



CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB

FOUNDED IN 1902

YEAR 2015

NUMBER TWO

THE LOG



INSIDE >

- BIRDS OF THE WORLD



CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB, INC.
FOUNDED 1902

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
50 VANDERBILT AVENUE - NEW YORK, NY 10017
(201) 612-9100 - FAX: (201) 786-9133
EMAIL: CLUB@CIRCUMNAVIGATORS.ORG
WWW.CIRCUMNAVIGATORS.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S *letter*

Dear Fellow Circumnavigators,

In the last issue of The LOG, I wrote about the four values that I think bind us together as members of our Club. One of them is the Club's 113-year history, which is very important to me. I particularly enjoy leafing through my personal copy of our centennial book and reading about the travels and adventures of our early members.

Thus, it was both a surprise and a delight in September when **C.** Christopher Sinclair presented me with a dozen vintage copies of The LOG at the annual luncheon honoring the Washington, DC Chapter's Foundation Scholar. Christopher found them with the help of an antique dealer in Atlanta and purchased them as a gift to the Club. The oldest copy is from 1911 and the most recent is from 1929.

Here are a few excerpts from The LOG published in September 1911:

- "Ground has been broken in the shape of the members sending in occasional contributions to The LOG, but there is still plenty of room for improvement in that direction, and the Board takes this opportunity of again requesting the members to send along anything in the shape of news that they think will prove of interest, for publication." Clearly, not much has changed in 104 years, as The LOG Editorial Director David Mink regularly pleads for your contributions!
- The first "branch" of the Club opened, with headquarters in Melbourne, Australia.
- A Frenchman named Andre Jaeger-Schmidt broke the record for encircling the globe, taking just 39 days. He later became a member.
- A letter dated July 21, 1911 from R.W. Ashcroft of Racine, WI. "I handled Mark Twain's business affairs for a number of years, and accompanied him abroad on some jaunts, although I was not with him on any of his globe-circling tours. I am sorry that he is not alive to apply for membership, but no doubt he is at present circumnavigating one of the other planets."

In future issues of The LOG I will share other tidbits from these vintage issues. On behalf of the Club, I once again thank Christopher for his very generous gift to our archives. They are a real treasure!

Luck to You,

Ellen

Margaret Ellen Parke



Christopher Sinclair and Ellen Parke

Thanks to

C. Paul Buescher for the cover photo of a snowy egret, shot in Shark Valley Park in the Everglades. He used a Canon 20D camera with a 600mm lens on a tripod.



The LOG

THIS TIME AROUND

BY C. DAVID A. MINK

Published every year since 1910, The LOG is a treasure trove of history and culture. This regular column takes a look at The LOG past and present.

If our founders, back before airplanes flew, had decided on a Club bird, it probably would have been the seagull, that harbinger to sailors that land was near. Or, perhaps the Albatross, the one bird that is known to circumnavigate.

The only thing we know for sure is that Circumnavigators have been active bird watchers and bird photographers throughout the Club history. Our members had the opportunity to see more than the typical backyard birds during their jaunts around the earth.

We are pleased to present just a few of those outstanding bird photos in this issue in our photo spread. We are also happy to introduce our members to Paul Buescher, an accomplished ornithologist, and his wife, Pat, quite a good photographer in her own right. See Pat's story, "Following the Birder" on page 10.

★★

Former Sports editor Fred Seely has updated a piece from a 1957 issue of The Log when Circumnavigators were asked by Sports Illustrated to name the oddest sport they had ever seen. It is a classic column, reprinted in this issue of The LOG along with Fred's 2015 update on the subject.

★★

As mentioned ad nauseum, The LOG is only as good as the members make it, by sharing their stories, experiences, photographs and other info. As the first editor said in 1910, "we need good stuff" and there is plenty of it in this issue.

Thank you to all our contributors!

Luck to You!!

David



The Birder

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THROUGH MY LENS.....	BACK COVER



Sally Hebeisen (Naples) spent two weeks painting in southern France where she had the chance to visit the Peche Mele caves, where paintings were done 17,000 years ago ... **Brad Vogel** (New York Metro) donned a traditional sarong in Kandy, Sri Lanka, near the Temple of the Tooth, a holy Buddhist site...



Jackie Simenauer (Naples Chapter) visited Italy. She and **Sandra Dee** will sail around the world for six months on Oceania's *Insignia* in January... **Bill Freyd** (At Large) heading off with wife Diane on a



Christmas cruise to the Mexican Riviera... **Barb Roy** (Naples) got the opportunity to get to know Cambodia on a three-week visit with her daughter... **Lois Kahan** (New York Metro) went to Crete on her sixth stint with Global Volunteers, teaching conversational English in a secondary school. Previously, she taught in Russia, Vietnam, Poland, Romania and St. Lucia...

Laurie Kaufman (Miami) went on her annual hiking trip with an international group to Switzerland. They hiked a different trail in the Bernese Alps every day, each one very beautiful with views of Jungfrau, Eiger and Monk Mountains... **Betty** and **Al Morasso** (New York Metro) traveled with their two daughters, son and grandson to Gibraltar, Andalucia, and northern Morocco, with junkets to Cadiz, Ronda, Tarifa



and a day in Tangier... Having visited all the "safe" places in the world, **Bill Ashley** (Washington DC) decided to do some return visits to some favorite spots. He spent two weeks in Germany, which included climbing the 530 steps of the Cologne Cathedral. Then he was on to Slovenia where



he drove through the beautiful snow covered Julian Mountains, finishing up the trip in Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania (insert photo)... **Dottie & David Mink** (Naples & NY Metro) with daughter **Kristen Koontz**



and grand-daughter **Katie Koontz** made a whirlwind circumnavigation with stops in Rome, Venice, blazing-hot Dubai and Beijing. 18-year old Katie described the highlights as a night-time gondola ride through Venice's narrow canals, the desert dune ride in Dubai

and a walk on the Great Wall of China... Pastpresident **Esther Dyer** (New York Metro) enjoyed a summer cruise around the British Isles with stops in Jersey, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. She later took a steamboat trip in New Orleans with grandsons Luke and Miles, learning about the river and how a steamboat works... **Virginia Foster** (Pacific Southwest) and husband Hammons made an ambitious circumnavigation with stops in Kenya, Oman, Sri Lanka, Laos, China and South Korea with a visit to the demilitarized zone... International President **Ellen Parke** (Washington DC) enjoyed a nostalgia trip to Paris and London... **Paul Wolff** (Washington DC) in Israel and Jordan where his new Circumnavigators Badge got a lot of notice... The world's most traveled person, our own **Don Parrish** (Chicago) on a recent trip to the Pacific visited two island associated with Amelia Earhardt, Howland and Gardner Islands. In Sri Lanka, Don visited all eight Unesco World Heritage Sites and took an elephant ride... **Sophie Classen** (Naples) heading to Mayan temples in Yucatan and then to the barrier reefs off the coast of Honduras... **Roger and Paula Baker** (Naples) enjoyed exploring Venice at the end of their train experience... **Tom Ambrose** (Palm Beach) & wife Thora recently spent five weeks of independent



travel in Asia, using Singapore as their hub city. They visited Vietnam from Saigon to Hanoi and enjoyed the cool mountain resort of Dalat. Then on to Jakarta on exotic Java, visiting Krakatau Volcano and the Dutch Colonial capital of Batavia on Jakarta's waterfront. Lastly, leaving Singapore once again, they moved onto their favored Tokyo and Yokohama in Japan.



Changed World, Same Love

Love Smith (Palm Beach) has been a legendary Circumnavigator, having spent decades trotting around the globe. The world has changed a lot since her first circumnavigation in 1955, but Love hasn't changed. She still takes her love and zest for life everywhere she goes.



Love Smith takes off

In Iran in 1971, she celebrated the 2500th anniversary of the pre-Islamic Persian monarchy with champagne, caviar, pheasant, magical music and complete cheerfulness, as she describes it. In 2005, she did volunteer work in remote world villages for six months.

Now 84, she has made 25 trips around the world, but her latest adventure is a real doozy. She joined a group of patriots from Louisiana on a motorcycle tour, celebrating President George H.W. Bush's 91st birthday. Having never ridden a motorcycle before, she took off for a day's ride to enjoy the magnificent beauty of the East Texas wildflowers. She met her new friends by accident and says she is glad she didn't have an accident. She describes it as a "totally fun, fabulous time".

Love Smith isn't slowing down from the fast lane, making new memories and friends.

On the Road Again

By **C. Steven Barnett**



Steven hits the road

This summer has seen a bit of unusual travel. As in other travels, my preferred mode of transportation is by motorcycle (having previously ridden from Panama to Antarctica and Panama to Alaska). This summer started out a bit more "normal", but certainly didn't end up that way. I bought a motorcycle in Ireland and arrived in April intending to spend four to six months riding around northern Europe, Scandinavia, and the Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia) with a little side trip planned to St Petersburg. While in

Ireland I learned that without a European passport I would only be allowed to stay in the Schengen zone (which includes most of Europe) for 90 days... so change of plans.

Karen joined me for five weeks, riding on the back of the bike through Germany, Austria, and Poland. After about two months riding through the more "common" areas of Europe, I headed out through Poland and into the Ukraine. While I am adventurous, I'm not completely crazy, and only visited the western part of that country. From Lviv I headed south into Moldova, with a bit of a side trip into Transnistria, a "country" recognized only by Russia, and a true Soviet Disneyland. It's the only place I've ever encountered a statue of Joseph Stalin still standing in a public place.

From there it was two more months around the Balkan countries and former Yugoslavia. Again, more examples of the Soviet dream, such as the abandoned conference center in Budluzha, Bulgaria,



Bulgarian "Saucer"



Stalin in Moldova

which personally I think is evidence that the Communists did indeed arrive on Earth by flying saucer.

After visiting Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, and the rest of the Balkan states, I returned to Germany where I left my motorcycle for the winter. I'll go back in May to continue through Scandinavia and once again north of the Arctic Circle.

Exploring the Ends OF THE EARTH IN 2015

Antarctica coastline

BY C. MARILYN VARCOE
NAPLES CHAPTER

The melting of the polar ice cap, at both the North and South Poles, was clearly apparent to me during my recent visit to these regions this year. I observed firsthand the receding ice in the beautiful environments of the South Pole in January and the North Pole in July 2015

In January, I traveled past the Antarctic Circle to 69 degrees south on a Hurtigruten ship to visit the British Research Station of Rothera where I observed 85 scientists conducting a variety of research studies. They have been able to demonstrate that the Antarctic environment has been experiencing the greatest effects of the earth's global warming. It was an extraordinary experience to observe their scientific experiments and learn about their projects.

Traversing this breathtakingly spectacular scenery of Antarctica was an amazing experience and one not to be missed.

In July, I was fortunate to travel on a Regent ship past the Arctic Circle to 80 degrees north. The Captain proudly proclaimed that no other cruise ship has traveled that far north to observe the ice pack of the North Pole. It was due to global warming that our ship could go that far north. We also spent time on Svalbard, the northernmost land in the Northern Hemisphere, and the home of the Polar Bears. We then crossed the Arctic to visit Murmansk, Russia and the Solovetsky Islands and returned to Europe through the spectacular fjords of northern Norway.

This year was truly memorable, having visited barely habitable environments and observed the changes taking place at the Earth's opposite poles.



