

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

May 2002

Web site: <http://www.diggles.com/ec/>

Palo Alto May 31 Wiese & Nilson

The new President of
The Explorers Club
and a student grant report

In March, The Explorers Club elected the youngest president in the organization's 98-year history. Richard Wiese, 42, of New York, a television journalist and independent documentary producer, assumed leadership from the Club's first woman president, Faanya L. Rose. Wiese follows in the footsteps of noted explorers and former Club presidents Adm. Robert E. Peary, Roy Chapman Andrews, Sir Edmund Hillary, and broadcaster Lowell Thomas.

For the last two years Wiese has hosted a daily live science show in England called "Earth and Space", which was broadcast internationally. He also wrote a daily column about current earth events and environmental commentaries. His recent fieldwork includes volcano studies of Mt. Etna in Sicily, Popocatepetl in Mexico City, and Pueblo Soufriere Hills in Montser-

A Triple Treat on May 31



rat. He is a four-time Science Emmy Award nominee, winning the honor in 1996, and is a recipient of the 1992 National Genesis Award for excellence in wildlife advocacy. In the mid-1990's he was a reporter, producer and weather anchor for WWOR-TV in New York.

Wiese is a graduate of Brown University where he received a bachelor of science degree in Geology/Biology. He studied Applied Physiology at Columbia University and graduated from the USDA Graduate Program in Meteorology. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and the American Alpine Club.

On accepting his new responsibility, he said:

"My focus over the next two years will be to recognize and cultivate field scientists. These explorers are the lifeblood of our organization. We live in an exciting era of communication and technology allowing us to look further

Woodside May 31 Garden Reception

Dan & Rusty Leibowitz
welcome the chapter
to their home before meeting

and deeper. I intend to promote the dissemination and furtherance of science and the inherent need to explore.

"I also recognize that young explorers represent the future of exploration. Teaming up with corporations and patrons, we hope to identify the next Sylvia Earle and Robert D. Ballard. The universe is expanding and there's room for more stars."

Come speak with him at our May meeting.



Last year, Eve Nilson spent her summer vacation as a field biologist—in one of the most threatened rain forests in the world. Eve studied the frogs of Brazil under the starry skies of the Mata Atlantica rain forest, while living in a small hut on the edge of the forest. Her study was funded by an Explorers

Date Friday, 31 May 2002
Place Il Fornaio
520 Cowper Street
Palo Alto (650) 853.3720

Time 7:30 pm, dinner

Cost \$50 (by May 28)
(\$60 if posted afterwards
reach Steve at (925) 934-1051) or
nauticos@oceanearth.org

Reservation Form on page 5
Please reserve promptly!

— continued on page 4

In June Chapter Picnic Angel Island

Summer Soltice - Almost
Saturday, June 22

Angel Island State Park occupies the largest island in San Francisco Bay and offers visitors a chance to hike or bike through woodlands and meadows, sunbathe and picnic at protected

coves and enjoy wonderful views of Marin County, San Francisco and the Golden Gate. This historic island has been home to a Civil War fort, a major military embarkation facility, a quarantine station, an immigration station and a missile base. The island can only be reached by ferry or private boat. The paved road that encircles the 740-acre island is a favorite of bikers and hikers. Numerous other trails crisscross the island and climb to the 781-foot summit of Mount Caroline Livermore,

which offers a spectacular view of the bay. Camping is available at walk-in campsites. Dogs are prohibited on Angel Island.

Bob Schmeider will have the Cordell Explorer for the Angel Island adventure on June 22nd. It will depart the Berkeley Marina; Dock "L" Saturday morning, promptly at 8:30 am. Return in the late afternoon. No charge for this ferrying service; limited space for bikes.

