



CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB

FOUNDED IN 1902

YEAR 2019

NUMBER ONE

THE LOG



MAGELLAN AWARD DINNER

HONORING
ROBERT CRIPPEN
HALL OF FAME ASTRONAUT

Friday, March 22, 2019
NAPLES SAILING AND YACHT CLUB
896 RIVER POINT DR., NAPLES, FL



CIRCUMNAVIGATORS CLUB, INC.

FOUNDED 1902

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PRESIDENT'S *letter*

In early December my wife, Dottie, and I had the pleasure of attending the UK Chapter's 10th annual House of Lords Dinner in London. This was a rare opportunity to visit the historic and beautiful Chamber where the Lords hold their debates. The warm hospitality of Chapter President Helen Jenkins put us at ease, despite finding ourselves at the head table with two Lords! It was a distinct honor and a very memorable evening.

All this got me thinking about the importance of Chapters to the Circumnavigators Club. They are the lifeblood of the Club. We currently have eleven Chapters as well as the New York Metro group. Two Chapters are abroad (UK and Singapore) and the rest are in the U.S. Our Club, founded in 1902, was always meant to be a social organization for members to share experiences and help make the world a better place through understanding and friendship. The Chapters help bolster this important mission.

Unfortunately, Chapters come and go. At one time, there were Chapters in such far-flung places as Tokyo and Buenos Aires. Our largest Chapter in Naples, Florida, is also our newest, founded in 2000. Circumnavigators who are not affiliated with a Chapter are designated "At-Large Members." A recent resolution by the Board of Governors has reinforced a by-law that At-Large Members can join a Chapter even if they are not living within a 100-mile radius, as long as they are in a general geographic area or visit the Chapter location on a regular basis.

All Circumnavigators are welcome to attend programs and events at any Chapter. So, for example, if you are traveling to Florida this winter, consider visiting one of our Chapters in Naples, Palm Beach or Miami.

Our thanks to Chapter leadership for making our Club vibrant and strong.



Luck to you,

David

David A. Mink
International President



The LOG

THIS TIME AROUND

BY TRACY SANCILIO

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.

The Order of Magellan is the highest honor of the Circumnavigators Club. The cover of this issue depicts the upcoming award for Astronaut Robert Crippen, a member of the Space Hall of Fame and the holder of many impressive space exploits. The event will be held on March 22 in Naples, Florida. This will be only the second time that the event leaves New York City.

Capt. Crippen made four journeys into space, including command of the Challenger in 1983 that included Sally Ride, the first woman in space. Dr. Ride was the Magellan honoree in 1985. Among his many awards and honors are the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, National Geographic's Hubbard Medal, and the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Also, Robert is one of our own—a long-time member of the Circumnavigators Palm Beach Chapter. Since 1961, there have been 37 Magellan Awardees, including five astronauts. The Club is very pleased to bestow this honor on Robert Crippen.

This issue of The Log also highlights the talents of our members. The outstanding photography of Lisa Brighton and Larry Glick are featured here, as well as excellent travel stories. We encourage our members to contribute to The Log. Listed Below are some of the guidelines for submitting stories and photographs.

Contributing to The Log

The purpose of The Log, as outlined by the first editor in 1910, is "to record the sayings and doings of Circumnavigators." If you are able to contribute, please consider these guidelines.

- Do not submit finished feature stories. Let us know by email or phone if you have a good idea for a piece and we will work with you to develop it.
- Send us good photos by email attachment. We will consider using them in The Log or on the website.
- Send us a paragraph or two about recent travel, including a photo or two. These will be used in the All Over The Map section.

Luck to you!

Tracy

Tracy Sancilio
Executive Director

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More birds... **© Larry Glick (At Large-Rowlett, TX)** (whose photographs of birds and animals are featured elsewhere in this issue) made a three-week trip to Southeast Asia that was meant to concentrate on the incredible sites such as the Shwedagon Pagoda and Bagan (Myanmar), Angkor Wat



(Cambodia), Borobudur and Bali (Indonesia), the Mekong Delta and Chu Chi Tunnels (Vietnam), but birding is never far from his mind. He reports, "My binoculars are always around my neck and a regional bird book is



The Mandts

at my fingertips. I added over 400 new birds to my life list and even spent some time in the otherworldly Komodo National Park." **Close look at Bangkok...**

© Neil Mandt

reports, "After spending 'one night in Bangkok' more than a dozen times as stopovers on business trips, my wife, Lauren, and I decided to give the city our full attention

for an eight-day holiday in early December. The city was smartly dressed up in Christmas attire, yet the crowds still seemed manageable, even for Bangkok.

We explored the weekend market, ate and drank from the rooftop decks of the Banyan Tree and Park Hyatt hotels and strolled through unexpected and offbeat museums. Of course we made sure to take the sky train around the



The Scordatos

city to hit classic spots like the Grand Palace and Wat Pho. Bangkok has so much to offer, even Michelin Star street food. The journey to the Kingdom is long from the U.S. and requires patience, however the experience when you arrive always delivers." **Off the beaten track...** **© Ellen Scordato (Naples Chapter)** reports, "My husband and I recently traveled to some remote areas of the Pyrenees, and we particularly enjoyed a couple



of overnights in La Bastide, near a Tibetan Buddhist meditation center there. The winding roads through this area of the Pyrenees to and from Perpignan, France, were spectacular, but even more wonderful was the completely unexpected and amazing restaurant Can Pere, in the beautiful little stone town of

La Bastide (winter population 36, summer between 75 and 90 people).

We met the mayor of La Bastide and his lovely family and had a great



Bill Ashley



Keith and Amy

meal at the tiny Can Pere. Serving only 30 people a night, the chef is a genius and the food is superb. It was such fun finding great food in a tiny stone town. **Cuba Bound...** **©s. Amy Gardner and Keith Sbiral (Chicago Chapter)** have been traveling to Cuba since 2013 and lead small group trips there through their company, Complete Cuba. In November the couple escorted a group of travelers to Eastern Cuba and Havana, while their travelers in March will visit Havana and the Isle of Youth. **Exploring Asia**

...© Kevin Short (New York Metro) traveled around Malaysia with

his father last summer, enjoying snorkeling at Pulau Perhentian and the food scene of Kuala Lumpur. He reports that "Being attacked by hundreds of leeches in Taman Negara National Park was less enjoyable, but character-building." He traveled to Hanoi and Ha Long Bay in Vietnam with his girlfriend. They dined at the pho restaurant visited by Anthony Bourdain and Barack Obama, just one week after Bourdain's tragic passing. He visited the gorgeous Okinawan islands of Japan as well as Tokyo. He watched Japan upset Colombia in its World Cup opener from a packed Tokyo sports bar and joined the revelry. He then traveled to Peru with five close friends, celebrating the 4th of July with a pickup soccer scrimmage in the middle of the Amazon jungle. **Six times around...** **© Bill Ashley (Washington DC Chapter)** made his sixth circumnavigation on a trip that consisted of 26 air flights covering 40,000 miles. The first part of the trip was in



The Shorts

the South Pacific where he traveled to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and Alofi, Niue—both independent countries under the auspices of New Zealand. He also spent time in Australia with a side trip to Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling Island. The second part of the trip was an extensive tour of Africa—Malawi, Tanzania, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Morocco. He reported highlights were a progressive dinner in Rarotonga where he visited three families for typical food and music; tour of Niue; going through a huge tobacco processing plant in Lilongwe; the slave



Ann Swinford

museum in Zanzibar, and having Thanksgiving dinner at Rick's Cafe in Casablanca. **Emperors rule...**

Ann Swinford (Michigan Chapter), went on a trip to Snow Hill Island in the Weddell Sea in Antarctica with Quark expeditions in October. This famed colony of Emperor Penguins was discovered in 1997 and has not been visited by tourists since 2010. It takes a day of breaking through 1-2 meter ice to get within helicopter flying distance of the colony. Ann was lucky to have warm days



The Puldys



(only minus 4 to 0 C) with no wind which allowed for relaxing easy days at the colony. The penguin chicks were starting to become independent being cared for in creches by a few adults while others went to feed. She says, "The adults were curious about the humans and the chicks were just plain cute!" **"Drinking in" Argentina...** **Michael Puldya (Pacific Southwest Chapter)** and his wife, Adrienne, reported on their recent trip to Argentina. "Hopping a two-hour flight from Buenos Aires, we toured the province of Mendoza. The wine country



The Petersons



The Matsons

of Mendoza is divided into three areas: Maipu, Lujan de Cuyo, and Valle de Uco. Using Lujan de Cuyo as our base, we spent five days touring vineyards, enjoying spa experiences, and excellent food and, of course, Malbecs. With over 1,000 vineyards in the Mendoza region, the tasting options seem limitless. In addition to vineyards, restaurants, and relaxing, we also enjoyed a private horseback ride deep within the Andes Mountain range with our host Gaucho Daniel. Gaucho Daniel and his family manage a horse and cattle farm operating at nearly 7,000 feet. After an arrival snack of his wife's Argentinean pastries, we rode to an altitude of 9,500 where beneath a glacier, Gaucho Daniel cooked us a delightful Argentinean lunch of grilled beef and Chorizo." **Holy Lands...** **Melanie and Dan Peterson** took an extensive tour of the Holy Lands where they kept busy with visiting the historic sites and other activities. Among other things, they rode camels through Wadi Rum in southern Jordan, rode horses through the ravine passage to the fabled city of Petra, and floated on the very salty Dead Sea. **Thanksgiving in Spain...** **Past President Howard Matson**, his wife, Amy, and daughter Leslie spent the holiday on a two-week trip to Spain. They visited Seville and then rented an apartment in Seville.



Ken Mink



Using Spain's high-speed rail system, they made day trips to Cordoba, Toledo and Segovia. **In the Philippines...** **Ken Mink (Pacific Southwest Chapter)** made his first trip to the Philippines where he visited the Chocolate Mountains in Bohol and the spectacular Kawasan Falls. He also saw the Magellan Cross in Cebu. **Magellan Project...** **Jim Foster** of Anchorage, Alaska continues to explore the world as his team works on its project to recreate the route of Magellan. He and team



member Dick Hitchcock visited spots in Portugal and Spain where Magellan was readying his expedition 500 years ago. The photo shows Cadiz, Spain where the explorer purchased the five vessels for his voyage. Jim will address our Annual Meeting in New York on May 17 with an update on the project.

Collector's Corner

BY C. KATIE KOONTZ (NEW YORK METRO)

COMMON PLACE ITEMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Circumnavigator Jon Dill (Naples Chapter) and his wife, Melody, are serious collectors. From their extensive travels, the Dills have amassed countless artifacts from remote places around the world, including brass neck rings from Myanmar and glass beads from Cameroon.