Marilyn with replica polar bear



The melting Arctic ice pack

NOT THE USUAL ADVENTURE



An excursion to the American Southwest for **CS. Pat & Paul Buescher** turned from the sublime to the ridiculous. It started in Albuquerque, New Mexico with the amazing hot-air balloon festival--peaceful, colorful and simply spectacular.

Then the trip took a different turn. Here is the story from Pat's perspective.

We left early in the morning to drive out into the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. We were prepared. We had a map and permits for entering, and had given family the phone number to call if we didn't make it back to camp by dark. The road was rough, but we were driving a big Ram pickup. We saw Harris Hawks, Blue-gray gnat catchers, woodpeckers, Antelope Squirrels, and cactus; heard live ordnance dropping on the nearby Barry Goldwater bombing range and spotted A-10's flying overhead. We decided to turn around and stopped for lunch in an area marked as a Pronghorn crossing.

The Sonoran Pronghorn are endangered and rare to see. A couple of delightful young men from Arizona Fish and Game noticed we had pulled off the road, so drove over to make sure we were okay. We chatted, exchanged pleasantries and they left. Soon they can back to see if we would like to go out to see the Pronghorn. There is an area where they feed them to lure them in for breeding later this year. We jumped at the chance and were soon headed out beyond the "road closed, do not enter signs."



It was amazing. We saw dozens of these beautiful beasts. They are smaller than their northern relatives. The rangers turned off the electric fence so Paul could get close enough to take photos over it.

We thought the day was made. As we headed back to Ajo, an undocumented alien walked in front of the truck. We slowed down and tossed him a bottle of water. He grabbed the door handle on the truck and held on for dear life. We couldn't drive fast as the road is unmaintained. Cell service was hit and miss, but we were able to get a call out to Arizona law enforcement who called Border Patrol.

Cell service came and went, our hitchhiker hung on to the truck, and all we could do was wonder how we get involved in such adventures. After several miles of our "passenger" hanging on, our friends from Fish and Game appeared in the rear view mirror. We knew Border Patrol was heading toward us.

Our hitchhiker was tired and hungry, so when Border Patrol arrived he was happy to drop off our truck. Our friends from Fish and Game were glad we were safe and calm. We decided happy hour would be a bit early.



VENTURING INTO SIBERIA AND MONGOLIA

BY C. SALLY COLE - PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

After a winter in Seattle on a community project, my husband, Larry, and I decided it was time for some adventure, so we took the trans-Siberian and trans-Mongolian trains through some of the world's most remote regions.

Using a tour group was too restrictive, so we planned the trip ourselves, something that proved a real challenge. But we prevailed.

Departing Seattle, we flew to Vladivostok via Seoul, which was a remarkable flight pattern. As the crow flies from Seoul to Vladivostok, it is 464 miles. But air traffic does not fly over North Korea, increasing the distance twofold.

Vladivostok was more picturesque than I imagined. When the APEC meeting was held there in 2012, the Kremlin apparently put a lot of money in rebuilding and polishing up this city, including building a new suspension bridge across the harbor. The port was picturesque, the central part of the city charming, the Siberian restaurants welcoming, and the Russian Orthodox churches over the top! We hired a Russian guide for a half-day walking tour, which added to the experience.

The train took 12 hours to get to our first stop - Khabarovsk. Its claim to fame is that it is the coldest district in the world with a population of over 1 million people. We arrived at midnight and took a taxi on a dark

and stormy night to our hotel. Streets were bumpy, sidewalks askew, but once we woke up into the bright sunshine, it was a pretty city full of museums, outdoor exhibits and *okay* restaurants. A boat trip on the Amur River separating Siberia from China was a highlight.

Next was Ulan-Ude - a 50 hour journey - again arriving late at night. This Siberian city has more of a Chinese/Asian feel to it and *its* claim to fame is it has the largest Lenin head sculpture in the world (7.7 meters and weighing 42 tons), which happened to be staring right into our hotel room when we woke up the following day. Here we found spectacular examples of Siberian architecture, a beautiful opera house, pedestrian-only areas, and a Buddhist temple overlooking the city.

Cathedral in Khabarovsk



are local runs, fast runs, slow runs and distant runs, but they all sort of get you to the same place. First class (*spalny vagon*) is almost twice as expensive as second (*kupe*) but insures you have your own little sleeping cabin to yourself. Otherwise, you have four bunks up and down on both sides in *kupe*. Passengers assigned to your cabin who have the top bunks, might ask (or not) to sit on your bottom bunk/ chair throughout the journey. And they might be overindulging in vodka. Third class travel (*platskartny*) is an open-plan dormitory car, filled with backpackers and the like. There are no forward-facing seats like we have on Amtrak.

- Along the route in both Siberia and Mongolia, there are markers on the railroad track that tell you what kilometer you are along the route. We bought a book that gave a summary of significant sites to look for marked by kilometers - i.e. look for a 17th century Russian orthodox church on the left, or this is the town where Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was imprisoned, or this area is permafrost, etc.
- There is little English spoken in these countries and seldom will you find English placards in museums or exhibits. So it is probably a good investment to have a guide or docent if available. However stern the Siberians look, they are friendly and very accommodating to tourists.
- Russian train stations are architecturally very impressive.

All in all, the trip created wonderful memories for us and I would do it again the same way. We knew we had done something special when a town car picked us up at the Seattle airport to take us home. The driver was Russian and when we mentioned where we had been, he said "What travel company did you use?" When we told him that we did it independently, he almost slammed on the brakes in the middle of the interstate and said, "Really? That's gutsy!"

Smoked fish from Lake Baikal



Next stop was an eight-hour train ride to Irkutsk, our furthest point west. It is a beautiful city on a river flowing from Lake Baikal. We took a Russian hydrofoil out to Lake Baikal, the largest fresh water lake in the world, and walked around the lake village of Listvyanka. This is the only part of our journey where travel advisors said we could drink the water from the faucets because the lake water is so pure. Over 330 rivers and streams flow into Lake Baikal, and only one flows out. They even have fresh water seals.

After exploring this area for a few days, we returned to Ulan-Ude to connect with our 14-hour bus ride into Mongolia and to Ulan-Bator. We opted for this because the train trip could take up to 24 hours due to the wait at the border crossings. Going through border control to get out of Russia was an eye-opener. One of the passengers on our bus had overstayed his Russian visa by one day. We watched as he went through the process. The Russian officers eyed him warily, pulled him off to the side, processed the rest of us, and he never got back on the bus. The bus driver made several pit stops along the way...at outhouse-like buildings with wooden slatted floors. There would be a missing plank in each unit, which apparently was the toilet hole.

Ulan-Bator, the capital of Mongolia, is a city of contradictions. They can't seem to decide if they are nomadic or high tech, evidenced by sparkling, tall buildings among gers (yurts) in the distance. One of the highlights of our trip was spending a few days in a ger out in the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. The hiking was spectacular, the food was authentic, and the wildlife -- marmots, golden eagles and horses -- abounded.

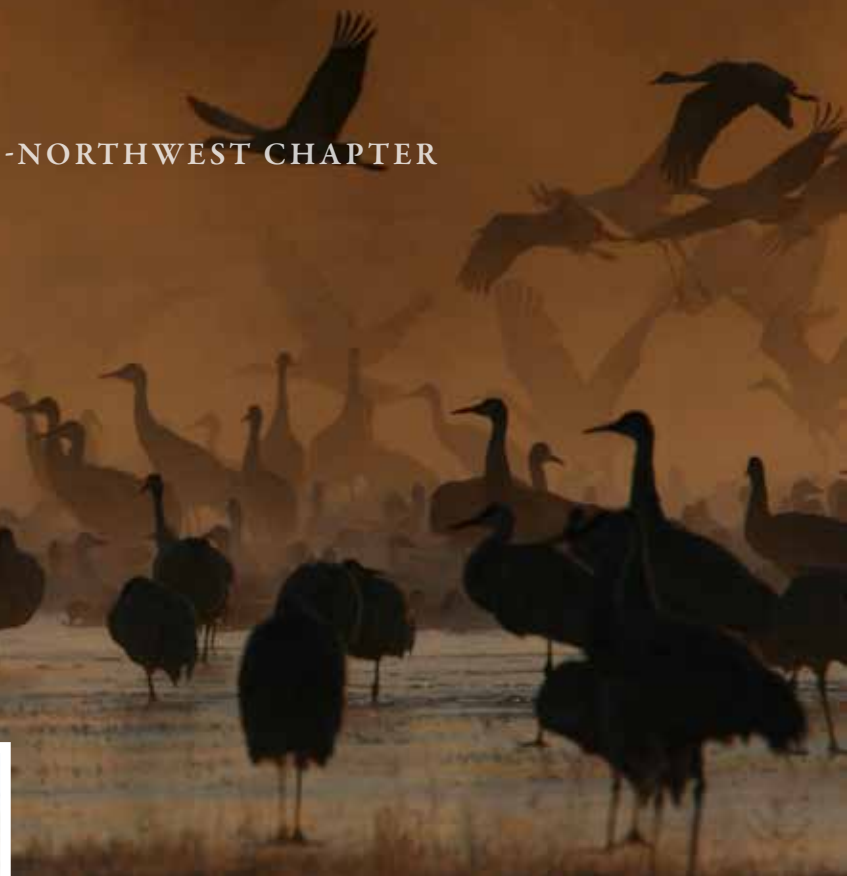
From there we took our last train ride into Beijing and after a few days of staying in a lively and popular *hutong* and hiking the Great Wall, we flew back to Seattle.

Lessons Learned -

- Driving: We considered renting a car in both Siberia and Mongolia. But, travel information about Siberia discouraged tourists from doing so saying, "there are pot holes so large they could swallow a small car," and "driving at night was more dangerous than driving under the influence." When I researched further about driving in Mongolia, the experts said, "...and if you think driving in Siberia is bad, you should see Mongolia."
- The Trans-Siberian train: There are various classes of travel on these trains. And the Trans-Siberian is not just one train but several. Some

FOLLOWING THE BIRDER

BY C. PATRICIA BUESCHER - PACIFIC-NORTHWEST CHAPTER



I shouldn't complain about my husband Paul's passion for photography and birding because I am guilty of enabling his addiction to both. I was the one who gave him a Canon SLR with a telephoto lens and the Hummingbird photography workshop. I plan the trips, listen when he talks about birds he would like to photograph, and travel with him around the world to get that perfect shot. I deserve every adventure my enabling has brought me.

While I protest I am the non-birding, non-photographer spouse; birding and bird photography continue to teach me much about birds and life.

SPACE

Birds, like most creatures, need their space. Johnny Rook (Striated Caracara) is particularly aggressive about pointing that out. During a birding photo trip on Sea Lion Island in the Falklands, while Paul and the other photographers were off tormenting penguins, I opted for a solitary walk along the beach. The beach was deserted except for a few penguins enjoying the surf. On my return to the lodge, hunkered over because of the wind, I felt something hard, like a rock, hit the back of my head. I looked behind me, no one was there. A bit bewildered, I continued up the beach toward the path to the lodge. Seconds later, I was hit again. This time, I turned around and started walking backwards, looking for the culprit. Soon I saw him. It was Johnny Rook, flying about 4 feet off the deck headed straight for me. He was making sure I understood this stretch of beach was his.