— continued on page 3

San Francisco Photographer Amos Nachoum

Finding Wild Animal Images
with Patience, Good Gear,
and a Few Friends



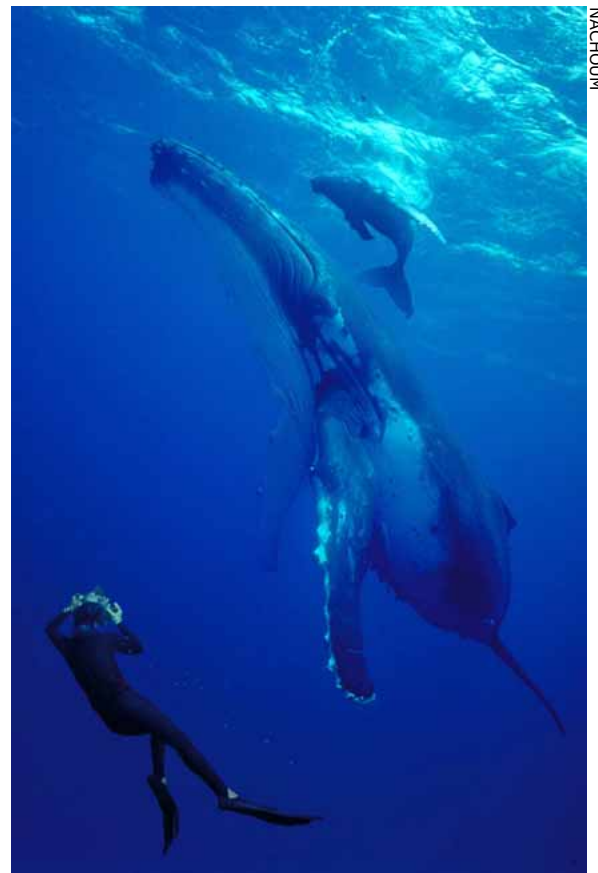
LANGAN

Amos is a wonderfully skilled photographer of nature and, most emphatically, the large wild mammals. His pictures help us know them more intimately than before. His patience and perseverance and skill, with good equipment, have resulted in some extraordinary images. He shared his favorites in a series of visits around the world.

The principle focus of the evening was beneath the sea. He has swum among the great whites off of South Africa and the Orcas north of Trondheim. The Blue whales and Humpbacks and pods and fish schools of many sizes. Many of the pictures had the audience gasping at their beauty and at the almost magical ways he captured the animal's personalities.

Amos prefers to travel in groups of a few individuals to search out his objects for photographs. In fact, his www.biganimals.com web site invites interested persons to sign on for these unique photographic safaris. He has, by returning to known sites over the years, developed a cadre of trained guides and local equipment. In some places even the animals remember him. And, he remembers them— like the mother polar bear awakening to find him 'shooting' her cubs.

By travelling in very small groups, the ability to locate and interact with the large animals is enhanced. They take the time to be less threatening; the animals sense this and react in a more calm manner. Amos usually uses snorkels, rather than scuba gear; small boats too. He and his travel clients get very close to the animals. A series of gaping shark jaws were awesome.



NACHOUM

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A 'whale watch' up close and personal
with big animals.
Snorkel photography.

Images are a distillation of enormous effort. They can be very powerful if the right moment is caught. Amos has taken the time and caught the moment. We wish him continued good fortune. Join him on one of his expeditions. Get up close!

Visitors arriving on private boats are charged a day-use fee, but that fee is included in the ferry ticket cost. Visitors may arrive by ferry from Tiburon (415) 435-2131, San Francisco (415) 773-1188, Vallejo (707) 643-3779, or Oakland/Alameda (510) 522-3300.

Service from Tiburon and San Francisco is provided here:

On weekends, ferries depart Tiburon on the hour from 10 am to 5 pm. Return to Tiburon from Angel Island hourly from 10:20 am to 5:20 pm. (\$5.50 rt adults; \$4.50 rt children; \$1.00 bikes.)