"These items are not only wonderful souvenirs and reminders of our experiences, but are an important way for the artists to earn some money to support themselves, their families, and their villages," Jon says.

On a recent trip to Myanmar, Melody and Jon received government permission to visit the area where the "long-neck women" of the Kayan tribe live. A disappearing custom, there is still a small community of women who wear the heavy neck rings. They found a set of neck rings and bracelets to add this unique piece of local culture to their collection.

While traveling in Ethiopia, Melody and Jon visited local tribes with rich cultural customs. The Mursi women wear pottery plates in their lips, while the Hamar women wear iron anklets and bracelets. All of these pieces are culturally significant and speak to the importance of local customs.



Collecting is a family affair for the Dills. Both Melody and Jon caught the collecting bug early on from their travels for school and work. Their son inherited their passion.

"As we traveled with him to remote areas," Melody says about her son, "he'd always purchase a locally made pipe, many made out of simple dried gourds. We now have 3 shelves of a bookcase with pipes and memories collected over the past 48 years."

In addition to pipes, Melody takes an interest in items for daily living. These include colorful baskets and gourds used to transport vegetables and grains or hand-carved utensils from Ethiopia and Mali.

Every piece in their collection has a unique memory attached to it. Both Melody and Jon recall a trek through the Sahara Desert to Timbuktu, when they encountered a caravan bringing salt to the port.

"We asked them to cut off a piece the size of a coffee table book," Melody says. "I display that on an easel together with the book *SALT*, a history of salt mining."



Other pieces in their collection come from places such as Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Angola. Sometimes it is not easy to transport items



from these faraway places to their home in Florida, but Melody and Jon say there is always a way.

In 2017, the Dills sold their furnished home they had built in the Caribbean which showcased their Oceanic Collection. This included pieces from places such as Papua, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Borneo. Saving about 20 of the best pieces from their Caribbean home, the Dills now showcase their collection in their home in Florida.

Melody and Jon suggest that collectors research local products and bargaining customs before traveling.

“If you want something very traditional, handcrafted, and at a reasonable cost, take the less traveled route and visit more remote villages and locations,” Jon adds.



IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY

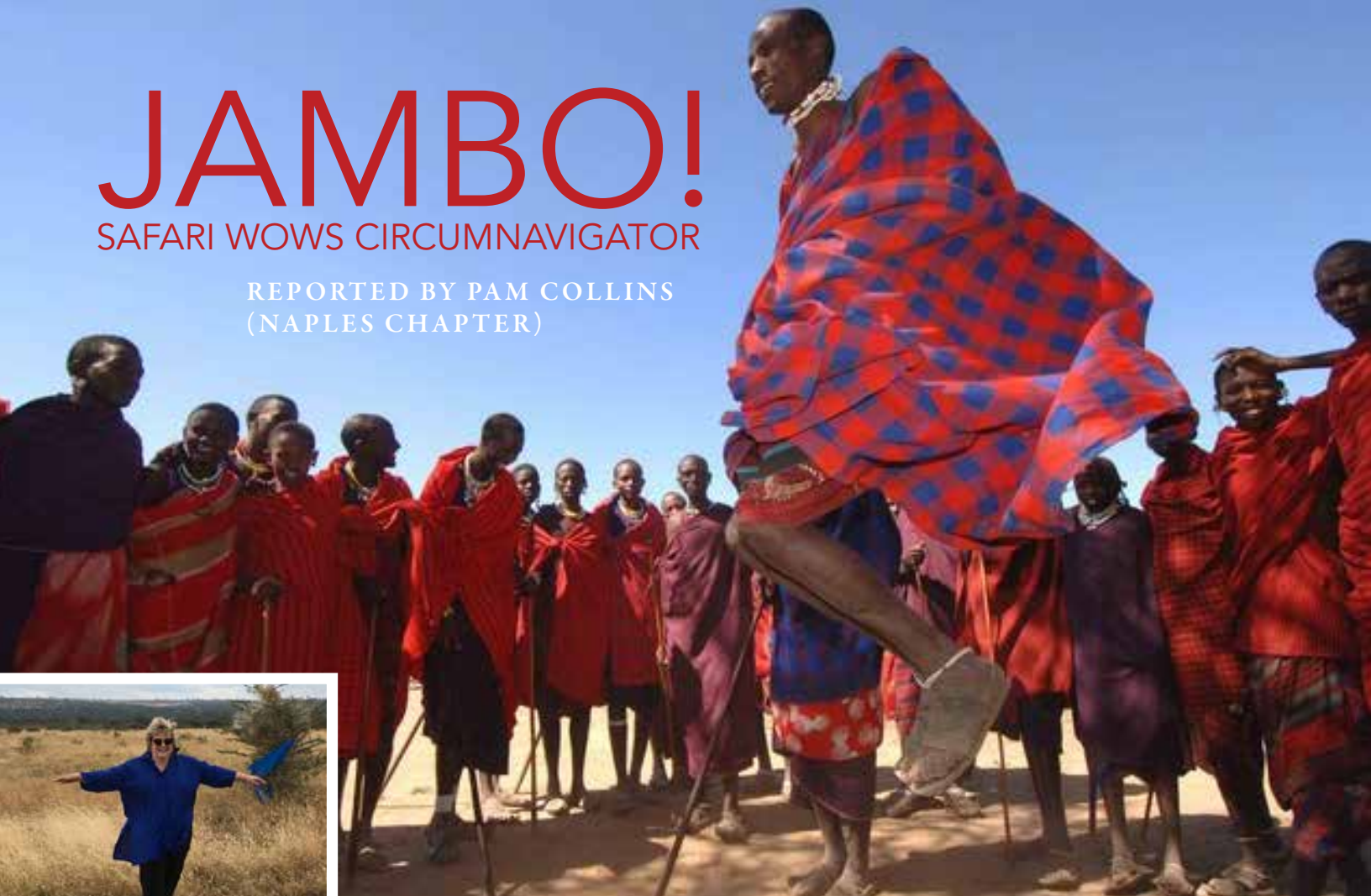
Melody Dill says there can be some bumps in the road when it comes to collecting. In Mali, their car broke down in the Sahara on the way to Timbuktu. “Two guys appeared in the desert to help us. One with a Green Bay Packer t-shirt (we’re from Wisconsin) and one with a Bin Laden t-shirt (this was shortly after 9/11). I stuffed our money into my bra where my husband promptly told me that when I was sold into slavery they would find it. I told him I was insulted as I thought I was harem material!”

Fortunately, they arrived safely.

JAMBO!

SAFARI WOWS CIRCUMNAVIGATOR

REPORTED BY PAM COLLINS
(NAPLES CHAPTER)



On safari in Africa, most travelers cite their favorite moments as the chance to see the “Big Five”—lion, elephant, rhino, leopard and cape buffalo. Or, perhaps an exhilarating hot air balloon over the the wildebeest migration.

Not so for C. Pam Collins, Naples Chapter, who made a recent safari with her husband Keith in Kenya and Tanzania. For Pam, the highlight was the chance to meet the Maasai people and learn about their culture and way of life.

Pam recounts, “I was fascinated with studying them. How are these folks able to produce food in deserts and scrublands? Their nomadic lifestyle means they roam the desert with their herds. How do they find places to feed and water their animals? Some of the village visits could be viewed as a bit contrived (hey, you gotta make a buck). We saw villagers who have been absorbed into modern day jobs working in tourism where they showcase their culture to visiting tourists. It was still fascinating learning about their life.”

She learned that the warrior is the heart and source of pride of the Maasai culture as she reports, “It’s one of Kenya’s most iconic images, the Maasai warrior in his traditional pose, spear in hand, scarlet shuka cloak thrown over his shoulder, one leg raised to rest on the other, gaze turned to the far horizon. Certainly the most visually striking of the colorful tribes of Kenya, the Nilo-Hamitic Maasai are a nomadic people whose style of life has re-

mained unchanged for centuries and is still dictated by the constant quest for water and grazing land for their cattle. They are also distinguished by their complex character, good manners, impressive presence and almost mystical love of their cattle. ‘I hope your cattle are well’ is still the most common form of Maasai greeting, while milk and blood remain the traditional Maasai diet.”

Pam learned much about the customs, rituals and living conditions of the Maasai. Yes, the Collinses did see the Big Five and “gazillions” of wildebeests on migration. But it is the Maasai that made the lasting impression.





BY C. LARRY GLICK
AT LARGE-ROWLETT, TX

HOOKED ON BIRDS

In 1981, I was visiting a client in Maui, Hawaii in my capacity as a tax consultant. The client owned a chain of hotels, and one afternoon asked me if I would like to see a new piece of property they had just acquired on the far Eastern tip of the island. As we got out of his car he reached in the back seat and took out a pair of binoculars. He exclaimed that he was a birdwatcher (now the term is “birder”). After about 20 minutes wandering the new property, he suddenly stopped walking and pointed to a tree about 20 yards distant. “Do you see that green and yellow bird?” “Yes,” I answered. “That bird shouldn’t be here and is one of the rarest birds on the planet. It must have been blown over from the Big Island by that storm we had last week. It is called an ‘O U Bird’ and is critically endangered.”

When I got home from Maui, I immediately went to the library and researched the O U Bird. That started my birding hobby, which has now grown to a life list of 4812 birds worldwide. I am unusual as a birder because I do not count birds that are heard but not seen. I also make a point in seeking out the rarest birds on the planet which normally entails using specialized guides in challenging habitats. Here is one of my favorite birding experiences.

SHOEBILL HEAVEN

The shoebill is considered the number one bird in Africa. It is also in the Top Ten worldwide for most birders. The shoebill stands over five feet tall and has the largest bill of any bird on the planet. It is mostly found in the swamps of Uganda. Featured on the cover of a book called “Extreme Birds” is none other than the shoebill. A famous birder, Arnold Small, who once held the record for birds observed at 6923, chose the shoebill for the name on his California license plate.

Idi Amin has been gone from Ugandan politics for a long time (he was forced from office in 1979 and died in 2003 in exile), but Uganda’s reputation was sullied for decades. It is now open for tourism and National Geographic picked the country as a top destination just a few years ago. The shoebill managed to avoid tourists for many decades. Most of the swamps

are difficult to reach. I scheduled two visits to search for the shoebill, the first in the Lugogo Swamp, in central Uganda, and the second in Mabamba Swamp, near Kampala, the Ugandan capital. A swamp should have a foreboding name- I think Lugogo and Mabamba fit the bill (pun intended).

