James Cameron in *Deepsea Challenger* - commencing dive to Challenger Deep
This spring our Club has members traveling to the highest point on earth and to the lowest point on Earth. James Cameron #1129 completed a dive to the bottom of the Mariana Trench in a one-man submarine, assisted by members Don Walsh #1042 and Anatoly Sagalevich #767. On April 3, Allan Smith #1069 and Bill Burke #1157 begin their ascent of Everest. Bill will attempt the summit of Everest from both the North and South sides. I am told that this will be a first. Allan has promised to bring me back Mallory’s boots.

For the rest of stuck here on the normal parts of earth, the Club is putting together Adventure-Con to celebrate our 90th anniversary. This will be a multi-day convention featuring the best-of-the-best in adventure speakers, IMAX films, exotic food, and a chance to meet others who share our interest in adventure. The event will culminate with NOHA. More information can be found on our website and on the newly created Adventure-Con page in the newsletter. This will be more than a meeting of adventurers’ clubs; it’ll be a convention drawing people from the Los Angeles area and the world.

A tradition has been revived. Members willing to stay and play poker are welcome and encouraged. I will formally organize this once a month, but on any given night, if anyone is up for it, then I am happy to put a game together on the spur of the moment. Members who lose their cars in the pot will be given a ride home, unless of course, they lose their home too.

Steve Bein has put together some interesting programs this year. I encourage people to take advantage. Every week attendance increases. We’re all having a lot of fun this year, and there seems to be an energy and revitalization in the Club that’s palpable. Mike Gwaltney has done a lot to the Clubhouse, and we continue to make improvements. Again, my goal is to turn the Club into a destination, not just Thursday entertainment. There are a lot of cool people in the Club. There’s less sniping and more hanging out, being social and having a good time. If you haven’t been in a while and you don’t believe me, come on by.
Seven miles down

Fredrick Gary Hareland #1138

A CLA member James Cameron (#1129), piloting Deepsea Challenger, touched the bottom of the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench – 36,000 feet below the surface – just before 8 am local time on March 25, 2012. This was a significant scientific and technological accomplishment. That Cameron’s team of scientists, engineers, and technicians could do this with private funding, without any government help, is nothing short of phenomenal.

The feat of sending such an advanced underwater vehicle and its lone pilot to the most difficult place on earth to reach is not only historic, but its magnitude is on par with landing a vehicle on Mars! Indeed more vehicles have landed on Mars, despite the efforts of the “Great Galactic Goul,” than vehicles that have visit-

Deepsea Challenger underwater with a computer generated double to show two lighting configurations

The Triest compared to the Deepsea Challenger

ed the Challenger Deep. In fact, since 1960 only three human souls have descended to the deepest spot in all of the Earth’s oceans. The first two underwater explorers who made the trip together some fifty-two years ago did it in a massive underwater vehicle, owned and operated by the U.S. Navy, named Trieste, whose name means “Deep Boat.” Out of almost seven billion humans currently living on Earth, Jacques Piccard, our own Don Walsh (#1042), and member James Cameron (#1129) are the only ones to travel so deep. Since Mr. Piccard has gone on the Great Adventure, that leaves only two, Don Walsh and James Cameron. Even the moon has been visited by more human beings since 1968. Twelve U.S. astronauts have actually walked on the moon

The Mariana Trench & Challenger Deep
and twelve have flown around it, a total of twenty-four astronauts, more than seven times the meager number who have reached the ultimate ocean depth!

So, how did Team Deepsea Challenge do it?

Although the average ocean depth is 12,430 feet, approximately 311 miles northeast of Guam is an oceanic singularity, a small slot-shaped depression in the bottom of a considerably larger crescent-shaped trench, that lies at a depth of 35,768 feet – the deepest known spot on planet Earth. Located at the southern end of the Mariana Trench and known as the Challenger Deep, this nearly seven-mile ocean depth could accommodate the 29,035 foot, world’s highest mountain, Mt. Everest and still cover it with over a mile of water. The crushing depth of the Challenger Deep truly is an alien world exerting an unbelievable pressure of 16,000 pounds per square inch or 2,304,000 pounds per square foot! Eternal darkness that is hard to comprehend and almost freezing water temperatures make this a foreboding place indeed. The technical and engineering challenges involved in getting a man down to those depths safely and bringing him back is so complex and expensive, that to date only two human beings out of almost seven billion have been there, and that was over fifty-two years ago, on January 23, 1960.

That first manned trip to the very bottom involved three governments: Trieste was Swiss-designed and Italian-built, and was purchased and operated by the United States. Onboard this first foray into the Challenger Deep were the designer’s son, Jacques Piccard and a young submariner, U.S. Navy Lieutenant who would later become a Captain, Don Walsh. Since Jacques went OTGA in November 2008, that leaves just one living man on Earth who has been at those depths, until now. Enter James Cameron and his almost science fictional looking vessel Deepsea Challenger DCV1.