Ferry service from San Francisco, on the Blue and Gold to Angel Island leaves Pier 41 PROMPTLY at 9:45a or 10:10a. It returns from Angel Island at 12:50p, 3:00p or 4:40p. The trip takes 30 minutes to an hour depending upon other stops. (\$10.50 rt adult; \$5.50 rt children under 13; \$1.00 rt bikes)

These are the posted tides, for anyone interested in coming by boat, at the Gate:

- Max ebb: 2:40 am (-5.05kt)
- Slack: 6:30 am
- Max flood: 9:45 am (4.01 kt)
- Slack: 12:57 pm
- Max ebb: 3:17 pm (-2.38kt)
- Slack: 6:25 pm
- Max flood: 9:18 pm (3.08 kt)
- Low tide: 4:20 am (-0.02')
- High tide: 11:26 am (4.45')
- Low tide: 3:49 pm (2.32')
- High tide: 10:18 pm (6.7')

Flying IN the Ocean Plans to become a SubSea Aviator



Our Chair, Lesley Ewing, will be in the first class of subsea aviators when she is trained by Graham Hawkes (FN'86) in the Fall in the Bahamas. They will use the new Deep Flight Aviator, a two-seat exploration craft literally built to fly underwater. The trainee pilots will be flying down to 1,000 feet at the Tongue of the Ocean (Bahamas), making low-pass explorations over the very rugged terrain of the trench. Upon successful completion of the three-day course, pilots will be issued the first-ever 'sub sea aviator' licenses. The licenses will clear pilots to participate in future Deep Flight Aviator expeditions as crew, and, with the accumulation of additional sub-sea flight experience, the "crew" restriction will be removed.

The Aviator is the most recent craft in the Deep Flight series of winged submersibles designed by chapter-member Hawkes. Deep Flight I, launched in 1995, was the prototype winged submersible that proved the concept of underwater flight. Deep Flight I was followed by Wet Flight, which was purpose-built as a highly maneuverable underwater filming platform to film the IMAX film, **Dolphins: The Ride**. While conventional submersibles are often considered to be

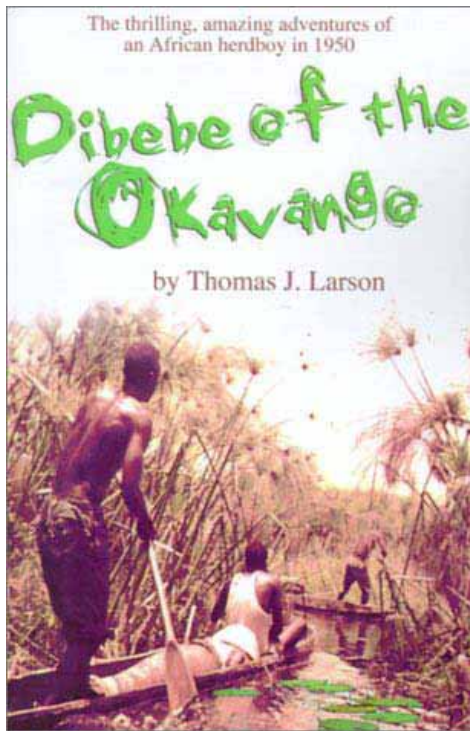
- Sub Type: Hydrobotic
- Name: Deep Flight Aviator
- Numerical Design Designation: DF 502
- Owner of the first craft built: Spirit Of Adventure LTD.
- Operating Depth: 1,500 fsw
- Crew: 2
- Design Authority: Hawkes Ocean Technologies (H.O.T.), Graham Hawkes (in first pod).

slow, bulky, stiff underwater balloons, the Aviator is a lightweight, high-powered composite airframe with wings, thrusters and flight controls. The Deep Flight Aviator has dual independent pressure pods (rather than a common pressure hull), and therefore cannot take passengers per se. Both crew must be fully capable of operating the sub, its life support, communications, etc.

The Aviator will open up all different kinds of original explorations and adventures, including unique film opportunities, exploring deep shipwrecks, barrel-rolling with whales and dolphins, and much more. The potential for the Aviator is only limited by human imagination..

Amos needs one.