Other birds can be adamant about their space. On Carcass in the Falklands we were photographing below a cliff where Red Backed Hawks were nesting. They overestimated our ability to climb the rock face and kept a close eye on us. The male would fly toward us, but a hand or tripod raised in the air kept him away. And Black Browed Albatross chicks will clack their bills to warn when you are too close. Ignore that warning at your peril, as they will follow up with projectile vomiting to emphasize the point. If you do want to get a little closer, patience is your best bet. Sit or lie down and wait. The Atlantic Puffins on Lunga Island surrounded me, curious about this large stranger in their midst.

EXTRA EFFORT PAYS OFF

Unless I want to stay home alone, I put on my hiking boots and join Paul on his birding adventures. I may whine about the effort involved, but the results are always worth it. Manu, Peru is remote, requiring a flight in a small plane, landing on a grass strip, a ride in a motorized canoe, and lots of bugs. Our reward was a trip to the clay licks where the Blue Headed Parrots and Scarlet Macaws gather each day to eat the clay which helps them digest the seeds they consume.

I do draw the line at dawn outings in the cold. I prefer to stay in camp and enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee before I head out for the day. However, the photos taken as the sun rises and the Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes take off by the hundreds at Bosque Del Apache in New Mexico are stunning. For several mornings in late November Paul was up early, braving the freezing temperatures, risking being bombarded with goose poop, while waiting to be rewarded with a prize-winning photo. The good news, he took several.

PAY ATTENTION

You do not need to be a birder to see birds. What is important is to pay attention to your surroundings – look for movement, listen for a call or the sound of wings. In Ecuador, several of us hiked up a steep trail looking for a Plate-Billed Mountain Toucan's nest. The only clue was to look for two trees crossed like an X beside the dirt road at the top of the trail. Our group walked back and forth, searching for the spot. When I finally slowed down and looked, the movement of the birds caught my eye and we were rewarded with a great view of a mating pair of Toucans feeding their young.

Pausing to peer into nooks, crannies, and niches can be rewarding. We found a hummingbird nest in the wall of a ruin along the Inca trail to Machu Picchu. Or the cock of the rock I spotted nesting in the back of a rock ledge. Paul laughs because he can count on me to spot a bird and cry out "What bird is that?"

I will never be a birder or bird photographer, but I will always cherish sharing birding adventures with my dear bird photographer spouse.

CAPTIONS

Top Left: Sandhill Cranes in the sunrise fog

Left: Paul shots Johnny Rook in Falklands

Left: King Penguins on Georgia Island

Top Right: The outdoor photo studio and a booted Rocket Tail in flight

Right: Pat amongst the Rock Hopper penguins



MY NIGHT WITH A LEGENDARY LADY

BY C. ROGER WEATHERBURN BAKER - NAPLES CHAPTER



A SINGLE, ONE-WAY TICKET ON THE LONDON-
VENICE ORIENT EXPRESS COSTS AROUND \$3,300.
THE TRAIN RUNS FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER,
BUT TRY TO AVOID A HIGH SUMMER BOOKING
AS THE TRAIN HAS NO AIR CONDITIONING AND
ACCOMMODATIONS ARE A LITTLE CLOSE.

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I knew all about her, even before I met her. The Venice-Simplon Orient Express is synonymous with elegance, luxury, romance and mystery. Just reading her name conjures images of *Puttin' on the Ritz*: suave men in double-breasted smoking jackets and glamorous women draped in ropes of pearls, gliding across Europe in Art Deco luxury while sipping champagne cocktails.

She's not just a train. She's a legend, made famous by countless books, games, movies, TV shows and documentaries. There's almost no one on the planet who hasn't heard of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*.

She's a thrill to be experienced then and now, not so much for where she takes you but for how she gets you there, in a style that was once the epitome of trans-continental luxury. Even now, sitting in the piano bar surrounded by guests in black tie, listening to the rush of crushed ice sliding into a chilled martini glass, it's easy to imagine Hercule Poirot somewhere nearby. All thanks to an American entrepreneur.

Kentucky businessman James Sherwood bought two cars, originally owned and operated by the *Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits*, at auction in 1977. Over the next few years, Sherwood spent \$16 million buying 35 more sleeping cars, restaurant and Pullman carriages to complete an entire train. Restored to their full glory, the distinctive dark blue and gold cars are now owned by luxury travel operators Belmond of London, who own many other historic, luxury brands around the world.

Today, our journey begins at a dedicated reception area on Platform 2 at London's Victoria station where we gather for identification and processing of luggage, most of which we will not see again until Italy. We've been warned only a small carry-on bag each can travel with us. A tricky challenge when packing for a two-day overnight trip, including recommended formal attire.



The first leg of our journey is from London to Folkestone on another legend, the chocolate and cream British Pullman once known as *The Brighton Belle*, also ranked among the top 25 trains in the world. Settling down for our morning run south to the coast, we roll smoothly past the lush green pastures and hedgerows of southern England while being served a light brunch and traditional bellinis by smart, white-gloved attendants.

In days past, a crossing to the Continent would have been by ferryboat. We transfer by luxury coach to *Le Shuttle*, a 35-minute glide through the Eurotunnel to Calais. And there is our first sight of the glamorous movie star herself looking spectacular, sparkling in the afternoon sun. Uniformed attendants pose obligingly in front of her famous features while dozens of cameras, cell phones and iPads take advantage of the photo op. Somewhere a band plays.

We find our cabin is beautifully restored period elegance, all lacquered inlaid woods and polished brass, but a little cramped by modern standards. There's a bench seat for two, not much more than a knee's length from a small washbasin hidden in a corner cupboard, a skimpy overhead luggage rack, and a tiny drop-leaf table at the window. No sign of a bed, and the toilet is at the end of the corridor. But no fear, black-and-gold robes and

chic embroidered slippers have been thoughtfully provided should that trip become necessary during the night.

But now it was time to change into dinner dress. Imagine two people dancing the tango in a phone booth and you have some idea of that experience. But we don't complain. After all, we're on the Orient Express about to enjoy the highlight of the trip: a Michelin-star, four-course dinner impeccably served in sumptuous surroundings. We enter the romantically lit dining car passing through a high-end souvenir boutique and a champagne bar where bottles chill in heavily carved Lalique ice buckets. In the dining car of honey-colored inlaid wood, deeply upholstered armchairs sit invitingly beside tables draped with starched linens set with polished silver, sparkling crystal and monogrammed flatware. Most guests are in formal dress.

In the crowded bar car after dinner, a French piano player entertained into the small hours with tunes from the 20s, 30s and 40s that hardly anyone remembered but everyone knew from somewhere, some time. Back in our cabin, we discovered a small miracle. Our bench seat had been converted into two bunks, one above the other reached by an elegant brass ladder with velvet-covered rungs.

We slumbered peacefully through eastern France and Northern Switzerland, waking east of Zurich to a breakfast landscape of tumbling waterfalls, soaring mountain peaks and panoramic lake views. By late morning, we were through the Gotthard Tunnel, admiring the craggy, terra-cotta villages of northern Italy, and by afternoon tea we were down from the hills, sweeping across the verdant landscape of the Veneto toward the Adriatic.

Just before 6:00 pm we rumbled across the lagoon's causeway into Venice-Santa Lucia station, perched right at the water's edge of the western end of the Grand Canal. The setting could not have been more appropriate. We'd arrived by time capsule in a city where time has stood still.



THE SMILES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BY C. ANN SWINFORD - MICHIGAN CHAPTER

"When you smile, open your eyes really wide. Smile with your whole face. The Papua New Guineans smile with their whole face." This was the advice of my guide Greg Stathakis, who has been to Papua New Guinea 33 times.

He was right. As we walked through the market, everyone smiled and wanted their pictures taken. They wanted no payment; they enjoyed interacting with us, proudly displaying their vegetables. When we entered a village, the matriarch wrapped her arms around Greg in welcome, as they have been friends for 25 years.

Greg is a gem. A retired high school teacher, he pays attention to detail and education.

Greg encouraged our group to have a song to share with the locals. We chose "You are my Sunshine" - something that we all knew the lyrics to. It was a bit embarrassing to have the locals sing their inspiring national anthem, "O arise all you sons of this land, Let us sing of our joy to be free, Praising God and rejoicing to be Papua New Guinea", and to answer with "You are my sunshine", but our efforts were appreciated.

Near the end of the trip, a village Headman told us that he had never been sung to by white people. Well, that was a challenge, so I began the hokey pokey so that we could provide both dancing and singing, much to his laughing delight.



Huli men dancers

I went to Papua New Guinea because I saw a picture of a Huli man and said, "I must see this with my own eyes". I was not disappointed. We visited a Huli Village where tribesmen were preparing for a dance. We were able to get up close and take photos of the fierce-looking Huli warriors. When I told them that I came to Papua New Guinea to see THEM, I got the occasional smile.

Prior to the trip, I visited museums to see art from Papua New Guinea. It didn't speak to me and I figured that I wouldn't spend any money. I was so desperately wrong. The Sepik was an art fair on steroids. Fierce masks are intricately carved and decorated with inlaid shells and cassowary feathers. The local villagers did not know we were coming until they heard our outboard motor; we could see them running to get their art and meet us at the dock.

At Kanganaman, an iconic Sepik Village where Margaret Mead worked, we were welcomed by dancers wearing huge woven straw outfits-effigies. I said to the dancers, "Boy, it's really hot outside, how are you coping?" The answer in fluent English, "Yes we're dying in here!" "Thank you", I said. This is a wonderful dance and I appreciate you doing it for us!" It was such a lovely moment.

We learned that one of the locals, Vincent Yaramé, 43, is a renowned carver. We convinced him to take us to his house and there in the middle of the Sepik, with no running water or electricity, he showed us a gorgeous sculpture that he is creating for a collector in Canada.

The highlight of the trip was the Tumbuna Singing with dances by about a dozen tribes. Watching their preparations, carefully donning makeup and costumes, was part of the excitement. We had prime viewing of the dancing since there were only about 20 tourists there. After the parade of dancing tribespeople, we ran onto the field to join in the dancing. While dancing with a group of women, I said, "The women dancers have so much more energy than the men. You are beautiful!" They laughed, "We do more work than the men so we are stronger and dance stronger!"



Vincent and sculpture



Women dancers at Singing

I have been all over the world, and I have seen amazing scenes. As far as people are concerned, immersing yourself into Papau New Guinea is an opportunity second to none. Greg Stathakis, www.pngtravel.com, is an excellent guide and interpreter of the culture. His 30 years of relationships allow the opportunity to talk intimately to both local men and women and learn about their culture and views of the world. This part of the world is changing very rapidly and the time to go is now. I can hardly wait until I can go again!



Ann and Effigy dancers



Greg and village matriarch

CUBA

THEN, NOW & TOMORROW

BY C. TOM AMBROSE - PALM BEACH

How did I end up in Cuba just before the Castro Revolution ---was it my good luck ---or bad luck? Here is my story. After completing field studies along the Palisades of the Hudson River in New Jersey, I was granted a Masters Degree from the old Rutgers school of geology (1870). I then took my first job with a major American company located in the then highest skyscraper in lower Manhattan, just off Wall Street.

By 1956 the oil business was booming outside the U.S., so I decided to give expatriate living a try. With three job offers in hand, I was eager for a foreign adventure. The first was an office job in Strasbourg, France, to analyze Schlumberger well logs from the oldest oil fields in Europe (1813) in the Rhine Valley-this sounded rather boring. The second offer came from the French colonial island of Madagascar, but field work here seemed so far away in those pre-Jet days. The last offer came from an American independent firm wanting to join the oil drilling boom in Cuba, similar to the recent glory days in North Dakota before oil dropped below \$50/barrel, and the salary was in dollars, not in devalued francs.

