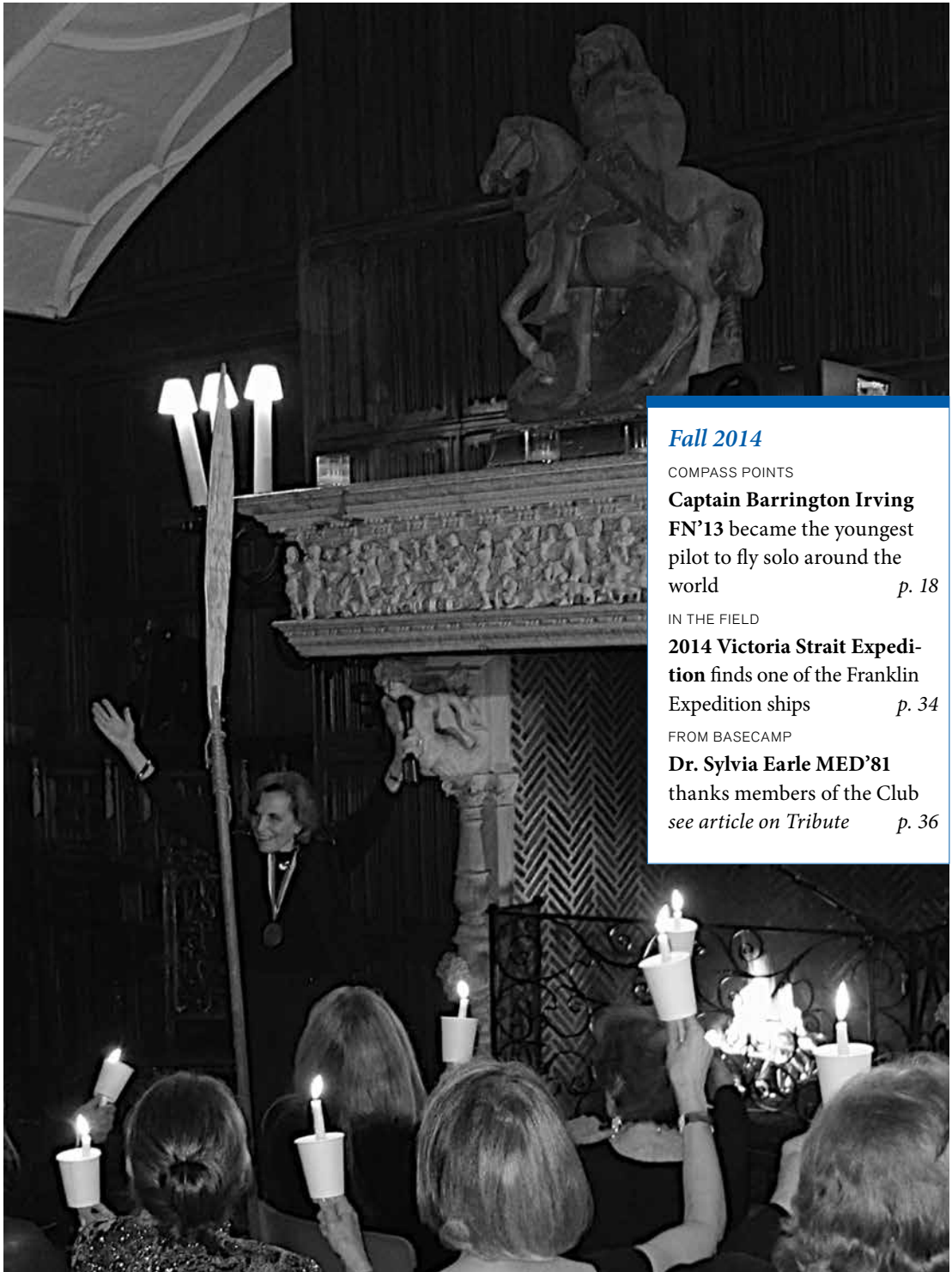




THE EXPLORERS LOG

The Explorers Club | World Center for Exploration Published Quarterly | Volume 46 Number 4



