



leys, the South Pole, and Cape Crozier, with its colonies of Emperor Penguins, first visited by his predecessor Edward Wilson, Robert Scott's expedition doctor.

"Polar Exploration is at once the cleanest and most isolated way of having a bad time which has been devised," words written by the youngest member of Scott's team, Apsley Cherry-Garrard. Cherry-Garrard

was later part of the rescue party that eventually found the frozen bodies of Scott, Wilson and two others who had accompanied Scott on the final push to the Pole. Cherry-Garrard's *The Worst Journey in the World* is the account of this famous expedition which went disastrously wrong.

Dr. Moyer will speak of his experiences and respond to any questions about extended stays at the scientific

outpost at McMurdo Sound and his travels beyond.

David, now a retired Navy Captain, is Chief of Allergies at the Oakland Kaiser Hospital. A couple of years ago he returned to the Antarctic Peninsula, on a holiday; he will have remembrances from this trip too, including its stopover in the South Georgian Islands.

## Some in New York are Stuffy, Need Restoration!

I'm writing at the suggestion of Richard Wiese who felt that Chapters would like to know about this Program.

The animal trophies of the Club, which represent a significant link to our heritage and to the honored Members who donated them to us, are in an unfortunate deteriorated condition.

The Art, Artifacts and Exhibitions Committee, of which I am a Member, has undertaken to raise the necessary funds to restore them. I've had a noted taxidermist inspect them, and he has placed the cost of restoration for these 41 symbols of our past at \$12,650. To date I have raised \$9,880 and am looking for \$2,800 more.

The list of the trophies to be restored includes the those in the Trophy Room and in our closets, plus the polar bear, Emperor penguin and the elephant tusks in the Board Room and Members' Lounge.

The first week of February, I had the taxidermist pick up most of the trophies. He will complete his work and return them to us in time for our ECAD Weekend activities.

Donations are tax deductible, and the names of Donors will be posted on a plaque in the Trophy Room. I am also researching the source of the trophies and am pleased to learn they include a lion rug shot by Teddy Roosevelt, a pronghorn antelope collected by Charles a. Lindbergh, a lion from James Lippitt Clark, a cape buffalo taken by John Bruno, plus the four-tusked elephant donated by Armand Denis. We also have a shoulder mount of a rare chiru gazelle, which was classified as endangered in 1975, and will seldom be seen again beyond its range in Tibet and Mongolia.

If any Chapter Members would like to join us in this cause, please either call me, at 212-861-5084, or send your check, payable to the Club, and mark it to my attention.

—Ted Siouris (MR95)

## A Weekend to See the Sea San Francisco's 2nd Annual Fest

Our January meeting was arranged with the support and cooperation of the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival, which was founded by our active member Krist Jake (MN78). Both the SFOFF and our monthly meeting were a resounding success, and we hope we can do this again another year! The Explorers Club talk was held a block away from the crowded and festive opening reception of the film festival, held in the Maritime Museum in Aquatic Park. The members of the venerable Dolphin Club opened their boat room for the Explorers Club, and it was a splendid location.

What was particularly pleasant was the chance to stroll between the venues, in the cool San Francisco evening, listening to the waves of the Bay lap upon the sandy beach. The lights of the Golden Gate, the lighthouse of Alcatraz, and the anchored masted ships at Hyde Street added to the sense that this was an evening to enjoy the sea. We all did so.

The films of the weekend were well attended and diverse. A treat. While your editor only managed one showing, he was delighted with the three films and the chance to listen to and question the filmmaker. What a great way to spend a winter weekend!

## Chairman Emeritus Speaks Down South

The San Diego Aerospace Museum's popular Aerospace Lecture Series takes an unusual turn this spring with "Mysteries of Flight," a series designed to captivate mystery lovers as well as aviation and space flight enthusiasts. Intrigue, speculation and controversy weave through the four presentations, which begin March 24th and end with a "mystery" speaker whose identity and topic will remain a secret until the evening of the event!