As we canoed in Lugogo, it became evident that no shoebills were present as we approached the end of the swamp. However, rather than just turn around, my guide said, “let’s go” and proceeded to jump out of the canoe into the swamp. Unflinchingly, I also jumped into the swamp not thinking about what could either eat me, or bite me, or sting me, or all of the above. Wading in the swamp was breathtaking. We approached birds very closely and finally did spy a shoebill about 200 yards away. Wow! A dream comes true. I took some pictures, but the bird was a little too far away, and finally flew off into a distant tree.

After several adventures in Tanzania, it was back to Uganda and the Mabamba Swamp. The guide service had discouraged me from booking this trip since shoebills were mainly seen in the early morning hours; almost never in mid-afternoon when I would be present. The swamp was truly beautiful with gorgeous plant life and birds of every variety. About 45 minutes into the ride my guide simply pointed a finger far off in the distance. Yes, a shoebill, and very close to the swamp’s edge. We paddled to within 15 yards of the shoebill. It didn’t move. Can you hear the sound of my heart beating? Listen closely, you will.

It is a strange feeling being this close to a bird that tens of millions of birders throughout the world have dreamed of seeing. After about 25 minutes with the shoebill, we floated down the swamp in search of more birds. Then on our return we noticed the shoebill still in the same location. My guide suggested that the shoebill looked ready to catch its prime meal, a Lungfish (resembles an eel). The shoebill lunged for the Lungfish (say that fast 10 times) and caught it. However, as the guide exclaimed, it was too big. The shoebill tried mightily to swallow the Lungfish while I shot numerous pictures. I have been told that my photos of this episode in the wild are extremely rare, if not unprecedented.





PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

- Mountain Gorilla- Bwindi Impenetrable Forest- Uganda
- Blue-eared Kingfisher- Inle Lake- Myanmar
- Thornicroft Giraffe- South Luwanga- Zambia
- Proboscis Monkey- Sarawak, Malaysia- Borneo
- Oriental Pied Hornbill- Kaziranga- Assam, India
- Blue-footed Boobie- Galápagos Islands- Ecuador
- African Fish Eagle- Zambezi River- Mozambique
- Leopard- Mara River, Serengeti- Tanzania
- Sunda Pig-Tailed Macaque- Sabah, Malaysia- Borneo
- Satyr Tragopan- 14,500 foot elevation - Mount Everest- Nepal
- Buff-Banded Rail- Heron Island- Great Barrier Reef- Australia
- Brown Pelican- Port Aransas- Texas- USA

PHOTOS BY ©. LARRY GLICK



A WHITE-KNUCKLE TOUR OF THE CAUCASUS

BY C. ALBERT PODELL
(NEW YORK METRO)



After having barely survived such ghastly hot spots as Sudan, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and Salvador in my 55 years of adventuring to every part of our planet, I find it hard to believe that my most constantly terrifying trip of all would take place in staid old Europe. But such surprises, as Circumnavigators are well aware, are part of the thrill, the delight, and the danger, and the wonder of travel – you often never know what you'll run into. Or what will run into you.

Yet, when you hear that a small adventure tour company is planning to inaugurate a pioneering tour to “one of the least visited areas of the world,” surely you experienced world travelers subdue your initial enthusiasm, and stop to ask: *Why* is this area so seldom visited?

Unfortunately, I neglected to ponder this key question when I signed up last spring for one of the very first tours to the North Caucasus. The lure of being the first guy on my block to visit Dagestan, Ingushetia, Chechnya, North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Abkhazia was so overpowering that I failed to do any due diligence or even rudimentary research other than to confirm that there had been no open warfare, pitched battles, or major terrorist attacks there in the past four years.

I knew from the promo brochure that it would be a 20-day rugged trip through a poor and primitive area, but I did not suspect just how rugged and primitive it might be until I arrived in Moscow to catch a flight to Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, and found that only two other intrepid travelers had booked this tour. Even so, I had no idea that I was about to experience one of the most terrifying and least enjoyable journeys in my decades of world travel.

I'd never been to that wild and highly mountainous part of Europe located in the most remote southern borderlands of Russia, north of Georgia and Armenia, known as the Northern Caucasus, and a 4x4 trip through that 1,200-mile mountain chain from the shores of the Caspian Sea to the palmy beaches of Sochi on the Black Sea, seemed right up my alley, so I had blithely and impulsively decided to give it a go. I mean, how bad could it be?

Really bad. Really, really bad.

My tiny group of three stalwart travelers was picked up at the airport in Makhachkala by a 16-year-old Mitsubishi 4 x 4 that had 580,000 km on its odometer and a tormenting suspension that had been “ridden hard and put away wet”, providing a ride so uncomfortable that two of the three passengers (me included) were car sick by the second day. Far worse and far more dangerous, however, was the steering wheel: It was on the “wrong” side of the car, which had apparently been unearthed in some former British colony! The steering wheel was on the far right, but every republic in the Caucasus drives, as in the U.S., on the right, which meant that our driver had little idea of what he would be facing when he tried to pass a vehicle. But far from fazing our driver, or encouraging him to proceed conservatively, he would follow each truck ahead of us by just by a few feet, which meant he could see nothing of the road in front of the truck on the narrow two-lane highways, so he would blindly pull out to the left to pass, while I, who sat in the passenger seat for most of the journey, would have to scream to warn him to pull back to avoid smashing into approaching cars that he could not see..

It was totally terrifying.

Furthermore – and here is where I am sure something went wrong with the planning and peopling of this inaugural tour-- the driver was from Ossetia, hundreds of miles away from where we began our drive. He had never before driven in Dagestan, or Chechnya, or Ingushetia, or on any of the roads we would be using for the first eight days of the trip, including many miles of the most dangerous mountain tracks I have ever seen, narrow dirt or rock roads, replete with dozens of breath-taking sharp, steep turns on every ascent and descent, with a sheer drop of more than two thousand feet down into the valleys, with absolutely no banking, no grading, no guard rails, and no protection of any sort, so that we were literally one white-knuckle second from certain death for at least four or five hours every day.

When I had, way back in 1966, led the Trans World Record Expedition completely around the planet, and set a still-standing record for the longest such land journey ever made, we drove our early-model Toyota Land Cruiser for most of the 581 days and 42,000 miles on horrible washboard tracks and goat paths so bad that I had titled my book about that frightening adventure, *Who Needs A Road?*

Among his many breaches of safe mountain-driving behavior on bad roads, he would:

- Drive with only one hand, even when negotiating some of the sharpest turns I've ever seen.
- Drive in the middle of the narrow trails instead of staying to the right, as if no car could possibly be coming from the other direction;
- Race up and down these rutted dirt tracks – usually designated as pistes, the poorest road rating given on the Michelin maps -- at speeds at least 30 km an hour in excess of safe velocity.
- Refuse to lower his speed for dense fog, a thick night fog in the high mountains that often limited the visibility to 10 or 15 meters, meaning he would have less than one second to react if any animal, car, or dislodged boulder was in the road.
- Refuse to give a warning toot of his horn while going steeply uphill around blind turns where a car coming from the other direction could not be seen, and could not see us, in time to avoid a crash.
- Refuse to turn the car's hot-air fan system to remove the mist from the windshield in the cold mountain air, further shortening his view.
- Never clean the thick coat of dust off the back windshield so he could use his overhead rear-view mirror to see who was coming up behind us. (I daily used my handkerchiefs to do this, while the driver scoffed at my cowardice.)
- Never wipe the road dirt off our headlights to improve visibility.
- Ignore all the strange sounds emanating from under the car, even when I called his attention to them. (When I finally prevailed upon our guide to command the driver to take the car to a repair shop in Grozny, we found that the metal step out on the driver's side was almost ready to fall off, requiring a half hour of welding, and we also found that a thick cable from the dashboard was poking through into the wheel well, and scraping loudly against the front left tire on all hard right-hand turns, of which there were hundreds.)
- Fail to follow a safe distance behind the cars ahead of us. He was irresistibly drawn to them as if they had powerful magnets in their trunks, often tail-gating them by no more than two feet.

I had learned the hard way how to traverse these kinds of slippery, unpaved, unlit, un-guard-railed, deadly mountain tracks -- slowly, carefully, and very cautiously.

But that safe style did not suit the personality or predilections of the Ossetian driver. He prided himself, as he told us through our translator/guide, on his fast reflexes, and he enjoyed driving on the edge. He assured our guide that he had never had an accident, but we passengers countered out that that was beside the point. The point was that we wanted him to give us a sense of comfort, safety, and assurance and did not want to feel in constant danger. After our guide/translator forcefully supported this point, the driver would drive in a safe manner for a few minutes, but would inevitably, inexorably, uncontrollably relapse and revert to his wild style.

I spent most of each day in fear, telling the driver (who spoke no English and, I later learned, had never driven anyone other than rural Russians for short distances) or signaling him with my hands to drive more slowly, to



not drive too close to the car ahead, to drive on the right side of the road, etc., etc.. The guide would repeat some of my instructions in Russian, but most of the time he was occupied with trying to keep us on the correct road, since the driver had not a clue where he was going, a stranger in a strange land. (Our guide had a tagged photo of every crossroads on his cellphone since there were almost no directional signs along our route.)

And have I mentioned that the few paved roads in the area were bordered by a foot-wide, *above-ground*, yellow pipe that delivered highly flammable natural gas to the mountain villages? One slip onto the edge of the narrow road, or one second of inattention, and we'd be toast. Badly burnt toast.

It was so frightening and uncomfortable that after our one woman passenger threw up on the second day of the tour, she wrote a long email of complaint to the head of our tour company that night. My hands were almost too tightly squeezed to type anything after a harrowing day of clutching the seat or the overhead handle to get some stability against the large G-forces generated by the driver taking turns too fast, which tossed us from side to side.

By the third night, even I was so upset that I sent a lengthy email to the head of the tour company, with whom I had previously traveled to Saudi Arabia, complaining about the superannuated car and its daredevil driver and this horrible experience, something I have never done before during a tour.

To its credit, on the eighth harrowing day of the tour, as soon as we arrived in Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, the company fired the driver on the spot.

For the eight days after that, we had seven different drivers and seven different vehicles. Two of the drivers were excellent, as was their relatively new Russian vehicle. The rest of the drivers ranged from fair to awful, and many of the vehicles they supplied were vans, poorly sprung and totally unsuited for rough roads, leaving us with a constant queasy feeling.



Two other points are relevant for those considering taking this or a similar trip with any of the agencies pioneering travel in the northern Caucasus.