Fall 2014

COMPASS POINTS

Captain Barrington Irving

FN'13 became the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world

p. 18

IN THE FIELD

2014 Victoria Strait Expedition

finds one of the Franklin Expedition ships

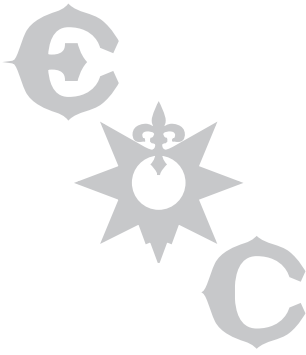
p. 34

FROM BASECAMP

Dr. Sylvia Earle MED'81

thanks members of the Club
see article on Tribute

p. 36



In the Field

Flag and Honors News

The Explorers Club Flag expeditions represent the cutting edge of exploration. Our archive of past expeditions is a treasure trove of information and meaningful discovery available to Club members, researchers, filmmakers and the interested public.

In additions to the archives, many recent flag expedition reports may be found at on our website at: http://www.explorers.org/index.php/expeditions/flag_expeditions/flag_reports

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT (l-r)

Vanessa O'Brien and Club Archivist Lacey Flint, with Flag 206.

Photo: Jim Clash

Mark O'Shea FI'99 with Flag 97 and his "Phase IX" team.

Dr. Joyce M. Johnson and James A. Calderwood with Flag 112 in the Philippines.

John Hall, with Flag 117 on The Dead Sea Bathymetric Survey.
Frederik Paulsen, Flag 50.
James W. Kennard, with Flag 202.

Flag 206 Send Off

Vanessa O'Brien MN'13 departed in August on her expedition to *Mansalu* in the Nepalese Himalayas to test the use of altitude training tents as a means of increasing performance for mountaineers.

Club Archivist, Lacey Flint, had the honor of presenting Ms. O'Brien with Flag 206 during a special flag send-off at Club headquarters. (See separate entry on her success, page 26.

Flag 97

Mark O'Shea FI'99 with Flag 97 and his "Phase IX" team in the mountains of the *Oecusse Exclave*: (l-r) Caitlin Sanchez, Mark O'Shea, Kaitlin Rickerl, Justin Steeno, Agivedo Varela Ribeiro, Ruby Resendez, Jose Huerta, Kimberly Antekeier, Hinrich Kaiser and their local forest guard.



Flag 112

Dr. Joyce M. Johnson FN'03 and **James A. Calderwood FN'04** display Flag 112 during their recent expedition to the Philippines to document the reconstruction progress from the devastating effects of Typhoon Haiyan.

Flag 117

John Hall, Ph.D., FI'80 is pictured with Flag 117 on *The Dead Sea Bathymetric Survey 2006*. Dr. Hall remains in Israel as an anchor for other field expeditions.

Flag 50

In July, **Frederik Paulsen, Ph.D., MED'02**, and a team of international climbers, set out for the Altai Mountains at the border of Russia, China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, with Flag Number 50. The objective of the expedition was to establish new research infrastructure at the Akrtu Research Station, in conjunction with the University scientists, to increase its capacity for research and education within the field of ecology and ecosystem function.

Flag 202

James W. Kennard, FN'13 and his team, in the field with Flag 202, announced the discovery of the British steamship *Nisbet Grammer*, the largest steel steamer to have foundered in Lake Ontario. The shipwreck was located thirty miles east of Niagara, New York in a depth of over 500 feet. The *Nisbet Grammer* was enroute from Port Colburne to Montreal with a load of grain when she was struck by the steamship *Dalwar-nic* in a dense fog. Report and video online: <http://www.shipwreckworld.com/articles/20th-century-steamer-discovered-in-lake-ontario>

Flag 99

In November 2013, **Tom Ambrose MN'10** and his Cuban-born daughter Natalie spent two weeks intensively surveying and documenting the abundant karst formations of Cuba; a brief summary of his report is on page 26. His report is on line.

Flag 123

Retired after accompanying the voyage of *Kon Tiki*, this flag normally hangs in the Clark Room. All summer it was on loan to The Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo, reunited with the original *Kon Tiki* raft for the first time since 1947. The flag was returned to The Explorers Club at the Lowell Thomas Awards Dinner in Santa Ana, California, on October 11, by the museum's director, **Synnøve Marie Kvam Stromsvåg MI'02**.

