

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

February 2008

Note venues and dates with care.

Back to the GGYC

Our next event is at 6:30 on
February 22, a Friday evening,
at the Golden Gate Yacht Club
San Francisco

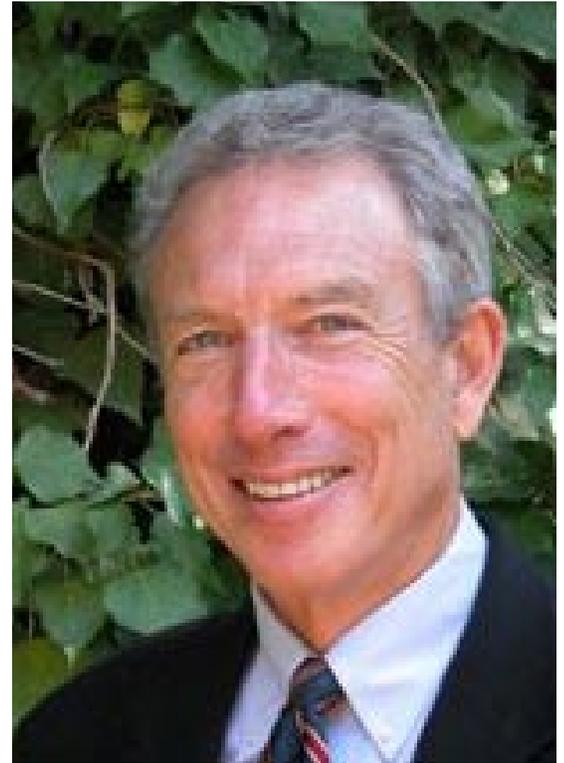
In color at our web site: <http://www.diggles.com/ec/>

San Francisco—February 22, 2008

Lawrence Lansburgh

David & Goliath in the Amazon

Impressively modern ancient people.



Domingo Peas, an Achuar leader; our speaker Larry Lansburgh; a young Achuar woman

Join Academy Award-nominated and Emmy-winning documentary-film-maker Larry Lansburgh for a compelling presentation.

Using sequences from his documentary film, *Dream People of the Amazon*, Larry's presentation focuses on the Achuar, indigenous people who live in a part of the Amazon rain forest that has hardly changed in a thousand years. The Achuar had no contact with the outside world until the early 1970's.

This talk emphasizes a powerful message of hope from the Achuar. To defend their right to live as their ancestors did in an unspoiled part of the greatest rain forest on earth, the Achuar have successfully reached out to our world for alliances. They have developed ingenious and effective strategies to deal with the pressures and threats of the modern world.

David & Goliath in the Amazon is a success story of strong indigenous people still living in a healthy rain forest—people who have practical wisdom to share with all of us.





A Man and His Ship, Prepared to Passage Northwest

Vince Backen loves his ship, the White Holly. You can sense this when aboard. You can see it in the obvious care she is given. Very shipshape for a 64-year old. She is being primed for a special trip: Capt. Backen wants to take her into the Northwest Passage to find the remains of the *HMS Erebus* and or *HMS Terror*, the ill-fated ships of Sir John Franklin's 1845 expedition to journey across the crown of Canada.

Backen hopes to depart early May to Juneau, thence along the coast of Alaska to Dutch Harbor. If the permits and support are in hand, he will continue north, through the Bering Straits and curl east to Point Barrow. There he will wait for the ice to break in the Passage. There is a window when the coast line is open and the ice floe has yet to break into blocks; it is then he will push on to the channels near O'Reilly Island, where there are mapped magnetic anomaly locations to search. He has a three-week window, more or less. Hopefully this will happen in 2008; maybe 2009.

On January 26, Capt. Backen invited our chapter aboard. After a hearty meal served from the galley by his cheerful Aunt Denise and Uncle Bert Dorio, he spoke about the history of the ship and his plans; then all were free to wander throughout the ship—top to bottom, fo'c's'le to stern. We might have gotten underway, but the fun of prowling the ship was more enticing. Perhaps into the Bay and under the Golden Gate another time.

The *R/V White Holly* has had an interesting working life. She was launched on D-day in Napa, California—the only vessel of the fleet known to have begun her service this day. She headed to Pearl Harbor to transfer ammunition from shore to nearby larger ships. After the war she was shifted to the Coast Guard and converted to become a buoy tender. For a quarter century she labored off Ketchikan. When her sister ship, the *White Alder*, sank in a Mississippi

Vince Backen Sausalito

River storm (with the loss of all men aboard), the *White Holly* was moved to midcontinental river duty as a replacement. After another twenty-five years she was decommissioned and moth-balled.