The DCV1 is the product of an Australian company, Acheron Project.
Pty Ltd., and has been in the works for at least eight years. It is the starkest example of innovative, out-of-the-box thinking that I have seen to date. It involves new designs, technologies, and materials, and the end result is an underwater vehicle that is as strange and alien a craft as the environment for which it was designed to explore. All those who were associated with the design and execution of this project deserve sincere kudos’s for their interesting and innovative solutions to manned deep sea exploratory vehicles. I’m astounded by this vehicle and my hat is off to James, co-designer Ron Allum, and the entire team.

The design is a specialized twenty-four foot syntactic-foam beam for buoyancy that incorporates a forty-three-inch-internal-diameter pressure sphere at the bottom for a lone pilot. The pressure sphere is so small that Cameron had to practice yoga in order to contort his six-foot-two-inch frame through the eighteen-inch-diameter hatch and ensconce himself inside. Once inside he had to bend his knees and could not extend his arms. He held this position for the two-and-a-half-hour descent, three-hour seafloor stay, and seventy-minute ascent. He was literally bolted inside. Counting launch preparation and post mission recovery, by the time the craft was brought onboard Mermaid Sapphire, the hatch unbolted and opened, and James extricated, he had been inside this steel cocoon for about eight hours.
One of the salient features of the design is the use of large quantities of syntactic foam, which consists of millions of tiny, hollow glass beads encapsulated in an epoxy matrix. It was initially used as a potting compound for electronic components. In the early 1960s, China Lake Naval Ordinance Test Station was working on a highly advanced deep diving, high-speed submersible named Moray, and its engineers were looking for a possible flotation material. Ray Hinton recognized the potential of syntactic foam and initiated a technical investigation, and later a patent application on behalf of the U.S. Navy. Moray used it to great advantage as has just about every other submersible since. Many improvements have been made since its incorporation in the Moray when it had a reliable depth capacity of 20,000 feet. After much testing at 16,000 psi, the current commercially available syntactic foam exhibited weaknesses that could not be tolerated on Deepsea Challenger. The Syntactic foam used in the DCV1 is an order of magnitude better than earlier foams and can reliably go down to 36,000 feet. It was invented and patented by Ron Allum under the brand name “Isofloat.”

In addition to being a very successful movie writer, director, producer, and all around mogul, James Cameron now is a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, He is the expedition leader, submersible pilot, and co-designer of the DCV1. James is a real Renaissance man who excels in the arts as well as the sciences. He has made over eighty submersible dives. We look forward to his full report at a future Ladies Night Club meeting!
Sterling Hayden made the observation, in his book *Wanderer*, “To be truly challenging, a voyage, like a life, must rest on a firm foundation of financial unrest.” Unintentionally, financial unrest and I became close friends during most of my fourteen-year voyage with *Kittiwake*. Whenever funds ran low, however, I had an enduring hunch that something sufficiently lucrative would turn up to allow me to carry on, and something nearly always did. Though not altogether welcomed, financial unrest became an essential part of the adventure.

One of the more rewarding jobs, if not the most lucrative in actual cash, turned up on the island of Aitutaki in the Cook group. The Cook Islands government in Rarotonga had given me permission to visit Aitutaki for less than two weeks. During that short time I had kept busy repairing various sorts of machines from outboard motors to a motor bike to a sewing machine or two, with possibly a radio receiver or record player thrown in. Though I didn’t have an engine in *Kittiwake*, I carried a good selection of tools and could take on some rather improbable tasks. Many of the repair items had been laid up for months, and several for years, although it took no more than a few adjustments to put some back into service. Since I refused payment for repairs, I made many good friends among the islanders.

When my time was nearly up, I went to the Resident Government Agent, Jock MacCauly, and requested an extension of a few weeks. Jock was a Scot who had found his way to the Pacific Islands several years before World War II, and had served with the Cook Islands government as official representative on several of the outer islands – he knew his way around. Official permission had to come from Rarotonga by wire, however. In a day or two, when I inquired about my extension, Jock informed me that the extension had been denied but, “Well bugger that lot…” (I think that’s what he said!) “You stay as long as you like!” Actually, Jock and the island populace made enough noise so that Raro relented and I stayed another month. He did request, however, that I have a go at getting the Public Works tractors running again since all but one had ground to a halt, and the last was threatening to do so. That was
fine with me, but Jock insisted that I be put on the payroll for my efforts, although I had offered to do the work just for the fun of it.

In a few days all three tractors were back in working order along with a few other small mechanical problems that had stumped the PW mechanic. When payday came I got into the queue at the pay window, and the paymaster handed me a packet with a broad grin. On the envelope was printed “Eruite Potene.” He assured me that it belonged to me so I signed for it and headed to the package window with the other workmen and used some of my pay to buy a case of beer – a long standing custom, apparently, with which I wasn’t going to quarrel.