Ronald Reuther (FE74) will present, "What Happened to Amelia Earhart?" on Thursday, March 24, 2005, 7:30 p.m. The disappearance of Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan as they attempted to circumnavigate the globe has captured the public's imagination for almost 70 years. As moderator of the Amelia Earhart Society's online discussions and organizer of several symposiums on the topic, Ronald Reuther is quite familiar with this classic aviation mystery. Reuther will review some of the major theories surrounding the disappearance, including possible survival. A retired Air Force pilot, Reuther is president emeritus of the Western Aerospace Museum located at the Oakland Airport—departure point for Earhart's final flight.

The San Diego Aerospace Museum is home to the Command Module from the Apollo 9 mission; it is located in the historic Ford Building in Balboa Park, San Diego.

# Seacology's Success Duane Silverstein San Francisco

Duane Silverstein (MN04) has honed his skills of managing philanthropy to a fine art of creating numerous small projects which help people and places. He formed the not-for-profit Seacology, Inc. to help improve conditions on islands, where it is known that species extinction is rampant. Driven by a desire to help slow this degradation of island life—human, animal and plant—he believes the accumulating impact of privately-sponsored micro-projects can be effective. He has shown that listening to the locals can bring benefits that save the ecosystem, the native culture and the local economy. He showed slides of numerous completed projects, in a captivating story, that demonstrate success.

Seacology has completed over one hundred undertakings across the Pacific and Indian Oceans. These range from building community centers, to school rooms, to warfs and viewing platforms. In each case the formula is simple: ask what the local village people want, organize the supplies and logistics to allow local people the opportunity to build, find the funds to do this (often less than \$25,000), and complete an agreement to do this in exchange for protecting a nearby habitat. Tens of thousands of acres have become designated wildlife refuges as a result.

To bring the reality of this suc-

Duane Silverstein receiving 'thank you' gifts from Chair Steve Smith & Vice Chair Lee Langan (right)



MARZO DERRICK

cess to the benefactors, Seacology offers travel to potential sites and repeat trips when a project is complete. These explorations, which they have identified often by word-of-mouth because of their success so far, have a very practical impact on those able to help and to those where the work takes place. These micro-projects are not considered gifts by the locals, for they are charged with protecting their environment in return. The alternative, all too often, is to consume these resources to raise the money to do what the project accomplished! They are, in every case, appreciative of the alternative offered to them; they fully understand the win-win nature of the agreement. Duane told of many emotional thank yous from people who never thought they would benefit so. These genuine human reactions keep him encouraged each day.

All of the projects have a compelling reason to happen. Some even more than others. In northern Vietnam, among some of the most beautiful islands in the world, the Cap Ba langur monkey has been driven to near extinction, with less than 50 known to remain. Seacology arranged to support individual guards for each known animal to protect them from poachers. This has brought enough income to the local people that, in four years, the monkey population has begun to climb. A small salary is staving off the loss of a species! In Hainan, China, the gibbons have even fewer individuals left. Seacology is trying to emulate their Vietnam effort; an April trip is being



Seacology

Duane Silverstein gone 'native' when showing appreciation to the locals who, in turn, are dancing to show theirs. Our speaker urges respect for both cultures in his agreements..

organized.

In Fiji whole islands have been rescued from development which would have had the effect of subjurgating the local population to the tourist tasks of support labor; a community center is what they wanted (and got) in return for protecting the local reefs and wilderness. In Sri Lanka a longwharf protects the fragile coastal coral. On the Maldives, a school was built to protect for harvesting the eggs of endangered sea turtles

The meeting at the Dolphin Club was crowded: a good turnout of explorers, Dolphin members and those who had been at the earlier reception for the Ocean Film Festival at the Maritime Museum. Thank you, Dolphin Club, for the wonderful venue and great support!

Duane is a new chapter member! This was his first meeting; he spoke well of it, as well as at it! Some may want to get involved his travels and Seacology; you can find details here:

[www.seacology.org](http://www.seacology.org)

# The Maasai Oral Histories Project

## A Month on Location in the Masai Mara\*

*"When languages are lost, the unique history of tribal origins, tales of epic battles and events, and the rationale behind daily rituals, from birth to death, are also lost."*

The main goal of this project is to record in video-HDV the interplay between Maasai students and the village elders and the exchange of rituals, stories, laws, and beliefs. The EC Flag project was conceived and directed by Bob Pearlman (MED78) with a support team from the Explorers Club. Whereas, their Maa language and history has always been written and documented by others, not the Maasai, the teaching of Maa was eliminated from the curriculum by the government. Lessons at school are all taught in English and Swahili, the languages of commerce.

