and covered 1,000 miles, retracing the route of Henry Morton Stanley in 1871 to find Dr. David Livingstone in Tanzania.



Photo Mireya Mayor

Mireya with a mouse lemur

Mireya loves animals and has taken many exploration and research trips. One such trip took her to the wilds of South America. Years later she was asked to return to explore the Tepuis of Venezuela where she took a two hour climbing course and was deemed ready to climb the table-top mountain/mesa found in the Guiana Highlands and especially in Venezuela. At the Tepuis, the group decided to rappel into a sinkhole. At one point, she slept in a tent on a three-foot ledge overhanging a cliff.

In her studies Mireya learned about a species of lemurs of which Time Magazine had no photographs. Lemurs are found in Madagascar where only ten percent of the original rain-forest survives. There are 105 species of lemurs along with the world's largest and smallest chameleon.

She met a native who led her to a special mourning place where no hunting was allowed. They arrived following a ten-hour hike. Upon reaching it, the animals came right up to Mireya. She discovered a new species of lemur after studying its DNA. She documented them with many photographs. She took her information to the President and Prime Minister of Malaysia after which they declared the area a national park.

Mireya's research and devotion to the animals of the location sheds light on the plight of endangered places and animals around the world. She is concerned about the rain forests of Madagascar believing that "This phenomenal natural laboratory could vanish in our lifetime becoming the stuff of history books, not science books."

Our final speaker, Robert Young Pelton, is an author, journalist, and documentary filmmaker who wrote *The Most Dangerous Places*. He was introduced by Steve Bein (#1057) who has been in a few dangerous places himself.

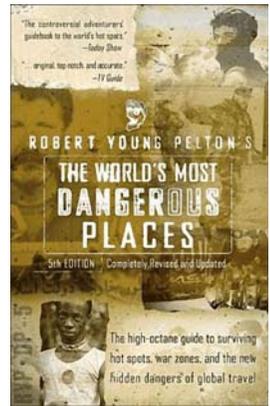


Photo Robert Young Pelton

Cover of *The World's*

*Most Dangerous Places* Robert was present at conflicts such as the Bat-

(N.O.H.A. continued on page 6)

tle of Zala-i-Jangi in Afghanistan, the Battle of Grozny in Chechnya, the rebel campaign to take Monrovia in Liberia, the siege on Villa Somalia in Mogadishu, and has been with ground forces in about forty other conflicts. He has even tracked pirated ships and hostages off Somalia.

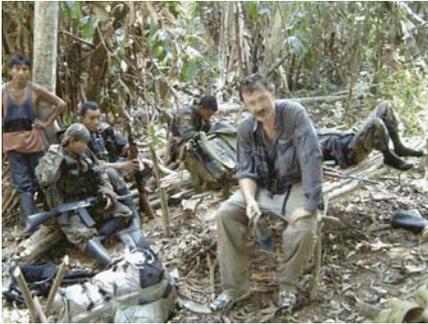


Photo Robert Young Pelton

*Pelton and companions kidnapped in Columbia*

He described old adventures such as landing on a foreign beach under fire. Real adventures to him are just trying to survive normal horrific conditions. The objective is to reduce uncertainty.

He displayed a chart in which he analyzed adventures in terms of risk versus uncertainty; fear versus danger; appetite versus tolerance; success versus failure; fame versus infamy; and movement versus inertia.

Many of his adventures involve a lot of driving and a lot of walking. One does not need much money but the adventure should be documented. Adventure is about friends; there are good people around the world. He said adventure should be a little weird

and it should inspire others.

Robert then cited places where there is adventure: Central Burma, Bouganville/West Papua New Guinea, Equatorial Guinea which he said is the richest country on Earth, Syria, the Caucasus, Liberia/Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, North Korea, Somalia/Puntland.

Now he is leading an expedition to Central Africa to find Joseph Kony.



*Apa Sherpa – accepting Lifetime Achievement Award from ACLA*

Following our three invited speakers The Adventurers' Club presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Apa Sherpa. He has summited Mt. Everest a record twenty-one times. The award was introduced by Amanda Padoan, mountaineer, historian and the author of *Buried in the Sky*, and presented to Apa by our own Bill Burke (#1157) who reached the summit of Mt. Everest in 2009. Bill spoke highly of the International Climbing community. All of the climbers appreciate the efforts of the Sherpa's. He spoke of the Sherpa's as great people who are dedicated to their

craft and the people who hire them.

Apa Sherpa made his first summit ascent in 1990 and reached the top every year after that until 2011, missing only one year in 1996. He has participated in a clean-up expedition to remove thousands of kilos of trash from the mountain. He now lives in Utah with his wife and children.