For other than nationals, or someone with official permission, gainful employment is illegal in probably every nation in the world. Some officials, however, smile and look the other way. Jock had got around that one by manufacturing a Polynesian “name” for me, *Eruite Potene*. It raised a question in Rarotonga because there was no record of the name and nobody had ever heard of him. Jock, apparently, just ignored their queries. Even in the office at Aitutaki the staff were curious at first who this fellow might be and then quite amused when Jock let them in on the ruse.

I’ve wondered from time to time if the Cook Islands government census ever included an “Eruite Potene” who one day mysteriously appeared and in a short time just as mysteriously disappeared.

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**ADVENTURE-CON 2012**

*Celebrating our 90th Anniversary Year*

**October 17 – 20**
Spring has sprung in the Lewis-Clark Valley. The steep slopes leading up to the Palouse are clad with green, and the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. Just thought you would like to know.

Normally, I try not to feature a Club member’s accomplishments in successive months, but this time is an exception. How could I not honor member James Cameron (#1129) and his history-making dive to the Challenger Deep. Many thanks to Fred Hareland (#1138) for his in-depth reporting.

I received an interesting email from Pierre Odier (#988) who is driving from Venice to Beijing on an 80-day roadtrip. He will be visiting Leyla Aliyeva, who wrote a letter that I published last edition. He promises to send us a photo of them with his Adventurers’ Club flag. I will include it in the next edition – assuming I get it by then.

It looks like the Club is really experiencing a spurt of growth. I hear attendance is up and there is a lot of enthusiasm for the Adventure-Con scheduled for October 17-20. We will have a venue of special world-class speakers, including the world premier of former Club President Allan Smith’s (#1069) 8 Summits Documentary, about his and Bill Burk’s (#1157) double ascent of Mt. Everest – happening as you read this!

Leading up to the October Adventure-Con, the Club will host two mini-cons. On June 21 – 23 we will feature Lynn and Larry Pardee, world-class circumnavigators, authors, and lecturers. On July 4, we will feature our own John Goddard (#507) and Dave Barr (#1140), Richard Theis on Great White Shark Adventures, and a documentary of the Aki Ra Cambodian demining efforts.

I received no feedback on February’s book: Mission of Gravity, nor did I receive any on last month’s: Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid. Would any of you please let me know if the monthly book review feature is something we should retain, or drop in favor of something else? There is a host of interesting books out there, and I am certain that some of you reading this also read books that you think would interest other Club members. Write a review of the last book you read, and tell the rest of us about it.

This month we examine a former Alaska State Trooper’s journey through a life of principled law enforcement. I recently met the author, Gary Gunkle. He gave me a copy of his book, Courage and Conviction, which I read with great interest. Read the review, and then get the book. I think you will agree that this guy would make an excellent addition to our Club.

The password for the online full-color edition is “acla1204”.

Robert G. Williscroft #1116 – Editor
BOOK REVIEW: COURAGE AND CONVICTION

L. Gary Gunkel; Author House, New York, 2012, 6 x 9 softcover, 368p, ISBN:978-1468545692, Review by the Editor, adapted from material supplied from the publisher and other sources.

Gary Gunkel tells about his real-life experiences as a US Marine, an Anchorage City Policeman, an Alaska State Trooper, Chief of Police in small town Alaska, and Sheriff of Asotin County, Washington, where he now lives in retirement.

In this page-turner, Gunkel takes his readers on call after call. His sometimes hair-raising law enforcement experiences will keep you on the edge of your seat. And just when you think you have heard it all, Gunkel trumps that with an even more intense call.

You will discover how Gunkel handled a dangerous situation surrounded by twenty-four motorcycle gang members, with the nearest backup over 200 miles away. And another time when Gunkel stopped seventeen gang members on a main highway because they were displaying a sawed-off shotgun.

The amazing thing is all these calls are real life – there is no fiction involved. Gunkel has, on occasion, changed a name to protect someone’s privacy, or sometimes he leaves out a name because he cannot recall it or has no way of getting the name.

It’s not just about law enforcement, however. Gunkel takes his readers on a commercial salmon fishing romp in Bristol Bay with his whole family, and flying loads of fish off the beach in his plane. He relates several live action and near-death aircraft incidents involving both Gunkel and his family. He writes about bush flying experiences that will make you laugh, and some truly whacko ones that will make you shake your head in amazement as you accompany Gunkel on several fishing, trapping and hunting trips.

Through it all, the reader gains the understanding that Gunkel was the consummate Lawman with a huge capacity for living life and loving his family.

Courage and Conviction is available online at Amazon.com, and from the publisher.
What’s Happening...