I quickly accepted the Cuba offer which presented professional advancement had the company found big oil under a stable government - neither happened. Little did I know that only six months after my arrival in Havana in

July 1956, Fidel Castro would be landing his boat (the Granma) in Oriente province to overthrow Batista. Castro would enter Havana in January, 1959. Living under Batista in 1956-57 was easy and Havana was an exciting and fun place with a second tourist boom in progress. The first was in the 1920's during Prohibition, when thousands of Americans headed to Cuba for alcohol and good times. In the 1950's Havana offered 18 casinos, beautiful cabarets with floor shows, fine restaurants, hotels, clubs, and the best tropical music anywhere.

My office was on the top floor of the only 1950's high-rise (architecturally misplaced) in Old Havana with a view of Morro Castle and just two blocks from the colonial Havana Cathedral. In March 1957, I witnessed from my window the famous failed and bloody pro-Castro student attack on the nearby Presidential Palace with Batista inside. Per custom, nobody worked between noon and 2 pm, which allowed me to drive home to Miramar for lunch. My work sometimes took me across the island for foot traverses with no poisonous snakes to watch for, as Cuba has none. I saw poverty in the sugar cane fields (see photo of shack), especially during non-harvest periods when many cutters were jobless.

By 1958 Castro agents were burning cane fields, curtailing my field expeditions, although I carried a "safe passage" pass from Batista for protection against his trigger-happy troops, who might mistake me for a Castroite. Luckily I never encountered any Castro rebels. Meanwhile, bombs and gunfire intensified in Havana before Batista finally fled by plane on New Years Eve. Days later, I joined the ragtag Castro soldiers (see photo) for a photo-op as did most Cubans.

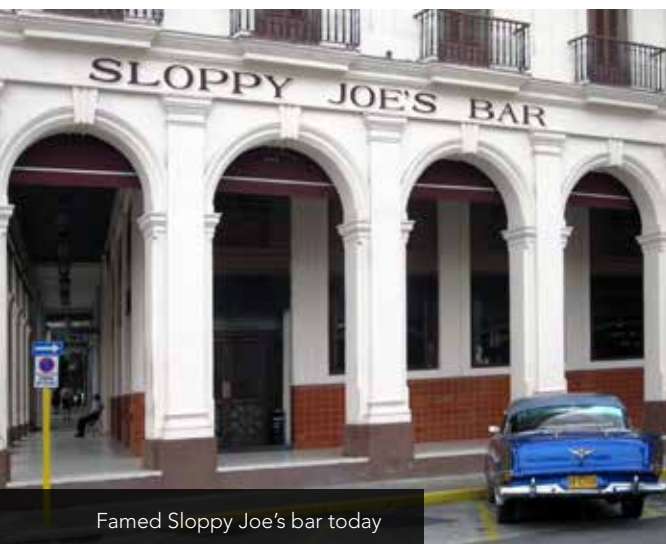
Surviving 1959 under Castro was challenging. Tourism was in a free-fall as Havana had lost its excitement and nightlife. Instead, there was more time to enjoy the beautiful beaches and visit local sites, such as Finca Vigia, the home of Ernest Hemingway. After the assets of my company were nationalized, I joined the exodus to Miami, not seeing Cuba again for 42 years (in 2002 plus three later visits). Cuba then became a "time warp" with many 1950's attractions still in place today. In retrospect, my good luck was to experience the best of Cuba before Castro, while my bad luck was that the revolution cut short my adventurous Cuban experience.



Tom with Castro rebels at Presidential Palace in 1959



Ragtag Castro soldiers



Famed Sloppy Joe's bar today



Rebel Headquarters at casino nightclub



Tom with the Belaire today in Havana



Tom's house and Chevy Belaire convertible then



Girls night out at the club today

FOR FURTHER READING
AND PHOTOS ON
RURAL CUBA GO
ONLINE AND GOOGLE:

**THOMAS N. AMBROSE,
GEOLOGIST**

CLICK:
PDF – SURVEY OF
TROPICAL LANDFORMS
ON ISLAND OF CUBA,
NOV. 2013

The Cuba of tomorrow is difficult to predict, although Socialism will likely prevail for some years. Foreign tourism will continue to grow, some sugar mills may go back into production, and tobacco will still add great value. Bio-technology should continue as a profitable industry. With a coastline of almost 2,500 miles, hotel construction, water sports and fishing will expand. Onshore Cuba offers caving, climbing (Pico Turquino reaches 6,476 ft.) in addition to the development of eco-tourism. Unique colonial towns, along with Old Havana (founded 1519), are slowly being restored to draw more visitors. Industrial development continues just west of Havana at the deep water port of Mariel in preparation for the arrival of the super Panamax ships. A new rail line to Havana is under construction to handle increased cargo once the U.S. embargo is lifted. Lastly, it is possible that later in this century a reverse human migration (this time from Miami to Havana) may occur if rising sea levels force Floridians to higher ground. The Havana area, with elevations to almost 800 ft., could provide the nearest refuge.

WE CALL *these* SPORTS?

BY C. FRED SEELY - JACKSONVILLE, FL

A problem in selecting a sport is defining “sport.” What’s one man’s football is another’s soccer. There are those who will argue that the game of bridge is much more of a sport than, say, bowling. So, for the purposes of this article, how did we define “sport”? Answer: whatever a fellow Circumnavigator decided was a sport.

Let’s start with C. Bill Freyd of Henderson, Nev., who has this nomination:

“Although it is not truly a sport, the strangest thing I ever saw and heard was Mongolian Throat Singing in the Gobi Desert. Because it is a significant physical exercise and there are, I was told, contests and winners, I thought it might make the cut.” According to Wikipedia, “Throat singing is a type of singing in which the singer manipulates the resonances (or formants) created as air travels from the lungs, past the vocal folds, and out of the lips to produce a melody.

“The partials of a sound wave made by the human voice can be selectively amplified by changing the shape of the resonant cavities of the mouth, larynx and pharynx. This resonant tuning allows the singer to create apparently more than one pitch at the same time (the fundamental and a selected overtone), while actually generating only a single fundamental frequency with his/her vocal folds.”

C. Lew Klechak of Jacksonville, FL, saw an Elephant Polo match at Tiger Tops in Nepal and C. Virginia Foster (Pacific Southwest) gave it a try in India. You also can see it at several of the elephant camps near Chang Mai, Thailand. It’s played just like the polo you know, except much, much slower. There are two seven-minute halves with a 15-minute intermission. In most places, it’s another act in the elephant show along with painting, football kicking, and dancing. The World Elephant Polo Championship is contested annually at Tiger Tops and is a throwback to the colonial days with international teams, including many from former British colonies (The squad from Sri Lanka is still named Ceylon). Another biggie in Elephant Polo is at a Thai resort where they contest the King’s Cup between international teams. An oddity here is the annual appearance of what’s known as the Ladyboy team, Thai men who cross-dress. One of the world’s most dangerous sports sounds like one of the safest. It’s so dangerous that today is banned in many places.



Virginia Foster tries elephant polo

WOULD YOU BELIEVE KITE FIGHTING?

C. David and C. Dottie Mink (Naples Chapter) saw the sport in Pakistan. The object is to “kill” the opponent’s kite but the method kills people, too. The danger comes from a glass-coated line dangling from the kite which is



The deadly kite

used to slash the opposing kite. It also, unfortunately, can slash the necks of bystanders or people out for a bike ride.

The 2003 novel “The Kite Runner” became a movie in 2007 and brought the sport (but not the danger) to the public.

C. Charles Merkel of St. Louis and C. Paul Wolff (Washington DC Chapter) both were impressed with seeing Buzkashi, a rather politically incorrect endeavor that even the non-PC Taliban have outlawed.

Paul recalls a trip to Uzbekistan where “my wife and I attended a Buzkashi match. It is, as best I can explain, a variant of polo, played with a goat carcass, not a ball. Two teams of 8-10 bareback horse riders meet in the center of the field, which is somewhat longer and much wider than a football field. There lies a goat carcass.

“The object is to drag the carcass to the other side’s ‘end zone’ and place the carcass on top of a stone column, about 3 feet in diameter and 6 feet high. The job of the team without the carcass is to stop this, get the carcass and go on the offense. The player carrying the carcass, to avoid it being grabbed by the other side, generally rides on the side of the horse, not the top, much like the Comanches did when fighting. “There was no marching band at halftime. Rather, there was a wrestling match on horseback with each rider trying to pull the other off his horse.” Like the Palio di Siena, getting to the goal isn’t easy as the opponents can use any means (fists, whips, etc.) to stop the would-be victor. Those of us in Jacksonville can well relate as we watch opposing teams drag would-be Jacksonville Jaguar defenders around.

C. Janet Restarick of Mandeville, LA nominates the Argungu Fishing Festival in Africa. It is held in the Kebbi/Sokoto area, which must be as grim as they come: 500,000, almost all poor, living with an average daytime temperature of 110 degrees.



Fishing chaos in Africa

If you haven't heard of the Kebbi/Sokoto area, there's good reason: "To get to the festival, we drove for nine hours from Lagos in 4-wheeled vehicles with armed guards." The festival celebrates the opening of fishing season. Janet says, "At the sound of a gun, 35,000 fishermen form a gigantic human tidal wave and charge across an open field for about 100 yards and plunge into the muddy Matan Fada River. It is a huge chaotic mass of shouting and screaming bodies. This is a surreal moment and the most spectacular part of the festival. "It is a wonder that hundreds of people aren't trampled to death during this human stampede or drowned in the river. "The fishing is done by using nets that are attached to long sticks, which are dipped repeatedly into the river and scooped upward. The fishermen put gourds under their stomachs as a float. "It is remarkable to see the different fish that are caught and more remarkable to see that some of these fish weigh up to 100 pounds. These huge fish are brought to the scales for weight verification. The prizes amount to about \$500, probably enough to sustain their entire family for a year."

Watching sports enthusiasts often is a sport unto itself and I relate a story of desperation as one with habits ingrained from my days as a sports writer.

We stayed at churches and other lodgings that were two-star at best. This meant several bad things, the most glaring being awful food (anyone who has been to Israel will have not-so-fond memories of what they call "salad") and the next issue was no television. Let my wife, fellow *C*. Roxanna Seely, tell the rest: "It was March which means the middle of the NCAA basketball tournament, the Florida part of the PGA Tour season, spring training baseball and weekly NASCAR. Back in the states, I wouldn't have seen Fred except when he got hungry (I refuse to serve him in the TV room!). "For TV, we might as well have been on the moon. Actually, there probably are more TV sports out in space than in the accommodations we had in Beersheba, Ramot, Quran and Jerusalem. The internet was nowhere. Fred could only moan about it.

"When the church tour ended, we took a side trip to Jordan to see Petra. We were booked into the Movenpick Hotel and our room had a huge TV set. Fred was ecstatic ... until he saw the channel listings. No ESPN, no ABC, no CBS, nothing that would have Fred's sports. "I almost felt sorry for him. But, if nothing else, he's determined to watch sports. "So, there he sat, a Carakale Ale in hand, tuned to Al Jazeera Sports and intently watching a Team Handball match between Syria and Saudi Arabia. He had zero idea what they were doing, but it was sports."