In 1999, the Coast Guard gave her to a Bay Area charity to be used as a medical ship in the South Pacific. Instead, claiming it would cost too much to outfit her, she was sold to Vince Backen in 2002. (They claim they used the sale proceeds in their missionary work.) Since, Capt. Backen has used her for training, educational purposes, as a salvage vessel and for oceanographic research. He keeps her busy.

On board was Melinda Griffith, handling the logistics of the Northwest Passage expedition. If you want to help or participate, contact her (or Vince) at the websites listed. If you have ideas for projects along the transit north, contact them as well (see below).

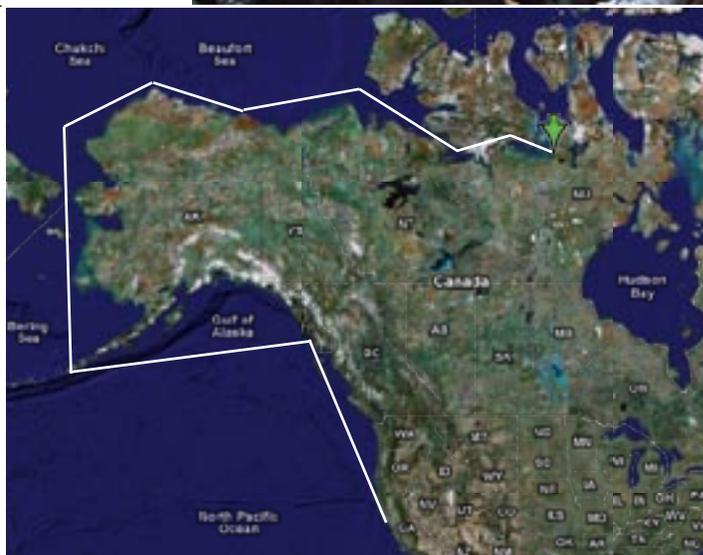
Capt. Vince Backen is presented a certificate from the chapter by Chair Lee Langan; he points to the Arctic region on the jacket's world map.

A stern view of his ship.

Members lunch in the ship's galley.

Gathered for presentation in the aft lounge.

A generalized route from San Francisco to O'Reilly Island in the Northwest Passage.



1st Pacific NW Explorers Club "Compass" Symposium

Lakedale Lodge on San Juan Island — April 24-27, 2008



The Chapter Chair

So much for the expediency of the post-office out-sourced *Click2Mail* service! The January newsletter, submitted on the 8th, was received at month's end—after the event. My earlier observation that the printed version was just fine to receive was proven just plain wrong. Give us you valid email! You will get a nice colored version as soon as it is completed each month. The Click2Mail Oakland press was their problem, which led to a series of improbable events. We try again this month.

I searched for emails to remind members of the January event aboard the White Holly. Fortunately, some forty folks enjoyed Vince Backen's hospitality during the break in our rains.

Sadly Hank Grandin (FE81) died on January 18; he was an active member, a noted yachtsman and a jolly friend. Hank celebrated being 80 last year. He will be remembered, as well, as the Stanford 'Indian', those many years ago.

In February we will be treated to a talk about the Upper Amazon's people. Larry Lansburgh states flatly that they changed his view of the world. Come see why. If you need a ride to the Golden Gate Yacht Club, let us know,

March remains open on our calendar because we are trying to coordinate our schedule with a very busy speaker. Not settled yet.

Our neighboring chapter to the north, based in Seattle, has an ambitious plan for a nice outing on the San Juan Islands. For those interested and able, try it, despite the conflict with our April event. Vancouver Island (BC) has been successful in a similar gathering—and our venture to Monterey at the end of May is along this line.

For others who wish to travel to Club events, the ECAD will be held on the Ides of March at the Waldorf Astoria. This is one of those events worth experiencing. A true gala with pomp and exotics and good speakers. Sign up on the national website.

At the February Board Meeting, Dr. Marcel Robischon was elected a Fellow. Congratulations Marcel! Those who attend know Marcel, a post doc at Davis' US Forest Service, from Freiburg; he is an Oxford and Cambridge grad!

The opportunity to visit the San Francisco Bay Model after visiting the research ship proved to be very rewarding: they were running an experiment with the model filled. For those of you who have never been, this is a marvelous treasure not known by most.

Annual dues: pony up \$25, for which I offer an advanced "Thank you." See you along the Bay on George Washington's *real* birthday, February 22.