David Glackin – OTGA

David Glackin (#1067) departed OTGA on March 3, 2012, in the prime of his life, following an extended illness that he contracted on an adventure trip in 2005.

As a remote sensing scientist and solar astronomer, Dave played a significant role in the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-R) program initially at JPL, and then at Aerospace Corporation. His lengthy illness kept him from attending Club meetings regularly during the last four years of his life, but Dave has always been present in spirit, and will continue to focus Club members’ attention to the science behind Adventure.

We wish you fair winds and following seas, Dave, as you traverse the unknown pathways of the Great Adventure.

Jim Dorsey wins 3 SOLAS Awards

Jim Dorsey (#1081) has received three SOLAS Awards, given out by Travelers’ Tales for the best travel stories in selected categories. He received the Gold SOLAS Award in the “Doing Good or Kindness of Strangers” category for My Friend Moses (http://www.besttravelwriting.com/btw-blog/great-stories/doing-good-or-the-kindness-ofstrangers-gold-winner-my-friend-moses/), the Silver SOLAS Award in the “Adventure Travel” category for Beyond Timbuktu (http://www.besttravelwriting.com/btw-blog/great-stories/adventure-travel-silver-winnerbeyond-timbuktu/), and the SOLAS Award in the “Most Unforgettable Character” category for To find a King (http://www.besttravelwriting.com/btw-blog/great-stories/most-unforgettable-character-tofind-a-king/).

Our hearty congratulation for this noteworthy achievement, Jim.
I was lucky to be invited to a reception for our newest ACLA member, Kevin Lee (#1163). The event was at the highly regarded Chapman University in Orange, California, on March 23, 2012.

Well over 100 were in attendance to honor Kevin and see several of his remarkable photographs of what he loves most, underwater creatures, which will be on permanent display in the library. In attendance, among others, were Congressman Ed Royce, President of Chapman University, Jim Doti, Chapman University Board of Governors Sue Kent, and Charlene Baldwin, Dean of Leatherby Libraries of Chapman University.

Great food and drink abounded on this afternoon as Kevin collected his awards and explained about the different subject matter in his photographs. Archival processes were used to print the images with ink that will last well over 100 years, while acid-free paper and matt materials will ensure the beautiful photographs will hang for decades in this special place.

We should be honored to have Kevin as a member of our Club as he is a great guy, a well-known person in the diving community, and his accomplishments will only continue to grow. (BTW – My real adventure was getting to Orange and back during the height of rush hour. Whew!)

Fred Hareland does it again!

Fred Hareland (#1138) reports that he is appearing in the Spring edition of PowerShips, the official publication of the Steamship Historical Society of America (SSHSA). The upcoming article title is, “RMS Olympic, Titanic & Britannic, the World’s First Class of Green Ships.”

Fred based this article on his November 3, 2011, Club talk about the “Dream Ship & Early Green Ship.”
Letters

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:
[Open letter to attending Club members.]
Thanks for such a wonderful night [Mar 22]. I hope we can keep things at that level. Warmest regards to all, see you soon.
– Steve Bein (#1057)

To the Editor:
Could you please send me the Email of Leyla Aliyeva in Baku. I am driving from Venice Italy to Beijing China – 80 days on the road and will be in Baku for two days. I thought it would be cool to have a picture of my adv. flag with her in it. I would have her Email it to you directly.
– Pierre Odier (#988)

What a marvelous idea! I am sure Leyla would be delighted to meet you. Her email is al_aliyeva@hotmail.com. Her full name is Leyla Aiyeva. When you meet her, please give her a big hug from me, and tell her personally that Jill and I look forward to meeting her when we travel to Azerbaijan hopefully next year.

And for the rest of you – please feel free to email Leyla. I’m sure she would love to hear from any of you! – Editor

To the Editor:
I was sent a message this day that we, the Adventurers’ Club of Los Angeles, are in a position to be preeminent in the annals of adventure for a single year by having many of our members advancing their quests and eventually succeeding to be the first people to dive to the deepest regions of the oceans (the Mariana Trench) by members Don Walsh, James Cameron, and Anatoly Sagalevich, and our own Allan Smith and Bill Burke, who will climb Mt. Everest not only from the Tibetan side but also from the Chinese side – a world record. Think of it – a world record for our Club.

These adventurers by members of our Club are so apropos in the light of Steve Bein’s adventure of creating and producing the Adventure-Con 2012 for this October. We all need to get behind our members, give them support, and work overtime to make this year the best ever for the Adventurers’ Club of Los Angeles.