Tom Larson, FN'52, is still at it in Klamath Falls. Last Fall he published his first novel. It was actually written fifty years ago and, as his friend Alec Campbell says, "it could well be more valuable now than if published then." It now offers an insight for the modern Botswana as well as the world at large. As listed at <www.amazon.com>:

Dibebe of the Okavango : The Thrilling, Amazing Adventures of an African Herdboys in 1950 by Thomas J. Larson, Alec Campbell ISBN: 0595204333; (November 2001) \$15.95

"Two African herd boys of Botswana, experience a wild dugout canoe journey of hunting, fishing down the dangerous Okavango River and mysterious Tsodilo Hills.

"This exciting Huckleberry Finn kind of story is about two African herd boys in 1950 going down the Okavango in a dugout canoe. The beautiful river flows down out of the Benguela Highlands of Angola, crosses the Caprivi Strip of Namibia, then into Botswana where it spreads out through the vast Okavango Delta. The true-to-life adventures of Dibebe and Andara are about hunting, fishing, surviving, and visiting friends and kinsmen along the great meandering river.

"The Hambukushu tribal ceremonies are true to the culture of these remote riverine people. Brave canoe men

have traveled through the vast delta in dugout canoes. Bushman paintings can be seen in the mysterious Tsodilo Hills. It is possible that prehistoric peoples left their bones in a cave in these hills.

"The anthropologist author made eight expeditions from 1950 to 1994 to study the culture of these matrilineal, Bantu-speaking hunters, fishermen, and farmers. All events in the story were possible in those long-ago days of 1950. This story of *karikaripamango*—the olden days—is most informative and educational reading for young people and adults alike!"

Tom has an even more recent book just listed at Amazon:

Bliksem: Travels with a South African Dog by Thomas J. Larson 236 pages; ISBN: 0595221440; (April 2002) \$14.95

Both books can also be obtained from the Writers Club Press, 5220 South 16th, Suite 200, Lincoln, NE 68512

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Club Youth Activity Grant. She will present the 'opening act' in May.

"I worked from 9 p.m. to midnight," says the 17-year-old from Carmel Valley. "I was scared the first couple of times I went into the forest alone because that's when the jaguars are out and hunting. You hear all these strange sounds, and it's completely dark. You can't shine your flashlight everywhere at once, so you don't know what's around you."

But before long, Eve grew fond of the jungle's nightly symphony. She never, however, shook her fear of the poachers, or hunters who illegally stalk and kill animals. Eve worried they might mistake her for a jaguar or a wild pig, but that didn't stop her from doing her job.

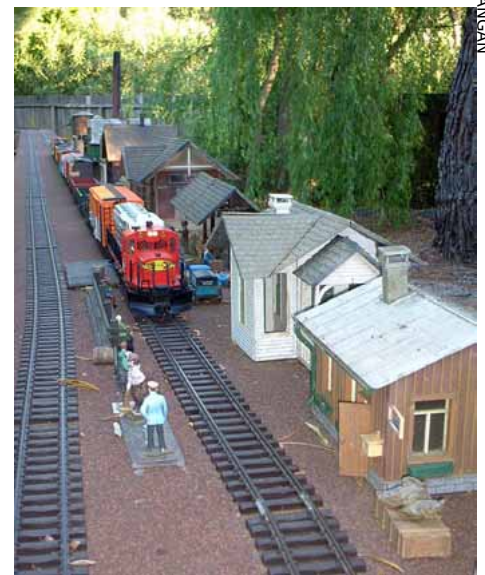
proceratophrys, a Brazilian frog in hand.



Because frogs are nocturnal, or mostly active at night, Eve would set out into the jungle shortly after nightfall. Armed with a flashlight, a camera, a net, a tape recorder, and a notebook, twice a week she hiked to two research sites: a pond in a meadow and a pond in the dark forest.

Come hear her story.

This summer, Eve will return to Brazil for two months to study capuchin monkeys in Bahia, another region of the Mata Atlantica rain forest. She will be working with Dr. Cecilia Kierluff as part of a study conducted by Conservation International.