*Joe Brown, Mike Gwaltney & Shane Berry receive awards*

Next the Club honored three of our members for their tireless work in support of the ACLA. President Rick Flores (#1120) thanked and presented handsomely framed certificates to Joe Brown (#928) who has digitized ninety-one years of the Club's records, to Shane Berry (#1093) who for many years bought, printed, and framed the certificates for the speakers at the Club. Finally, Mike Gwaltney (#1128) received a certificate for his contribution toward identifying and labeling most of the Club's artifacts.

The next award was given to our own Emily Steele. "Emily," as we know her best, has taken care of Club

members for more than twenty years and has recently retired from cook-

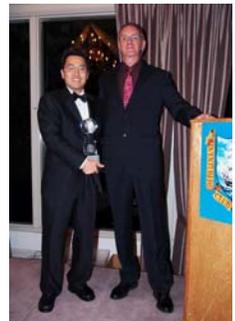


*Emily awarded for her long service to the Club*

ing the excellent meals that are offered each Thursday evening for the Club members and their guests.

Martin Bloom grabbed the microphone and walked toward her with her beautiful plaque in hand and talked about Emily and what a wonderful person she is and how she has given so much to the members of the Club. Even as he approached her table, Emily was not aware that the spoken words were about her. When she did realize it, her face lit up as she received her honor – a very touching moment and one that brought the house to their feet twice with rousing applause.

The "BIG AWARD" of the evening



*Kevin Lee is awarded Adventurer of the Year*

*(N.O.H.A. continued on page 21)*

## What's Happening...

### Up is down for Rick...or is it?

Rick Flores (#1020)



Above is a unique photo from my last hike to the Fish Canyon Narrows. I was sitting down taking a shot of the trail in front of me. I was doing a vertical pan with my camera because I wanted to include the trees above me in my shot. My friend Larry Moy pointed out to me that I didn't need to stop at the top of the trees, so I continued to photograph until I was laying flat on my back shooting in the opposite direction.

It was difficult to do this and keep everything in focus so I didn't have high hopes that the shot would come out. I was pleasantly surprised at the results when I put this together. I had two horizons, the trees above and everything was in focus!

Doris was utterly confused when she first saw the completed photo. "Which way is up" she asked. Good question!

### Alan Feldstein receives award

Alan Feldstein (#1094)



I have just received notification that the Tanzania Tourist Board has given my company, Infinite Safari Adventures, its 2013 award for Product Development. I am very proud of this special recognition.

More than five years ago I traveled to Africa and I knew then and there I wanted to share my passions with others.

*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...."*

**Steve does Machu Picchu...on a mule**

Steve Bein (#1057)



*Photo Steve Bein*

I returned today (May 1) from one of the adventures of my lifetime, going to the remote Peruvian Inca site of Choquiquerao. I had not ridden a horse for over forty years nor done serious hiking for over ten years, so when the six-day horseback and hike trip to the remote site was offered, how could I resist. One day at Machu Picchu followed by an eight-day expedition (as it was called).

It was one of the roughest trips I have ever done, and made worse the last riding day when the wranglers put the wrong saddle on the mule (my last two days were on him). With too short stirrups, I was in knee pain by mid day. I asked a friend if the stirrups were ok and was told, no, too short. After the lengthening, it was very comfortable, but the damage was done and I did a lot of limping for many days.

It is getting better now and I am so happy that the damage was transient.

**(and gets ready for Winter)**



**Special photos from Rick Flores**



*Wood Duck in Oak Canyon*



*Ontario Peak rattler*

---

## THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

---

**September 26, 2013**

*Doug Brown (#1160)*

### Welcome

After the ringing of the eight bells by Jeff Holmes (#1148), President Rick Flores (#1120) called the meeting to order with the traditional standing silent toast to honor absent and departed members wherever they may be.

### Guests

Rick Flores – Richard Gaskin  
Steve Bein (#1057) – Jon Sears: underwater construction; saturation diving in the North Sea; and diving for the *H.L. Hunley*, a submarine of the Confederate States of America that played a small part in the American Civil War.

Judson Williams – Traveled to Haiti to offer post-earthquake assistance.

### Those Returning from Adventure

Jay Foonberg (#1126) – Completed the *Mighty Niagara Half Marathon & Hospice 5K Run/Walk* September 21 in Niagara Falls NY. This marathon was #18 in Jay's quest to complete half-marathons in half the states.

### Those Leaving on Adventure

Pierre Odier (#988) – Leaves for Papua New Guinea in November to investigate native peoples in remote areas. A massacre of visitors to the region Pierre will visit occurred a few days ago. Many tribes occupy the region, and a visitor must pay a fee to each tribe for safe travel. Those who did not pay this fee were massacred.

