

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

November/December 2001

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

San Francisco December 7 Gene Savoy

The Search for El Dorado Continues



Gene Savoy (FE'69) will speak about the 2001 Gran Saposoa-El Dorado III Expedition that was conducted in northeastern Peru between July 19 and August 21, under Explorers Club Flag #147. His lecture will focus on the further finds made at the pre-Columbian metropolis since its first recovery by Savoy and teams of the Andean Explorers Foundation in 1999.

Savoy's first attempt to find the Chachapoyas city was in 1968, and his maps, reports and journals from those



Gene in the field and receiving awards (below).
Two familiar venues!

early days helped him finally to locate Gran Saposoa three years ago. The remains of Gran Saposoa seem to fit the chroniclers' descriptions of the ancient city of Cajamarquilla, one of seven Chachapoyan cities conquered by the Inca Tupac Yupanqui in 1475 AD. Archaeological excavations have revealed that the Chachapoyas built the city and that it was certainly occupied later by the Incas. The evidence also suggests that Gran Saposoa pre-dates other major Chachapoyan ruins like Gran Pajatén to the south and Gran Vilaya to the north, which were also recovered by Savoy in 1965 and 1985, respectively.

The lecture will also feature portions of raw film footage taken during the Gran Saposoa-El Dorado III Expedition.

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 tropi-

cal rain forests; this 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.

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 to Hawaii.

The Feathered Serpent III - Ophir, a 73-foot double-hulled, canoe-type catamaran also of ancient design, arrived in Hawaii in 1998. It completed a 42-day voyage from the land of the Incas with no motor.

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



Date: Friday, 7 December 2001

Place: St. Francis Yacht Club
The Marina
San Francisco

Time: 6:30 pm, no-host cocktails
7:30 pm, dinner

Cost: \$55 (by Dec 1)
\$60 (if posted afterwards
call Steve at (925) 934-1051)

Reservation Form on page 5
Attendance is limited; be prompt!

Following Meeting

January 25, 2002

Elbert Branscomb, PhD
The Joint Genome Project

Elbert Branscomb is Senior Advisor of the Department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute (JGI), a collaboration of Lawrence Livermore, Lawrence Berkeley, and Los Alamos, the national laboratories responsible for the sequencing of human chromosomes 5, 16, and 19.

Branscomb received his B.A. in physics from Reed College in 1957 and his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Syracuse University in 1964. He joined Lawrence Livermore in

1964 as a theoretical physicist and became a senior biomedical scientist in 1969. From 1996-2000, he served as JGI's first director.

Branscomb's professional activities include being a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Computational Biology and of the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Genetics Working Group. From 1996 to 1998, he was a member of the Panel of Scientific Advisors for the National Institutes of Health-National Council of Human Genome Research's Pilot Project for Large-Scale Sequencing of the Human Genome. He is also the coauthor of numerous scholarly articles, primarily on scientific research related to the human genome.

The JGI has assumed a significant role in the effort to determine the 3 billion letters ("base pairs") worth of genetic text that make up the human genome.

This international project, the largest biological undertaking in history, promises untold opportunities to understand the basic molecular foundation of life and to improve human health.

To learn more than most, visit the JGI web site and get a head start to understanding who we are:

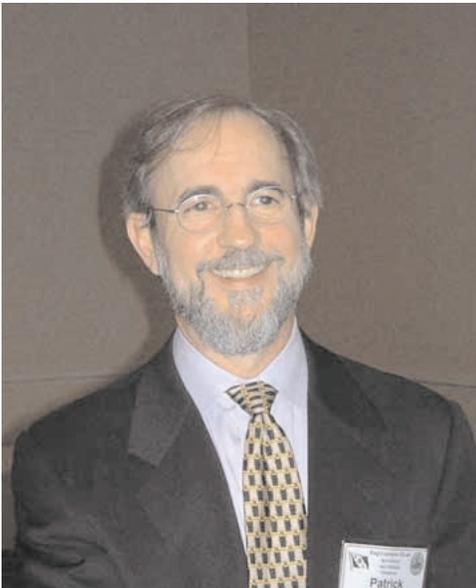
<http://jgi.doe.gov/whowear/index.html>

Plan to attend in January!

San Francisco Explorer

Pat Scannon, MD, PhD

Finding Remnants of a War
in Paradise
Looking for Those
Never Found



Since 1993, and four Explorers Club Flags later, our chapter member Pat Scannon is still searching for those missing in action from WWII in the Palau Islands. He spoke of this endeavor and showed a series of slides that took us with him on his efforts in October 2000.

