

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

October 2001

Web site: <http://caldera.wr.usgs.gov/mdiggles/EC.html>

San Francisco
October 26
Pat Scannon

PMAN III

Continuing Palau Searches

*PMAN =
Palau + Marines +
Army / Airforce +
Navy
A BentProp Project*



The BentProp
Project

"We search the waters and jungles of the western Pacific, in what we hope are intelligent ways, for clues that may lead to the location and identification of wreck sites and remains of men who gave their lives in defense of America."

— Pat Scannon

Patrick J. Scannon, MD, PhD, FN'96, a member of this chapter, will soon carry The Explorers Club Flag once again to Palau, 243 islands east of the Philippines. Based on archival research and the first-hand accounts from veterans and local Palauans, the team will seek out WWII American aircraft crash sites in and around the Palau Islands of the Pacific. The expedition will document, by photography, videography and GPS, the status and location of the crash sites and will attempt to determine and/or confirm the specific aircraft involved and the status of its crew. Findings will be reported to the appropriate Department of Defense agencies, first-hand

veterans and/or their families, and to the general public.

Dr. Scannon carried The Explorers Club Flag on the two preceding expeditions. A list of findings, so far:

- The '603 Wing (southeastern shore of Ngetkuml and along northern shore of Koror)
- The Hamilton Standard Propeller (on coral head off southwestern Babeldaob)
- The Bridge Avenger (between Arakabesan and Koror)
- The Peleliu SB2C (on west side of Walt's Ridge)
- The '058 B-24 (on Iberor and along mangrove shore on southeastern Koror)
- The Swamp Corsair (in mangrove swamp off northern Koror)
- The Reef Corsair (on outer edge of Aiyasu Reef west of Babeldaob)
- The Ridge Corsair (near northern edge of Karamadoo Bay, near Sisngabang Mountain on Babeldaob)
- The Swamp Avenger (in mangrove swamp, west of Bloody Nose Ridge on Peleliu)

Come hear about the most recent findings and the nature of this exploration. A great deal more information: explanations, maps and photos are available online at

www.bentprop.org.

Pat Scannon in Palau
with a bent prop.



Date: Friday, 26 October 2001

Place: Officers Club
Ft. Mason (Bldg.1)
enter Franklin & Bay
San Francisco

Time: 6:30 pm, cocktails
7:00 pm, dinner

Cost: \$45 (by Oct 22)
\$50 (if posted afterwards)
call Steve at (925) 934-1051

Reservation Form on page 5

Following Meeting

December 7, 2001

Gene Savoy

The Excitement of Exploration

Gene Savoy achieved international fame in the 1960s with a series of daring expeditions into the dense Peruvian jungles of the eastern Andes and Amazon region that led to the discovery of numerous ancient and mysterious stone cities and settlements where none were thought to exist. He came to these discoveries as a result of his theory that pre-Inca and Inca civilizations originally occupied the tropical rain forests; it was confirmed in 1964-65 with his discovery and exploration of the fabled city of Vilcabamba, the Inca's last city of refuge from the

Spanish. Savoy followed this exciting event later in 1965 by exploring and documenting another site, Gran Pajaten, of beautiful round, decorative temples. He went on to discover and report over 40 additional ruins from the area.

In 1969 Savoy built the Kuviqu, or Feathered Serpent I, a totora-reed raft of ancient design, and captained it along 2,000 miles of ocean coastline from Peru to Mesoamerica, following the natural currents. From 1977 to 1982 Savoy captained the research ship Feathered Serpent II, which sailed from the United States to the Caribbean, Central and South America, and finally to Hawaii.

In 1984, Savoy returned to explore Peru after a 13-year absence. In 1985, he made a startling announcement to the world: the discovery, in Amazonas, of a vast ancient metropolis that may prove to be the largest pre-Columbian

city in South America— Gran Vilaya. Through 1994 he led six expeditions into the region.

Savoy is now engaged in a seven-year voyage to document links between the high civilizations of ancient times on the seven continents. This voyage began with a two-year period of construction on the expedition's maritime research vessel, the Feathered Serpent III - Ophir: a 73-foot double-hulled, canoe-type, catamaran of ancient design. The purpose of the voyage is to show that the ancients were capable of sailing around the globe using similar ships on well known sea routes. The FSIII - Ophir arrived in Hawaii in 1998, completing a 42-day voyage with no motor from the land of the Incas.