The chronicles of adventure will be enhanced by the brave members of our Club who choose to put their “asses” on the line and to create history and give us, The Adventurers’ Club of Los Angeles, absolute and total credibility. I ask you to get on board, and at each Thursday meeting speak of the greatness of their adventurers, what it means to our Club, and how important it is to our members to support these quests in 2012.
– Martin Bloom (#1147)

I have nothing to add...you said it all, Martin!
– Editor

To the Editor:
As the ad hoc provisional chair pro tem of the newly created Slogans and Mottos Committee, it is my pleasure to announce a contest for the choosing of a motto and logo for the ADCON 2012 and possible use as a Club motto thereafter.

Here are the contest rules:
1. Only AC members can enter. They can cheat by asking spouses and children for suggestions.
2. Entries must be submitted by email or snail mail (No pieces of paper at meetings) to be received no later than July 1, 2012.
3. Jay will provide the $100 prize under the following conditions:
a. Jay’s choice wins
b. Jay is always right as to who wins
c. Jay resolves questions or disputes. His decision is always right and cannot be challenged.

You may have head of Robert’s Rules of Order (of which we don’t have a copy). My appointment as the chair of the committee was done under Foonberg’s Rules of Order. How about it? Who is on board? In the words of the eminent Bob Silver: “Who wants to share the con?” (Did I spell it correctly?) Was your giving me the con a con?
– Jay Foonberg (#1126)

...O k a y... – Editor
THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUB

February 23, 2012
Marc Weitz (#1144)  Photos Jim Dorsey

Those Leaving on Adventure
Bernie Harris #1063 – Leaving with his wife on a trip to Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Hong Kong.
Rick Flores #1120 – Reported by Shane Berry #1093 that Rick left for Cambodia to work with Bill Morse #1130 and Pierre Odier #988 on removing land mines.

Other Announcements
Longtime member Ib Melchoir #892 returned to the Club for the first time in eight years. He was vibrant and in good health. He is still writing and presented the Club with a copy of his latest manuscript called “Zappp!” about a man who discovers a genie inside a 1930s beer can.

Guests of the Maasai
The story begins in this very room. It is here, at the Adventurers’ Club, that tonight’s speaker, Jim Dorsey #1081, was introduced to Moses Pulei by fellow member Dave Dolan #1087. Moses is a Maasai who was in Los Angeles to study at the Fuller Seminary. He would go on to become only the sixth Maasai to receive a PhD. It was through this connection that Jim got his entrance into Maasai society. Shortly thereafter, Jim went to Africa to see for himself and be a Guest of the Maasai.

Jim Dorsey has studied forty-three different tribes in his life and is no stranger to foreign cultures. He’s written for the Christian Science Monitor, the Los Angeles Times, and other publications. His first book was titled “Tears, Fear and Adventure.” This longtime Club member was introduced by Mike Gwaltney #1128, a friend since high school and through their army service.

Jim gave a brief history of the Maasai. The tribe is originally from the Sudan area. They came south to occupy the areas in Kenya and Tanzania. There are approximately 350,000 Maasai today. They are fearsome warriors and cattle herders but rarely eat meat. Their diet consists mainly of goat’s blood mixed with milk and barley. Maasai live in the now and are rarely concerned with money or time, a frustration for Westerners. There is no afterlife in their culture, and the dead are often left outside the village.

(Minutes continued on page 14)
to be “cleaned up” by the animals. When the Brits came in the 1830s, the Maasai never saw men with trousers and referred to them as “the men who hide their farts.”

Before meeting with Moses, Jim had one goal to get out of the way: climbing Kilimanjaro. He flew into Kenya and hired a guide used previously by Alan Feldstein #1094. This goal was not to be achieved. The mountain and a stomach parasite both conspired to bring Jim to his knees at 18,000 feet, forcing him to turn around just 1,000 feet from the top. Jim credits himself with making the right decision and says that he’s “over it.”

Sufficiently recovered from the attempt, he met up with his wife and contacted Moses for transportation to Tanzania to meet up with him. Moses arranged for a car to pick him up and take him to the Tanzanian border. The Maasai failed to mention or consider the exorbitant cost of the car and driver. When they arrived in Tanzania, Jim asked the driver where they were meeting Moses. The driver responded, “I thought you knew.” This led to the two driving down dusty roads and asking random Maasai if they knew Moses. Everyone knew him and could name his hometown, but they didn’t know where he was now. A few frantic phone calls later, they got hold of Moses on his cell phone and decided to meet up at the “big restaurant near the river.” There, Moses showed up with ten of his cousins since “Jim offered to buy lunch.” Jim was a bit put off by this, but lunch in rural East Africa for twelve people was not expensive.

Jim and his wife were taken to a Maasai village called a “boma.” A tent was set up just outside the village for their accommodation. Being outside the boma concerned Jim, and he asked Moses if they’d be safe from predators out there. Moses seemed unworried and said, “If you get attacked, yell, and we’ll come with our spears.”