TO SEE THESE "SPORTS" IN ACTION VISIT

ARGUNGU FISHING FESTIVAL

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAPRcHqXJ04

BUZKASHI

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UB3eA8B4qI

ELEPHANT POLO

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbKtqM0hq_I

KITE FIGHTING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh08VY5b6xk>

MONGOLIAN THROAT SINGING

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rmo3fKeveo

TEAM HANDBALL

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPgnRff5EVg



The Question:

What is the most unusual sport you've seen in your travels around the world? (Asked of members of the Circumnavigators Club.)

JIMMY JEMAIL'S HOTBOX

REAR ADMIRAL LOUIS B. OLSON



*U.S. Coast Guard
Former Commander
Eastern Area*

The Aleuts in the Pribilof Islands have a practical sport. Competing groups go to the cliffs where thousands of large birds nest. Each group clears an area of old eggs and paints a square around its area. The next day, the group with the most eggs in its area wins.

FRANK E. MASON

*Leesburg, Va.
Newspaper publisher*



Purring, a sport in Wales. Contestants wear heavy shoes with reinforced toes. Then they face each other with hands on the other's shoulders. At the signal, both start kicking the other's shins. The one who lets go and backs away to save what's left of his shins is the loser.

CAPTAIN PERCY A. COOK

*Cook Island, Fla.
Descendant of
the famed explorer*



A lion hunt in Africa where the natives use spears and shields only. The natives circled the lion until he was cornered. Then the lion leaped at a native, who tried to fend him off with his shield. Even though one native was killed, they vied with each other to engage the lion.

REGINALD ORCUTT

*Newport, R.I.
Overseas consultant*



Whaling in Greenland, a wonderful sport that you can never forget. All the Eskimo women and children stand on the hills watching the boats and singing the whale song, *Sonya Klipog*, the lyrics of which are—"Maybe a blue whale; maybe a black whale; anyway a whale."

W. GEORGE HUNTINGTON

*Harwichport, Mass.
Past president
Circumnavigators Club*



Peg spearing by the Royal Bengal Lancers in India. Pegs are driven into the ground in several rows. The Lancers gallop down, each on his row of pegs, spearing as many pegs as he can and throwing the pegs over his shoulder. The one who spears the most pegs wins.

GEORGE F. PIERROT

*Detroit
Adventurer,
lecture director*



Ka-bad-di, played in Pakistan. A player must take a deep breath, run 50 feet, touch an opponent and return without being tackled. The player must shout "ka-bad-di" over and over on the one deep breath he has taken. If he takes a second breath or is tackled, he loses.

DR. WENDELL PHILLIPS

*Arabia
Economic adviser to
Sultan of Muscat*



High jumping by the Watusi. These men are giants. It's common to see them seven to eight feet tall in Africa's Congo. They jump from a stone and clear the bar at seven feet 8½ inches. They refuse to compete in the Olympics because officials won't let them use the stone.

RAYMOND M. DINSMORE

*New York
President, Circum-
navigators Club*



On April 29, the birthday of Emperor Hirohito, I saw the big, heavyweight Sumo wrestlers, garbed in ceremonial clothes, hold the mob spellbound by performing in the finest traditions of the sport. It's the world series of wrestling because only the top wrestlers compete.

JAMES G. STAHLMAN

*Nashville
Publisher
Nashville Banner*



A fight between the mongoose and cobra in Delhi, India. The cobra arrives in a basket. The mongoose is chained. After the fakirs put on their stunts, the Hindus play a weird chant on reed instruments while the mongoose sniffs the cobra. When both are frantic, they are let loose.

Afghans at the game of Buzkashi





Goodwill Connection...*Around the World*

The purpose of the Goodwill Connection is to bring together Circumnavigators as they globe-trot. Please consider adding your name to the list of greeters – those who will welcome members to their city. Contact Headquarters, Tracy Sancilio at (201) 612-9100 or e-mail: club@circumnavigators.org to sign up to serve on the Connection. Should you be planning a trip to a city where there is a member, please contact Tracy with your arrival and departure dates and the hotel where you will be staying. She will be happy to contact the member for you.

AUSTRALIA -Queensland, Brisbane

GREECE - Athens, Kiffissia

CANADA - British Columbia/Vancouver

NEVIS (W.I.) - Charlestown

SINGAPORE - Singapore

THAILAND - Bangkok

UNITED KINGDOM- London

U.S.A.

ARIZONA - Scottsdale, Sedona

CALIFORNIA - La Jolla, San Francisco

FLORIDA - PalmBeach,Miami,Naples

ILLINOIS - Chicago,Northbrook,Winnetka

MICHIGAN - Detroit

NEW MEXICO - Albuquerque, El Prado

NEW YORK - New York

PENNSYLVANIA - Philadelphia

SOUTH CAROLINA - Hilton Head

WASHINGTON DC

WASHINGTON- Seattle

Singapore Chapter Welcomes Naples Chapter

Mr. Graham Bell, President of Singapore Chapter, hosted a lunch to welcome Mr. Barbara Roy, President of Naples Chapter, and her daughter Cheryl to Singapore.



Past President Mr. Vincent Chen,
President Mr. Graham Bell and Past President Mr. Ronald Zung.

BIRDS OF THE WORLD

(CAPTIONS) Description from left to right, starting with top row.



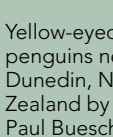
• Frigate bird in Galapagos by David Mink



• Birds in flight, Venice, by Marilu Ramirez



• Roseate Spoonbill, SW Florida by Carol Green



• Yellow-eyed penguins near Dunedin, New Zealand by Paul Buescher



• Blue and Gold Macaw in Bali by Roger Weatherburn Baker



• Sacred Ibis near Perth, Australia by Michael Hoey



• Snowy Owl in Ridgefield NWP, WA by Pat Buescher



• Egret in flight SW Florida by David Mink



• Masked Trogon in Panama by Paul Buescher



• Flamingo in South Africa by Roger Weatherburn Baker

BIRDS OF THE WORLD





UK CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS

*(only kidding). The members meet each year
for a Christmas luncheon at the House of Lords.*

BY C. HELEN JENKINS
PRESIDENT UK CHAPTER



In The LOG in 1980, it was announced: “Blessed Event—British Chapter is born”. After decades of a loose affiliation with the International Circumnavigators Club, it became official with the UK Chapter inaugural event at the prestigious Garrick Club in London. It was held on October 17, 1980 with a five-course dinner and toasts to the Circumnavigators Club and the success of the new chapter.

A success it has been!

THE HIGHLIGHT of our year is our annual Christmas lunch at the House of Lords in London. This is a very prestigious venue hosted by Lord Richard Faulkner of Worcester. We lunch in the private Attlee Room and the food, guests and company are exceptional. Guest speakers have included Michael Palin, Richard Parks, Rosie Swale Pope, Trevor Fishlock, and this December Nick Hunt, who followed Patrick Leigh Fermor’s footsteps across Europe retracing his famed journey.

Being the UK Chapter, members come from across the United Kingdom so we have a wide spread membership. As UK President, I live in Cardiff, Wales but our lunches are usually held in London which is 2 ½ hours away by train. Lunches are held around three times a year at members clubs, which include the Oriental Club, The Savile Club, Garrick Club and RAC Club.

It is sometimes difficult to arrange as members can be away travelling, or some of the original members find it difficult to get to London now. However, meetings are always very entertaining with stories of travel and adventure to share.

We have over recent years had a great association with the University of Liverpool and the Circumnavigators Club Foundation, thanks in part to Circumnavigators Sir Howard and Lady Newby. Sir Howard was Vice Chancellor of the University and started the connection. We have been able to award a grant to a student to embark on the Foundation Around-the-World Travel-Study Project. Interviewing the students, charting their progress and seeing what a difference this has made to their lives going forward has been a wonderful experience and opportunity for all.

When I took over as President in 2006 from the Earl of Inchcape, my aim was to maintain the high standard of membership, continue the traditional lunches, yet develop geographically in the UK and involve younger members, too. It is a slow and steady process but we are thriving and truly have the most amazing and interesting group of people aiming to make and leave the world a better place.



Helen Jenkins with Peter Mosse, Lord Faulkner and Michael Palin at the House of Lords



Helen and Jane Hinds who circumnavigated together in 1981



The first Foundation panel

chapter highlights

CHICAGO



☪. Alice Lentzen, ☪. Peg Leonard, speaker Lama Sean Jones of Karma Thegsum Choling Buddhist Temple in Cicero, IL, and ☪. Barbara Wilcox.

On September 29, the Chicago Chapter gathered at one of their favorite venues, the Commodore Room of the Chicago Yacht Club, overlooking Chicago's Lake Michigan Harbor, for cocktails, dinner, and a fascinating speaker/presentation. Lama Sean Jones, director of the Karma Thegsum Choling Buddhist Temple in Cicero, IL, spoke to us about the history, architecture, and art of Buddhism, both in Asia and here in America. The 37 people in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and convivial socializing with other members.

MICHIGAN



☪s. Charles & Roberta Clemak,
☪s. Floy & Lee Barthel, ☪. Joe Osentoski

The Michigan Chapter gathered for their annual "Summer Safari" party with a Spanish theme on August 16 at the Barthel Estate.

NAPLES

Chapter President Barbara Roy celebrating with Santa at the Naples Holiday Party.



PACIFIC-NORTHWEST



☪. Mel Kelso standing at the helm with skipper ☪. Johann Duenhoelter.

Dr. Johann Duenhoelter once again took Pacific-Northwest Chapter members on a cruise aboard his 34' Grand Banks, the Marilsnik. It turned out to be a perfect day for the cruise to Vashon Island and then over to the Port of Tacoma. Upon return all met for dinner at a waterfront seafood restaurant in Gig Harbor.

PACIFIC-SOUTHWEST



☪s. Kathleen and George Beebe visited Bhutan, "The Happiest Nation in the World." They will share their experience at the next Chapter Meeting in December.

SINGAPORE



The Singapore Chapter held their mid-year dinner at Sentosa Golf Club on July 9. A sumptuous dinner was served while a wonderful singer and band entertained members. Many of their talented members sang along with the band.

WASHINGTON DC

PALM BEACH



☪. John O. Manning and
☪. Jerry Nelinson at the
Palm Beach Chapter
“Welcome Back Party”.



☪. Scholar Sam McAleese, Board of Governors member Ray Olson,
☪. Scholar Kip Knudson, ☪. Heather Wilson and Chapter President Samuel Watson.

The Washington DC Chapter met on October 17 for a Persian-style kabob luncheon. Colonel C. Powell Hutton, United States Army (retired) spoke about his tour of Turkey and Iran in the early 1970s and related it to Persian history for the past 2400 years.



UNITED KINGDOM

The UK Chapter enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Savile Club. Chapter President Helen Jenkins, ☪. Prof Michael Hoey,
☪. Susan Hoey and ☪. Lady Sheila Newby



WELCOME *aboard*s

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE ELECTED TO OUR "GREAT CIRCLE" BY OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Nicholas Alexander



Most Circumnavigators are accomplished travelers, but how many have been involved in actually starting an airline? Nick Alexander was asked by Richard Branson to become Marketing Director for the launch of his latest venture—Virgin Atlantic Airlines. This is just one of the many adventures he has had in the field of marketing and business. Nick lives in London and also has a home in Oxford where he is creating an "English Pasture" on 40 acres, leaving the world a better place.