Gene Savoy is an engaging speaker. Come enjoy in December, and plan to bring your friends.

San Francisco Filmmaker David Kennard

David Kennard has produced an impressive list of non-fiction documentaries. On September 28, he shared some of his ideas about how this is done and some of his well-known work.

David said the importance of explaining complexities of academic research to the broadest audience possible is what motivates him. He strives to remove the mystery often surrounding those who do detailed work so that its importance and relevance can be understood. If successful, this appreciation can benefit humanity on the broadest scale. It can also remove misunderstandings that arise from ignorance about a given subject. He chose three examples from his published films as evidence of some success.

The first, work accomplished 30 years ago, was a pertinent segment dealing with the origins of war from *The Ascent of Man*, narrated by Jacob Bronowski. Professor Bronowski proposed that the origin of war developed as human societies grew into settlements and the nomads raided with large numbers of horses. Mobility and speed allowed dominance. The have nots were able to steal from those who had goods. Out of Mongolia, Genghis Khan invaded. The filming for this segment was made on the northern

steppes of Afghanistan. The ancient game of Buz Kashi, a competition between warring teams over the beheaded carcass of a goat, depicted the ferocity of battling armies with horses. The games has only one rule: win (by carrying the goat to a perimeter and back through the enemy to a goal). Prof. Bronowski also noted that the fierce 'terrorists' become like their victims in following generations: witness Kublai Khan, the warrior's grandson and Oljeitu, his great-great grandson. Both brought civilization.

Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* was produced 20 years ago. Kennard's efforts to communicate the complexity of the universe and Prof. Sagan's infectious love of the subject involved approaching it from the perspective of science fiction. Old science fiction at that: H. G. Wells', *The War of the Worlds*, which created a mass misconception of martians. The segment reached over a decade including Orsen Wells' radio program which panicked it's audience to astronomer Robert Lowell who was sure the Mars 'canals' demonstrated life on the red planet. Then Carl Sagan spoke of modern spacecraft views and a closer reality.

When Linda Finch flew a Lockheed Electra around the world to replicate Amelia Earhart's voyage (but successfully), Kennard was along and filmed from an accompanying Grumman Albatross. In the clips shown one could understand the turmoil which must have occurred in those fateful final hours

before she and her navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared. Again, the film was directed to understanding the spirit of exploration, when everything can go wrong.

Each documentary is best understood in the hindsight of those close to the participants. David Kennard's next series deals with *HAL's Legacy, Artificial Intelligence*, scheduled to begin on November 29 on PBS. It has been produced by his firm, Independent Communications Associates (InCA).

<http://www.inca-productions.com>

New Member David Kennard
at Ft. Mason



Go & Tell

September 2001

Joe Rychetnik (E'67) keeps busy: a river cruise on the Rhône, fattening in with the cuisine of Lyon, and travel to Alaska as well!

Mort Beebe (FN'78) introduced his guest, and frequent attendee, Herb Lingl, who he urged to join our ranks.

Eva Blum (MN'84) has been busy with the South Island Energy Preparedness Committee. She introduced her guest Marion Softky, back from spending two weeks participating in an archaeological dig high in the Andes at Chaline d'Quintard. They found sea shells at this 11,000' pre-Incan site, indicating traders made the climb then too.

Merle Robertson (FN'90) reported she is back from Chitzen Itza where she conducted rubbings for a month this Summer in 'old' Chitzen. She also said that soon excavation will begin on the tomb her project discovered two years ago beneath Temple XX in Palenque.

Alan Hutchinson (E'67) announced he and Ann were celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary. They have been to French Polynesia for a wildlife investigation, to the Grand Turks and in Europe this year. And, he has taken on a new full-time job as an investigative lawyer.

Chair Lesley Ewing (FN'93) introduced her guests, David & Susan Rader. David has been working on network security law in Russia and teaches 20th Century history at De Anza College (see his lecture offer to the right).

Dan Cheatham (LM'89) introduced his guest, Gracia Bell of Honolulu. He and Nonna (MN'90) took a nostalgic trip around the South Pacific— 16 plane segments included a stop at Tinian (visited the bomb-loading pits for those fateful flights 56 years ago) and at Johnston Island (overnight). His assessment: the islands have been overbuilt, over-populated and over-planned.