One occurred on the eighth day of the trip when our itinerary called for us to enter Prielbrusye National Park and drive for several hours up to a pass at about 10,000 feet to take a shortcut to the next town and to get a view of Mt. Elbrus, the highest mountain in Europe. To be fair, the tour brochure did state that we would only see Elbrus “if we will be lucky with the weather.” What it did *not* make clear was that we would also only be able to see Elbrus if we could get to the far side of the peak we were climbing, and that the road might be blocked on its northern (sunless) slopes by several meters of snow.

It was May 18, and our two experienced drivers reported that they had gotten through the pass on May 6 the year before, so our guide decided to give it a go, adding that “perhaps some shepherds have already been up there with their flocks and cleared a path.”

The next morning in Nalchik (in the republic of Kabardino-Balkaria) the day dawned bright and clear, so we drove two hours by highway to an abandoned mining town where the Russians had extracted zinc and tungsten for several decades, then turned off the road and headed up the hill. Two hours later, at about 9,000 feet, we started to encounter small patches of snow, and after another 15 minutes, our way was blocked by two large snow drifts which slanted down from the mountain to the outside edge of the road and a sheer drop of 2,000 feet below. We shoveled our way through the first drift in an hour, and through the second drift in two hours, but were then totally blocked by an immense drift another mile further on and several hundred feet higher in altitude, forcing us to turn around, drive for three hours down the mountain, return to the deserted mining town,

and continue on to Pyatigorsk by a different highway, losing half a day on this shortcut.

The tour operators need to solve this problem; they need some method to ascertain, in the spring and the fall if the route is open or blocked by snow. A strategically placed web-cam or two could provide the information, but there is no budget for that in Kabardino-Balkaria, no weather station anywhere around, and no news-station rush-hour drive-time helicopters to fly up and check the conditions. One obvious solution would be to start the trip a month or so later, but our tour company wanted us to experience the parade in a big city on May 9 commemorating Victory Day in Russia, memorializing the defeat of Nazi Germany by the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War, the biggest holiday of the year. The Parade in Derbent was really worth seeing, particularly for its displayed veneration of the former

dictator Joseph Stalin, who is making a comeback among nationalist-minded Russians.

But I don't think you can ever see the Parade and Mt. Elbrus in the same month. Something has to give.

The other major problem I had with the trip – which others, particularly culture vultures, might not find so annoying – is that because there are so few truly special or interesting places or activities in this region, the tourist will often have to travel two hours or more each way to see places they would never travel even an hour to see on their home turf. e.g. a potter at work; a jewelry craftsman at work; a painter in his studio displaying his art; a village market; a decrepit ethnography museum; a mosque; a cemetery for the victims of a terrorist attack (this did make an impact); the roasting and grinding of apricot pits and almonds at a water mill to make a popular condiment; an abandoned village in which only one person still lives; a hermit's home (complete with a very friendly hermit, once an electrical engineer, now a subsistence farmer); a vineyard; five monasteries; an unusual outdoor museum displaying the life-long collection of one man; a dinner and sleepover with a traditional local family; impressive medieval towers in the countryside; a martial arts sword demonstration; a hot mineral spring; a lakeside resort; the city of Sochi; a Caucasian dance troupe; and ancient baths (hamans) from a thousand years ago. That's about the sum total of all we saw in 20 days of driving.

And, towering above it all, the awe-inspiring sheer beauty of the mountain chain.

Taken together with the city visits, these will give the tourist a fair flavor of the region, and the overall tour will enable the traveler to learn about and explore what is probably the least-visited area in Europe, and to be the first in your town to do so. The question one has to ask is: Is it worth three weeks of Death-defying driving?

CYCLING IN THE TYROL

BY C. JOHN WEED - DESERT CHAPTER

A marvelous bicycling group tour from the Alps to Verona, Italy, was our recent adventure. The tour primarily focused upon the land and culture of what is known as the southern Tyrol region. This area is dominated by German and Italian cultures. We travelled the established bicycle pathways in the Adige River Valley and major tributaries to the Po River Valley.

After a brief, initial stay in Innsbruck, Austria, we were transported over the Alps to commence our bicycling in San Valentino alla Muta – at an altitude of approximately 5000 feet. We initially headed towards the Italian village of Silandro, amidst fruit orchards and green pastures.

We then stopped at the city of Lase – where white marble is quarried, and particularly, where the marble from the 9/11 World Trade Center Memorial in New York City originates. Subsequently, our travels led us to the Merano and the San Procolo Chapel – with 8th Century frescos. Merano is famous for its picturesque promenades, towering cathedrals, and lush gardens.

Our bicycling tour then led us to Bolzano – a former Roman crossroad. This medieval center exhibits pink sandstone buildings with multi-colored roof tiles. German is the predominant language spoken. Above the town of Bolzano, I took a cable car and then a train which travels seven miles across the ridge line and leads to a trail for the exhibition of the “the earth pyramids.” – Europe’s tallest and most perfectly shaped clay moraine geologic feature found on Renon mountain.

We then entered the land of medieval castles, orchards, and vineyards. I visited a winery in Mezzocorona, and then ended the day in Trento. The following morning, I attended a lecture on the history and economy of the southern Tyrol. Trento is where the Council of Trent was held and contains the remains of the Roman town of Tridentum.

Our journey then led us to the northern shores of Lake Garda – the largest lake in Italy-- where numerous German families enjoyed their vacation time. The following morning, we traversed the entire lake to arrive at Sirmione – a southern lake resort – which is surrounded by the Gruppo del Baldo mountain range.

Leaving Lake Garda, we travelled the tow path of the Mincio River- bicycling through Borghetto, where ancient water wells rise out of the river to mill wheat and rice.

Our 225-mile bicycling journey ended at Mantova, and I subsequently left Italy at Verona, headed for Croatia.



GLOBAL INSPIRATION IN AFRICA

REPORTED BY
C. SHELLY KRYGIER (NAPLES CHAPTER)



One's first circumnavigation can be an awe-inspiring experience, as Shelly Krygier recently discovered. Shelly, a new member in the Naples Chapter, found that her round-the-world adventure was life-changing and gave her a new perspective on the world.

Making her first visit to Asia, she explored Hong Kong and marveled at its sights and scenes, including the peaceful Chin Lin Nunnery with its magnificent gardens offering a serene oasis in the midst of the bustle of city life. Coincidentally, she was photographed with an elephant "statue" in a tourist market. Perhaps this was the prelude to her upcoming inspiration, because it was her experience with elephants in Africa that she found life-changing.

Sailing with her aunt from Singapore to Cape Town, the 25-day cruise which gave her the chance to socialize, relax and enjoy the entertainment and lectures. The real fun began in Africa, where she met up with her husband, Kevin, and friends.

They took a cable car to the top of Table Mountain, visited the Cape of Good Hope, 12 Apostles Peaks and enjoyed lunch in the Constantia wine area, then flew to Livingstone, Zambia, staying near Victoria Falls on a quiet bend of the Zambezi River.



They continued on to Chobe and Moremi National Parks and the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Amongst the lush green landscape, they saw all of the "big five" African animals. This is where her close encounter with elephants gave her so much inspiration.

As Shelly describes it, "We had the unique opportunity to talk with *Living with Elephants* caretakers, Doug and Sandi Groves, then walk with two orphaned elephants, Jabu and Morula. Jabu is a bull elephant, enormous, but docile. We walked gently with Jabu while holding his trunk, and the experience was life-changing."

"During one game drive, on a six-passenger custom vehicle with open sides, an elephant came over to the vehicle and put his trunk inside to smell the passengers and then peacefully just walked away."

Asked about the importance of the experience, Shelly said, "I was humbled by meeting and falling in love with the African people and animals in a way that changed my perspective on life. Close encounters with many types of animals, and the people you meet stay with you forever. Empathy and simplicity replace indifference and complications, experiences with animals and people replace being overloaded and climbing ladders. I want to be rich in experiences with nature and people, and there isn't anything more in this world that I need. I am forever grateful."

Learn more by searching *Living With Elephants Foundation* on the Internet.



YEMEN

ANCIENT KINGDOM IN A WAR ZONE

BY C. BRADFORD GARY
PALM BEACH CHAPTER

Sana, Yemen – One of the most strikingly beautiful areas of the Gulf region is the country of Yemen, fabled gateway to the Bab el Mandab waterway and the Kingdom of Saud. Established by Britain as a major trading port on the sea route to India and the Far East, Aden has always occupied a critical place in the history of the Middle East.

For many years the Royal Navy maintained the largest naval base in the world at Aden at the center of an extinct volcano -- now a harbor of refuge. What we found in Yemen before the war may surprise many travelers for it is a place frozen in another time, a small part of 18th Century Arabia locked into a violent 21st century war that the people of Yemen do not really understand.

Today there are ongoing battles across Yemen and it is unclear which faction is in control of the country. This fighting includes armed groups like Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Daesh (also known as ISIS).

In an effort to expand their regional control, Saudi Arabia has entered the war. Saudi air force fighter bombers are bringing air strikes into populated areas near Sana and Aden. Civilian casualties continue to mount and exceed 10,000. Piracy also remains a significant threat in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.

During our visit we discovered that there was limited government control over most of the country with Al-Qaeda dominance in many areas. We were supplied military escorts to move outside the city of Sana. Military roadblocks occurred every several miles on local roads. Today's fighting began with battles in the 1960s – a civil war in the north and an insurgency against British colonial forces in the south. The southern faction adopted Marxism and aligned itself with the Soviet Union.

Our interest in Yemen began many years ago when my uncle was stationed in country commanding a Royal Navy carrier group based at Aden. He described the friendly people, magnificent mountains and wide-open deserts where local tribes wandered about like a scene from *The Arabian Nights*.

The award-winning BBC television series "Last Post" was based on events in Aden during the 1960s when local guerilla fighters began a campaign to remove British forces from the country. Once a prominent part of the Empire, Yemen began a slide to the third world. Little remains of the British influence – only the fortifications at Aden harbor and a Victorian-style government house, the former residence of the British Crown.



What has not changed in Yemen are the people and architecture of this amazing place.

After arrival at the 1950s era Soviet constructed airport at Sana, we moved to the city along roadways that resemble underground channels with a traffic mix of horse carts and tiny cars.

The most striking aspect of Sana are the centuries-old apartment buildings topped with large white borders and expansive balconies straight out of the middle ages, but in apparently good condition; a bit like the gardens of Babylon.

The old city of Sana is a colorful page from the Middle East of 400 years ago. The old entry to the city frames elegant mosques and street markets. Islamic banners are a blast of bright white and green and present a look from the Crusades of long ago.

In the crowded market we see a mix of faces – Houthi, Jewish, Sunni /Shia Arabs and European expatriates. Yemeni men carry an ornate silver dagger on their cloth waist-band, which provides some potential drama to any negotiations in the market space.