Kon Tiki Flag given back to Club at Lowell Thomas Dinner. (l-r) President Alan Nichols, VP Flag & Honors Constance Difede, Norway Chapter Chair Synnøve Kvam.

Photo: Lee Langan



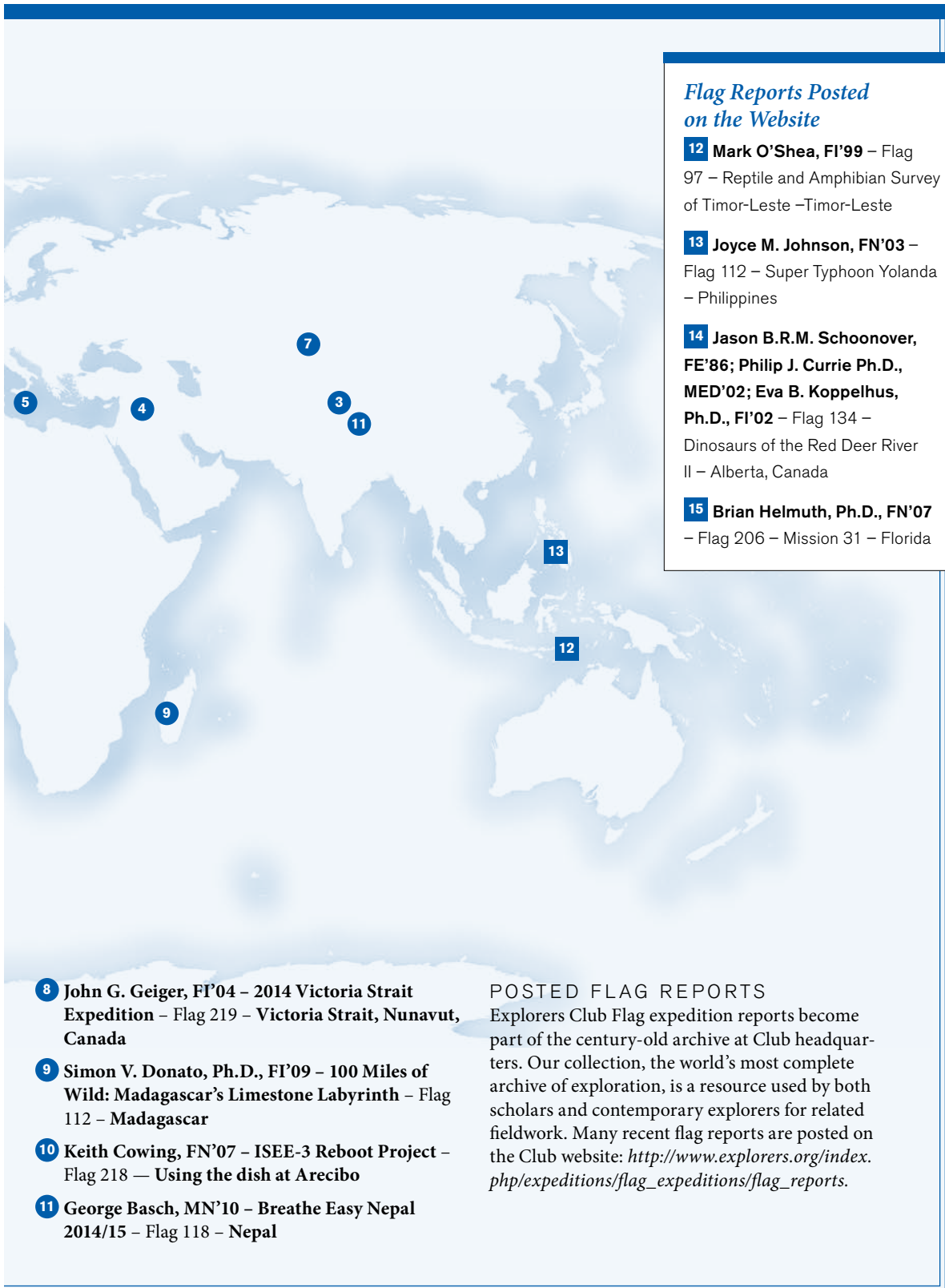
Flag Expeditions



APPROVED SINCE LAST LOG



- 1** David E. Guggenheim Ph.D., FN'08 & Theodore P. Janulis, MR'95 – The Unknown Gardens of the Queen – Flag 118 – Cuba
- 2** Adam L. Shoalts, TM'14 – Nameless Arctic River Expedition – Flag 114 – Victoria Island, Canadian Arctic
- 3** Vanessa O' Brien, MN'13 – Manaslu: Nocturnal Hypoxic Exposure – Flag 206 – Nepal
- 4** Thomas E. Levy, Ph.D., FN'09 – Edom Lowlands Regional Archaeology Project (ELRAP): Khirbat al-Jariya, Jordan – Flag 117 – Jordan
- 5** Peter A. Wytykowski, MN'12 & Roman Z. Zajder, MI'12 – The Hunt for L72 – Flag 207 – Island of Malta, Mediterranean Sea
- 6** Luc Hardy, MR'08 – The Pax Arctica Endurance Expedition 2014 – In Shackleton's Footsteps – Flag 176 – Antarctica
- 7** Frederik D.A. Paulsen, Ph.D., MED'02 – Altai Mountain Expedition – Flag 50 – Altai Mountains, Russia
- 8**
- 10**
- 14**
- 15**



Flag Reports Posted on the Website

12 **Mark O'Shea, FI'99** – Flag 97 – Reptile and Amphibian Survey of Timor-Leste –Timor-Leste

13 **Joyce M. Johnson, FN'03** – Flag 112 – Super Typhoon Yolanda – Philippines

14 **Jason B.R.M. Schoonover, FE'86; Philip J. Currie Ph.D., MED'02; Eva B. Koppelhus, Ph.D., FI'02** – Flag 134 – Dinosaurs of the Red Deer River II – Alberta, Canada

15 **Brian Helmuth, Ph.D., FN'07** – Flag 206 – Mission 31 – Florida

8 **John G. Geiger, FI'04** – 2014 Victoria Strait Expedition – Flag 219 – Victoria Strait, Nunavut, Canada

9 **Simon V. Donato, Ph.D., FI'09** – 100 Miles of Wild: Madagascar's Limestone Labyrinth – Flag 112 – Madagascar

10 **Keith Cowing, FN'07** – ISEE-3 Reboot Project – Flag 218 – Using the dish at Arcibo

11 **George Basch, MN'10** – Breathe Easy Nepal 2014/15 – Flag 118 – Nepal

