



2002-2003

The first meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, October 8, 2002**. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM, dinner is at 7:00 PM, and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM (**Price \$30 each per member and one guest, \$35 for additional guests.**) Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge.

ROWING THE ATLANTIC: CROSSING THE HARD WAY

Last year, a double-handed fleet of 50 identical rowing boats from around the world competed on equal terms across a 3,000 mile passage between Tenerife, Canary Islands, and Barbados, West Indies. Following in the footsteps of the 1997 fleet, the Atlantic Rowing Race posed two new goals. Proving that adventure is still alive, competitors were faced with the challenge of joining a unique group of people who have successfully taken on and conquered the Atlantic Ocean, and the challenge of improving upon the existing record of 41 days.

On October 7, 2001, Tom Mailhot of Essex, Massachusetts, with his partner, John Zeigler of River Edge, New Jersey, departed Tenerife, in their 23 foot row boat bound for Barbados, competing against 37 other teams from around the world. They completed their Atlantic Ocean crossing, in their boat laden with 1,650 pounds, in 58 days, 3 hours and 54 minutes. Constantly in danger of being runover by supertankers, at times their boat surfed down 25 foot waves with sharks visibly in pursuit. They encountered air so charged with electricity that the running lights on their row boat lit up.

Join us in October 8, 2002 to hear first hand Tom Mailhot's account of this incredible adventure and test of strength and endurance.

Please note the dates of future meetings: Friday, Nov 15 and Dec 10, 2002, Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, and May 27, 2003

Club Notes: Please plan to attend our gala Centennial dinner on **Friday, November 15, 2002**

ROBERT O. BOARDMAN, *Secretary*

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SHACKLETON RETURNS! THE ANTARCTIC, IRELAND, THE SHACKLETONS AND ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE HARVARD TRAVELLERS CLUB

Jonathan Shackleton is a writer, historian, naturalist, book collector and Antarctic traveller. He lives in the beautiful countryside at Mullagh in County Cavan where he is involved with his wife, Daphne, in organic farming and forestry. Their gardens at Lakeview House are well-known and open to the public. He received a masters degree in Arctic Ecology from Ohio State University. Like his famous forbears—Sir Ernest and Edward Shackleton—Jonathan has been to the Antarctic on several occasions. His particular interest, the subject of his forthcoming book, *Shackleton: an Irishman in Antarctica*, is the Shackleton family in Ireland, the branch which gave us the great explorer and his son, both who honored our Club by their appearance as speakers.

- Sir Ernest spoke at a special meeting in Cambridge on March 31, 1910. A Boston newspaper reported the event: “Sir Ernest spoke yesterday afternoon before an enthusiastic audience of Harvard students at the Harvard Union. The Travellers’ Club of the university gave him a luncheon before the address. About 80 attended including Prof. W.M. Davis, toastmaster; President Lowell, J.D. Greene, secretary of the corporation, and Joseph Warren.”
- Edward Shackleton, later Lord Shackleton, spoke at our 252nd meeting on December 6, 1937. The Club minute book records the evening thusly: “We were fortunate in having as our guest and speaker, Mr. Edward Shackleton, son of the famous Antarctic explorer, the late Sir Ernest Shackleton. He told us of the Oxford University Ellesmere Land Expedition in 1935-36. His pictures, colored and black and white, movies and stills, were excellent, and his accompanying talk first class, alive and real in contrast to the rather cold, drab picture which a lecturer on this part of the world often presents to an audience.”

Jonathan will carry on the family tradition by speaking to us at our 100th Anniversary meeting. His illustrated talk will touch on his experiences in the Antarctic, the Shackleton family particularly its history in Ireland, the Travellers Club appearances of his ancestors and some observations on how travel and exploration, particularly the polar variety, have changed over the hundred year history of the Club.

745th Meeting



Number 3

2002-2003

The next meeting will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, December 10, 2002**. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM, dinner is at 7:00 PM, and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM (Price \$30 each per member and one guest, \$35 for additional guests.) Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible **only** if you are coming to dinner. Members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge.

NAMIBIA: THE TRUE STORY OF BEAUTY AND THE BEAST(S)

Namibia is a land of sand, struggle, and adaptation. This description refers to the plants, animals, and people that have settled in this most beautiful and delicate country nestled between Angola and South Africa along the South Atlantic coast. Namibia is a land where water is scarce and desert adaptations are required for survival. The ancient peoples and native animals have adapted to the vagaries of scattered showers and dried vegetation. This presentation will take you from the Etoshia pans in the north along the Skeleton Coast to the inner reaches of the Namib Desert. Surprisingly there will be lions, ostriches, and giraffes, as well as Euphorbias and Acacias, all seen in a breathtaking display of desert geology.