Don Heyneman (FN'78) has delayed his planned trip to Kenya for a health symposium— the State Department has limited travel to Africa.

Tom Hall (FN'97) reported that the chapter treasury was in the black. Then spoke of the trip with Liz to Anacortes onboard their 'Onward'.

Micronesian Reef

Flag Research Project (Where is Steve Smith?)

September 2001 marks the fifth year of the Kosrae (FSM) Reef Protection Project coordinated in the U.S. by Explorers Club member Stephen E. Smith, PhD, FN'96, our chapter Vice Chair. Begun in 1996, the Kosrae Project is a joint effort of Kosrae Marine Resources, an international group of volunteer divers, and island support staff. Divers prepare fish inventories, photo and video records, and take scientific measurements documenting reef status. For the first time, this year's team will employ protocols developed by the international organization Reef Check.

Participants are sought for September 2002. When he returns contact Steve at

[<nauticos@oceanearth.org>](mailto:nauticos@oceanearth.org)

When in Boston New England Chapter Events

Mark Allio, New England Chapter Program Chairman invites your attendance when in Boston.

Join us for our first event to be held on Wednesday October 17th, when we welcome Lucy Jago, a British journalist and former documentary producer with the BBC. She is the author of a newly published novel *The Northern Lights*, which profiles the life and work of Norwegian scientist Kristian Birkeland, who sought to document and explain the phenomenon of the Aurora Borealis. In his quest to prove his theories, Birkeland made numerous arduous expeditions to the Arctic and equatorial Africa. Scorned

by the preeminent scientific communities at the time, he funded his research through breakthrough industrial inventions, but was never afforded the recognition he deserved. Losing his marriage to his obsession with work, and plagued by depressive disorders, he died alone under strange circumstances in a Tokyo hotel. Please join us for what will surely be a fascinating and poignant story. Copies of Lucy's book will be available for purchase.

As usual, this Wednesday, October 17th event will be held at The Union Club, 8 Park Street, in downtown Boston. The Social Hour begins at 7 P.M., with the presentation at around 8 P.M. There is a \$10 donation per person. If you let us know ahead of time that you intend to come, that would be helpful: (401-351-4555 or [<markallio@earthlink.net>](mailto:markallio@earthlink.net) or [<markallio@earthlink.net>](mailto:markallio@earthlink.net)). Regardless, do come; gentlemen must wear a jacket and tie (no jeans) for entry to the Union Club.

Details on our subsequent presentations will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, please mark your calendars for the following dates.

On November 8th (Thurs.) Gus Grabscheid and David Henkel of Global Discovery Network will present an overview of their expeditions to Peru, Russia, Romania, and Mongolia.

On November 29th (Thurs.) Capt. Eric Takakjian will recount the history and his recent underwater dives to the doomed ship *City of Columbus*, the worst maritime disaster suffered in New England in the last century.

On December 13th (Thurs.) Chapter officer and zoologist Rex Passion will recount his recent expeditions tagging sharks off the Northern California coast.

Also, please check out our website at [<http://www.neexplorersclub.org/>](http://www.neexplorersclub.org)

Want to Lecture? Ask Dave

A note received from David Rader:

"I wonder if you could post a request for speakers on the History of American 20th Century Exploration to the members of the Explorers Club.

"My class is on Wednesday nights at DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA from 6 pm until 9:40 until mid-December.

"Topics might be:

- Teddy Roosevelt/River of Doubt
- Carl Akeley
- Peary/North Pole Expedition
- Hiram Bingham
- Margaret Mead
- Roy Chapman Andrews
- Martin/Osa Johnson
- Aerial Exploration/1920's-30's
- National Geographic Society
- American Museum of Natural History
- Post WW11 Explorers
- Space Exploration"

Lend a hand!

Shifting 2nd-Wind: A New Venue, San Francisco

A press release states, "The events of September have changed David Miln Smith's *Second Wind Pentathlon* plans. He is moving his event from Gibraltar to San Francisco. As a memorial to those lost on September 11, he offers this sport in recognition of the diversity of man by encompassing this City, a world-recognized place of multiple cultures."