Bernie Harris (#1063) – Travels to Palo Alto to visit a grandson studying statistics at Stanford University.

### Announcements

President Rick #1120 - The Frank Guernsey Singlehanded Challenge takes place October 12, 2013 and is sponsored by the Redondo Beach Yacht Club. Club friend Vivian Callahan will talk on The Life and Times of Frank Guernsey at 4:45 pm.

NOHA is October 26, 2013. More donations for the silent auction were requested.

The Club honors the Oracle Team USA that won the 34<sup>th</sup> America's Cup Finals Races versus the Emirates Team New Zealand in dramatic fashion in race #17 in the first-to-nine event held in San Francisco Bay.

Larry Schutte (#1121) is preparing a video showing Club members' highs and lows of adventure. October 1 is the deadline for submissions. Thanks, Larry! The video looks great.

Roger Haft (#1098) requests help to collect dinner money each Thursday night.

The Club requests volunteers to assist Bob Zeman (#878) and take notes of the meetings on Thursday nights.

The Club requests a volunteer to serve as assistant editor for the Club's newsletter.

Bob Silver (#728) presented a brief report, *Hi Ho's World Wide Meals 1960-64*, on the food he ate on his trips overseas to Japan, Philippines, Mekong Delta, Laos, Tibet, and with the Sikhs in Calcutta, India.

Doug Brown (#1160) read from the *Tales of the Adventurers' Club*. In tonight's reading, John Davidson (#492) wrote about the collection of trophies on the Club premises. A major contributor was Steve Frank (#226).

## Volunteering and Adventures in Aviation

Bob Silver (#728) introduced Bernie and briefly highlighted Bernie's survival of a mid-air collision in which the three passengers in the other aircraft perished.

Bernie always wanted to fly. He joined the US Air Force and served 2 ½ years as a navigator after AFROTC at UCLA where he graduated in the 1950s. Then he went to medical school and became an anesthesiologist.

He qualified for a private pilot's license and flew medical patients as an Angel's Flight volunteer.

Bernie bought a 1977 Cessna Cardinal RG [N35884] that he owns and flies to this day.



Photo Chris Kennedy

*Bernie's 1977 Cessna Cardinal RG*

He began volunteering for Angel Flight-West in 1991. He averages 25-30 flights per year. His personal record is 51 flights in one year.

Angel Flight-West passengers are never charged for the service.

Bernie also serves Angel Flight-West as a Mission Orientation Pilot, one of ten volunteer pilots who teach new pilots the Angel Flight way.

Bernie is always on call for a next Angel Flight mission.

In a video, the actor Lorenzo Lamas served as a spokesperson for Angel Flight-West.

Earth Angels are volunteer drivers who transport Angel Flight passengers from home to airport, and from airport to treatment centers.

The range in age of patients Bernie has flown is two weeks to ninety-six years. Lamar Dunn from Ridgecrest, with leukemia, flew seven times with Bernie.

EVAC: Emergency Volunteer Air Corp. This service provides emergency relief in times of disaster. Volunteer pilots survey the area and report road closures and other activities.

Bernie is in his 15th year as a volunteer for the Santa Monica chapter of the American Red Cross. He teaches CPR and first aid. The next class is November 26.

Another video presented Payton Manning, quarterback for the Denver Broncos, as a spokesperson for the ARC.

The annual budget of the Santa Monica chapter is \$1 million, and there is no government funding.

Twenty percent of blood collected is by the Red Cross.

Bernie's created his "My Flying Program for Underprivileged and Disadvantaged Children" in 1984. Insurance concerns interfered with the continuing success of this generous program.

He volunteers for the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles program that offers a free flight to youth ages 8-17. In 1988, Bernie received a heart-warming letter from 15-year old Veronica who is now an attorney.

Airventurers Club is a purely social, non-profit, diverse group of pilots, both

*(Minutes continued on page 12)*

men and women. Monthly fly-ins are usually short day trips. Bernie flew to Santa Barbara on one of the club's fly-ins. Other fly-ins include trips to Washington State and Albuquerque NM.

Bernie is an active member of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum. Every Sunday, free, 12-minute rides over a two-mile track are offered near Griffith Park's Travel Town, 5202 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027.

At the synagogue Bernie attends, as a volunteer, he serves as head usher.

He is an active member of the National Sojourners, a Masonic Order. An affiliate, auxiliary organization with which he is associated is the Heroes of '76, whose members have received this patriotic Degree for exemplary service to our National Government. The Heroes of '76 has its roots with Continental Army of 1776.

