

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

February 2009

In color at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

San Francisco—February 27, 2009

Orville Magoon

Tsunamis—Real and Personal

These Killer Waves are Frequent and Dangerous



Tsunami damage in Crescent City, 1964



Orville, and his wife Karen, listening to Krist Jake aboard the *Alma* (Nov 2004)

Orville Magoon was born in Hawaii and experienced his first tsunami in 1946 — when he watched the incoming waves from a coconut tree just outside his home near Diamond Head in Honolulu. His faithful dog had the canine good sense to run away, wondering why the eighteen year old Orville didn't climb down from the tree and follow him. Although Orville may have questioned the wisdom of his selected vantage point, nevertheless, camera in hand, he took historic footage of that tsunami of April 1, 1946, whose power and destructive capabilities, causing the death of over a hundred people in Hawaii, fired Orville's lifelong interest in tsunamis and led to the development of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

Orville prides himself above all on being a fisherman in Hawaii, bringing his fish in as a barefoot kid onto the bus in Honolulu, causing other patrons to move as far from him and his fish as possible. Fishing and a love of engineering led to his remarkable career as a coastal engineer, specializing in coastal processes and in the development of structurally viable breakwaters

Note venues and dates with care.

San Francisco, CA!

Our next event is at 6:30 on Feb.27, a **Friday** evening, at the Golden Gate Yacht Club.



LESLIE EWING

and jetties, such as those in Humboldt. With a degree in Civil Engineering from Hawaii University and a Masters from Stanford in his pocket he began working for the US Army Corps of Engineers in San Francisco shortly after graduation. His mantra was to “get it right”, leading to the accurate prediction of failures of coastal structures and the warning not to build a nuclear power plant on a structure he questioned.

Orville was one of the first people to undertake surveys of tsunami damage along the north coast of California following the 1960 and 1964 tsunamis. His survey work and identification of high-water marks is used today to calibrate tsunami inundation models and explain the enormous forces that can be generated by these unusual waves.

He is president of the Coastal Zone Foundation, has been active in the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute, has edited over 40 volumes of proceedings from coastal engineering and coastal management conferences, and received numerous awards over the years for his engineering work. He is the former president of the Northern California Mycology Society and, as the former president of Guenoc and Langtry Estate Vineyards and Winery, produced numerous award winning wines and ports. Mr. Magoon is a Supreme Grand Knight of the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine, a member of *Les Amis du Vin*, and Past President of the Meritage Association, an association of wineries for the vivification of blended wines made from the traditional Bordeaux grape varieties.

To round out his wide-ranging list of credentials, Mr. Magoon holds a National Association of Underwater Instructors NAUI Open Water I SCUBA Diver Certificate. He is a licensed Radio Amateur Operator with the call sign K6DZN, and a life member of the American Radio Relay League. Mr. Magoon is also a long time member of the Jaguar Associate Club and has won a number of prizes for historic E-Type Jaguar automobiles. Mr. Magoon is an avid collector of Lillie Langtry memorabilia.

No Sex = War!

Making Sense Around the World San Francisco

Malthus and Ehrlich predicted the doom of mankind (because people will expand beyond the resources needed to support them), if restrictions were not put on the tendency of population to expand exponentially and to outrun resources. Times would be dire. Something had to be done to limit procreation! Our speakers on January 30th, Malcolm Potts, MD, PhD and Martha Campbell, PhD work in this same field of study, around the world. They see the explosion in their data—available to all in the projections of United Nations demographers. Yet, they also see a way out of the conundrum. They are a remarkably positive man-and-wife team that work at the Bixby Center for Population at the University of California at Berkeley's School of Public Health. Their subject this evening: "*Sexual Frontiers: Population and the Future of the Planet.*"

What is the key to solving the problem, and will it work? They have approached excessive births from the view of the unwanted pregnancies. Pragmatically, people will have sex. (If this is restricted by cultural traditions other issues become a problem: the second part of their talk.) Given this basic human drive, contraception is available to avoid unwanted pregnancies and, as a result, reduce the birthrate. In some cultures legal (safe) abortion is also available. Their research is directed to just how sex education and contraceptive access can be made available to those who need it. The problem of education is enormous because excessive birthrates (where children exceed two per family, a sustainable level) are most dramatic in developing countries. In these

places, often women are chattel or clearly subservient to the demands of their male partners.