David Clapp has been with the Massachusetts Audubon Society for over 30 years and is presently the South Shore Sanctuary Director. As such, he has a strong interest in habitat conservation as well as land preservation and management. His love of the natural world has taken him throughout the world where he has led groups on natural history trips. Destinations have included the tropics of Central and South America, East and Southern Africa, and the Indian sub-continent, as well as Egypt, the Canary Islands, Southeast Asia, and North Africa. David has traveled to East Africa annually for almost twenty years, leading groups for the Smithsonian Institution.

Please note the dates of future meetings: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8 and May 27, 2003.

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746th Meeting

Number 4

2002-2003

The next meeting will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, January 14, 2003**. Cocktails will be served at 6:15 PM, dinner is at 7:00 PM, and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM (**Price \$30 each per member and one guest, \$35 for additional guests.**) Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge.

ADVENTURES IN FRAGILE LANDS

Dr. Mark Moffett works both as an ecologist who investigates the structure of forest canopies and the behavior of insects, and as a writer and photographer for National Geographic Magazine. Five of the images in National Geographic's recently released volume "100 Best Nature Photographs" are Mark's. His travels have taken him to some of the most remote regions of the planet, and not infrequently. Wired Magazine profiled Mark in an article on people who "travel too much", where the editors calculated that he travelled more than the Secretary-of-State Madeleine Albright.

Based on the University of California at Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Mark is concurrently a scientific associate of the Department of Entomology at the Smithsonian.

Mark will show many of his award-winning images to the Club as well as presenting a global look at a naturalist's experiences today in a world greatly altered by mankind. We will chase down the world's most toxic organism – a frog – with him in Columbia, climb trees in Sri Lanka, descend sink holes in Venezuela, cross the deserts at the border between Iran and Afghanistan, and face the death of his friend Joe Slowinski from a snakebite in Myanmar (Burma) in a search to capture the behavior of previously undocumented (and sometimes new) species on film. Throughout, he will ponder the nature of the adventurer's own impact on the natural world.

Please note the dates of future meetings: February 11, March 11, April 8 and May 27, 2003.

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MEMBERS NIGHT: SHORT PRESENTATIONS BY CLUB MEMBERS

The following presentations are currently planned, each lasting about ten minutes:

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|----------------------|---|
| Nils Bonde-Henriksen | "Backpacking across Baffin Island, Auyquittuq National Park Reserve, Nunavut, Canada" |
| Hillary Gaeth | "Building Houses and Dreams in a South African Township: Habitat for Humanity in South Africa 2001" |
| Loren Wood | "Attempt on Yerupaja, 'Harvard's Mountain' in Peru" |
| Sheldon Wool | "...and on to Hangzhou! From Tibet to China" |
| Michael Wiedman | "Medical and Other Adventures on Mount Everest" |

Please note the dates of future meetings: March 11, April 8 and May 27, 2003.

Club Notes: We have been remiss in not announcing new members of the Club this season. We warmly welcome Kate Sides Flather, Frank Williams Jones, Thomas J. Livelli, Jr., Philip W. Lovejoy, Pamela Nelson, Clarinda Carrington Northrup, Sandra J. Page, Barbara O. Ross and Robert C. Vose, III.

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2002-2003

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ESCAPE FROM LUCANIA

In 1937, 17,150-foot Mt. Lucania was the highest unclimbed peak in North America. Nearly inaccessible, deep within the Wrangell-St. Elias range, it had been pronounced "impregnable" by the leader of an unsuccessful 1935 expedition. Brad Washburn and Bob Bates - Harvard classmates, long-term members of the Traveller's Club, and, in the 1930s, talented, innovative mountaineers - set out to climb Lucania by flying in to the base of the mountain, where Bob Reeve, Alaska's boldest bush pilot, performed the highest glacier landing yet made anywhere in North America. The plan backfired when the plane sank deep into unexpected slush. It took Reeve five days to escape, alone, in a stripped-down craft-leaving Bob and Brad stranded in the midst of the Yukon's most rugged wilderness, with only half their team and part of their supplies. Rather than flee west to the gold-rush town of McCarthy, the two friends determined to climb Lucania anyway, traverse over the mountain, and head for Kluane Lake, more than 100 miles to the east across virtually unknown territory. The route out was bisected by the Donjek River, one of the Northland's wildest streams, which the men would have to cross. Their triumph and escape came very close to costing the men their lives. Today Brad and Bob, both 92, are legends in climbing circles. Bob co-led the epochal 1938 and 1953 expeditions to K2. Brad, who went on to become founding director of Boston's Museum of Science, is one of the premier mountain photographers in the world.