Bernie took two years to completely restore a 1927 Bugatti Type 35B that he enjoys. He drives this classic in parades. The T35 was the only automobile of its time that could be driven both on the road and in races.

Bernie donates flights to charitable organizations; the one for NOHA is for two people to Santa Barbara.

His fly adventures are legion. A mid-air collision occurred July 29, 1972 over San Diego. While three in the other aircraft perished when their plane crashed (they were taking ashes of a grandfather to be spread at sea), Bernie made a safe landing at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station.

In 1997, he flew transatlantic with Marv Blum, D.D.S., from Van Nuys Airport to Rome, Italy and back. The flight path included landings in Colorado, Canada,

Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, London, and Rome. A very crucial preparation factor for the journey was preparation for ditching should he go down in the North Atlantic. He carried a special suit that could protect him in icy waters. After practice, he could don the suit in 30 seconds. Bernie referred to Dr. Blum and himself as the pairadocs.

In 2002, Bernie completed A States Odyssey and landed in 49 states.

He appreciates having visited Edwards Air Force Base in Palmdale CA with Gordon Cooper (Gordo) and Bill Murrell. One of Bernie's treasured moments was having "Gordo" in his plane.

Early this year, on April 27, Bernie safely completed a no-gear landing on a grass strip at the Van Nuys Airport.

Bernie, thank you for your remarkable and inspiring life of service to others! You live a charmed and blessed life!



*Photo Eric Flanders*

## October 3, 2013

*Doug Brown (#1160)*

### Welcome

After the ringing of the eight bells by Stewart Deats (#1168), President Rick Flores (#1120) called the meeting to order with the traditional standing silent toast to honor absent and departed members wherever they may be.

### Guests

Tonight was Ladies Night  
Kevin Lee (#1163) – Eli Amador and Mark Edward Harris (photographer)

Chuck Jonkey (#1026) – Carol Goddard

Larry Stern (#1112) – Mark Nagayama. Larry and Mark have peddled hundreds of miles together.

Charles Carmona (#1136) – Betty Carmona (wife) and Johan Carmona (son)

Marc Weitz (#1144) – Andrea Donnellan, Erik Conway, and John (Unk)

Bob Oberto (#1124) – Chantal Kilson, Beverly Hills, and Lisa Smith

Stewart Deats (#1168) – Bill Hazelton

Doug Brown (#1160) – Sandra Scherf (fiancée)

Ralph Perez (#1150) – Rich Abele and Nancy Miller

Charles Pincus – California Wreck Divers

Scott Frank

Stephanie Kowaliele

Michael (Unk)

## Those Returning from Adventure

Guest Rich Abele – Western Caribbean.

Dale Hall (#1018) – Vintage adventure with assisted living in Mission Viejo. Very good to see you Dale!

Bob Oberto – Diving in the Central Philippines and hunting in the big island of Hawaii.

Guest Mark Edward Harris – A leper colony on the island of Maui.

Bernie Harris (#1063) – Drove to Palo Alto to visit grandson #3 who is in his second year of a doctoral program at Stanford University leading to a Ph.D. in statistics.

Tom Buttgenbach (#1143) – flew his own plane to South America and the Caribbean, visiting eight countries. His return through border customs was de-

layed because his friend was carrying a large amount of protein powder that appeared suspicious.

President Rick Flores – Hiked with friends Shane Berry (#1093) and Vance to the Sierra Ridge Road located up I-5 to Hwy 166 past the “grapevine.” This location is thirty miles east of Santa Maria. The estimated time of return was 7:00 – 8:00 pm. The actual return time was later – 1:30 am. The adventure: explaining the late return to Mrs. Flores.

Steve Lawson (#1032) – Along with Dave Finnern (#1065), explored the underwater remains of a P-38 in approximately 130 feet of water. The 39,000 lb. P-38 and a Corsair fighter collided in mid-air January 18, 1944 and crashed off Newport Beach. Excellent photographs were shared with the Club. Lt. William Livingston, Jr., was the Marine Corps pilot of the Corsair and went down with both fighters. The pilot of the P-38 bailed out and was rescued.

## Those Leaving on Adventure

Guest Nancy Miller – To Ethiopia to observe a solar eclipse.

Doug Brown (#1160) – To Israel for twelve days with church group to visit places where Jesus walked. During a free day, an Israeli guide will take Doug to additional places not on the church’s itinerary.

Charles Carmona (#1136) – To Tanzania for the fourth time this year for two-and-a-half weeks to provide ongoing leadership at the school where Charles is setting up a gem cutting course of study. Partners supporting the school include Tanzania’s Ministry of Energy and Minerals and the World Bank. Wife Betty joins Charles on this trip that includes a

*(Minutes continued on page 14)*

(Minutes continued from page 13)

visit to the Serengeti, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa.