In building an archive by recording, translating, and photographing at local Maasai schools we were able to observe elders using the traditional methods of story telling. Some of the life lessons expressed were: Take care of yourselves and get a good education. Listen to your elders, they have years of experiences. Believe in your sons even if you disagree with the path they have chosen. Women are very capable and can be strong in difficult situations.

The Maasai have been a nomadic culture for centuries, keeping to their traditions while the national boundaries of Africa have grown around them. Finally unable to stop the influence of what we refer to as the modern and progressive world, the Maasai take their passion for education and try to embrace this new power.

Education is very important to the Maasai culture. Families will send their children out at the tender age of six to walk three-to-five kilometers across dangerous conditions to reach their small schools. Classes have up to forty-two students sharing wooden benches and reading by natural light. There is no air conditioning, and anatomy and science illustrations are painted on the walls. Still these young minds show an enthusiasm for learning that is rarely seen in Western society.

As these children grow and move away from their villages there is the chance that future children will never learn their native language and culture. Still the Maasai embrace new knowledge knowing that the cost could be their cultural identity.

It is through this documentation that the world may be able to see this multi-layered culture that holds its success to its own respect for their elders, home, community and tradition. The openness and eagerness to share their stories and daily rituals with those outside of their community will also ensure the continuation of the Maa language. To be able to use the technology of today to ensure the longevity of a people's history is a true integration of the old with the new.

Field reports authored by the team members were sent from a Laptop via satellite to the website and the Center for International Relations, Denver University. They are distributing lesson plans to classrooms around the world.

\*Both spellings 'Masai' and 'Maasai' are acceptable although the latter is more usual when referring to the people



Photos by Mort Beebe (FN78); article submitted by Mort and Danielle Beebe and Erica Burkeen



<http://MaasaiOralHistories.org>

# The Chapter Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

Those of you who had the pleasure of attending our January meeting can attest to the fact that 2005 is off to a great start for the Northern California Chapter. Kudos are well deserved by member Krist Jake MN78, the founder and Director of the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival. It was with his support and encouragement that we were able to combine our venues for the evening and have the opportunity to expose a broader range of individuals to the activities of the Chapter. Thank you Krist, for your energy and vision in creating this festival as a platform for filmmakers, scientists, and others to get their important works before the public. Our lecture was also well attended, much to the credit of a great speaker, chapter member Duane Silverstein FN04, who recounted the many important projects that the Seaology organization has underway. While there are almost unlimited ways in which to spend your charitable dollars, I would challenge you to find many which are more efficient and characterized by such a 'win-win' ethic. Our venue at the Dolphin Club was inspiring in itself. As I perused the trophy room, I marveled at the accomplishments of the "Dolphins" who both swim the bay and, from time to time, the English Channel.

Many of you have by now received a copy of the new Membership Roster. I'm gratified to report that about forty percent of the membership responded to our request for updated information. It has been a pleasure reading the many marginal notes included with your updates. For those of you who missed the publishing date, rest assured that your changes will be included in the

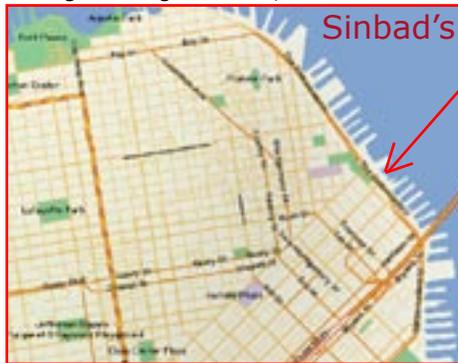
next edition. Copies of the roster are now available by mail or at the Chapter meeting for the exceedingly nominal price of \$10. Also, don't forget that your Chapter dues (\$20, which include a copy of the roster) can now be remitted for 2005. Thanks to those of you who have already responded. Your support is both important and appreciated.