At 8:30 on the morning of October 17, Wednesday, I and those who join me will leap into the waters off of Ft. Point and swim to Crissy Field. They will then kayak around the City to Candlestick Park. There we will tandem-bike across Mount San Bruno and through Daly City to the Pacific near the Zoo. We will run north along the beach bordering the Great Highway to just below the Cliff House. Finally each will take a mountain bike up the highway, behind the Palace of the Legion of Honor and along Lincoln Boulevard back to Fort Point. A complete circumnavigation of San Francisco!

For those of you who wish to join in the pentathlon, or any segment of it, please contact me at (831) 459-6769 or <DMSmithPhD@aol.com>. Perhaps I can help in the logistics.

Or, just come and watch the sweat!

—David M Smith, MN'94

35 years of Backpacking in the Klamath Mountains

Each Autumn for about the last 15 years, alumni from the hiking club at Humboldt State University get together and relive their misspent youth. The club was called the *Boot 'n Blister Club* and ran from 1964 to the late 1970s. In 1986, Kathy Gault started the rejuvenation with a small group who went to the northern Sierra. In 1987, I became the organizer of these events, and they have happened nearly every year since.

The most recent hike was from September 28-30 up Stuart Fork of the Trinity River. The youngster on this trip is only 49; the oldster turns 60 next month. These trips started with hikers taking small children in on Gerry Kid Packs and now the kids, home from college, hike in on their own hind legs. Mike has been on at least four earlier trips up this canyon: once going west over the ridge to Canyon Creek, once coming in from the northeast from Caribou Lake, once skiing in and snow camping, and once hiking out 14 miles from Sapphire Lake—hungry after a bear spent all night eating everything in the four packs. One of men on the Caribou trip (and this trip) hiked the other direction over the ridge and traded car keys on the trail; they drove home in each others' cars. One of the women on the 1967 hike where the bear chomped down, was also on this trip; Mike was carrying the same Kelty pack (with some patches), but Maralyn packed in on horseback this time.

The trip was 26 miles, but we only took our packs 20 miles and day-tripped to the lake from Morris Meadow. Next year we will go to the South Warner Wilderness. See <<http://caldera.wr.usgs.gov/bnb/>> for a photo collection and details on past and future trips.

—Mike Diggles, FN'92



Backpacking
Jeannie
McGurk at
Morris
Meadow



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A Gold-Rush Ship in San Francisco

One-hundred-fifty years after it was buried, a gold-rush ship was unearthed at Clay and Battery in the midst of the San Francisco Financial District. Seen in the attached picture are the Maritime Plaza and Embarcadero One skyscrapers from the aft deck of the long-buried General Harrison.

When the picture was taken I was working with archeologists Allen Pastron, Jim Delgado (Vancouver, BC, Maritime Museum) and a team from Archeo-Tec as they recovered the 1840, Boston-built, three-masted vessel. It has been buried in the Yerba Buena Harbor following the City's first fire (1851.)

My family's business office, A.M. Beebe Co., a food-brokerage company founded in 1905, was housed two floors above the site without our knowledge of what rested below. The Yang Sing restaurant was there as well. Now that the site has been documented in detail it will again be covered over; a new hotel, The Club Quarters, is under construction.

—Mort Beebe, FN'78

Advanced Planning!

The Explorers Club Board of Directors will hold a meeting on the West Coast (either Los Angeles or San Diego) on January 7, 2002. Rio Hahn will plan social events for the Saturday over-nighters, and everyone will be welcome. Members are urged to reserve the date so they can make plans to attend and speak informally with the Board.

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

As we publish to give timely notice of our meeting, our Chair is travelling. Her announcements in September encouraged participation in the January West Coast Explorers Club Board meeting. It is an opportunity for those who sometimes feel that 'New York' listens infrequently to become directly involved. Reflect upon your concerns, communicate them and take this opportunity to make an impact.

Lesley also announced that our chapter has benefited from Mort Beebe's efforts to obtain a modern projector for our events. Jointly with The American Society of Media Photographers, we have purchased a Sony VPLCX10 LCD Projector—at a very attractive non-profit price. You can look up the specifications at Sony's website; with 37 different inputs, 1024 by 768 pixel resolution, and the capability to fill a 13-foot screen, it should serve us well. Stereo sound and less than eight pounds too.