POSTED FLAG REPORTS

Explorers Club Flag expedition reports become part of the century-old archive at Club headquarters. Our collection, the world's most complete archive of exploration, is a resource used by both scholars and contemporary explorers for related fieldwork. Many recent flag reports are posted on the Club website: http://www.explorers.org/index.php/expeditions/flag_expeditions/flag_reports.

The 2014 Lowell Thomas Awardees Honored on October 11, 2014, at the Bowers Museum



Sheldon Breiner, Ph.D. FE'78

Sheldon Breiner, Ph.D. FE'78 is a distinguished entrepreneur, inventor, and geophysicist who specializes in exploration, scientific, and cultural research to uncover hidden objects, historical places, and other mysteries noninvasively, commonly using the principals of magnetics and high-sensitivity magnetometers.



G. Chris Fischer MN'10

G. Chris Fischer MN'10, the founder of OCEARCH, has led twenty global expeditions in the past seven years dedicated to the advancement of science, education, public safety, and public policy in protecting the world's marine resources, most specifically, Great Whites and other sharks.



David G. Gallo, Ph.D. FN'90

David G. Gallo, Ph.D. FN'90, Director of Special Projects at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, is a true pioneer at the forefront of ocean exploration, as one of the first use both manned submersibles and robots to map the ocean. He co-led an effort to develop the first comprehensive map of *RMS Titanic*.



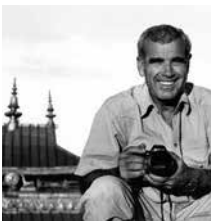
Rosaly M.C. Lopes, Ph.D. FN'04

Rosaly M.C. Lopes, Ph.D. FN'04, Manager for Planetary Science and Senior Research Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, is a planetary geologist and volcanologist working to utilize remote sensing data collected from spacecrafts to analyze the geologic features on Titan, Saturn's largest moon, and its ice volcanoes.