This chain of a few larger islands and a hundred or more smaller ones

was the major Japanese air base between Leyte and New Guinea. As such it was a well-defended target. We lost over a hundred aircraft inflicting damage; most have never been recovered. What started as a diving adventure looking for sunken ships has turned into a long-term exploration for the men who went down. The effort has expanded throughout the surrounding pristine waters of this Western Caroline chain and into their deep jungles. Much has been found, and much remains hidden and waiting.

Pat has organized The Bent Prop Project, aptly named when you see what he has located. Each Bent Prop expedition is called P-MAN (Palau-Marines Army Air Force Navy). P-MAN III is planned this Fall; P-MAN IV in the Spring 2002. The results are very well documented on an exceptional web site:

www.bentprop.org.

Be sure to visit.

The slides showed a furtive effort to use a sensitive magnetometer to look for the engines of a B-24 of MIA Lt. Arnett, which went down in the inlet close to Palau's capital, Koror. Trolling careful grids were not successful; he hopes side-scanning sonar will be more so. P-MAN II was more successful in finding the sunken remains of a Japanese ship reported by a US fighter's log. A Navy F4U Corsair was found when they were led to the site by locals; in the wreckage field they located the bent Hamilton-Standard prop, the engine, wing fragments and the cockpit.

In fact, because Pat and his teams have returned frequently, a trust has been built with the Paluans. On P-MAN II they had a meeting with a council of chiefs which led to locating the cave bunkers of the hidden Japanese headquarters. They made it to the site, in the soggy 105°F heat, to find a few pre-war Fords about, an unexploded munition, other remnants. However, the caves they entered were completely cleared! They will return; there are hundreds more caves to see.

Post-expedition research led to a meeting with two Japanese veterans who had been at this location; discussions were videoed. It was admitted that US captives had been executed by beheading.

Pat's jungle trekking and underwater searches are clearly rewarding; they have 14 new leads for the upcoming trip. This was a report of exploration in progress.

Chapter members Chip, Pam & Pat
with guides Dwight & Lazarus
(and a bent prop)



Chapter-Supported Tibetan Student

Letter from Ziangyang Quxi
(translated from Chinese by KAF staff)



Litang Classroom

“Dear Explorers Club:

“Many thanks for your donation so that I could attend Middle School. I spent quite poor days when I was in Zhong Mula (my hometown). I studied quite hard. There was no electricity there. In the daytime, I helped my parents do some housework. At night I was quite willing to read, but it was too dark to do anything. The primary school was too poor and the people in the town gave the school some money to buy stools and desks. Afterwards I could return to the school. I was quite an excellent student there. So the headmaster of the primary school asked me to attend middle school in town.

“There are my parents, elder brother, young brother and sister. Both of my parents are sick and weak. The family depends on my elder brother. If I had no elder brother, I would have dropped out of the primary school. If I did not get your kind help, I would become a drop-out. I must study hard to repay you and my elder brother. I will also do my best to build Zhong Mula better-off in the future. “

(signed)— Ziangyang Quxi (September 20, 2001)

Go & Tell

October 2001

Steve Smith chaired our October meeting. He noted

- accommodations are limited to 40 for the Gene Savoy talk;
- we are seeking some assistance in handling membership details;
- nominations for the national Board of Directors are open;
- as the are nominations for honors: the Sweeney Medal and the Explorers Club Medal;
- he reminded us of the opportunity to meet the current Board in San Diego in January.

Steve is just back from Koshari where he is well into the 5th year of a

scheduled 10-year Explorers Club Flag program in this rarely visited magnificent pristine reef system. His flag, #146, has been around the world, but he has not been able to recover the provenance; he suggested this accompany any flag expedition.

He thanked his guest Mary Jo Dierickx for her help in the meeting details.

Several guests, experiences and comments were briefly introduced in the traditional table introductions in October:

Joe Rychetnik (E'67) posed the question; What anniversary are we recognizing where, perhaps, the four most famous 'exploration words' were used? 130 years ago, “Dr. Livingston, I presume.”

Using funds that were raised at a Club dinner in December, 2000, the Northern California Explorers Club Chapter sponsors Ziangyang Quxi, a Tibetan schoolgirl in Litang, a remote village in western Sichuan Province of China.

The scholarship program is run by the Kham Aid Foundation (KAF), a non-profit organization founded by Pam Logan, an Explorers Club member from southern California. It provides opportunities for poor Tibetan girls ages 12 to 16 to attend high school in the Tibetan regions of western China. Project Director, Dana Isherwood, and Bill Isherwood made site visits in September to meet the girls and check on their progress. Ziangyang Quxi is 14 and in her first year of the three-year program.