Lise Ann Banfield



Lise grew up in the Virgin Islands where she now resides in St. Thomas with her husband Sir Clive Banfield who is also a Circumnavigator. She graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in psychology. For the past 22 years, she has traveled to more than 100 countries and raised their daughter Zoe who is now a student at the University of Hawaii.

John Carey



With a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, John is a professor of Communication and Media Management at Fordham University. John lives in Hastings on Hudson, New York, with his wife Eileen Connell, also a Circumnavigator. John is an avid traveler, having visited 40 countries and circumnavigated twice.

Robert Chapman



Living in Arlington, Texas, Robert is retired after a long, distinguished career in the military and federal law enforcement. He spent time in some of the world's hot spots, namely Iraq and Afghanistan. Notably, he served as the manager for the trial of Saddam Hussein. For relaxation, he scuba dives.

Eileen Connell



Eileen has lived in Mexico, Panama, Taiwan, Spain, France and Ireland. She is bi-lingual in Spanish and English with some fluency in French. With degrees from NYU, her area of expertise is in designing applications for new media technologies. She lives in New York with her husband John Carey. She enjoys literature, cinema and pop culture.

John Constable



John lives in Cardiff, Wales, where he works as an economist. He is a member of the Savile Club in London and recently hosted a UK Chapter event at his club. He is well traveled and circumnavigated in 1989.

Guillermo De Las Heras



Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Guillermo is a naturalized American citizen with a career in international trade and foreign service. He served in various positions in U.S. embassies and consulates around the world. He now lives with his wife Sirpa in Cascais, Portugal. He has a passion for the outdoors, enjoying scuba diving and wildlife photography among other hobbies.

Sirpa De Las Heras



Born and raised in Finland, Sirpa holds a dual U.S.-Finnish citizenship. She lived in many places with her husband Guillermo, including Sweden, Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil and Angola, before the family decided to retire and settle down in beautiful Portugal. The couple completed a month-long circumnavigation in 2015 to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

Domitilia dos Santos



Born in Faro, Portugal, Domitilia has earned degrees in political science and law from Drew University and Rutgers. She is now a senior vice president for the investment firm Morgan Stanley and lives in New York City. She is active in a wide range of civic and charitable activities. She is a marathon runner and avid hiker, having completed more than 168 marathons around the world.

Cynthia Gumpert



Born in Miami Beach, Cynthia is now living in Naples, Florida. She met her late husband Frank in Washington DC where they created a chain of printing companies. She enjoys sailing and golfing in Florida where she belongs to the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club.

L. Parker Harrell



Now retired in Ocean Ridge, Florida, Parker was a senior executive for Korn Ferry, the world's largest executive search firm. He served on Korn Ferry's board of directors as well as other boards in the financial services field. He and his wife Adele also have a residence, Stonewall Farm, in Hume, Virginia. He is an avid golfer and duplicate bridge player.

Ted Highberger



A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, Ted is now retired after a long career as an executive with Coca-Cola. He lived in many places in the world, including London and Copenhagen, and completed his first circumnavigation last year. Now living in Greenville, North Carolina, he is involved in a number of civic and charitable activities, and enjoys golf.



WELCOME *aboard*s

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE ELECTED TO OUR "GREAT CIRCLE" BY OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Christopher Ho



Christopher graduated from the University of Wisconsin and now serves as vice president at his family business—Tai Tak Group—a 61-year-old investment firm with interests in many fields, including banking, oil palm plantations and breweries. Christopher's late father Ho Sim Guan was a long-time member of the Singapore Chapter of the Circumnavigators. Married with three children, his long list of activities includes snorkeling/diving, skiing, golfing and travel photography.

Richard Jennewine



Rick lives in Naples, Florida where he is retired after a long corporate career with companies such as Exxon and IBM. He has served as a director on eight corporate boards. He has degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. Rick's wife and traveling companion for 45 years passed away several years ago. He is involved in community activities in Naples.

Timothy Killeen



A citizen of the United Kingdom, Tim is a neurosurgeon and researcher working and living in Zurich, Switzerland. He is dedicated to solving the problem of diseases that affect the world population. He has an impressive list of accomplishments in the field of medicine.

Mary Klug



A retired school teacher and professional model, Mary lives in Naples, Florida, with her husband William (also a Circumnavigator). Together they have "set foot on every continent but one, hiked the Grand Canyon, sailed north of the 60th parallel, stood on top of Ayers Rock, walked on the Great Wall of China, and watched the sun rise over the temples of Bagan".

William Klug



With business and law degrees from the University of Texas and University of Pittsburgh, William is now retired in Naples, Florida, after a long corporate career. He has taken on leadership roles in various community and charitable organizations.

Katie Koontz



A native of Haddonfield, New Jersey, Katie became the youngest current member of the Circumnavigators Club after she circumnavigated this summer. At the age of 18, Katie made stops in Rome, Venice, Dubai and Beijing on her way around the world with her mother Kristen and grandparents, David and Dottie Mink. Katie is a freshman at William & Mary where she serves on the college newspaper staff.

Kristen Mink Koontz



From the Philadelphia Main Line, Kristen now lives in Haddonfield, New Jersey with her family. A graduate of Albright College, she was a social worker before joining the family importing business. She has traveled extensively and has a friendly competition with daughter Katie to go to the most countries. Kristen is involved in the South Jersey Ballet and Girl Scouts.

Gavin Leaver



Gavin lives with his family in the Los Angeles area where he spent many years building businesses in the West. He is now involved in creating overseas businesses that will facilitate his family's passion for travel. He has started businesses in Indonesia and France. He circumnavigated earlier this year.

Antony Lee



Antony is a practicing lawyer in Singapore where he serves as General Counsel for Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corp (HSBC) Singapore, part of the international banking firm. He is also Deputy General Counsel, Asia Pacific, for HSBC, looking after the legal teams in eight countries. Antony enjoys golf as a member of Singapore Island Country Club, as well as sailing and cricket.

Brent Libby



Brent lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he works as an executive for the charitable organization Compassion International. Compassion is an international child development agency that partners with churches to release children from poverty. In his previous career with Intel, Brent had the chance to travel extensively around the world. He enjoys exploring countries, meeting the people and learning the culture.

Maria Perez Mason



Born in Seattle, Washington, Maria is a first-generation Filipino American. With a degree from Western Washington University, she is self-employed as a graphic designer. She and her husband William Mason circumnavigated earlier this year. The Masons live in Kirkland, Washington and have four daughters and four grandchildren. Maria loves gardening and community service.

William Mason



The Rev. Dr. Will Mason has worked as a Presbyterian pastor since 1981. After serving in a number of ministerial posts throughout the West, he is now the pastor at Steel Lake Presbyterian Church in Federal Way, Washington. In addition to his ministry, he enjoys boating and music.



WELCOME *aboard*s

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE ELECTED TO OUR "GREAT CIRCLE" BY OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Larry McCracken



Larry is now retired in La Jolla, California, after a long career in the Air Force and the aerospace industry with a specialty in communications. A graduate of the Air Force Academy, he served for 21 years as a public affairs officer. He was the Pentagon spokesman's military assistant which took him around the world with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He retired as a Lt. Colonel and went on to a number of positions with firms such as McDonnell Douglas and Boeing. Larry and his wife Karen have a passion for traveling the world together.

Donald Rees



A British citizen living in Wales, Donald had a 48-year career in the oil and gas industry. His overseas life began with an assignment to Libya, followed by other assignments in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the U.S. In recognition of his work in Chad, he was awarded "Knight of the National Order" by the president of Chad. He is a member of the Bentley Drivers Club and the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club, and he plays the trumpet and coronet.

Janet Restarick



Janet is an educator, living in Mandeville, Louisiana with her husband Henry who is also a Circumnavigator. Janet describes "a wild and wonderful adventure of travel with my husband." They have visited more than 100 countries and co-authored a travel book. She is also active in wildlife rehabilitation projects.

Karen Schneider



With a degree from the University of Wisconsin, Karen is now retired from a career in communications. She and her husband Ron live in Marco Island, Florida. She is involved in Greater Naples Leadership and the Naples Council of World Affairs. Golf, tennis, pickleball and reading are among her hobbies.

Ron Schneider



Ron and Karen traveled "Around the World by Private Jet" earlier this year on a National Geographic Expedition. Their month-long adventure took them to some of the most beautiful and remote spots on earth, including Tibet, the Serengeti, the Great Barrier Reef and Machu Picchu. A graduate of Indiana University, Ron had a professional career that included banking, retailing and ranching.

Roxanne Seely



A lifelong resident of Jacksonville, Florida, Roxanne circumnavigated with her husband Fred (also a Circumnavigator) when she realized a long-held dream to see the "top of the world"—Mount Everest. She is active in the Junior League and the Colonial Dames.

Stanley Sia



Living in Singapore, Stanley has a long career in financial services. He is head of Global Private Equity & Real Estate for Standard Chartered Bank. He has an M.B.A. from the University of Manchester in the UK. He sits on the board of SATA CommHealth, a Singapore-based charity that provides medical services to the community.

Ann Swinford



Ann lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is a distinguished and honored radiologist on the staff of William Beaumont Hospital. She specializes in breast cancer, having co-authored twelve papers and two book chapters. She is dedicated to providing high-quality, timely medical care for women. Her favorite hobby is wildlife photography.

Ronny Tan



Living in Singapore, Ronny is active in the non-profit and public sector—covering health care, art, tourism and education. Former Vice Chairman of Deutsche Bank in Singapore, he is Chairman of Assisi Hospice, board member of Singapore Art Museum and a trustee of Singapore University of Technology & Design, among his many civic and community activities.

Harry Van Tuyl



Harry is retired, living in Middlebury, Vermont. With a father who was an Army officer, Harry saw much of the world as a child. With degrees from Kansas University and Clark University, he had a long career in Army intelligence and at the C.I.A. He traveled extensively and lived in Japan and the Philippines.





SCHOLARS REFLECT ON THEIR ADVENTURE

Our Foundation scholars tell us what they discovered on their amazing circumnavigations. We asked them about the countries they visited, highlights, favorite places, lowlights/surprises, dining experiences, and, most importantly, about friendship and what they learned about themselves.



Anna Carson
Arizona State University

Annie Carson in Chimaltenango, Guatemala.

Scholar Topic

Midwifery Around the World: A Study in the Factors that Reduce Maternal Mortality

What countries were visited on the circumnavigation?

I visited the Netherlands, Sweden, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Australia, and Guatemala.

Was there a highlight on the trip?

There were so many highlights! A few favorites include participating in a European conference in Sweden about lowering rates of Cesarean

sections, attending a wedding in Rwanda, witnessing five births in rural Bangladesh, and interviewing Mayan midwives in very rural Guatemala at an NGO where a previous Circumnavigator was volunteering.

Was there a favorite country or place?

What was my favorite country or place? I find this question to be consistently the most difficult to answer when people ask. I found Sweden the most interesting and accessible country to travel in by myself as a female, and I loved exploring Stockholm when I had free time. I would consider my time in Rwanda to be the most impactful, however. I spent two weeks shadowing midwives working in a tent clinic in a poor urban area, and I had the privilege to hear profoundly moving stories. I certainly hope to partner with Rwandan organizations in the future.

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

The low light of my trip was when I took a propeller plane from Dhaka, Bangladesh to a rural area called Saidpur. Five minutes into the flight, the wing burst into flame, and we lost the second engine. Fortunately, the fire went out and the pilot landed the plane safely. For the next 10 flights I took that summer, I kept a close watch on the wing....