“And what if we’re eaten before you get to us?” asked Jim. Moses told them not to worry, that the predators wouldn’t like their smell. Moses’s lack of worry assuaged Jim’s fears. However, their rest was not undisturbed.
As he and his wife lay down for a slumber, curious Maasai came to feel the tent and play with the zipper. Many had never seen a tent before and called it a “quick hut.” This went on all night. The next night was no better for sleep, as a goat went into labor and screamed all night. The next day the newborn kid took immediately to Jim’s wife. As such, she was put on goat duty that day. Jim chose to follow Moses to see what his life was like. Moses was greeted everywhere he went. People view Moses as a sage and come from all over to seek his advice.

Jim experienced the lives of the Maasai. They are friendly people who are known for their beautiful and colorful, beaded jewelry. They wear decorated collars for special events. The men have traditional white bands on their right arms, a vestige of the protection worn during their days as archers. All the Maasai carry around walking sticks, and it is unfashionable to go anywhere without one. Jim witnessed a tradition called “eating the news” in which a husband conveys the news to his wife. His wife must make a noise after every sentence to show that he’s being listened to. The back and forth creates a musical rhythm.

Much of Moses’s work is to change some of the unhealthy Maasai traditions, such as forced marriages and female circumcision. Jim and his wife met a woman named Joyce who was being forced to marry a much older man so that she could afford to go to college. Joyce and Jim’s wife clicked, and she arranged for funding for Joyce’s education. As a result, Joyce did not have to marry, got her degree, and now teaches in Maasai villages. Moses currently works for World Vision, crusading for these goals.

Jim and his wife went for a walk in the bush with the Maasai. Two men with spears served as their bodyguards. He witnessed a traditional lion hunt. Once, the lion hunt was a rite of passage for a boy to become a man. Today, the tradition continues, but the lion is not killed. The men capture the lion by forming a large circle around it with their shields and spears. They contract the circle until the lion is enclosed and killed.

At the end of the visit, the Maasai honored Jim with a traditional meal. A goat is smothered, and his throat cut. The goat’s blood is mixed with milk and given to Jim to try. This was a great honor; Jim could not refuse. He said the blood tasted warm, salty, but rather flavorless. The challenge was suppressing his gag reflex so as not to offend his hosts.

(Minutes continued on page 16)
Minutes – March 1, 2012

March 1, 2012
Marc Weitz (#1144)

Those Returning from Adventure

Jeff Holmes #1148 – Is an airline-miles guru who regular checks the internet for opportunities to earn miles at the lowest cost per mile. He flew to Naples for the weekend on what’s called a “mileage run.” The reward was 13,000 miles for only $800. Jeff told other tricks of the trade such as earning a million miles for flying between all the South American capitals and cutting coupons out of chocolate pudding boxes.

Members’ Showcase

Jay Foonberg #1126

In seven years as a member, tonight was the first time he’d been asked to speak before the Club about his life and adventures. Jay is an attorney, author, and world-class lecturer. Much of his focus has been authoring books for lawyers on running a solo law practice and becoming quality, ethical attorneys.

Jay defines adventure as being in the mind of the person undertaking the adventure. For him, traveling by plane to visit the major battlefields of WWII is adventure, even if he didn’t get there by canoe or dog sled. Jay’s main hobby is running marathons around the world. He jokes by saying that his finishing time is always “the same day.” He wants to run a marathon in all 50 states, but considers himself too old. Instead, his goal is to run half-a-marathon in half the states.

Few things hold Jay back. He once told the Prime Minister of North Korea to go “fuck himself.” Jay is one of the few Americans to summit Mt. Surabachi. An interesting side fact is that more Americans summit Everest each year than Mt. Surabachi, since the mountain is off the beaten path and located on a military base. He once interviewed Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford.

Jay quoted Rudyard Kipling by saying that he plays the cards that are dealt to him. Everyone has regrets, but most of them are for things that they didn’t do rather than for things they have done. Jay hopes to finish with the list of regrets for things he hasn’t done shorter than the list for things he has done.

Joe Brown #928

The bull-like Joe Brown took the stage to talk about his life of adventure. The Club’s archivist and stalwart historian told of how his cousin and Roy Rousch brought him into the Club. Joe began working for Southern California Edison and learned to become an EMT. This led to a world of training for light rescues where he became involved in ham radios. These radios are still widely used in emergency situations, such as after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan last year. Joe also trained in their use at sea.

Over the years he’s been involved with the Sierra Club, going on their
camping expeditions into the snow and learning to build igloos for survival.

Eric Flanders #1162

Eric Flanders is a physician who described adventure as having dinner at the Club surrounded by a bunch of lawyers. Eric grew up in Whittier and went to USC Medical School. He then joined the Air Force as a flight surgeon, which led to such privileges as flying Mach 2 in an F-104 and the experience crashing a helicopter nicknamed the “egg beater.”