—Lee Langan (FN99)

SF Bay Model, viewing the Golden Gate from the Bay Bridge



The Pacific Northwest Chapter members are inspired by a similar and very successful annual event organized by Vancouver members of the Canadian chapter. Their event will bring together members for three days of presentations, discussions, outings and, most importantly, good fellowship with kindred spirits.

The setting for this Symposium is the idyllic Lakedale Lodge (www.lakedale.com/). The program will consist of several presentations of expeditions and research. The Compass will be a celebration of exploring past and, we hope, an inspiration for exploring in the future. Thus there will be ample opportunities for spontaneous gatherings and small group sharing.

There will be several opportunities to explore San Juan Island and Northern Puget Sound. Scheduled outings include a whale watch aboard a boat and a circumnavigation hike of a small island that we reach by boat from San Juan Island. Costs for these two outings are incorporated into the fixed price of the symposium.

There are many ways to get to San Juan Island, both by sea and air, details to follow. All on-island transportation is included: all transport to and from the ferry, airport and outings.

All meals are also included, with tea and coffee service throughout the day. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

Arrive late afternoon/early evening, April 24 for a welcome dinner. On Friday, breakfast and morning presentations, lunch, afternoon whale watch, dinner & discussion. On Saturday breakfast, morning presentations, afternoon hike, evening dinner & discussion. On Sunday, April 27th, breakfast, exchange information, departure.

Cost: There are several options for rooms. See the Lakedale Lodge website, given above. Choice of lodging and the number of participants may reduce the cost from the amount quoted, but the maximum cost per participant including lodging, food, and outings will be \$400 per person. The Lodge and the program have limited capacity and reservations are taken on a first come bases. You can secure your participation with a deposit of \$150 per person. We hope to receive your deposit by Feb. 15, 2008!

To attend, email Lynn Danaher, Symposium Chair islandlynx@aol.com

Send the following information: names of attendees, number of beds; willing to share room (yes/no); interest in presenting (yes/no)—if so, title of presentation. Make out a deposit check to *Pacific Northwest Explorers* and mail to:

Ali Fujino, GPO, PNW Explorers Club
c/o The Drachen Foundation
400 Roy St, Seattle WA 98109

Members of the The Explorers Club and their guests are welcome as long as there is room. This is a great opportunity for you to introduce your exploring friends and to recruit them as potential members.

Weather is fickle so come prepared for rain and wind. Bring hiking shoes/boots and shoes that have good traction in small boats. Bring your oldest compass to show off and your spirit of adventure!

Should be a fun weekend!

—Matthew Stubbs (MN02), PNW Chair

February 2008



Chair: Lee Langan
415 567-8089
lee@langan.net
Vice Chair: Alan Nichols
415 789-9348
ahnichols@att.net
Treasurer: Anders Jepsen
925 254-3079
ajviking@aol.com
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

Larry Lansburgh — David & Goliath in the Amazon
22 February — GGYC, San Francisco

**Northern California
2007-2008 Calendar of Events**
(Venues will be identified at time of event.)

Our next Meeting
February 22 (Friday) Larry Lansburgh
David & Goliath in the Amazon GGYC

Future Meeting Schedule

March 29 (Friday) in planning
April 25 (Friday) Jeff Morgan
Global Heritage Fund New Sites GGYC
May 30-Jun 1 Hicks home; Monterey Peninsula
September in planning
October 24 (Friday) Guitty Azarpay
From the Silk Road to UC Berkeley. GGYC
November 21(Friday) in planning

Meetings earlier the season

September 23 Rick Blake
Meteorite Collision near Sacramento
Gene & Sibyl Boudreau Home, Sebastopol
October 19 Brian Fisher
Save an Ant; Save a Planet: Madagascar
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco
November 8 Laurence Bergreen
Marco Polo
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco
December 9 Lee & Karine Langan
A gathering of Explorers
Langan home, San Francisco
January 26 Vince Backen
OR/V White Holly, SF Bay Model, Sausalito

February LOCATION

Date: Friday, February 22, 2008
Place: Golden Gate Yacht Club,
San Francisco, CA
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner; 8:15 talk
Cost: \$60 members and guests

Reserve ___ spaces for **February 22, 2008** at
GGYC
San Francisco, CA
Cost \$60 each.
Prospective members are welcome.

Annual Dues payable @\$25

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Guest(s): _____

Advise if you desire a car pool!

Golden Gate Yacht Club,
San Francisco

Along the seawall