Was there a favorite food or dining experience? Any bad ones?

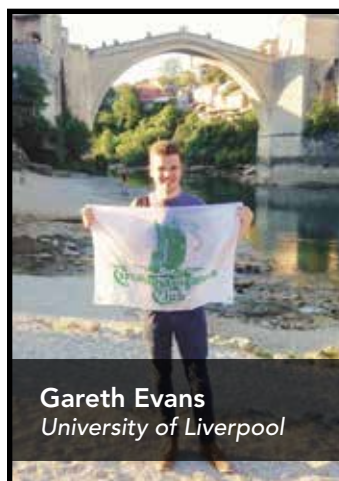
My favorite meal was when one of my research assistant in Bangladesh invited me to her home during Ramadan for Iftar, or the breaking of the fast. The food was delicious and I really appreciated being so warmly welcomed into this friend's home.

Did you make friends with whom you will stay in touch?

I made so many friends during my trip, from professors and midwives to new family friends and fellow students. A professor I worked with in Australia may come to the US for the first time to attend my thesis defense in the Spring! I hope to stay in touch with the 80+ individuals who participated in my project so that we can build a collaborative network of passionate people.

What did you learn about yourself?

I learned the importance of living with intentions and flexibility, to develop a plan but trust other people for support. I learned about the challenge and beauty of continually engaging in diverse communities. Most practically, I discovered that my path is not to become a clinical healthcare provider as once planned, but that I can best contribute to maternal healthcare through using my vision for integrating individual experience, research, and policy into structural development.



Gareth Evans
University of Liverpool

Gareth Evans holding the club flag in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mostar is a beautiful town in southern Bosnia, famed for its majestic stone arc bridge.

Scholar Topic

Peace Processes and their Impact on Communities and Young People

What countries were visited on the circumnavigation?

My research was based in five countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Sri Lanka and Argentina.

Was there a highlight on the trip?

Kosovo was a wonderful experience, apart from my pre-trip reading, I had no idea what to expect when I arrived. Kosovo is a fascinating land in the heart of the Balkans. It is one of the last areas of Europe that remain undiscovered by most travelers despite it having so much to offer; wonderful towns and villages, beautiful waterfalls, great cuisine and extremely welcoming and friendly locals.

Was there a favorite country or place?

What is my favorite country? It is not an easy decision as I visited so many great places, but if I have to pick one it is Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia is a beautiful country with a wonderful variety of landscapes and pleasant towns and cities. The kindness shown to foreigners and its dynamic mix of cultures, and history is what for me makes Bosnia stand out above the rest.

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

Being a passenger on a Sri Lankan bus is not an experience I am in a hurry to repeat again. The whole bus journey was terrifying; the driver drove as quickly as possible, accelerating regardless of what obstacles lay ahead and would drive as close as possible to the vehicle in front and at the last minute slam on the brakes and blast the horn. When caught behind a slow moving truck, the driver would suddenly pull out, usually picking the blindest sharpest corner to do so. If there was a smaller vehicle coming the other way it would simply be forced to swerve out of the way. This continued for the next five hours. At the time, it didn't seem as funny; however, looking back, it is one of those traveling experiences that can be laughed about.

Was there a favorite food or dining experience? Any bad ones?

While in the Middle East I spent a few days in the West Bank town of Ramallah, I went out for dinner one evening to a restaurant/bar called the Al-Snobar with a few travelers from my hostel and some locals we had met. The Al-Snobar was situated in a pine forest in the outskirts of Ramallah. It was a great place full of young local Palestinians enjoying an evening out.

Did you make friends with whom you will stay in touch?

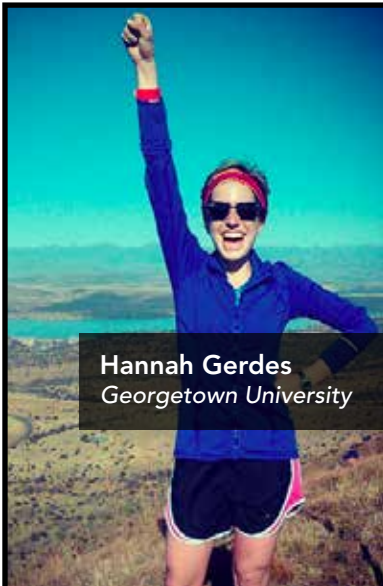
In every country I met and made friends, locals and fellow travelers. With the help of Facebook and other social media, it is so easy to keep and share experiences and photos.

What did you learn about yourself?

Traveling, I believe, is an essential education and has equipped me with a huge range of new skills. The ability to work and negotiate in a wide variety of situations and mix with people from a completely different culture is such a wonderful privilege. I really enjoyed being focused on my research, collecting interviews and speaking with such a diverse range of people.



FOUNDATION *news*



Hannah Gerdes
Georgetown University

Hannah Gerdes, nine kilometers into my first half-marathon. The first day of a two-day trail race in the Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa!

Scholar Topic

Views of Depression during Pregnancy: A Qualitative Study

What countries were visited on the circumnavigation?

I visited Iceland, England, South Africa, Uganda, India, and Sri Lanka.

Was there a highlight on the trip?

Wherever I went, the highlights weren't characterized by "what," but by "who." Who I explored with or learned from. I loved exploring Reykjavik with hostel-friends in Iceland; watching weird documentaries and exploring the city with my host and housemates in England; interviewing postpartum women in South Africa; connecting with healthcare providers in Uganda; meeting and learning from Dr. Vikram Patel and other leading global mental health researchers in India; and celebrating on the beach with my Sri Lankan host family as their daughter turned two. I had adventure after adventure with the people I met along my way.

Was there a favorite country or place?

My favorite experiences were in India, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

On the night that I landed in Entebbe, Uganda, I couldn't get ahold of my host family! Fortunately, I managed to catch a ride into the capital city with some Australian missionaries, made it to my host family's house the next day, and still had the opportunity to talk with healthcare providers and visit a prenatal clinic and psychiatry department in the local hospital!

Was there a favorite food or dining experience? Any bad ones?

At the Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit (DPHRU), my "home base" for research in Johannesburg, South Africa, I caught lunch with different researchers and receptionists almost every day. The receptionists' hot lunches of beef and "pap" (a type of maize meal) were always much tastier than my cold sandwiches! And I absolutely LOVED the food in India; eating out in Bhopal was pretty affordable, and I always tried to order the most unfamiliar menu item, so I was trying new foods every day!

Did you make friends with whom you will stay in touch?

I loved early-morning runs, weekend trips, and lazy afternoon discussions about South African history, politics, and health with my host family in Johannesburg. I was so blessed to experience their generosity, and to really feel among family. I also loved working at the Programme for Improving Mental healthcare (PRIME) in Bhopal, India. I learned so much from my colleagues about their work and the cultural context. From the first evening, when they spontaneously came to my homestay that night to invite me to go see a classical Indian singer, I felt welcomed into a group of friends. I certainly plan to keep in touch!

What did you learn about yourself?

I learned that I'm more tenacious than I realized. I constantly adapted to changes and faced challenges that I actually wasn't guaranteed to overcome: buses that never arrived, taxis that broke down, bureaucratic issues that threatened to jeopardize the entire research endeavor in some countries. I absolutely loved that I, independently, was responsible for dealing with them. On that note, I also learned about the potential challenges of doing global health work in low- and middle-income countries. The hours are long and the work is never complete. The next-steps can be unclear and the mis-steps tragic. But despite, or even because of those challenges, it's what I want to do. By sponsoring this project, the Circumnavigators Club Foundation not only allowed me to experience other cultures for three months; they gave me a better understanding of several different economic, social, and health care systems around the world. It gave me a clearer picture of what I could contribute to better-quality, more accessible healthcare, through both medicine and global health research.

Scholar Topic

The American Sexual Assault in a Global Context: Policies, Resources, and Student Engagement

What countries were visited on the circumnavigation?

I was lucky enough to travel (in order) to Brazil, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Turkey, South Africa, and Australia.

Was there a highlight on the trip?

There were countless highlights. Off the top of my head, my morning run along Copacabana beach was a personal favorite.

Was there a favorite country or place?

Turkey was my favorite stop on the trip. I loved being in a culture that was vastly different and seeing unique styles of architecture. I made some great friends while in Turkey- I traveled with a master's student from England and joined a soccer team with some of the restaurant workers from my neighborhood.

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

The first day was easily the hardest of the trip. I'd traveled 30 hours, eaten only airplane food, and been dropped in a foreign world. It took a little bit to get accustomed to being on my own and traveling, but it sure was worth it.

Was there a favorite food or dining experience? Any bad ones?

Part of the reason Turkey was my favorite stop was the food! In my opinion, it doesn't get much better than chicken kabobs, pitas, and yogurt.

Did you make friends with whom you will stay in touch?

The best part of the trip was connecting with people from around the world. I've been in touch with several of them since I returned, and plan on continuing to do so. Several of them were extraordinarily helpful as they taught me their tips for traveling (they'd been traveling through South America for 12 months!).

What did you learn about yourself?

I learned to be confident in myself. While traveling, I felt like I was constantly solving a problem. "How am I going to get from a to b?" "How can I communicate without without knowing the local language?" "What is the next step for my research project?" Having a barrage of problems thrown at you every day, you learn how to solve them as they come. After a few weeks of figuring out solutions, you learn that you are capable of a lot more than you realized.

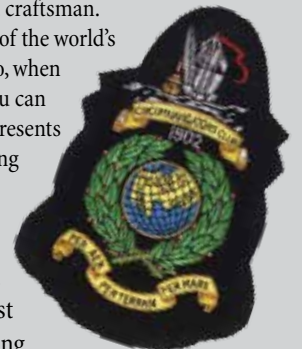


Jonathon McBride
Northwestern University

Jonathon McBride standing on top of Sugarloaf Mountain with the Circumnavigators Club Flag in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

GET YOUR HANDMADE CLUB BADGE **NOW**

Our new Blazer Badges are now available. These badges were handmade in Sialkot, Pakistan by a skilled craftsman. Sialkot, in the Punjab, has been the center of the world's badge making industry since the 1800s. So, when you purchase a Circumnavigator Badge you can wear it with pride. Not only because it represents our old and distinguished club, but knowing it comes from one of the most renowned badge-making families in the world, handmade in a 12th century city once part of the Mughal Empire. We now have a very limited number of badges, which cost \$50 each. We will order more, depending on response, so let us know if you want one.





FOUNDATION *news*

Kevin Dupont
Brandeis University



Kevin Dupont taking in the beauty of Hong Kong.

Scholar Topic

Social Media and its impact on governments and mass mobilization.

What countries were visited on the circumnavigation?

I visited China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Greece, Tunisia and Morocco.

Was there a highlight on the trip?

The highlight of my trip was seeing my research come to play right in front of my eyes while in Athens, Greece. There, I became immersed inside two different protests spurred on by social media, each calling for political or economic reform from the national government.

Was there a favorite country or place?

The countries that stick out most in my mind from those I visited are Greece and Thailand.

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

I was surprised at how relevant my research was in so many places, many of my contacts were so excited to talk about social media and loved to have a soundboard to discuss ideas. A low point of my journey would be when I was forced to leave to Tunisia, due to violent acts that had occurred during my time there.

Was there a favorite food or dining experience? Any bad ones?

My favorite food from my travels would have to be Mango Sticky rice from Thailand. I will have to say that the Greeks have the best cuisine as a whole.