Eric hoped to become a pilot himself and requested a transfer to a base that had a flying club. They stationed him at a base in Northern Michigan where he found the club had been defunct for nearly a year. It was after the Air Force when Eric learned to fly and sail. He found that doing both was too time consuming and dropped sailing in favor of flying. He told the story of the time that he and his wife were flying up to Northern California in a Cessna 210 on vacation. Rain battered the plane, and at a fuel stop, the battery died. Eric got a jump for the battery and resumed the trip. Up in the air, the electricity failed in the middle of the foul weather. Eric declared an emergency and tried to find a landing strip in the poor visibility. Eric had to keep his eyes fixed on the instruments, so his wife watched out the window for the runway. His wife spotted the landing strip just 100 feet above the runway. Without thinking, Eric hit the switch to put down the landing gear, which blew out the radios, losing him his instruments. Eric managed to put the plane down, and the two rented a car to complete the journey.

As a physician, Eric started a medical group, which grew into a successful business. He had been a workaholic and wanted to retire early so he could still enjoy life. Eric has given up flying, returned to sailing, and took up whitewater rafting. He now sails every Sunday.

Doug Brown #1160

Doug took off his badge to show to the Club. The elaborately designed badge is dedicated to his parents who instilled a sense of adventure in Doug. His father was a police officer from Bisby, and his mother was from Manhattan, Kansas.

Doug and his wife love to backpack and completed a multi-day hike of the Grand Canyon from the rim down to the river and back up. It was two days and fourteen miles down, where they stayed at a camp, and nine miles back out of the canyon.

Doug traveled to Bangladesh and then onto Bhutan. In Bhutan, he was eating lunch and began watching an archery meet. It turns out that archery is the Bhutanese national sport. Doug, coincidently, grew up on archery but hadn’t shot a bow in fifty years. Doug was invited to lunch and then invited to shoot in the competition. His first shot in fifty years hit

(Minutes continued on page 18)
the target. Soon, he was mopping up the floor with his astonished local opponents, who could not believe that an American could shoot that well. He won two contests and then was asked to shoot the long range, where Doug again took them to school.

Beyond that triumph, Doug loved Bhutan, a country that focuses on “Gross National Happiness.” This country banned mountain climbing because they felt the economic benefits did not outweigh the environmental damage.

Doug was born and raised in California. He has his masters and a doctorate from UCLA.

March 15, 2012
Marc Weitz (#1144) Photos Phil McGillivary

Those Returning from Adventure

Bill Morse #1130 – Here in the U.S., taking a break from his project: clearing landmines in Cambodia.

Peter Jensen #1101 – Hiked the Palos Verdes Loop Trail.

Bob Oberto #1124 – Returned from a ski trip.

Rick Flores #1120 – Returned from Cambodia where he and Pierre Odier #988 were helping Bill Morse remove landmines.

Other Announcements:

Brian Cruickshank #1158 – Showed the Club an original letter from Henry Morton Stanley written to his friend Charles Danford and sent on the day he was given the assignment to find David Livingstone.

Going to Extremes: Exploring The Oceans’ Polar Regions with Icebreakers and Unmanned Vehicles

Exploring the northern and southern extremes of the earth is still a challenge even with today’s modern technology. Dr. Phil McGillivary is a science liaison with the U.S. Coast Guard. His job is to seek and further the scientific interests of the United States in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. To accomplish this mission, the U.S. Coast Guard provides Phil with two icebreakers. Phil focuses on issues involving global warming and biodiversity. These studies further the political and economic interests of the U.S. Much of the Arctic and Antarctic regions are in dispute since the discovery of oil and mineral wealth. Scientific study strengthens America’s claims in the area. Dr. McGillivary spoke to the Club about his multifaceted activities in the Polar Regions.
Phil is the chief scientist on a couple icebreakers. These are sturdy ships that push their way through ice floes. They are diesel-powered ships that are 399 feet in length. As they push through the ice, killer whales follow them, exploiting the newly opened fishing areas. These killer whales eat only fish and are different from the kind in which people are generally familiar. Most of Antarctica’s biodiversity is found under the ice. A joke from the old Far Side cartoon says that Arctic biodiversity is “another penguin, another penguin, another penguin…”

Phil hopes to drill through the Ross Ice Shelf to see what’s beneath. Currently, they send robotic subs under the ice. One mapped the bottom of the ice shelf before becoming stuck. Research has found that the ice shelves are actually melting from the bottom up.

The wildlife found underwater is amazing. They discovered a large sea spider that hunts sea worms by sticking its nose through the sea worm’s skin and sucking out its innards like a straw. Many species hang out near volcanic vents, using them like underwater hot tubs. Invasive species are becoming more common because of the continually warming waters. King Crabs are returning to the area for the first time in 30 million years and are putting fisheries at risk. The warm waters are also threatening polar bears that need ice to survive. Polar bears living in the southern areas of the Arctic are often starving and perish from a lack of resources, while more northern polar bears are fat and happy. Oil spills are another risk for the area.