Litang is a predominately Tibetan town noted for its annual horse festival. The Junior Middle School (similar to grades 8-10 of a US secondary school) draws students from many far-away villages. Some students, like Zinagyang Quxi must board at the school or with families in the town. The \$250 annual fee to the school provides for tuition, school supplies, room and board, bedding and clothing.

There is an old Tibetan saying that “a child without education is like a bird without wings”. Be proud that you are giving Ziangyang Quxi the “wings” to fly to a better life. For more information on the Kham Aid Foundation, visit their web site at

www.khamaid.org.

—Dana Isherwood

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A Healing Journey, San Francisco

David Miln Smith turned his birthday pentathlon into a healing journey, a tour 'around' the City of San Francisco. The event was 'blessed' by a Muslim, a Jew and a Christian, the singing of our national anthem and included a bay swim, kayak, tandem-bike tour, foot race and mountain-bike conclusion. It was his contribution to the unity of man and the power of individual sport, as a reflection on the attack of September 11.



Go & Tell, continued from page 3

Joe also introduced our new member **Rick Sabin (MN'01)**, a retired United pilot. In September, Rick spent three days in Calgary because he was returning from Europe on 9.11; he was made an *ad hoc* member of the crew in those dreadful moments when all knowledge became precious in making decisions. (By coincidence, he had trained one of the active pilots!)

Ron Abileah (FN'01), another new member, and his wife Marlene, just returned from a post-9.11 technical conference in Toulouse, where he spoke on remote sensing of coral reefs. Attendance was greatly reduced because of the tragedy.

Ron Reuther (FN'74) noted his trip, with Gerry Elkins and the Rychetniks to Lake Clark Lodge in the St. Elias Range and a lesser adventure-some visit to Las Vegas.

Rick Blake (FN'00) has discovered kayaks and acquired a sea-going beut; he had pictures in his wallet...of the kayak!

Tom Hall (FN'97) introduced his recurrent guests, Martha Campbell & Malcomb Potts, and urged them to join our chapter. Liz McLaughlin missed dinner but arrived for the talk; she was returning from an award she received for leading the prevention of injuries. She and Tom have plans for an early trip to New Zealand.

Sue Estey (FN'92) and Tom Patterson have just returned from Indonesia and three weeks of snorkling and diving. They were on a boat for some

600 miles; had no contact with the main population, thus no adverse sense based on 9.11 from this Muslim land.

Bill Isherwood (FN'70) was present, between travels; Dana was typing reports of her recent trip to China. (See one detail in this issue.) Too much to report in a few words, but New Zealand has been added to their schedule.

Pat Scannon (FN'96), our speaker, introduced Lawrence Fletcher, a graduate student at Stanford and an astronaut applicant. Pat reported that not all exploration, the subject of his talk, is so distant as the South Pacific. He was called to confirm a report of a WWII B25 wreckage in Yolo County recently; they found it.

Nonna Cheatham (MN'90) reported on attending a Pan Am reunion in Baltimore at the Glenn L. Martin Company recently. The event elucidated many memories, some shared. She recently visited Easter Island for a month's archaeological expedition, as a representative of Earthwatch. (If you want more information on Earthwatch, contact her at P O Box 2101, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.)

Harry Hicks (MN'87) spoke briefly of his visits to Afghanistan, past trips over the Khyber Pass and visits with medical teams to Nepal. He also had information on The Foundation for Cultural Preservation, P O Box 111, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Graham Hawkes (FN'86) introduced Ugo Conti, a colleague and another double doctorate, and his wife,

Karen. Graham spoke of their plans to build a huge inflatable catamaran.

Evolution

@ The Explorers Club

A fair and important question to ask, as a member of The Explorers Club, is why you belong. The web site and membership materials suggest it is because of the camaraderie of this distinguished group, the opportunity to share the New York headquarters clubhouse, the publications and, perhaps, the flag.

There are other good but more subtle reasons. Active explorers just might meet kindred spirits that they can help: to solve problems, to raise financial support. They find an avenue to tell what they have done or want to do/find. Those less active now can reminisce and share their accomplishments. Others might relish to hear the field experiences of what is being explored or what has been found. They can enjoy the adventure and accomplishments; often intriguing details never become common knowledge.

There is room for anyone who wants to be a part of exploration. There is so much more to find! Ask why you belong. Participate. Find a friend to join.