The garden party is a delightful Spring outing preceeding these talks. Come promptly and enjoy the gathering, the company and the trains. There is a map to the Liebowitz home (and the restaurant meeting place) on page 6. For those who prefer a simple written direction, find Woodside Village and proceed toward the hills for another half mile to Fox Hollow Road (on the left); Dan & Rusty live at the end of this road, on the left.

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

Spring is in full bloom and summer is right around the corner. I hope you are almost finished with your summer exploration plans and are ready to take to the water, the mountains, the desert, or wherever this year's plans may take you. We have two great chapter events to consider before you head out. The first event will be the Peninsula meeting. The Liebowitz's have again offered their home and yard for a pre-dinner social hour. And train tour. The evening program will provide presentations or discussions by two members – first a presentation by one of the younger recipients of the Explorers Club Youth Research Grants, Eve Nielson, followed by a conversation with our newest President, Richard Wiese, MR'89. The second event will be a trip to and picnic on Angel Island. We will have a barbeque going till mid-afternoon, a hike to the top of Mount Livermore, games and more, so hitch a ride on the Cordell Explorer, hop on a ferry, grab your canoe, kayak, sail boat or power boat, and join the festivities.

I hope everyone will join me in welcoming our new members. Herb Lingl, FN'02 and Eugene Boudreau, FN'02, recently became members. Also, please welcome Chris Kostman, FN'98, a recent arrival to the Bay Area and the Northern California Chapter.

Finally, we are trying to do a few projects over the summer and volunteers are welcome. We want to publish the chapter roster and get it mailed out to everyone; we will be developing the 2002/2003 events program, and we will be planning our chapter's participation in the 2004/2005 Explorers Club Centennial Celebration. Volunteers are always welcome.

So, join us for the two final events of the 2001/2002 season and have a fun summer.

—Lesley Ewing, FN'93

Reuther & Amelia 18 May, Alameda

A bit close for a reminder, but the Amelia Earheart Seminar organized by Ron Reuther (FN'74), scheduled for the weekend of May 18th, received great press coverage in the San Francisco Chronicle on May 13. A long article—with pictures.

Take a look:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2002/05/13/BA35854.DTL>

The full schedule is online at <http://www.westernaerospacemuseum.org/sympsiium.htm>

For more information, call the museum at (510) 638-7100.

Evolution @ The Explorers Club

Since our last newsletter I have had the opportunity to travel back. With a companion of many years we flew over an area we had explored decades before. I was struck by the changes; even the landscape had altered dramatically. Surely the settlements had. Franchise America almost everywhere.

Our trip was to the Navajo Country. The most striking difference was the existence of Lake Powell. Where there was dust, rock and a river canyon, there is now a fresh-water expanse, for miles and miles. A dramatic difference to the landscape, to the people, to the influx of tourism, to the development of industrial power; it has changed this part of the world. There was great debate as to its merits, but it exists now, and one can judge. My first impression: it works.

One evening we attended an intertribal 'pow wow'. A social event featuring dance and drum competition. The spin of change: Indians, not Anglos, crowding around the drum circles, tape recorders in hand, and taking digital pictures of the dancers; welcomed.

We had the good fortune to attend another dance, a Corn Dance at Zuni. Here there was no change. These masked dancers and chants are related to the ancient past. It was a moving ceremony, unchanged from those witnessed years before. Respectfully no pictures or recorders.

The short journey was an intense exploration through eyes that have relived these colorful lands over and over through the years. It was an adventure too. —Lee Langan, FN'99

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

Please reserve _____ spaces for May 31, 2002, at Il Fornario, Palo Alto. Cost: \$50 each by May 28; \$60 if postmarked thereafter (contact Steve at nauticos@oceaneearth.org or (925) 934-1051 to 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)

chicken

salmon

vegetarian ravioli

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

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



Please note venues with care. The May 31 meeting is at the Il Fornaio in Palo Alto!
The annual Explorers Club Picnic will be on Angel Island on June 22.

(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.)

May 2002

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