Frederik D.A. Paulsen MI'02

Frederik D.A. Paulsen MI'02 is a noted Polar Explorer who is the only person to have attained all eight poles and the first to have crossed the Bering Strait from Alaska to Russia in an ultralight aircraft, in addition to his devoted philanthropic efforts and environmental advocacy and other exploration.



Edward P. Roski, Jr. MN'90

Edward P. Roski, Jr. MN'90 is an avid cyclist, mountain climber, and accomplished wilderness diver who has dedicated his civic efforts to promoting cultural education. He has donated masterworks from three cultural regions of Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia on permanent exhibition at the Bowers Museum. Mr. Roski also cofounded the *Land of the Free Foundation* serving families of US war veterans.

Vanessa O'Brien Successful on Manaslu

On September 25, **Vanessa O'Brien MN'13**, carrying Explorers Club Flag 206, summited Nepal's Mt. Manaslu, at 26,759 feet the world's eighth highest mountain. Prior to leaving, she slept and trained in a reduced-oxygen tent in her Boston apartment to determine if such methods help with pre-acclimatization.

This is O'Brien's fourth successful climb of an 8,000-meter peak: Mt. Everest, Cho Oyu and Shishapangma's Central Summit. "I was honored to carry The Explorers Club flag," said O'Brien. "Knowing it was there in my backpack kept me going when times got tough." And they did. Van-

essa says Manaslu claimed the life of a Japanese guide while she was there.

O'Brien holds the women's record for the fastest climb of the "Seven Summits" (the highest peak on each continent) plus ski-the-last-degree expeditions to the North and South Poles, completing all in just 11 months. She is co-chair of the 2015 Explorers Club Annual Dinner to be held at the American Museum of Natural History on March 21, 2015. In the fall of 2013, she was a guest on Jim Clash's *Exploring Legends*.



Flag 99 at the Epicenter of Antillean Karst

The Caribbean is one of the major karst regions in the world. In late 2013, **Tom Ambrose MN'10** and his Cuban-born daughter Natalie intensively surveyed and documented Cuba's abundant limestone formations throughout the entire island. Tom gave a poetic answer when asked of his life-long fascination with these rock formations: "While rocks are usually inanimate, I consider karst a living rock with character, often 'growing' as stalactites and stalagmites, sometimes 'deforming' into bizarre shapes by acidic rainfall and even 'dying' by completely dissolving away over time by these same rains." Karst landforms can be world class. They differ in shape, size, and height. Beautiful limestone towers and cones in Guilin, China reach 1600 feet above the Li River Valley floor; these erosional features have a 2000-year written history and were sketched and painted by early artists. Cuban Karst towers (*Mogotes*) can reach 1300 feet, the highest and most spectacular in the Americas.

For Tom and his daughter Natalie, their expedition was more than "just" a scientific survey. It was also a survey of their own past. As a young geologist, Tom's first post was in Cuba, before and during the revolution in the late 1950s; Natalie was born on the Island. There he saw his first karst limestone, the 'Karren' stone column; that connection alone made for some privately significant moments, undertaken in a 1955 Chevy Bel Air.

"It was interesting to be back in Cuba with Natalie. Our expedition necessitated traveling the island...on roads where ox-carts are still in use...pro-revolutionary signs along all roads, a shortage of hotel rooms versus the availability of private home accommodations, the breakdown prone new Chinese intra-city buses, and a "Casa de Musica" in every country town with live Cuban music and salsa dancing. Little has changed since the late 1950s - it's almost a 'time warp'—except then the railroads were running... My 1957 Esso road map served as our expedition guide with all the old landmarks still in place."

What of today's politics and restrictions on American tourism? Tom was able to enter the country on a US research license and Natalie was admitted as a Cuban-American, with a Cuban visa. While their movements were subject to controls, they could pursue their expedition without interference from the authorities.

Vanessa O'Brien with Flag 206 on the summit of Mt. Manaslu Sept. 25 with Sherpa Nawang Tenjing.

Photo: Russell Brice

For Tom and his daughter Natalie, their expedition was more than "just" a scientific survey. It was also a survey of their own past. As a young geologist, Tom's first post was in Cuba, in the late 1950s; Natalie was born on the Island.