Did you make friends with whom you will stay in touch?

I did make a few friends that I still stay in touch with.

What did you learn about yourself?

I learned that I am capable of so much more than I ever imagined and can handle the largest of obstacles despite adversity.

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S *LETTER*

Once again this past summer, your generosity enabled five bright and energetic young scholars to pursue research projects of global significance (see the accompanying article for highlights of their trips) through the Foundation's landmark around-the-world travel-study grant program. I use the word "landmark" because our globally focused grant program is both unique in that it is the only one of its type, and because it is a showcased aspect of the grants and fellowship offerings of all of our participating universities and an increasingly important recruitment feature.

For this, we can thank the visionary Circumnavigators who, four-and-a-half decades ago, charted a course for the Foundation to further global understanding through scholarship. Foremost among them was Charlie Blaisdell, who turns 100 this month and has been a friend, mentor, and colleague since I first faced his intense questioning at my finalist interview in 1971. Charlie has served the Circumnavigators Club and Foundation in virtually every capacity over the years – and continues to do so in his centennial year – and epitomizes our core values. His unwavering sense of propriety, mental acuity, and indomitable sense of humor have been constants in the lives of scores of Foundation Scholars, and we all join in wishing him the happiest of birthdays!

For the 2015-2016 grant cycle, the board has awarded three grants and the selection process for next summer's traveling scholars is already well underway at longtime co-funding participants Georgetown, Northwestern, and Arizona State Universities. Keep an eye out for our winter appeal after Thanksgiving and please consider giving generously to enable your Foundation to continue its important work.

Warmest wishes for the holidays, and Luck to You!


Greg Rider

A DEVOTION TO AFRICA

BY PAST PRESIDENT ESTHER DYER



Esther and Jessica with the Masai



EDITOR'S NOTE: VERY FEW PEOPLE KNOW AFRICA BETTER THAN ESTHER DYER. SHE IS THE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL MEDICAL FELLOWSHIPS (NMF), A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

The first time I visited Africa was in 1980 for the annual meeting of the International Federation of Library Association – at that time as a university professor. I had limited funds and a great thirst to see the world. As the US representative and later chair of the statistics committee, I had a professional interest as well, but no funding. So for more than a decade I organized tours in conjunction with professional meetings to see the world. The 1980 conference was in Nairobi – and I cajoled the minimum of 15 people to go with me to see the sites and in exchange I went free. We stayed in the center of Nairobi, which was comprised of government buildings, hotels and the small mostly open air convention center. There were gardens and parks and historic hotels from colonial times, like the Norfolk – where of course we had tea – but couldn't afford to stay. Tourist crime was rampant in town, as more and more villagers moved to the city with little or no prospects for employment. While much has changed over

the years, crime is still prevalent, exacerbated by sporadic terrorist attacks in schools, shopping centers, and other gathering places.

I had a post-conference meeting, so I sent the group to Amboselli Park with the bus and guide early in the morning. I followed late in the day by helicopter – flying over the Rift Valley is a sight I will never forget. We later stayed in Governor's Camp on the Masai Mara and saw the wildebeest migration and lions hunting just before dawn, and a lion and her prey with hungry cubs nearby. At the time, Governor's Camp was clusters of tents around key water holes with fancy tents and adjoining outhouses. Camp staff brought breakfast tea in the predawn for the first game run – then back to camp for breakfast – later in the day an afternoon and then evening game run followed by sitting around the fire with the Masai guide telling tales, knowing that each guide's rite of passage was killing a lion.



Hand washing project

In that time one could still see the vestiges of colonial times, see the farm houses and the clubs, and embrace the tales of “Back to Africa” and “White Mischief”. We also stayed at the famed Mt. Kenya Club. Being adventurous but not athletic, I climbed the mountain on horseback and practically slid back down when the rainstorm caught us.

It was not until 2007 that I returned to Kenya – and not surprisingly much has changed and continues to change. Over the last eight years, I have trekked to Kenya, Uganda, and Ghana nearly 30 times and stayed for several weeks on each visit. Nairobi is a huge cosmopolitan city – and the hub for Kenya Airways, which continues to dominate the continent on most routes, with limited competition from other national carriers. Over the last three years, I have spent more time in Kenya developing National Medical Fellowships’ global health programs that embed US medical students in district hospitals. For six weeks, they provide clinical support for district hospitals with limited staffing and high medically underserved populations. Our program in Kenya was based in the Kisumu Region on Lake Victoria. Part of our training program also provided our students and me to see some of the cultural sites in Kenya especially between the capital city of Nairobi and their placements in Yala and Siaya district hospitals in Kisumu. Our key partner is Maseno University and its new medical school. This is the land of Mama Sarah, President Obama’s grandmother – and we make sure that the students pay a courtesy visit.

Kisumu is a fascinating area and the Kiboku Lodge is a favorite place to stay. It has tented cottages and one of bricks and mortar that has a veranda with just a few short steps to the lake. Early in the morning the hippos wander on the grass and you can see the fishing boats as they troll for lake trout.



NMF scholar interacts with children

A boat trip along the shoreline in a dugout canoe allows close-up sightings of hippos. On the road to Nairobi – now a fast five hours on well-paved road in contrast to the bumpy nine hours road is the Nakuru National Park, home to white rhinos and flamingos. In the past few years because of the rains and the flooding some flamingos have moved elsewhere – but still there are many to see. Most impressive are the white rhinos – grazing and moving majestically with the herds.

And then on to Lake Navaisha – just 90 minutes from Nairobi International Airport – a beautiful Lake – with a private island where you can walk with the giraffes and see the hippos. The lake trout are a wonderful meal. When not with a group – my favorite place is Dea’s Gardens – on the banks of the lake – Dea and her daughter have transformed their family home into a guest house – with beautiful grounds and pool. Visiting the local weavers and the Navaisha country club for lunch are highlights.

On the road back to Nairobi – a visit to the Giraffe Conservation Center – where you can feed the giraffes and feel their rough tongues – and a visit to the Kazuri Women’s Bead factory provide a glimpse into conservation efforts and grassroots organizations that train local women to use their pottery skills to supplement their income.



Most of the time when I’m in Kenya I’m working, yet last year I had time to reflect on how much things have changed. My daughter and fellow Circumnavigator Jessica Lappin joined me for a short visit – we had a weekend between my meetings. We flew to Kisumu – while I met with our partners, she did a tea plantation trek – and then we were off to the Masai Mara to see the big five: elephant, lion, leopard, hippo, and rhino. We also were invited to a Masai home – where smoke is all pervasive to keep the mosquitos away and whole families live in small encampments surrounded by fences to keep the lions out. Over the years, the Masai have become guardians of the lions and that is transforming the ritual killing to become a Masai Warrior. Yet they are still fiercely protecting their homeland.

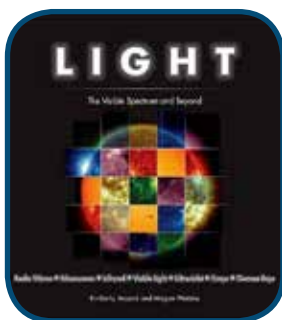
Twenty five years ago on my first visit to the Nairobi Game Park, the only game park in a major city, I saw lions, hippos, leopard and gazelle – all on the outskirts of town. I dined at the Canivore Restaurant on meat too – from lion, hippo, and more. The wildlife is still in the game park, but increasingly hemmed in by urbanization. Carnivore is still a great restaurant – but the most exotic entrées are bull balls. Today, Nairobi is a bustling metropolis where you can get anything you want from anywhere in the world. The streets are clogged with traffic – the infrastructure has not kept up with the development of a middle class and its need for more and faster personal transportation. Yet, in the smaller towns and villages and especially out on safari, it’s possible to see the real Kenya

SCUTTLEBUTT



News from Canada... **Henri Van Bentum** of Victoria, B.C. is now a champion snooker player, having won the Union Club of BC's annual Trophy Singles Snooker Tournament. The eight-hour marathon performance gave him the victory over 15 players who, on average, were several

decades younger. Congratulations Circum Henri! In other news from Henri, he has been featured in a new book *Light: The Visible Spectrum & Beyond*. Henri is one of four artists recognized in the book, along with the Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, and Johannes Vermeer. Pretty good company!



Canadian Circumnavigator **Mark Hauptman** has been busy with his latest project—"Haupy's Beaver Rub". Mark's product is available in five countries, including the U.S., and online. His website is www.haupysbeaverrub.ca. The legend goes that beaver rub was created to take the "boring" out of boiled beaver for the early explorers. Marks says is tastes great



on all types of meat and fish, but he doesn't recommend rubbing it on live beavers. He also dreams it could be "The Official Seasoning of the Circumnavigators Club".

Pat Classen (Naples) has been selected by *Signature Travel Network* to hostess the full world cruise on the *Silver Whisper*.

From January to April 2016, she will be "working" on the beautiful ship as it goes on its 115-day world cruise, with 51 ports. Pat will see the statues of Easter Island, the isles of Polynesia, the bejeweled pagodas of Myanmar, and much, much more. Circumnavigators can look forward to Pat's travelogue when she returns.



Helen Jenkins (UK) has been honored as one of the top 25 women financial advisors in the UK, selected by *The Financial Advisor*. Helen says, "It is a lovely achievement as it not only acknowledges the professional work I do, but also my work in the community, with the Circumnavigators Club being very much a part of that". Congratulations, Helen!



Brad Vogel has just published a book of poetry, called *BROAD MEADOW BIRD*. Here's a link:

<http://www.bjvogel.com/>

Matt Guthmiller makes it in the Guinness Book of World Records for his accomplishment as the youngest person to fly solo around the world.



OVER THE HORIZON

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James C. Green
Palm Beach, FL

David J. Gotaas
Northfield, IL

John E. Johannessen
Fort Myers, FL

Kessinger Jones
Hastings, MI

William H. Kelley
Palm Beach, FL

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Falls Church, VA

Confrey Phillips
Palm Beach, FL

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50 Vanderbilt Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10017
(201) 612-9100 • Fax (201) 786-9133 • email:club@circumnavigators.org

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HEADS UP

THROUGH MY LENS

Tips from a travel photographer

We all love to do it. We take dozens of photographs of our friends and loved ones on important occasions, or in front of a special building, monument or landscape. Usually, the subjects are looking directly into the camera and often into the sun. Sometimes, they're self-conscious, hoping the torture will soon be over. Such images are what a former editor of mine used to call 'firing squad pictures'.

I have a few suggestions that might help. First, try a tighter shot. Try to fill the frame with just their head and shoulders, while still keeping a hint of the surroundings. Second, try such a close-up with your subject looking away from the camera. It will help them to relax and will give a more natural pose.

For example, the photo here of a young lady eating ice cream is charming. She's totally absorbed in her enormous challenge, and her hat gives a nice sense of locale.



Try using the sun to your advantage. See the contrasts of light and shadow. Use the sun to illuminate the detail of a building, landscape or face. Early morning and evening sun especially provide a useful glow, as shown with the photo of a hot air balloon pilot at dawn over a Bedouin camp at Wadi Rum.

My third photo shows a snake charmer doing business in a Marrakesh street market. Like the girl with her gelato, and the pilot steering his balloon, he's totally focused elsewhere. Lit by the sun, looking away from the camera, the snake charmer's eyes are so fixed on the snake his own tongue is beginning to emerge as the snake's does.



Roger Weatherburn Baker
Naples Chapter