The Potts/Campbell approach is to go into the field and talk to the women (and the men) in these far-off places. How many children do they wish? Do they understand how to limit more children? By listening to the locals they learn how condoms might be delivered or how long-lasting injections might be provided. They find that open discussions of sex can be accepted.

What is most encouraging is to see the impact of open discussion. In Western Europe the total fertility rate has fallen below 2 (a TFR of 2.1 children per couple will result in a stable population size) and in some countries it has fallen as low as 1.3. These are 'advanced' countries with good communications and ready acceptance of sex education. In Iran, with the government and the imams supporting contraception, the total fertility rate has dropped from 6 in 1996 to 2.1 which, over time, will lead to a stable population size. Following the Cultural Revolution, China introduced fertility education and services, reinforced by incentives and penalties, and brought the fertility rate down from 6 to its current rate of 1.6.

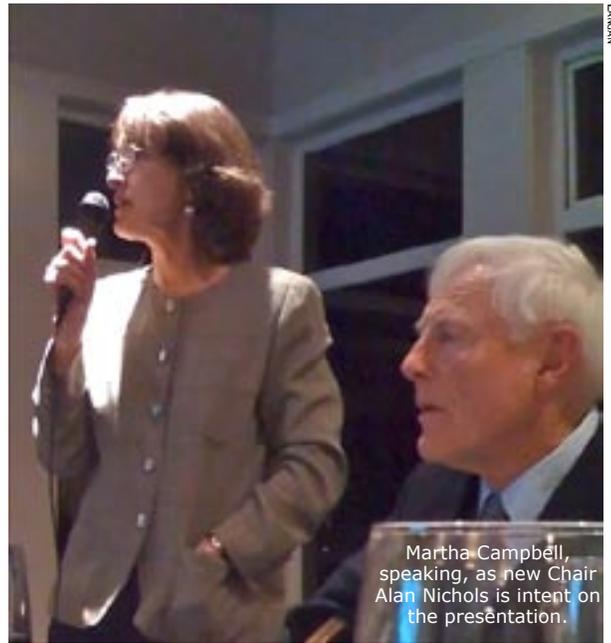
The question then is can this approach work in developing countries? The answer is a cautious yes; the best example, so far, is in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, where the birthrate is below 2, down from 6 just a few years ago. However, the challenge for Ethiopia as a whole remains great. With a current population of 79 million and a total fertility rate of 5.3, the projection to 2050 is 147 million. For the less developed world as a

whole the current population of 5.5 billion is projected to increase to 8.1 billion by 2050. The world population is projected to be 9.3 billion then, compared with 6.7 billion in 2008.

Dr. Potts has just published *Sex and War*, where the thesis is that throughout human history wars have been caused by the need to expand territory to accommodate an expanded population. This is the case among the chimps too! Doing battle has always been the solution to accommodating more people and to ensure the continuation of one's DNA. Humankind has become hard-wired to this approach, and, over the centuries, it has worked for the victors.

The effects of these evolutionary forces are evident around the world. Those countries with growth rates, large families, low educational levels, a high proportion of young males, poverty and high unemployment of young men are much more likely to experience civil strife, terrorism and wars. In their own long-term interests, as well as that of the entire planet, the wealthy countries need to help poor countries make family-planning services accessible to the several hundred million couples who wish to limit or space pregnancies. The demand for services is there, but the supply is still grossly inadequate.

Changing cultural mores is always difficult. Nevertheless, the peace of the world depends upon bringing the world's population in balance with its sustainable resources. Get a copy of *Sex and War*—it is a comprehensive study—at your local Bay Area bookstore or Amazon



Martha Campbell, speaking, as new Chair Alan Nichols is intent on the presentation.