Yemeni men are also avid consumers of kat –a green weed-like substance that has an effect similar to a mild narcotic. When chewed, the stimulant property of kat lasts several hours – a good time to stay away from local road transport. Yemeni women wear a jambiya - a long and formal dress.

The walled city of Sana is set on a high plateau and has been occupied for 2500 years. Sana first became a major center for Islam in the Seventh Century. The architecture is an ornate mix of Arabic and Asiatic not seen elsewhere – it reminded us of a Hollywood movie set from the early days of American film. It is certainly one of the most outstanding, mystical cities in the world. You have stepped back in time.

Off the coast in the Indian Ocean is the famed island of Socotra. Sinbad the Sailor was once believed to have sailed from Socotra. The island is a remote – almost inhabited - diving resort with marine species unique to the Indian



Ocean. During the guerilla conflict, British air force units operated out of a base on Socotra. A US government listening post is now on the island.

As we travel overland to the port city of Hodeida from Sana rugged mountains rise sharply from a coastal plain, then level off, giving way to a dramatic plateau dominated by a huge ancient fortress. The stone fortification overlooks terraced fields running to the horizon. To the south are pine forests where small wildcats are said to live in the verdant countryside. The landscape is breathtaking.

During a climb to the top of the fortress we ask the Yemeni guide about the current conflict.

“Do you care who wins the war?”

“No, we just want it to end”, he says.

Of course, the people of Yemen are why we are here – they have a proud appearance and friendly nature not often found in the Middle East. During our visit to the walled city two schoolboys stopped us on remote track and asked us where we were from. Discovering that we were Americans they were excited and exclaimed that “they were happy to have finally met heathens.”

The war in Yemen has gone unnoticed beyond its borders until recently. The fighting is based on old conflicts and now involves large scale intervention by Saudi and UAE forces. Unfortunately, no single country appears committed to establishing a lasting peace in this proud land. Let us hope that soon changes.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH TRIBAL LIFE

BY C. LISA BRIGHTON
MICHIGAN CHAPTER

There aren't many places in Africa where a visitor is greeted by tribal women who have walked 20 kilometers to be the first from their village to say, "Hujambo" - Swahili for, "Hello".

I was fortunate to witness this exceptionally warm welcome first-hand. The seventh day of my recent photography expedition, which focused on the tribes of the Rift Valley, gifted me and my fellow intrepid travelers this heartwarming moment. Each morning our group arose before sunrise to drive from our camp to be in a remote village as it awoke to a new day. As the light started to lift and families emerged from their dwellings, we watched as young members of the community tended to livestock. While goats, sheep and camels were restless to get out into clearings to graze, the adults welcomed us. They rarely see Westerners, so there was a curiosity to our presence. Rarer yet, our group of seven was all women.

Scouted and designed by our photography lead, Piper MacKay of Piper MacKay Photography (www.pipermackayphotography.com), part of our journey was to deliver food to five of the 43 tribes of Kenya - the El Molo, Samburu, Turkana, Rendille and Pokot. Piper raised over \$8,000 through her "Generosity Campaign" and the money was used to buy basic cooking needs such as porridge and rice for those in need during the drought. (A one kilogram bag of porridge is less than a U.S. dollar and feeds fifteen children.)

A top priority of the journey was to maintain cultural sensitivities with how we entered villages, interacted with people and delivered the food. Many times we did not have our cameras. We simply observed how people lived, how they dressed, and what their morning, or late-day, routines were. On a few special occasions, we delivered goats for goat-roasting parties which began close to sunset. As the day turned to night we were asked to join their celebrations as tribal members sang and danced, enjoying a hearty meal near a roaring bonfire - memories which I will always remember.

Being in the Rift Valley of Northwest Kenya is an amazing experience, and it's also a bold adventure. The panoramic and dramatic, rugged landscape of the Kenya wilderness adds to the journey - and so do the soaring high temperatures. Our group travelled by Land Rover and stayed in mobile tented camps, which added to the authenticity of connecting to the communities of people. And, although the journey was very demanding physically, it was extremely well worth it. The people we helped, and the bonds that were created are not only soulful, but life-changing.

Now, back home in Michigan, I think about the women who walked 20 kilometers to greet us. Their effort, enthusiasm and gratitude are almost beyond comprehension. I go about my day in the corporate world thinking about the people in the villages living off of the land, in their nomadic lifestyle. It's my hope that their future generations continue with the traditions that they've been taught. It's also my hope that their way of life can be preserved as Westernization is introduced into their world.



Photos by Lisa Brighton





LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

BY C. MARILYN VARCOE
NAPLES CHAPTER

Iceland is widely recognized for its stunning glacial lagoons and prevalence of active volcanos. Iceland has an abundance of natural hot springs, amazing wild life, and spectacular scenery. The people are friendly and down to earth, always eager to chat with anyone looking for information.

I was fortunate to circumnavigate Iceland by sea last summer, and enjoyed fabulous cool and sunny weather, amazing scenery and an abundance of wildlife. Iceland is still an unspoiled paradise that has not yet been overwhelmed by tourists.

Our ship embarked in London and stopped first at Lerwick in the Shetland Islands in the North Sea. We then traveled to Heimey, Iceland, a small volcanic island off the southeast corner of Iceland. Heimey is known as the “mountain of fire” due to its active volcanoes. It has sheer cliffs and colonies of puffins.

We traveled to Reykjavik, the capital, an active cultural city well known for the “Blue Lagoon Experience.” I spent most of my time on the Golden Circle route which explores the geysers, the beautiful waterfalls, and the active volcano Fault Lines of the Island.

We visited Isabjorgure, known for its many small islands, and explored Vigur Island with its abundance of puffins and the farm that produces the world famous “eiderdown” from the Eider Duck.

Next was Akureyri Island, known for its amazing landscape of lava and geothermal fields. Its spectacular scenery of lava craters is unique.

Husavik is a small whaling community and was my most memorable excursion, as I joined a whaling boat that took me close to the humpback whales. I was so close that I could almost reach out to touch them. It was a “Disney-like” thriller experience as I held on to the ship in a rocky turbulent sea for hours, darting about in search of an up close encounter with the numerous humpback whales! (An experience that has been hard to forget.) We were now at the most Northern point in Iceland and our coldest weather, which we were happy to leave behind and travel on to the Faroe Islands.

Torshavn, the capital of the Danish Faroe Islands, is a colorful turf roofed village. I would not hesitate to return to this very interesting island which has become a tourist destination due to its picturesque charm. Our next stop was Kirk Wall in the Orkney Islands, with its rolling landscape and remarkable dwellings. Our last stop was Rosyth, Scotland, with a tour of Edinburgh and the wonderful Stirling Castle.

This memorable 21-day trip was a photographic delight and a destination that I would return to again in the near future.



KAZAKHSTAN

BY  KEVIN SHORT
(NEW YORK METRO)



In 1978, despite Cold War tensions, world leaders from more than 100 countries came together in present-day Kazakhstan to make a bold declaration: health is a human right, and countries should strive to provide health for all.

This October marked the 40th anniversary of that gathering, so the United Nations convened representatives from every country at *The Global Conference on Primary Health Care* in Kazakhstan to sign a reinvigorated declaration (*The Declaration of Astana*) focused on strengthening primary health care systems to achieve universal health coverage. The conference reflected an important shift in the way governments, the UN, and public health organizations are approaching health: moving from single disease eradication drives toward strengthening health systems.

I was lucky enough to be working on site at this historic meeting as heads of state, ministers of health, top global health officials, activists and researchers gathered to discuss how best to strengthen health care systems and improve health outcomes. I work for Global Health Strategies, a global health communications consulting firm, which was hired to lead the media relations and communications around this two-day conference in Astana. I coordinated a media fellowship program, which sponsored top health journalists from around the world to report stories about public health and attend the meeting in Kazakhstan. We visited health care clinics in Kazakhstan and held a series of roundtable media interviews with leaders and experts from the World Health Organization, UNICEF, governments, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Astana is a curious but compelling city. It is a brand-new city, only selected as Kazakhstan's capital in 1997, after independence from the USSR. It is filled with grand and ostentatious buildings and reflections of the country's newfound mineral wealth.

After the conclusion of the conference, I enjoyed a week of vacation. In the Circumnavigators' spirit, I jetted down to Almaty – the historic, more soulful city of Kazakhstan, nestled at the base of the Tian Shan mountains.

Highlights included visiting the surreal and electric blue Big Almaty Lake, just a 45-minute Uber ride from downtown Almaty, and dining on the national delicacy of horse. Afterward, I made a quick flight to Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. I spent half of my 36 hours trekking in the Tian Shan mountains, all the way up to a beautiful frozen waterfall in Ala Archa National Park. I rounded out my trip with more cosmopolitan pleasures in Tbilisi, Georgia. The birthplace of wine, Georgia is where you can experience everything from centuries-old ruins to sulphuric baths to the omnipresent khachapuri (Georgian cheese bread).

Though it pales in comparison to the remarkable privilege of witnessing global health history in action at the Astana conference, the trip was also special for me because Kazakhstan marked my 50th country visited. 47 of those countries have been visited in the last nine years since my sophomore year of Northwestern – in large part due to the transformational scholarship I was awarded by the Circumnavigators Foundation. The grant propelled a life-long passion for global affairs, civic engagement, international cooperation, and travel.



chapter highlights

CHICAGO



CS. Jim Houston, Jim Franch, Don Parrish and Karen Schlueter enjoying a drink before dinner.

The Chicago Chapter celebrated the holidays at the Helen and Bryan Lathrop House, designed by Charles McKim and completed in 1892. The Lathrop House was designated as a Landmark by the city of Chicago in 1973 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Mary Houston, Program Vice President, gave an interesting presentation with detailed history of the building. It was a wonderful evening!

MICHIGAN



Michigan Chapter members and friends enjoyed a Holiday Brunch at Plum Hollow Golf Club.

MIAMI



CS. Nikos Spanakos, C. Jim Foster and Chapter President Patricia Lodge

Miami Chapter members enjoyed learning from Anchorage, Alaska Circumnavigator, Jim Foster, about his upcoming 3-year adventure - "The Magellan Project" - retracing the Magellan route 500 years later. The luncheon/program was held at The Greek Joint restaurant in Hollywood, Florida.

NAPLES



The Annual Christmas Party of the Naples Chapter took place Sunday, December 9, 2018, at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. It was a very formal and festive event.

On Left: Guest Susan Pohlman with C. Rick Jennewine

On Right: C. Pat Classen with Naples Chapter President Tina Nicholson

chapter highlights

PALM BEACH



The Palm Beach Chapter joined for a wonderful dinner at Ruth's Chris Steak house in November.