David Roberts, whose most recent book, *ESCAPE FROM LUCANIA*, documents this extraordinary ascent, will introduce Brad and Bob. Their slide show will recount the 1937 Lucania expedition-arguably the finest exploratory climb in the history of the Far North. Copies of the book autographed by Brad, Bob and David, will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Please note the dates of future meetings: April 8 and May 27, 2003.

Club Notes: We regret to announce the death of Henry B. Shepard, Jr. on December 18, 2002. We welcome new member Richard Fulton Gantt.

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2002-2003

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MOUNT ATHOS: A BYZANTINE MONASTIC COMMUNITY

In 1988 Tony Decaneas took the first of over twelve trips to visit and photograph Mount Athos, a peninsula of about 200 square miles in the northeast region of Greece. The entire peninsula is an Eastern Orthodox monastic community consisting of twenty monasteries, mostly Greek, but including Russian, Bulgarian, and Serbian monasteries as well. A visit to Mt. Athos is eyewitness to the Byzantine era. Decaneas' objective was to create a photographic document showing the physical place and structures as well as the lifestyle of the monks in residence.

The community has a locked frontier border on the Northern border. No female visitors are allowed. A visa is required to visit the community, and visitors are limited in numbers. The topography is rugged; a mountain range runs the length of the peninsula, from north to south, capped by Mount Athos, a peak of over 6200'. The government is controlled by a council of elders, with representatives from each of the twenty monasteries. The monasteries are organized in a hierarchical order based mostly on age. This autonomous state within Greece was formally settled in the late 9th century.

Decaneas has been photographing for over 35 years. He completed books on his father's home village in Greece: *Pavlia, A Portrait of a Greek Village* in 1987, and *Bradford Washburn, Mountain Photography*, in 1999. Other photographic projects include: *Photographs of America from a Moving Train*, and work in Eastern Europe at the time of the collapse of the Berlin Wall. His Panopticon Gallery and Panopticon Imaging Services at 435 Moody Street in Waltham offer a continuing exhibition of outstanding work by several photographers as well as an extensive range of sophisticated photographic services.

Please note the date of the last meeting: May 27, 2003.

Club Notes: We regret to announce the death of Bruce G. Daniels. on April 26, 2002.

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REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution, the Nominating Committee presents the following nominations for the year 2003-2004.

President: Louis A. Sgarzi

Vice-Presidents: Liisa M. Kissel
Edmund K. Summersby

Secretary-Treasurer: Kenneth J. Bures

Councillors Jo-Del Gaeth
C. Lansing Fair
Elizabeth Gaye Brown
Daniel Woodbury Senecal
Lauren Meridith Bruck

Respectfully submitted,
ROBERT BIGELOW STEPHENSON, *Chair*
JOHN OSGOOD FIELD
GEORGE B. WENCKEBACH
Nominating Committee

750th Meeting



Number 8

2002-2003

Please note that the last meeting of the season will be a Gala Celebration of the 750th meeting of the Club at a special price of \$40 each per member and one guest, \$45 for additional guests on Tuesday, May 27, 2003. As usual, it will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club, with cocktails at 6:15 PM, dinner is at 7:00 PM, and the meeting will start at 8:15 PM. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. Members who after making a reservation fail to attend without cancelling may be liable for the dinner charge.

ASTRONAUT STORY MUSGRAVE: EARTH AS ART

Story Musgrave is one of NASA's most experienced astronauts. With a 30 year career spanning the Apollo era of the 1960's right through to the Space Shuttle program of the 1990's, he is the only astronaut to have flown on all five Space Shuttles. He is also a pilot, surgeon, mechanic, poet, and philosopher. For Story, nature was a place of beauty and order. Story has always immersed himself in the wonder of nature and thrived on the spiritual experiences which that has brought him. Becoming an astronaut provided Story with a new way of exploring his universe, his relationship with nature, and the future of humanity.

In this, our 750th meeting, Astronaut Story Musgrave will call on the breadth of his vast and emotional experiences, and will share and discuss with us the technical, creative and artistic aspects of photographing earth from space in his presentation entitled, "Earth as Art".

He will present images of earth that communicate the way classical art communicates, and that reflect sculpture, painting, poetry, music, biological patterns, astronomical structures, Mandelbrots, fractals, humanoids, stained glass, rainbows, embroidery, geography, geometry and other archetypal patterns and forms.

Club Notes: We welcome new members Brian Dill and Edmund B. Cabot.

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