Malcomb Potts, speaking; he and his wife (background) share the podium.

SPECIAL NOTICES: 1) Wanted: Sirdars to join us at our events. Members to speak, especially for our *story* night in November (stories from □ call: 415 789-9348; he will guide you to help where you want! 2) Many organizations have converted to email as the *sole* means of providing newsletters; we have resisted, but we would like to send as many as possible to be *green*. Please notify Steve Smith at nauticos@oceanearth.org if you will accept email-only communication. 3) Our new web address for the chapter: www.explorersnorca.org.

SAN FRANCISCO
OCEAN
FILM FESTIVAL



Now in its sixth year, North America's premier cinematic event offers a weekend of deep dives into the world's oceans and the cultures that surround them.

February 19 - 22, 2009
Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

Dive into 2009, with the *sixth* annual San Francisco Ocean Film Festival! From February 19-22, you will be able to experience a week-end of inspirational films and lively discussions on marine sciences, saltwater sports, coastal culture and the natural history and development of our earth's oceans. This unique festival, originated by chapter member Krist Jake (MN78), provides the public with a rare opportunity to see beneath the surface of the waves, to realize the importance of preserving ocean biodiversity, to become better ocean stewards and to celebrate the joy that oceans add to life. For more information visit

www.oceanfilmfest.org

2nd Compass Symposium
April 16, 17, 18, 19, 2009
San Juan Island, Washington

Lynn Danaher (MN05) is again in charge: the second annual gathering by the Northwest Chapter and friends. There were raves about last year's event. The maximum cost is estimated to be \$250 per attendee, Thursday through Sunday! Details about the symposium setting, the lodge, are at <http://www.lakedale.com/>.

Seven to ten speakers will make presentations of their expeditions and research.

Outings – you can't stay inside! We are explorers! You will have several opportunities to explore the San Juan Islands: a whale watch aboard a classic yacht, exploration of a small island that is only reached by boat, a great hike to a scenic viewpoint. Costs all included.

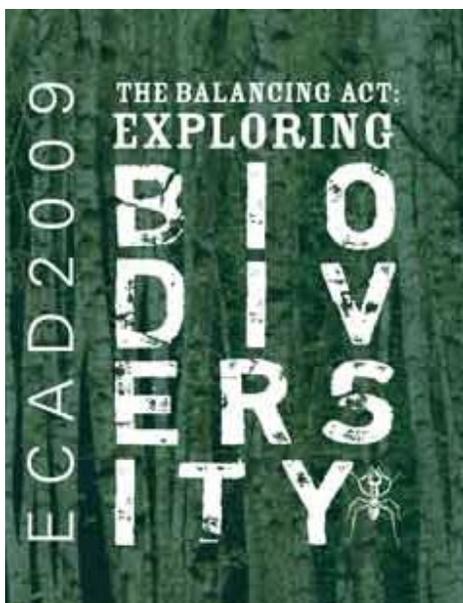
Limited scholarships are available to qualified students! For full details for all, email Lynn:

islandlynx@aol.com

March 1st is the decision time, but sign up earlier to be sure to attend. Who can attend? All members of The Explorers Club plus, any researchers, scientists, adventurers and those that share our sense of curiosity.

Editors Note: Vote for Langan to be a director of The Explorers Club—and ask your friends to do so. Thank you!

EGAD ECAD!



All members have received mailers and emails about the upcoming Explorers Club Annual Dinner (ECAD) on March 21. It is an over-the-top event, the major fund-raising venture for the Club each year at the Waldorf Astoria. ECAD is not to be missed if you can make it, and this year's program promises to maintain the standard!

Contact Lee Langan or Alan Nichols if you wish to attend as a NorCA group; tickets and details can be obtained at

www.explorers.org

The Chapter Chair

We're off to an exciting New Year start for our Chapter with an exceptional turnout for our January meeting. So many members have taken new leadership.