Exploring such extreme environments is not easy, and safety is a major concern. Phil warns newcomers to his expedition not to go near the USCG Helo

USCGC Healy

Niskin Bottles for taking deep ocean samples

Photo USCG
edge of the ice. That’s where predators look for their prey. One of the team members was bit on her knee by an elephant seal thinking she was food. Killer whales often fling themselves onto the ice hoping to knock a few penguins into the water for an easy dinner. It is wise not to be in the way of this extraordinary hunting technique. Phil lost a group of friends who were killed in a helicopter crash. Polar Bears are a major concern in the area. Team members must always travel with a rifle bearer and be on constant alert for their approach.

Phil says that America’s research of the Polar Regions has fallen way behind other nations due to a decline in funding. China, Russian, and Norway have spent more money on research. The United States has other priorities. Phil feels that more focus should go to exploring the Arctic and Antarctic. With the discovery of oil and mineral wealth, it’s important to conduct the necessary research to help support our claims in the area. From a national defense standpoint, the Navy has neglected to monitor the area, leaving us vulnerable.

Phil and his team can rely less and less on the support of the federal government. Satellites are being deployed elsewhere, and the team has been renting satellites from other countries. Phil has taken to purchasing outdated drones from the military to use for aerial monitoring. He brought one such drone into the Club. The small, unmanned spy plane came packed in a briefcase and could be assembled in minutes. It is designed to fall to pieces if it crashes and can be reassembled easily.

Phil brought in a number of Eskimo artifacts to show to the Club. Many of these tools were made from animal bones and rock. They are used to make food, prepare animal skins for clothing, or to hunt and fish. Phil has enormous respect for the sea and the cultures that have developed around it. Phil hopes to preserve the sea, its inhabitants, and its cultures through research and knowledge. He points out that focusing on the Polar Regions is not just about the environment but furthering American interests.
### Forthcoming Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 5, 2012</td>
<td>Harry Chittick – Modern Piracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12, 2012</td>
<td>Morris Price – Holocaust Survivor</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19, 2012</td>
<td><strong>LADIES NIGHT</strong> – Emory Kristoff – Deep Thoughts</td>
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<td>April 21, 2012</td>
<td><strong>NON-CLUB SPONSORED ACTIVITY</strong> – Tactical Pistol Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26, 2012</td>
<td>Marshall Lubin – From Boys2Men</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3, 2012</td>
<td>Fred Krakowiak – The Artist’s Safari: Capturing Africa with Pen, Lens, and Paintbrush</td>
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<td>May 10, 2012</td>
<td><strong>LADIES NIGHT</strong> – Annie Jacobsen – Area 51</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17, 2012</td>
<td>Bill Altaffer – The World’s Most Travelled Man</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24, 2012</td>
<td>Christopher Nyerges – Primitive Weapons and Urban Preparedness</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26, 2012</td>
<td><strong>NON-CLUB SPONSORED ACTIVITY</strong> – Christopher Nyerges – Wild Food and Knife Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31, 2012</td>
<td>Fred Sokolow – Adventures of a Musical Hitman Part II</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21-23, 2012</td>
<td>MINI CONVENTION – Lynn and Larry Pardee – World-class circumnavigators, authors, and lecturers</td>
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<td>July 14, 2012</td>
<td><strong>SATURDAY – MINI CONVENTION</strong> – John Goddard, Dave Barr, Richard Theis on Great White Shark Adventures, and a documentary of the Aki Ra Cambodian demining efforts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 17-20, 2012</td>
<td>ADVENTURE-CON 2012 – Celebrating the 90th Year of the Adventurers’ Club of Los Angeles – NOHA</td>
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### ADVENTURE-CON 2012

Mark your calendar for October 17–20, 2012. *Adventure-Con: Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Adventure Club of Los Angeles* will be a four-day break-out convention featuring world-class speakers and fellowship. The final evening will be our awards banquet and keynote address – NOHA, at the Odyssey Restaurant.

All members should plan to attend since our participation will make it more special. The conference will be open to the public, men, women, and youths. Consider wives, girlfriends, and others whom you would like to inspire. The costs for members and their immediate guests will be discounted, but actual details are still being discussed. The full-day effect will be many times stronger than a single Thursday evening program.

Check out the Club website link to Adventure-Con, where we keep a list of speakers as they confirm. Exact scheduling will be based on a final speaker list and their time availability. Much more is planned, but I wanted to get this out early so all members have a heads up on what is happening, so you can plan to attend.
ADVENTURE-CON 2012
October 17 – 20
Celebrating our 90th Anniversary Year

The Adventurers’ Club News
PO Box 31226
Los Angeles CA 90031

April 2012