An Explorers Club Membership Survey is available; if you want to change your listing in the Roster, fill one out and return it to New York. Email Juneth Glasgow <asstmgr@explorers.org> or ask Lesley for one.

on behalf of—Lesley Ewing, FN'v93

An Email From POLISH EXPLORERS TO THE AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE EXPLORERS CLUB

Dear Friends, American members of
The Explorers Club,

What has happened in the US recently is an inhuman, devilish outburst of evil aimed at all of us, regardless of the language we speak and the country we live in. We, the Polish members of The Club would like you to know that we feel it this way, and that we feel deeply wounded the same way as you are. In our hearts and thoughts we are with you, and this most terrific, unbelievable tragedy of the American nation is also ours.

We cannot express how sorry we are because of the cruel deaths of thousands of innocent people and the tragedy of their families. We believe that the ideals of the American nation and its strength will allow you to recuperate and regain your hope and trust in the final victory of good.

At this moment, the ideals and targets of our Club as a supranational organization are becoming even more important and gain a new, deeper meaning. We have our mission to complete as part of the common task of all conscious people of good will in the building of a peaceful global society.

Remember, dear Friends, we are with you because we are one!

—Members of the Polish Chapter

Evolution @ The Explorers Club

Tribulations we each face pale in the attempted comprehension of the terrorist attack on the United States. The friends and folks of those lost are faced with the brunt of this crime against humanity. Club members in New York, and those who support us all at the headquarters, share the aftermath and turmoil. United States' citizens have been jolted into the reality of world disorder. We have heard from our friends around the world, and their solace is heartening. Nevertheless, lest we forget, so much has changed.

Exploration will continue; the unknown remains. Our minds are turned for the moment: how to conquer those who brought about the heinous act? Email has been filled with discussion of the why of what happened and the how to respond. Most messages are thoughtful efforts to understand and concern for how and what will be done. Those who can contribute are doing so. Our Country is responding with overwhelming support.

Explorers have 'been' there, have interacted with the diverse cultures of the world, are the ugly Americans (Burdick & Lederer's definition, where 'ugly' is the good guy!) There is a major role for us to play in keeping this long-term 'war' on terror focused. Look for a way you can help!

—Lee Langan, FN'99

Joe Rychetnik sadly reported the death of **Jim Van Buskirk (MN-80)** on September 26, and recommended his widow Marie to be a Friend of The Explorers Club. A memorial will be held in Ross on October 20 at St. Johns Church.

Please make your checks out to The Explorers Club, Northern California Chapter and mail with this form to:

Please reserve ____ spaces for October 26, 2001, at Ft. Mason Officers Club. Cost: \$45 each by October 22; \$50 if postmarked thereafter (call Steve at (925) 934-1051 to confirm and assure a reservation).

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Guests: _____

Stephen E. Smith
The Explorers Club
402 Via Royal
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

meal choice: (please circle)

meat

fish

vegetarian

Chapter Officers

Chair: Lesley Ewing
510-527-7899
lewing@coastal.ca.gov

Vice-Chair: Stephen E. Smith
925-934-1051
nauticos@oceanearth.org

Treasurer: Thomas Hall
415-502-7204 (work)
thall@epi.ucsf.edu

Webmaster: Mike Diggles
650-329-5404
mdiggles@usgs.gov

Database: Jerry Hughes
937-416-2114
jerry@jghughes.net

Newsletter: Lee Langan
415-567-8089
lee@langan.net

Chapter Calendar for 2001-2002 Season

October 26	San Francisco	Pat Scannon — finding WWII planes and ships
December 7	San Francisco	Gene Savoy — exploration tales, shared in Reno last year and more
January 25	not set	Elbert Branscomb — the Joint Genome Project
February 22	not set	Bonita Chamberlin — dangerous jewels
March 29	not set	Marilyn Schlitz — noetic sciences
April 26	not set	not final
May 31	not set	not final
June	not set	Chapter Picnic

Please note venues with care. They sometimes change, but the most recent is accurate!
For example, the October 26 meeting is at Ft. Mason in SAN FRANCISCO!

(When copying the URL addresses be sure to keep them all on one line; most are also available as links on our Chapter web site.)

October 2001

Lesley Ewing
The Explorers Club
Northern California Chapter
1679 Tacoma Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707-1826