Joan Boothe has our new Sirdar support group going, and I'm proud to report my daughter Char is a charter member; bring your friends to join us.

Gerry Elkus initiated a new program of hosting our members and guests, with the help this time of my buddy Char and Gerry's charming artist daughter Nancy. Anyone who wants to help host a meeting or two should contact Gerry (email: puddytat@comcast.net)

Richard Blake reported on his approach as Membership Chair and reminded us all to let him know of new potential members so he can follow up, including our speakers.

Tom Hall was a champion of the night with several guests; he was also responsible for obtaining and hosting our interesting and inspired speakers.

We rightfully honored our outgoing Chair Lee Langan, and I suggested we bullet our ballots for his election to the national Board—we need him! And, thank him for continuing with the newsletter.

Last and most we all owe thanks to Sue Estey who took over Anders Treasurer's tasks; with such a large turnout and a new job she handled all the reservations, collected all the money, and answered all the inquiries, cheerfully and competently. She reminded us to please make reservations in advance. It helps!

See you on the 27th.

—Alan Nichols (FN84)

The Explorers Club @ Santa Barbara—January 24

The Southern California Chapter of the Explorers Club, under the leadership of David Dolan, hosted the national Board and held a gala dinner at the Museum of Natural History in Santa Barbara. It was a very successful weekend. Speakers extolled details as diverse as the roamings about Mars, the paleo- and enthoanthropology of the Chumash Indians and ice breakups in Antarctica.

Lorie Karnath (FN95) was elected our new President; she will succeed Dan Bennett at ECAD.

February 2009



Chair: Alan Nichols
415 789-9348
sacred-mountain@att.net
Vice Chair: Anders Jepsen
925 254-3079
ajviking@aol.com
Treasurer: Sue Estey
510 526-2216
sestey@earthlink.net
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

Tsunamis 27 February — Golden Gate Yacht Club

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues will be identified at time of event.)

Our next Meeting

February 27 Orville Magoon
Tsunamis—Real and Personal, GGYC

Future Meeting Schedule

March 27 Payne Johnson
Stephens' 1839 Search for the Mayas, GGYC
April 25 Christopher Whittier
Stories of Gorilla Country, GGYC
May 15 Doug Findley
Sailing the NW Passage, location TBD
June (TBD). picnic
November (TBD) Story Night

Earlier Meetings

April 4 Felicia Nutter
The Marine Mammal Center. GGYC
April 23 Jeff Morgan
Global Heritage Fund New Sites. GGYC
May 30 Nancy Black
Whale Watching off Monterey, Hicks' home,
Garrapata Beach, Big Sur
June 25 Marta Walsh at 100
DOER Marine, Alameda
September 27 Art Ford
Antarctic Tourism, Liebowitz home, Woodside
October 18 Don Hartsell
Lighter than Air, GGYC
November 21 Leela Hutchison
Giant Cave Crystals, Dana home, Tiburon
December 7 Holiday Gathering, Langan home
January 30 Malcolm Potts & Martha Campbell
Sex in 21st Century, Golden Gate Yacht Club

Send address changes and
corrections by email to Steve at
nauticos@oceanearth.org

February LOCATION

Date Friday, February 27, 2009
Place: Golden Gate Yacht Club
1 Yacht Road, San Francisco
Time: 6:30 - reception, no-host drinks
7:15 - buffet dinner, wine
8:00 - speaker
Cost: \$55 (in advance); \$60 (27th)

Please mail information (to right),
to Dr. Sue Estey
216 Carmel Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
or email sestey@earthlink.net
or call (510) 526-2216

Reserve ___ spaces for **February 27, 2009** at
Orville Magoon at GGYC
San Francisco, CA
Cost: \$55
(Chapter 2009 Dues due: \$25)

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Companion: _____

If you desire a car pool from the
Peninsula call Helen Klaben Kahn at
(650) 888-4058!