Dave Finnern and Steve Lawson – To secret places including a “glory hole” in the Sacramento River to find underwater treasures. Steve, we are grateful you have Dave’s back!

President Rick – To Louisville KY on an anniversary trip that will include some hiking. Rick offered to take his wife anywhere for their anniversary. She chose the location, which includes family.

## Announcements

President Rick announced the installation of a new computer and projector in the auditorium. The quality of the new devices eliminates objectionable background noise of the past. Photographs projected on the screen are now clearer than ever. Huge thanks to Steve Lawson and Ralph Perez for making it all work to perfection!

The Frank Guernsey Singlehanded Challenge takes place October 12, 2013 and is sponsored by the Redondo Beach Yacht Club. Club friend Vivian Callahan will talk on The Life and Times of Frank Guernsey at 4:45 pm. Frank was a Club member who disappeared at sea on a 10,000-mile solo journey from Redondo Beach CA around Cape Horn to Cape Town, South Africa.

Doug Brown (#1160) read a brief passage on the *Origin of the Adventurers’ Club* that appears on the back cover of the Club’s Bylaws.

Doug Brown announced the Club’s 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday party. **Please save the date: Saturday, February 15, 2014.** The meeting will be a Ladies Night and include dinner, program, and traditional

birthday activities. [Please note: The Club will be dark for its regular meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2014.]

Chris Dyrek (#1169) – Thank you for helping Roger at the sign-in table!

## Scuba Diving in Antarctica

Bob Silver (#728), who sponsored Kevin Lee (#1163) into the Club, introduced tonight’s speaker.

Kevin has over 1,600 hours of underwater diving experience. His favorite warm-water diving areas are the Philippines or Indonesia. High adventure is experienced where the water is not warm, i.e., Antarctica, where Kevin has dived twice.

Crossing the Drake Passage from Argentina or Chile marks the official beginning of the adventure to the Antarctic region.

Ushuaia, Argentina, claims the title of “southernmost city in the world,” but Puerto Williams, Chile, disputes it.



Photo Kevin Lee

*F. falklandica*

Puerto Williams is port of entry and major hub for scientific activity linked to Antarctica. Its population is 2,874.

Ushuaia is the key access point to the Southern Ocean, including subantarctic islands such as South Georgia. Its population is nearly 60,000.

The conditions found in the Drake Passage include twenty-foot swells and

water temperature of 28°F. The water freezes at 28.3°F due to high salinity.

Leopard seals, along with orcas, are the most feared predators in Antarctica. They grow to 1,300 lbs. and up to a length of twelve feet. They eat penguins by literally grabbing the feet and shaking the meat out of the penguin's skin. There are twenty-eight species of penguins.

Only one known death, a gruesome one, has been attributed to a leopard seal. In 2003, a leopard seal dragged snorkeling biologist Kirsty Brown of the British Antarctic Survey nearly 200 ft underwater to her death.

Kevin departed Santiago, Chile for the Falkland Islands, landing at the Mt. Pleasant Airport.

Charles Darwin spent time in the islands, and a town is named for him.

From the airport, the group traveled east to Stanley.

The landscape is marked by high winds and semi tundra. Within the tundra, a river of rock appears.

Thatcher Drive in Stanley is a favorite place as it honors Lady Thatcher, former prime minister of the United Kingdom.

Beaches are often off limits because mines have not been removed after the Falklands War of 1982.

There were more British suicides (264, as of 2002) after the war than casualties

during the war (255). However, a new 2013 study debunks claims of high post-war suicide rates compared to those killed-in-action.

The flora of the Falkland Islands is both varied and colorful and includes lichen, moss, and tall grass.

The diving from the ship *M/V Plancius* around the Falkland Islands was an exploratory mission for Oceanwide Expeditions to scout potential dive sites and determine the viability of adding scuba diving as an option to the adventure menu.

Ocean specimens were collected (with proper permits), preserved, and presented to the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History.

The Antarctic Convergence is a twenty to thirty-mile-wide curve continuously encircling Antarctica where cold, northward-flowing Antarctic waters meet the relatively warmer waters of the subantarctic.

From the Falkland Islands, Kevin and his group journeyed to nearby South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, concentrating on South Georgia. The group dove in several bays on the north side of the island, but could not dive at Stromness due to high winds.