We welcome some new members to the Chapter this month. Prof. Guitty Azarpay joins as a Fellow National, and Mr. Robert Higgins joins as a Friend of the EC National. We look forward to seeing you both at an upcoming meeting. Also, I received a note that member David Stronach FN80, of U.C. Berkeley recently received the Gold Medal of the Archaeological Institute of America for distinguished archaeological achievement. Congratulations David!

On a sadder note, I am informed that we have lost one of our senior chapter members. During our research for the roster I learned that Donald H. McLean, M.D. LF53 had recently passed away. If any of you have additional information concerning Dr. McLean, please send it along to one of your chapter officers.

Lastly, don't forget that ECAD 2005 is coming up in March. This year will present Wangari Maathai, recipi-

Sinbad's is JUST south of the Ferry Building! Parking available; BART access.



ent of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and Dr. James Watson, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, as well as other guests (of various species). I am told that reservations are going quickly, so be forewarned.

We have a great presentation coming up on February 25th at Sinbads. Member David Moyer, FN96, will be relating his experience with Operation Deep Freeze. Dress warmly. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Stephen E. Smith, FN96

## Evolution

@ The Explorers Club

ECAD is just around the corner. Yes, across the continent, but well worth the travel. If you have been there, you know; if never, it is an experience that no explorer should be denied.

Every year is a big affair, as evidenced once again at the 101st such dinner. The speakers this year: Nobel Peace Laureate, Wangari Maathai, the co-discoverer of DNA, James Watson, the President of Iceland, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, and Col. Matthew Bogdanos, who will tell the tale of what was looted and found again in Baghdad. ECAD is the major fundraising event of the year for our Club and an event to be savored.

The added ECAD highlight for most is the time spend at the clubhouse before and after the dinner. This wonderful facility is filled with treasures, wonderful fellow explorers to meet and the staff that keeps us running. The request for gifts to refresh our taxidermy collection (see page 2) is an indication of the care that is, has been and continues to be showered on this special place.

It is yours, visit it, use it, enjoy it. The chill of New York City as Spring begins is refreshing..

—Lee Langan, FN99

Please mail this form to:

Dr. Stephen E. Smith  
402 Via Royal  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
or, preferably:  
[nauticos@oceanearth.org](mailto:nauticos@oceanearth.org)  
or call 925 934-1051

meal choice (please circle):  
meat - fish - vegetarian

### NOTE: We return to Sinbad's on San Francisco's Embarcadero.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces for February 25, 2005, at Sinbad's, San Francisco. Cost \$45 each; \$50 on meeting day. Prospective members are very welcome.

Note the our annual Chapter dues are now payable: just \$20!

Contact Steve (right) to assure a reservation so we can advise the restaurant.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if changed): \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Northern California 2004-2005 Event Calendar**

(Mark the dates! Venues will be identified at time of event.)

October 19, 2004	Peter Pyle	"Birds on the Farallons & Across the Pacific"
The City Club, San Francisco		
November 19, 2004	Cagan Sekercioglu	"Angolan Ornithological Expedition 2004"
Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco		
December 19, 2004	James Chester	"Extreme Digital Photography"
Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco		
January 28, 2005	Duane Silverstein	"Saving Ocean Islands"
Dolphin Club, San Francisco		
February 25, 2005	David Moyer	"Operation Deep Freeze"
Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco		
March 19, 2005	ECAD	"101 Years of The Explorers Club"
Waldorf Astoria, New York		
March 25, 2005	Andrew Urbanczyk	"Transpacific Raft Expedition (A Guinness World Record)"
San Francisco		
April 22, 2005	Kirk Usher	"Biking Performance Physiology in the Himalayas"
San Francisco		
May 21, 2005	Gene & Sibyl Boudreau	Northern Kenya Exploring
Sebastopol		
June 18, 2005	Chapter Picnic	Contact Anders Jepsen to help: < <a href="mailto:ajviking@aol.com">ajviking@aol.com</a> >
Angel Island		

**Please note venues and dates with care.  
February 25th is a FRIDAY meeting at  
Sinbad's Restaurant in San Francisco**

**In full and lively color!**  
To experience this newsletter in color,  
see the 'pdf' version at our web site.

(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.)

### *February 2005*

Dr. Stephen E. Smith  
The Explorers Club  
Northern California Chapter  
402 Via Royal  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