We welcome the dozen new members this year who reasoned why!

—Lee Langan, FN'99

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

I am approaching my first year as chapter chair and hope you will allow me to continue in this role for a second year. I am still learning the ropes here and how to coordinate with New York and the other chapters. Part of the job has been as fun as pounding my head against a concrete wall and other parts have been just plain fun. I'll try to spend more time next year spotting the walls ahead of time and trying to go around them.

One of our biggest walls has been finding affordable dinner spots. These events need to 'pay for themselves'. The obvious costs are food, beverages and the meeting space. The 'hidden' costs are the newsletters, dinner for the speaker and a guest, taxes and service charges, equipment, etc. I've come to the conclusion that there is no perfect spot to meet. One place is too expensive, another has no parking, and the next is in a congested area or has bad food or poor service or poor acoustics. Further, every place has raised prices over the past year. Steve and I are trying. Anyone who would like to work on logistics will be warmly welcomed, and we will sing your praises in newsletters and at dinners.

For many years we have scrounged and borrowed equipment. We hope that will continue to work for slide projectors, but as more and more speakers have asked to show videos, PowerPoint presentations or computer simulations we've increasing had trouble providing the right equipment for these presentations. As noted last month, we recently got a small windfall from the 1998 GateAway Silent Auction and used some of this to purchase a LCD projector with the ASMP. This projector will let us cover a wider range of presentations and help us avoid future equipment 'walls'.

The just plain fun part of this job, for me, is the people in the chapter. And, I'm

pleased to announce that we have a number of new members. Some new members are already old friends; others are people I hope to meet soon:

Ron Abileah, FN'01
Dr. Jenny Marshall Diamond, FN'01
Julie Ekstrom, FN'01
James Roger Harlan, MN'01
Dr. Judd Howell, FN'01
Neil Marshall, FN'01
Andre Rossfelder, FN'01
Captain Rick Saber, MN'01
Javier O. Ruiz, FCN'01

And a new club member/chapter friend
Gary Lang, FI'01.

As soon as I get full addresses for everyone, I'll make sure they get a welcome note and start getting copies of our newsletter. If you sponsored any of these new members, thank you for the sponsorship. I hope you will help us make these new members feel welcome at all chapter events.

I'll close with a few short items of business. First, I have mentioned that the Club Board will hold its January meeting in California. I was providing the wrong date and apologize. The actual meeting date will be January 12, 2002, in San Diego, CA. In addition to the Board meeting, there will be some social activities, and everyone will be welcome to attend these social events and have an opportunity to meet the members of the Board and discuss club issues with them.

Second, if you want to be more involved with the Club and serve on the Board, now is your chance to apply. Every year the Club elects five Directors to serve on the Board. Each Director serves a three-year term and will be expected to attend about five Board meetings a year. Typically four of these meetings will be held in New York and one out of New York and directors are expected to cover all travel

expenses. Recommendations for candidates are due by Friday November 23, 2001. Jonathan Conrad is heading up the Nominating Committee. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should notify Jonathan or me of your interest by November 23, 2001. In addition, you should provide a one-page statement of your qualifications and interests for the Nominating Committee to use in making the first cut for preparing the election ballot. Due to the Club's continued financial difficulties, the nominating committee "is looking for distinguished scientists and explorers as well as candidates who have previous fund-raising and board experience. We would like our Board to be as broadly based as possible, both scientifically and geographically." Information on the Club and the Board members can be found on the web site:

<www.explorers.org>.

Jonathan Conrad's contact information is: Jonathan Conrad, MED '87, Nominating Committee, Explorers Club, 46 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021 or

<jconrad@interserv.com>.

—Lesley Ewing, FN'93

Betsy Crowder Trail January 19, 2002

The Betsy Crowder Trail opened recently. We will hike the trail with her daughter Wendy, starting at 10 in the morning of January 19. Mark your calendars now!

The Betsy Crowder Trail is short; it leads to other longer and steeper trails on Windy Hill (on which you may wish to continue.) The planned hike will take about 30 minutes. We will include directions to the trailhead, and more details, in the next newsletter. This is just to make sure you save the date and time now.

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

Please reserve ____ spaces for December 7, 2001, at St. Francis Yacht Club. Cost: \$55 each by December 1; \$60 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

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

Chapter Calendar for 2001-2002 Season

December 7	San Francisco	Gene Savoy — exploration tales, the search for El Dorado continues
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!
The December 7 meeting: the St. Francis Yacht Club 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.)

November/December 2001

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