It was here that Ernest Henry Shackleton was buried after death due to a heart

*(Minutes continued on page 16)*



*King Penguins*

Photo Kevin Lee



*Leopard Seal*

Photo Kevin Lee

(Minutes continued from page 15)

attack while his ship, *Quest*, was moored in South Georgia. He was born in 1874 and died in 1922.

Shackleton lost the race to be the first to the South Pole. He turned his attention to the one remaining great Antarctic objective: crossing the continent from sea to sea, via the pole. Disaster struck his expedition when its ship, *Endurance*, became trapped in pack ice and was slowly crushed before the shore parties could be landed. Ultimately, all twenty-eight men survived assuring Shackleton's heroic status.

Antarctica has the highest average elevation; it is the windiest place; temperatures get down to -129°F; and it is the driest place on earth.

King penguins were everywhere. The photos did not do justice to the odor and the sounds of the thousands of penguins. These penguins dive to 1,000 ft.

The ambient temperature was near 30°F.

Zodiac boats with Yamaha engines were used to transport divers and gear to and from dive sites.

Kevin used two primary regulators, a redundancy system, which is required in these extreme cold diving conditions.

Krill are a major food source in the ocean's food chain. They grow fast and create a huge biomass estimated in 2009 at 379 million tonnes compared to the biomass of humans at 350 million tonnes in 2012. In other words, the total weight of all krill on earth is greater than the weight of all humans on earth. [Addi-

tional note: Each of the biomasses of cattle, ants, termites, and cyanobacteria (apicoplankton) is greater than humans' biomass.]

Macaroni penguins live near Cooper's Bay.

For filming, Kevin uses a Nikon D800 DSLR inside a dedicated housing; approximate value: \$8,000. A macro lens

with a telephoto converter is used for the close ups of small sea creatures.

Kevin concluded his presentation by treating us with a series of astonishing and beautiful photographs of undersea life. One five-inch sea cucumber was photographed feeding itself. Kevin photographed many species that were from one-half to two inches. Some look like



Ernest Shackleton's grave

Photo Kevin Lee

flowers.

Other sea life photographed included: flabellina falklandica (nudibranch), sea butterfly, soft corals, tunicates, sea spider, spiny plunderfish, isopod, limpet, and pelagic polychaete (segmented worm).

Two photos taken in Fortuna Bay, one in 1916 and the other recently by Kevin, reveal that a 1916 glacier has completely disappeared.

Kevin practices common-sense safety practices when diving in these cold, remote waters and doesn't descend below sixty to seventy feet because if a diver gets the "bends," there is no chamber or facilities nearby for treatment.

On one occasion, he was diving under an ice floe and surfaced only to find him-

self with a cliff behind him and an ice floe the size of a football field coming at him. His air supply was insufficient to go under it. Fortunately, the ice floe got caught on a rock formation that hooked it and kept it from crushing him.

Thank you, Kevin. The underwater photography was a wonderful feast for the eyes! Great to have you back on both feet.



Photo Shane Berry

## October 10, 2013

Bob Zeman (#878)

Ralph Perez (#958) stood in as president for the night. After presiding over the business meeting, he called upon Jay Foonberg (#1126) who recently ran a half marathon in Niagara Falls.

## Tanzania Gemological Centre

Charles Carmona (#1136) described Tanzania as a country with forty-eight million people about twice the size of California. It was the German colony of Tanganyika through World War I. Afterwards the British took it over and it became an independent country merging with Zanzibar in 1964.

The country is a leading producer of gemstones but currently most of the mined material is sent to India for cutting and shaping. The World Bank is funding this project in Arusha to train the local population to do the work and keep the money and jobs in Tanzania. Charles is a consultant on the project and is leaving soon for his fourth trip.

He started by saying that the project

does not involve diamonds which are southeast of Lake Victoria.

Tanzanian rubies from Winza along with Kenya and Mozambique are the top sources of rubies. Burma also has rubies but the Lantos Act puts sanctions on Burmese rubies.

Tanzanian sapphires from Songea compete with those from Sri Lanka and Thailand. Green tourmaline is found in the northern part of the country near Landanai.

Many other gemstones are mined including orange, green and spessartite garnets from Tunduru and Tanga, spinel from Mahenge and emeralds and alexandrite from Manyara.

Photo Charles Carmona



Charles in Tanzania examining a gemstone

Interestingly, the only tanzanite deposit is from a seven-kilometer strip near Kilimanjaro Airport. It is located in pockets of graphite. There are four blocks, three of which are primitive. But the fourth has modern mechanization. Tanzanite comes in violet blue, green and pink.

Tiffany jewelers popularized tanzanite in the 1960s. Technically it is between a semi-precious and precious stone.