DESERT



☪. Frank Gruber, Chapter President Linda Gruber, ☪. Carole Maderia, ☪. Kaye Jenista, and Carole's husband Pat Maderia.

Members of the Desert Chapter gathered for an informal happy hour at the Royal Palms Resort in Phoenix.

PACIFIC-NORTHWEST



☪. Grady Kelly Post, ☪. Lou Ann Skinner, ☪. Will Mason, ☪. Maria Mason, ☪. Charles Stotts, ☪. Martha Sampson, ☪. Caroline Farrell, ☪. Jim Farrell, Tess Krasowski, ☪. Stefan Krasowski, ☪. Marilyn McGrath, and ☪. Virginia Houk

The Pacific-Northwest Chapter celebrated the holidays on December 15, 2018. Everyone enjoyed a terrific evening!

PACIFIC-SOUTHWEST



Pacific-Southwest Chapter President Virginia Foster welcomed new member James Furby to their Chapter.

The Washington, DC Chapter held its annual dinner with the Explorer's Club on November 17 at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC.

WASHINGTON DC



Governor Ray Olson, ☪. Jorge Serpa, and his wife, Ambassador Lucy Tamlyn

chapter highlights

SINGAPORE



On January 10, 2019, Singapore Chapter members and their partners enjoying their annual AGM dinner at the Tower Club overlooking the iconic Marina Bay in Singapore.

UNITED KINGDOM

The U.K. Chapter held its 10th Annual Dinner at the House of Lords with about 60 members and guests in attendance. The event was hosted by Lord Richard Faulkner, formally known as Lord Faulkner of Worcester. Also attending was Lord Peter Inchcape, formally the Earl of Inchcape. The festive event included a tour of the chambers, a presentation by *C.* Kane Avellano who circumnavigated by motorcycle. *C.* Douglas Nickson, a relatively new member from Washington State, made a brief presentation about his decades-long project to duplicate the House of Lords library in his home. This was his first time to see the actual library. A number of Americans, including this writer and his wife, Dottie, attended the memorable dinner. Thanks to Chapter President Helen Jenkins for organizing it.

Lord Richard Faulkner, Chapter President Helen Jenkins, Lord Peter Inchcape, *C.* Dottie Mink and International President David Mink



HOLIDAY PARTY IN NEW YORK

Circumnavigators and guests celebrated the holidays on December 13, 2018 at the Explorers Club. The Past President of the Explorers Club gave an interesting presentation on the history of the Club while guests enjoyed a wonderful cocktail reception.

Caption 1: *C.* Chris Arnett, *C.* Sue Murphy, *C.* Brad Vogel

Caption 2: Beatrice Blaidell, *C.* George Sanborn, *C.* Helen-Jost Mulligan, Past President Esther Dyer

Caption 3: *C.* Kristen Koontz, *C.* Ellen Scordato, Melanie Peterson, *C.* Sue Murphy, *C.* Eda Peterson, *C.* Helen Jost-Mulligan, Jan Mink

Caption 4: President David Mink, *C.* Chris Arnett, *C.* Fred Mink

Caption 5: Melanie Peterson, *C.* Ellen Scordato, *C.* Jeff Peterson, *C.* Eda Peterson

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

SINGAPORE - Singapore

SOUTH AFRICA - Cape Town

THAILAND - Bangkok

UNITED KINGDOM- London

U.S.A.

ARIZONA - Scottsdale, Sedona

CALIFORNIA - La Jolla,
San Francisco

FLORIDA - Palm Beach, Miami,
Naples

ILLINOIS - Chicago, Elmhurst,
Northbrook, Winnetka

MICHIGAN - Detroit

NEW MEXICO - Albuquerque,
El Prado

NEW YORK - New York


PENNSYLVANIA - Philadelphia

SOUTH CAROLINA - Hilton Head



WASHINGTON DC

WASHINGTON- Seattle



On June 20, 2018, Helen met with  Neil Mandt at his Hollywood studio in Los Angeles.



On June 23, 2018, Helen met with  PJ Byrne from Brisbane, Australia, and  Steve Plewes from the Washington, DC Chapter, both at the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) conference for financial advisers in Los Angeles.

United Kingdom Chapter President Helen Jenkins' Goodwill Connections



► On October 4, 2018 Helen was welcomed to Singapore by immediate Past President Graham Bell. They met at the former main Post Office, a beautiful colonial building which now houses the renowned Fullerton Hotel.

On August 13, 2018, President of the Singapore Chapter, Mr. Richard Hoon and Immediate Past President Mr. Graham Bell welcomed the 2018 Dinsmore Scholar, Georgetown University Scholar Ann-Kathrin Merz who is circumnavigating the globe aided by a grant from the Circumnavigators Foundation. The welcome lunch was held at the historic Singapore Cricket Club, a premier sporting and social club founded in 1852 which is situated in the heart of the Civic district of Singapore.





FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S *LETTER*

Dear Fellow Circumnavigators:

It's once again that time of year when we look back at the Foundation's activities during the year, and forward to the upcoming grant cycle. The two grantees who completed their around-the-world travel-study projects during this past summer will both utilize their Foundation-supported research projects as the basis for their senior theses, so the submission date of their scholarly reports has been deferred until next spring to coincide with the due dates for the theses. We look forward to reviewing them and encourage you to do so as well. The final reports submitted by your grant recipients make fascinating reading and provide wonderful insight into the seriousness of purpose with which they approach their travel-study projects.

For the 2018-2019 grant cycle, we will once again make two grants (to juniors at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and Northwestern University), and for the first time in eight years, the Board, following a detailed study based upon expenditures of grantees over the past five years, has increased the amount of each grant modestly to \$9,500 from \$9,000. Our Scholars have shown remarkable resourcefulness over the years to keep their expenditures within the grant amount, and their willingness to plan their itineraries carefully with that in mind is one of the criteria upon which their selection is made.

We are hopeful that we will be able to increase the number of grants we make in future grant cycles to at least our target level of three per year; our ability to do so is a function both of the level of member donations we receive and the level of commitment at the chapter level to coordinate grants effectively. As to the second prerequisite, we are working to encourage strong coordination ability at additional chapters. As to the first, we encourage you, if you haven't already responded to our Fall Appeal, to contribute at any level to help expand your highly successful grant program –the only one of its kind which will be entering its 49th year in 2019.

Best wishes for 2019 and Luck to You!

Greg Rider
Foundation President



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.



Ann-Kathrin enjoyed an eight-hour workshop learning the Malaysian dance *joget*. Once they finished practicing, they performed the dance in traditional Malaysian clothing.

Ann-Kathrin Merz Georgetown University

Scholar Topic: Statelessness: How Enemies Become Friends: The Role of Regional Organizations in Replacing Rivalry with Cooperation

What countries did you visit on the circumnavigation?

I visited Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Belgium, France, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. So I visited three regions and three countries in each region.

Was there a highlight on the trip?

There were so many highlights, as the entire trip was filled with unexpected magic. One of the most magical nights involved attending a celebration of *Festa Junina* in Brasilia. A woman I had just met invited me there. She graciously picked me up and we drove to the business district. Between two dark office buildings, colorful flags and a long table emerged. Twenty amateur musicians sat along the table and played improvised Samba and Forro music throughout the night. Because it was not a performance but just for fun, the music felt raw and full of joy, making the experience feel intimate. I felt honored to listen to something so beautiful. The Brazilians were incredibly warm and welcoming to me, as I enjoyed dancing the night away with them.

Was there a favorite country or place?

Another impossible question. I loved Brazil and South America in general, because the people were so welcoming to me. They let me forget that I was a foreigner. But I also really loved Malaysia. Malaysia was exciting, because it is a majority Muslim country, but also filled with so much diversity that Kuala Lumpur felt like a cultural rainbow. On one hand I admired the Islamic art on the walls of the city Mosques, but I also enjoyed visiting the Hindu and Buddhist Temples. I also loved learning a traditional Malaysian dance called *joget*, which is a lively upbeat dance with its roots in traditional Portuguese folk dancing. While I was not very good at it, I had such a great time learning the steps.

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

My biggest low was getting stuck at the Philippines airport on my way home to California. A Chinese airline malfunctioned during its landing and blocked the only runway for international flights. One by one, every flight in the terminal was cancelled.

The chaos and confusion created a common fear that everyone there was on their own. No one knew what to do and it seemed like every airport employee had different instructions.

Different people sent me to different lines. I stood in various lines from 8pm until 3am until I was finally rebooked. Since I was a foreigner, they refused to let me leave the airport and brought me to a small, overcrowded room. I received a thin blanket (they ran out of pillows) and slept on the floor in a corner. I spent the whole night shivering.

The next day they were supposed to bring us food, but it never came. I was hungry, tired, and my body hurt from standing in line and sleeping on the ground. I became desperate enough that I convinced an airport employee to give me a food pass for one of the stalls in the terminal. As I tried to get back to the terminal, I was stopped by three different officials. Thanks to the lack of protocol, they let me pass. The last person to stop me was a flight attendant, who was shocked to hear that I hadn't eaten all day. She gave me some beef and rice. I felt incredibly grateful to her.

The terminal was overcrowded so there were no chairs. Nonetheless, by then I had befriended some moms from the Philippines, who began to take care of me as though I were their own. We waited together, all of nervous as they continued cancelling flights. We feared we would not leave.

We were lucky though. While the morning flights were cancelled yet again, our flight was late at night. 36 hours later, I finally left the airport. The entire flight was full of people who had been stuck there. The man sitting next to me had become a friend after spending multiple hours in line together. We joyfully shared what we would do when we got back to California. One man said he would go straight to In-N-Out Burger and we all cheered.

When my parents met me at the airport, I fell in their arms and cried, so relieved to finally be home safe.

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

My most exciting food adventures took place in Indonesia. I had the privilege of staying with a fellow Georgetown student and her family there. Because Indonesia consists of thousands of Islands with many different ethnic groups, the country has an incredibly diverse and rich cuisine. Almost every night we ate Indonesian food from a different part of the country. Fortunately, I'm not picky so they would pick our food for us, making sure I tried the best food from each cuisine. The best experience was eating at her aunt's oxtail restaurant, where we ate oxtail in many different forms.

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

Because I was traveling quickly with a fairly rigid itinerary, it was hard to form deep friendships. A lot of times I made friends almost out of necessity. There were fellow solo-travelers, also starving for social contact, and so we would spend a day together. Other times the city simply was not safe, like in Rio de Janeiro, and people traveled in groups for safety. I met an incredible number of nice people this way, becoming friends with people I normally would not have talked to. On two occasions I was especially lucky and met people with whom simply clicked.

