

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

June 2003

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San Francisco July 8, 2003 Morton Beebe

Wet, Humid and Frozen: the Explorations of Photographer Mort Beebe

In his 50-year career as a photographer and author, Morton Beebe (FN'76) is still exploring the wet, frozen and tropical parts of the world. Come view his images and hear his stories! The thumbnail pictures of his photographs (below) are a glimpse at the wonderful images you will see.

Mort's career started when he was offered an assignment in the South Pacific while he was in Naval Flight School. He wound up in Antarctica and became the 39th person to reach the South Pole. Forty-five years later, after two trips to the North Pole, Ice Islands T3 and Site Alpha, he recently returned to Antarctica. He will tell you how the two locations are poles apart.

To warm things up, we will see his images from the Peruvian Manu rain-forest and his return to aviation at the controls of the submarine that handles more like a fighter jet than a dirigible,



NEW LOCATION

Date: Tuesday, 8 July 2003
Place: Golden Gate Room, Bldg A
Fort Mason Center
LOWER Fort Mason
San Francisco
Time: 6:00 pm, social hour
7-9:30 pm, presentation
Cost: \$5

(entrance to the site is at Laguna & Marina, near the Safeway; while Building A also houses Greens Restaurant NO MEAL IS SERVED.)

the *Deep Flight Aviator* designed by Graham Hawkes (FN'86).

His distinctive photo essays have been exhibited in numerous collections and published in a variety of magazines including *National Geographic*, *Geo*, *Life*, *Smithsonian* and *Travel and Leisure*.

This event is sponsored jointly by the American Society of Media Photographers, The Explorers Club and the Bay Area Travel Writers.

Angel Island July 13, 2003 Chapter Picnic

By popular request, one would not say "demand", we have scheduled a traditional gathering on this sunny isle in mid-July. He hope you can come; details on the back. From Berkeley you can ride on the *Cordell Explorer!*

PreColumbia Americas

Terry O'Brien

Palo Alto

Professor Terry O'Brien showed us a series of slides he has taken at ruins and of selected statues and other art seen over his numerous trips and stays in PreColumbian America. He has been to all of the principle sites, some many times, and he has taken care to put this body of work into a cohesive three-screen multiprojector presentation. He traces the known evolution of peoples of the Western Hemisphere by showing the remains of their habitation, their artifacts and artistic representations of what they may have looked like, usually at the hand of National Geographic artists.

His talk has been refined for it is, as well, a synopsis of his book, *Fair Gods and Feathered Serpents: A Search for Ancient America's Bearded White God* (Horizon Publishing Co.; July 1997; ISBN 0882906089). It is a review of the most commonly accepted arrival of nomads across the Bering Straights all the way to South American. Clearly a great deal of work went into the selections and the development of the sequence. Some of the photos, in particular the three-slide-wide ones, were stunning.

Terry only touched on the principle subject of his book, the persistent belief over several cultures that a white bearded man came in ancient times and will come again. This belief is often credited for the ease with which Cortez conquered the native civilizations— despite their overwhelming numbers and civilization. He showed many bearded figures and carvings, replications of this ancient visitor. He also stated that the explanations of who this might have been, or if he existed at all, are the subject of great debate and numerous hypotheses. Upon these he did not dwell.

It was a splendid review and travelog for anyone looking for a synopsis of Pre-Columbia.



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Dan & Rusty at home with their Searsville Lake painting

Woodside Garden Party Success

Once again the Northern California Chapter members and their guests were welcomed to the home of Dr. & Mrs. Dan Liebowitz. The afternoon sun highlighted the beautiful gardens and extensive outdoor model-train installation. It was an excellent turnout and our hosts made the event a wonderful

opportunity to meet each other in a relaxed environment.

Dr. Penny Patterson of the Gorilla Foundation, located in Woodside, managed to join us and tell of the latest activities of Koko; catch up by visiting www.koko.org.

Angel Island Picnic — Sunday, July 13

Okay, we have not been that organized for this annual and traditional event. Avoid criticism and come join together on July 13. Make your way to this bucolic spot in the Bay by public ferry, on your own (or a friend's) boat/kayak, or join former Chair Bob Schmieder on the *Cordell Explorer* (leaving Berkeley Marina, foot of University Avenue, Dock 'L', Slip 112 at 9:00 am PROMPTLY.

This year we will bring a 'few' necessities for making a BBQ fire but the idea is to bring-your-own. This alleviates the need to sign up! Talk it up; bring some friends, and look for us on the grass!

Be an explorer and find your way. Angel Island is a wonderful sunny spot, often even when our summer fog clouds the Bay.

Folks will be there from 10 to 4!

Let Bob know if you are coming with him: <schmieder@cordell.org>. See map at: http://www.cordell.org/CE_pages/CE_boat.html.



Prof. O'Brien with his host and friend, Rick Blake (FN'01), left, and with Chairman Steve Smith, after his talk.