There is some advanced technology already in Tanzania at SEAMIC (Southern and Eastern African Minerals Centre) in the Tanzanian capital of Dar es Salaam. Seven surrounding countries par-

*(Minutes continued on page 18)*

(Minutes continued from page 17)

ticipate in this endeavor. It oversees training, analytical services, mineral applications, grading and certification, research and development and geological information. Introductory classes are offered for students to get a basic understanding of the trade. The Centre also does ceramics manufacturing.

Equipment has been gathered over the years but much is not used because it has not been calibrated recently.

The Tanzania Gemological Centre was started in 2001 but ran out of money and went dormant in 2005. Charles is overseeing the revival of this Centre in Arusha and occupancy is planned for June, 2014.

The first modern high-rise building in Arusha will be the center of the gem trade. It is actually the government social security headquarters for the region with public offices on the first floor and the gem cutters will be on the upper floors for security purposes. Arusha lies on the slopes of Mt. Meru, an active volcano last heard from in 1910.



Photo Fred Hareland

**October 17, 2013**

*Editor's note: The writeup for this meeting did not happen. The following writeup is taken from the information on the Club website.*

**Free at Last!**

What is it like to save your life from an immediate lethal threat, only to have to defend

it again – twice? Richard Venola (#1071) shared his account of the tragedy and ordeal that has both blighted his life since May 2, 2012, and led to an enriching renaissance.



Photo Richard Venola

*Rich in his element*

Following an encounter where he believed he would be killed if he did not take appropriate action, Rich shot and killed his attacker. Beginning with two months of incarceration in B-Pod (“men with serious issues”) of the Mohave County jail, Rich then pushed hard for an early trial for 2nd degree murder. Seeing court a mere eight months after the incident, he suffered a hung jury, but in his favor.

The family of the man Rich shot pushed for another trial which was also hung just two months later, but even farther in favor of acquittal.

Charges were then dropped, and Rich has staggered through like a sprinter stumbling after breaking the tape. Rich's typically vivid, sometimes off-color narrative brought this horrifying cautionary tale into clear focus. This could have happened to many Club members, and those present will be thinking of it in personal terms for some time to follow.



Photo Shane Berry

**THE THRAWN RICKLE***From the Ancient Scottish: thrawn = stubborn; rickle = loose, dilapidated heap*

Robert G. Williscroft (#1116) – Editor



I actually received some feedback on last month's Thrawn Rickle (see the letters-to-the-editor – next page). The rest of you, please let me know if you wish further rants about today's world, from my (very personal) perspective.

From what everybody is telling me, NOHA was a spectacular success. I wish to add my own congratulations to the people who made it happen. Without your efforts, there would be no Club.

As Rick wrote in his page, he will be stepping down from participation on the Board and most other Club activities. All of us have a primary responsibility to our families and to ourselves. Rick has sacrificed a lot of that time to the Club, and we are a better organization for his efforts. Thank you Rick. I wish you fair winds and following seas as you move forward with your life. I trust we will see you from time to time at the Club, and I look forward personally to seeing you when I am next in the Los Angeles area.

Here in the Denver area, Winter is fast approaching. Morning temperatures are frequently at or below freezing, although daytime still reaches the seventies. Our boys ride their bikes

to school – a bit less than a mile, but shorts have been packed away for the season. It's even snowed several times already.

Last month we attended Mile-Hi Con, a long-running Science Fiction convention held in Denver each year. I was on a two-person panel discussing global warming/climate change in light of the new IPCC report that just came out. I explained the latest scientific evidence for how the sun affects Earth's climate, and how it looks like we are in for a significant period of dramatic cooling. One member of the audience apparently came from an excessively extremist perspective, believing that the islands of the Pacific will soon disappear due to sea level rise, and advocating draconian government measures to save the planet. After he repeatedly interrupted my presentation, I asked him to leave. Apparently he was smart enough to understand that I meant it. He stomped out, shouting, "I'm a scientist...I know the facts!"

Then, just last week New York City's Police Superintendent was shouted down at Brown University. Anyone care to speculate on where this is all going? What happened to reasoned, civil discourse and intelligent discussion of the issues?

Remember that a full color, high-resolution edition of the *Club News* is available online.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Wow, is it that time again? Another great job on the newsletter, Robert. I wish I hadn't missed Kip Thorne's presentation. Physics and cosmology really captivate me.

Anyway, the next best thing was reading the summary in the newsletter.