I met two German girls, 19 and 20, at the hostel in Iguazu Falls, Argentina. Both of them were traveling alone throughout South America. I was amused, that of course the two other female solo travelers in the hostel were from Germany. We bonded quickly over a game of cards, telling personal stories and laughing at each other's jokes. We spent the rest of the weekend exploring the Iguazu Falls together. Then I met one of the girls again in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Both of them live in Southern Germany and we all agreed that one day we would meet up again.

I got lucky again toward the end of my trip, at my hostel in Malaysia. I was feeling social and spontaneously asked two British girls at breakfast for their phone numbers. I think at first I came off as a bit too aggressive, but they were such kind people, they still invited me to join them at the Batu Caves the next day. We also got along so well, that we met again for more sightseeing in Kuala Lumpur.

What did you learn about yourself?

Self-Confidence:

When I think back to everything that happened this summer, I still find it hard to believe that that was me. That I organized and conducted all of those interviews, traveled to these places, and met all these interesting people. There is still this sense of incredulity, that all of it must have been a dream.

By completing a project that felt impossible, I feel a much deeper sense of self-confidence regarding my own capabilities. I feel more independent and self-reliant, that I can be placed in a difficult or confusing situation and figure out what I have to do. After my Circumnavigation, Jim Whalen gave me the flags of the nine countries I visited as a gift. I keep them on my desk, in the corner of my eye as I work, to remind me that this did happen and I am capable of more than I thought.

(Continued on top of next page)



FOUNDATION *news*



Ann-Kathrin became friends with a Basque man in Rio de Janeiro. They spent the day sight-seeing together, alternating between Spanish and English.

The Unknown:

I also feel freer. At Georgetown, our lives feel planned. We do what we are supposed to one step at a time, moving between academic semesters at the university and our internships with the goal of securing a good job. We always have a plan.

The trip was exciting, because I was forced to live without one. While I tried to have every destination planned out, the size of the trip made this impossible. I eventually found myself in situations where I would be flying to a country with barely a concrete interview in place, knowing little about the city or culture. This was not how I preferred to travel.

But as often is the case, it was the unexpected places and the unexpected experiences that I will hold on to the most after this trip. Without a plan, I was open to discovery. I was able to meet other people more easily and join them, or see something new without knowing what to expect. While first I feared traveling without a plan, I soon came to appreciate living plan-free, because it gave me a sense of opportunity and freedom for what was to come.

The trip allowed me to escape the Georgetown bubble and meet people with such unusual, mobile lives. I met a man who had been traveling for five years, doing odd jobs wherever he went. For instance, he spontaneously started a tomato farm in Australia for a year with some people he met at the hostel. It was amazing to leave the structure of Georgetown behind and meet people like this, who lived fulfilling lives that took a completely different form. I try to hold on to the memories of these interesting people now, as I imagine my life post-graduation. They taught me that it is okay to do something different, to not know what the next steps are, and to enjoy the process of finding them.

Hannah Whitehouse Northwestern University

Scholar Topic: El Sistema Movement: Social Change Through Music Education

What countries did you visit on the circumnavigation?

This summer I visited six countries across four continents. They are as follows: England, Greece, Kenya, India, the Philippines, and New Zealand.

Was there a highlight on the trip?

While there were several highlights from my eighty-day trip, one of my most memorable moments was a house concert in Taytay, Rizal--a municipality in the Philippines. After an hour-long journey from my hostel to the home, dozens of young musicians performed pieces they had prepared for me as a visitor. The space was small, the house was packed, and it was extremely hot, but the evident passion that poured from the students was unforgettable. Followed by a great home cooked meal, and Q&A session, and several more hours of informal music making, this experience was definitely one I will not forget.

Was there a favorite country or place?

While I loved every place I visited this summer, I was especially fond of El Sistema Greece in Athens. There, I had an opportunity to visit a great deal of music education programs in the refugee camps around Greece. There are many characteristics of El Sistema Greece that made visiting the program such an unforgettable experience, but one in particular is the mission of aiming specifically to "provide free music education to all children who have lived the experience of leaving their homes in search of a future". The program aims to give all of its students social and education experiences in order to improve their lives both in refugee camps and beyond, while also striving to prepare the children for integration into Greek and European society as a whole.

Were there any low lights, or surprises?

My trip, overall, went surprisingly much more smooth than anticipated. I had no lost baggage, canceled flights, and only a minor stomach bug throughout the entirety of my journey. One



Hannah with a class of violin students of El Sistema Kenya, located in the Korogocho slum of Nairobi.

surprisingly moment, though, was when I left my phone in a coffee shop in New Delhi. I didn't notice it for several hours, once I realized exactly where I had left it, I was sure that it was gone. After (embarrassingly) running back to the shop, I was thrilled and thankful to find my iPhone in the exact place that I had left it.

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

I loved the cuisine in the Philippines. Almost every night of my stay, students and parents involved in the program I was visiting would have me over for dinner. From adobo, to lumpia, to dozens of other foods, I enjoyed just about everything I ate there.

(I did, though, try Vegemite in New Zealand and was not too fond of it.)

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

The welcoming, open, and collaborative nature of both the music education and El Sistema communities lent itself to easily forming friendships. Through surrounding pedagogy with teachers, the El Sistema mission with program coordinators, behavior management and strategies with visiting teaching artists, and beyond, I was able to bond with like-minded individuals in each country throughout my journey. In New Zealand, I even had the chance to live with another visiting teacher from Canada. We visited the schools together each day, cooked our meals together, did some travelling around the island, and had the chance to just do life together throughout my stay.

What did you learn about yourself?

One of my biggest takeaways from the summer was the tremendous amount of growing I did. I particularly remember a turning point in the way that I viewed myself in terms of my capabilities as an individual. While filling out an internship application in India, one of the questions read "Please describe your greatest accomplishment." The first thing that came to mind was the day that I was awarded the Circumnavigators Travel-Study grant. However, seconds later in a moment of revelation, I thought to myself, "Once I finish this trip--that will be my biggest accomplishment. By a long shot."

Back home now in Chicago, I'm not overcome with insecurities and afraid to explore the city or try things on my own. I've even learned to enjoy doing things on my own. After my circumnavigation, I not only came home more enlightened regarding information in my field, but also a more confident and independent person.



Hannah with school administration at Shiv Nadar School, her favorite school in Delhi.



WELCOME *aboard*s

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

Vaibhav Abhyankar



"Vai" has covered a lot of territory in his lifetime. Born in India, he is a Swiss citizen living part of the year in Tampa, Florida. He is an executive

in the telecom and IT industry, which allows him extensive world travel. He speaks Hindi, English, German and Russian, and, among other things, enjoys skiing and classical music.

Christopher Arnett



Living in New York City, Chris volunteers and supports a number of civic and charitable organizations. Two of them are the The River

Project, which monitors marine life in the Hudson estuary, and the S.S. Columbia Project, which is restoring the 1902 excursion boat. He is the co-founder and operator of GenuineAfrica.com, a website dedicated to African tribal art.

Kane Avellano



Around the World on a motorcycle? In 2016, Kane took eight months to visit 35 countries and enter the Guinness Book of World Records

as the youngest person to circumnavigate by motorcycle (solo and unsupported). Kane lives in London where he works as a business consultant. He joins the UK Chapter. Look for Kane's biker experience in a future issue of The Log.

Randall Barclay



Born in New York, Randall spent his childhood in Indonesia, the U.K., Japan and Kenya. He is now retired and

lives in Vermont with his wife, Dianne, and three cats. After a business career, he entered the field of education, retiring as an instructor at the College of St. Joseph. Among his many activities, he enjoys acting in amateur theater.

Arthur Benjamin



Arthur's distinguished career as an entrepreneur is overshadowed by his active mission to save the animals of the world, whether it is going to

Canada to save seals or to Vietnam to save dogs slated to be eaten. He is the founder and president of the American Dog Rescue Association, and his list of noble activities goes on and on. His primary residence is in Delray Beach, Florida where he joins the Palm Beach Chapter.

Russ Bredholt



Living in White Springs, Florida, Russ is an advisor on strategy for businesses and nonprofits. He joins

the Palm Beach Chapter. He spends the summers in Vicksburg, Michigan. He has traveled to 40 countries on six continents, giving him a global perspective for consulting, teaching and facilitation.

Diane Cole



Diane lives in Villa Park, California, where she works as a clinical psychologist. She is involved in a number of civic and

charitable activities, and completed a 62-mile walk for charity. She enjoys gardening and flower arranging as well as yoga and skiing. Diane joins the Pacific-Southwest Chapter.

Ian Danic



Born in Canada, Ian now lives in the Bronx where he has been described as a "force of nature" in the maritime historical world. He is on the board

of directors of the S.S. Columbia Project and the River Project. He also supports the Helicon Foundation, dedicated to chamber music. He founded Electra Information Systems, a business management firm for software and data services.

Richard DeVoe



A graduate of the University of Southern California with a degree in history, Rich works for his family auto dealership in Naples,

Florida. He developed a love for travel as a college student when he circumnavigated on a Semester at Sea program. He has now visited numerous countries. Aside from traveling, he volunteers as a toastmaster. He joins the Naples Chapter.



WELCOME *aboard*

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Tim Foufas



Tim lives in Chicago and is the managing partner of Plato Foufas & Company LLC. In addition to a long career in investments, he is an avid traveler and a Guild Board Member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago. He completed his circumnavigation in six months in 1994 after his graduation from Northwestern University. He joins the Chicago chapter.

James Furby



Jim grew up on a 10-acre farm in Oregon, then graduated from Oregon State University and launched a career in civil engineering. He was the project manager for creating Sea World in San Diego. He now lives in La Jolla, California and joins the Pacific-Southwest Chapter.

Amy Gardner



Amy is a certified professional coach and consultant, focusing on law students. She has an impressive resume in education and law, including serving as Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Law School. Amy and her husband, Keith Sbiral, co-founded Complete Cuba, a boutique travel company offering small group, private trips to Cuba with the emphasis on cultural and photographic experiences. She is a member of the Illinois and U.S. Supreme Court bars. She joins the Chicago Chapter.

Hugh Keenan



A retired funeral director, Hugh now splits his time between Florida and Connecticut. During his career, he served as the youngest president of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association. Hugh has traveled extensively with his wife, Mary, and has visited countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, South America. He joins the Naples Chapter.

Katherine Kehoe



Katherine lives in McLean, Virginia, where she has her own business as a consultant to retirees on a budget. She has a second home in Stuart, Florida. With a passion for international travel, she has lived in six countries. She joins the Washington, DC Chapter.

Shelly Krygier



Living in Marco Island, Florida, Shelly is employed by Preferred Travel of Naples. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she is involved in several civic organizations, and loves the simple outdoor life of Marco Island which includes boating, biking, and kayaking, in addition to cooking. Her new livelihood in the travel business has taken her places she had dreamed about. She joins the Naples Chapter.

Grace Landon



Grace grew up in Illinois and after graduating from Southern Illinois University and Parsons School of Design, she embarked on a distinguished career in clothing design. Her design business took her to many locales, including Asia. She is now retired in Fort Worth, Florida and engages in many volunteer activities. Grace joins the Palm Beach Chapter.

Thomas Love



At this writing, Thomas has just graduated from Vanderbilt University and is planning to take a career opportunity in New York or Boston. He did his circumnavigation in 2012 with the University of Virginia's Semester at Sea. He has engaged in volunteer activities, including helping the homeless. Due to close ties with Florida, he will join the Palm Beach Chapter.

Maureen O'Gorman



Living in Naples, Florida, Maureen is retired after a career in retailing and merchandising. She spends the summer months in New York City. Among her many charitable activities, she serves on the board of directors for Girls Quest, a 75-year-old organization that supports economically disadvantaged girls in New York. She joins the Naples Chapter.



WELCOME *aboard*s

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

Lynn Payette



Lynn is a retired high school teacher living in San Diego, California. She has traveled extensively since the early age of 14. Her father's work with the U.S. government and the U.N. gave her the opportunity to travel and study abroad. She says her love of travel and desire to learn about other cultures have enabled her to live, work and travel in more than 90 countries. She joins the Pacific-Southwest Chapter.

Theodore Peroulakis



Living in West Palm Beach, Florida, Ted is a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch. He takes pride in his volunteer work. Notably, he serves as Team Leader of an American Red Cross Disaster Team and is a Red Cross hurricane shelter manager. He serves on the board of his local Red Cross Chapter. This is just one of this many civic activities. He joins the Palm Beach Chapter.

Randy Peterson



A native of Connecticut, Randy comes from a line of prominent Circumnavigators. His parents, Jeffery and Eda, are Club members; Jeffery serves on the Board of Governors. His late grandparents, Robert and Evelyn, were pillars of the Circumnavigators Club for many years. Randy works as an electrical engineer for Tesla motors. He is a member of the Mayflower Society of New York and the Sons of the American Revolution.

Keith Sbiral



Keith lives and works in Chicago, Illinois. He circumnavigated recently with his wife, Amy Gardner, who is also a new member. He and Amy operate a coaching and consulting business. He is a lifelong photographer with many photographic achievements and publications. Check out the web site www.reddotbluedot.com. He joins the Chicago Chapter.

Cathy Simon



Living in Annapolis, Maryland, Cathy and her husband Charles (also a new member) are sailing enthusiasts. They sailed around the world in 2014-2015, and they also circumnavigated North America by sailboat, traversing the Northwest Passage in 2017. Cathy is a retired banking executive.

Charles Simon



Along with his wife, Cathy, Charlie has written a book about sailing and circumnavigation. He is a retired software engineer. The Simons are widely recognized for their philanthropic activities and are involved in a number of civic and charitable organizations. Charlie and Cathy join the Washington, DC Chapter.

J. Calvin Wilson



At 18, Cal is the Club's new youngest member. He is from Washington, DC and will graduate from The Groton School in Connecticut in June 2019. He claims the "defining experience of this life" was the four-year circumnavigation by sailboat with his family. He visited 30 countries and crossed the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. He joins the Washington, DC Chapter.

Gunther Winkler



Born and educated in Austria, Gunther is a retired biotech engineer and entrepreneur. He and his wife, Maria (also a new member), recently made a presentation to the Naples Chapter where he showed his skill at photography. The Winklers share their time between Naples, Florida, and Boston.

Maria Winkler

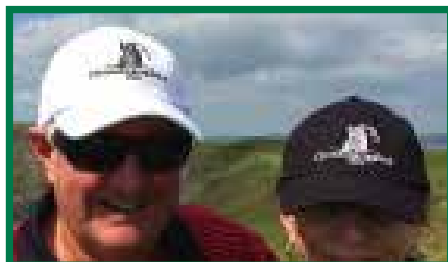


Like her husband, Maria is a native Austrian. She is a retired educator and is involved in several civic groups in Naples. She is president of the Welcome to Florida International Club. Additionally, she owns a yoga studio in Boston. The Winklers join the Naples Chapter.



Club News

Club Merchandise is available for purchase!



Contact Executive Director Tracy Sancilio at club@circumnavigators.org or go to our website www.circumnavigators.com to purchase to following items:

Ladies Scarf - \$ 25 | Hat (Black or White) - \$20 | Red Tie - \$25 | Club Badge - \$50



CLUB HEADQUARTERS The Yale Club of New York City

50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, New York 10017



The Yale Club is International Headquarters for the Circumnavigators Club allowing members to utilize the facility for private dining, special events, cocktail receptions and meetings. The club offers three restaurants including the elegant Roof Dining Room, the pub-like Grill Room and the Yale-inspired Tap Room. Members will have access to these rooms by checking in at the front desk and letting the staff

know you are a Circumnavigator Club member. There are also well-appointed guest rooms available from studios to suites. When booking an overnight stay, guests have full access to the club including all three restaurants, a full-service library, and a fitness facility with a swimming pool, squash courts, cardio equipment and freeweights. Once a reservation is made, a personal credit card is required upon arrival. Reservations for overnight accommodations must be made through the Executive Director – please contact headquarters at 201-612-9100 or email at club@circumnavigators.org. Please do not call the Yale Club directly.

OVER THE HORIZON

John Ahern
Delray Beach, FL
December 22, 2018

Estelle Addleson-Dunst
San Diego, CA

Charles O. Blaisdell
New York, NY
July 1, 2018

Elaine Elwell
Naples, FL
October, 2018

Robert Galli
Palm Beach, FL
September 18, 2018

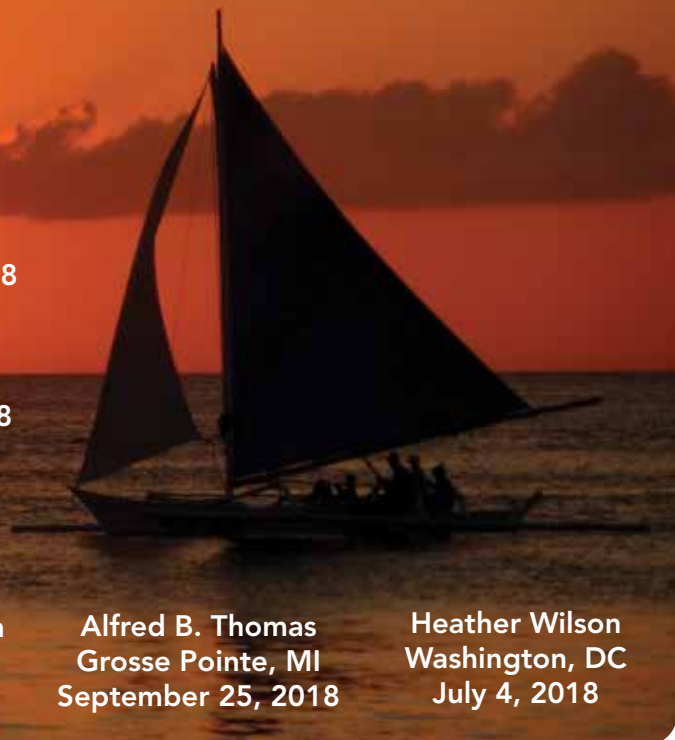
Marion Green
New York, NY
December 14, 2018

Helen Geyer
Montclair, NJ
August 31, 2017

Lucinda Kasperson
Northbrook, IL
July 2, 2018

Alfred B. Thomas
Grosse Pointe, MI
September 25, 2018

Heather Wilson
Washington, DC
July 4, 2018



In Memory of Charles “Charlie” Blaisdell



When Charles “Charlie” Blaisdell went over the horizon on July 1st, he had led the fullest of lives—travels, adventures and a commitment to making the world a better place. He served as president of the Circumnavigators Club and honorary president of the Circumnavigators Foundation. Just five months short of 103, he worked as an attorney right up until the end.

Born in Brooklyn in 1915, he attended Dartmouth and Columbia Law School. He joined the Circumnavigators in 1965. During his storied career, he served, among other things, as an FBI agent.

Charlie was known for his friendly smile and ability to make people laugh. A true gentleman, he will be missed by all. The Circumnavigators send out their deepest sympathy to his beloved wife, Beatrice, and his family.

MAKING THE BEST OF NATURE'S WORST

THROUGH MY LENS

Tips from a travel photographer

By **©. Roger Weatherburn-Baker, Contributing Editor**
(Naples Chapter)

It was cold and raining. I was struggling through a mist up a narrow mountain road toward the Monestir de Montserrat in northern Spain. Founded in the 11th century and built into the side of a 4,000-foot mountain pitted with hermits' caves, the monastery enshrines a wooden sculpture of a black Madonna who has been revered here since the 12th century.

I thought there was no chance I'd get a good photo of a monastery I could barely see, but then there was my shot. The holiest site in Catalonia hemmed in by brooding mountains veiled in a mist that somehow accentuated its spiritual significance (photo 1).

In Queenstown, New Zealand I caught sight of TSS Earnslaw gliding across Lake Wakapitu just before it disappeared into dense fog. Over 100 years old, the Earnslaw is the oldest coal-fired steamship in the southern hemisphere. Again, I wasn't sure the fog would allow me a decent shot, but then I saw

it and the lake had merged into one, creating a dense backdrop for the historic vessel now standing out in sharp contrast (photo 2).

But fog is just one of Nature's special effects. Lightening and thunderously dark skies add drama to landscapes and architecture. Rain creates puddles, wet streets and sidewalks that shimmer with reflected images. Like the infinity pool at the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar reflecting the sunset over the Dea Sea (photo 3).

Snow blankets everything, transforms everything, partially hides and distorts everything, creating interesting shapes, patterns and outlines. Like forgotten garden furniture barely defined under a heaped blanket of white, or the lacey patterns of cracked ice in a frozen river or lake.

Windy days give us photo ops of racing clouds, dancing trees, crashing waves, and moments of high drama. Like the stinging desert wind that suddenly rushed across Jordan's Wadi Rum to topple our fiery hot air balloon dangerously close to out of control (photo 4).

We tend to put away our cameras when conditions seem unfavorable. Yet sometimes Mother Nature can give us some of our most satisfying pictures.