– Kevin Lee #1163

*Kind words from our Adventurer of the Year.*

*Thank you Kevin! – Editor*

To the Editor:

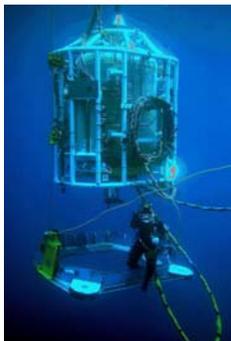
I want to say thanks from both of us for an outstanding night and an excellent dinner. You all under rate your efforts to capture the better side of life, and I must say we both enjoyed the evening to the end.

I am attempting to attach several photos of the *CSS Hunley* salvage project which you might enjoy. Unfortunately my daughters computer does not have editing software that will allow me to reduce the size and send more. My computer is with our IT department and I won't see it for several weeks. There are also a number of photos from our offshore construction work I'd like to share, we'll see how these go.

Again, our thanks to all your members for allowing us to share a memorable time together.

– Jon Sears, Oceaneering Diving Superintendent, Morgan City LA

*This letter was originally sent to Ralph Perez. It was accompanied by several interesting photos. I have arranged with Jon to receive some high resolution photos of his salvage project, and I will feature them in a forthcoming issue of the News. Here is a sample photo.— Editor*



*Nautilus Bell Lockout*

*Photo Oceaneering*



To the Editor:

Many thanks for so quickly printing my “Sudan Pitfall” story. The color edition of the *Club News* makes it a first-class magazine. I did not go into greater detail in the article, as it is already lengthy. But those Soviet “bombers” came in low and slow, as native villages in those days usually had no firearms. I holed at least one engine with my Browning .458 Magnum. Did not bring the plane down (something I'd like to have done during the Cold War), but their next run over the village was considerably higher. We intentionally did not target the aircrew or pilot – our “rules of engagement” – even though they were destroying the village for their Arab allies.

I made it back to Khartoum where I was told I was being sought for “questioning.” Could I quietly leave so as to avoid any unpleasantness? This is not long after the Saudi Embassy here was shot up and the American ambassador and his charge d'affaires executed. Hid until nightfall and made my way to a British Grenadier Guards unit on “Desert Rat” exercises in Omdurman, near the confluence of the Blue & White Niles. They gave me a British uniform and flew me out few days later.

I've always admired your fortitude in sticking out a year in Antarctica. (I spent five weeks there and this was plenty). Excellent commentary in your “Thrawn Rickle” column. Our educational system is truly symbolism over substance. I am not an educator and not aware of the PSAT before now. Most alarming report. Schools seem intent on producing kids who are worthless as adults. The Boomers' sense of entitlement, devotion to spending and welfare, and addiction to debt, are sinking our country.

– Max Hurlbut #880

*Interesting additional information. Thanks for telling us about it. Too bad you didn't bring down the bomber. Now that would have been a story! Thanks for your insights regarding my PSAT comments— Editor*

## Forthcoming Programs

- November 7, 2013 – Alan Feldstein – There Is More To Africa Than Just a Wildlife Safari
- November 14, 2013 – Robert Baxt – Wine, Cheese, Magic & More
- November 21, 2013 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – Marc Weitz – Travels Through the Wild Coast of South America – Jonestown, Devil's Island, and Kaieteur Falls
- November 28, 2013 – CLUB DARK – Thanksgiving
- December 5, 2013 – G. Pat Macha – Mysteries Mitigated
- December 12, 2013 – Kin McCoy – Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat
- December 19, 2013 – Annual Christmas Party – Members and Invited Male Guests
- December 26, 2013 – CLUB DARK – Christmas
- January 2, 2014 – CLUB DARK – New Years
- January 9, 2014 – Steve Bein – Fifty years of adventure
- January 16, 2014 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – Rick & Shane
- January 23, 2014 – Pierre Odier – Papua New Guinea: Remote Western Sepik River Sandaun Region
- January 30, 2014 – **LADIES' NIGHT** – Annie Jacobsen – The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
- February 6, 2014 – Jeanette Trudell Moore

(N.O.H.A. continued from page 7)

went to Kevin Lee (#1163) as he was named ADVENTURER OF THE YEAR. Kevin is an underwater photographer who dove off all seven continents including the two-degree-Celsius water of Antarctica. He has trekked to Everest base camp, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, and states that two of the highlights of his life came when he met Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

In conclusion a final thank you went out to Martin Bloom

(#1147) for organizing and promoting the 2013 Night Of High Adventure.

This was a glorious evening that many who attended won't forget. We thank all the members and their guests who came out to enjoy the evening, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year at the 2014 Night Of High Adventure

and, as usual every Thursday evening, during the year at The Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles.



Photo Kevin Lee

Adventurer of the Year, Kevin Lee, at Machu Picchu



The  
Adventurers' Club News®  
PO Box 31226  
Los Angeles CA 90031

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

November 2013