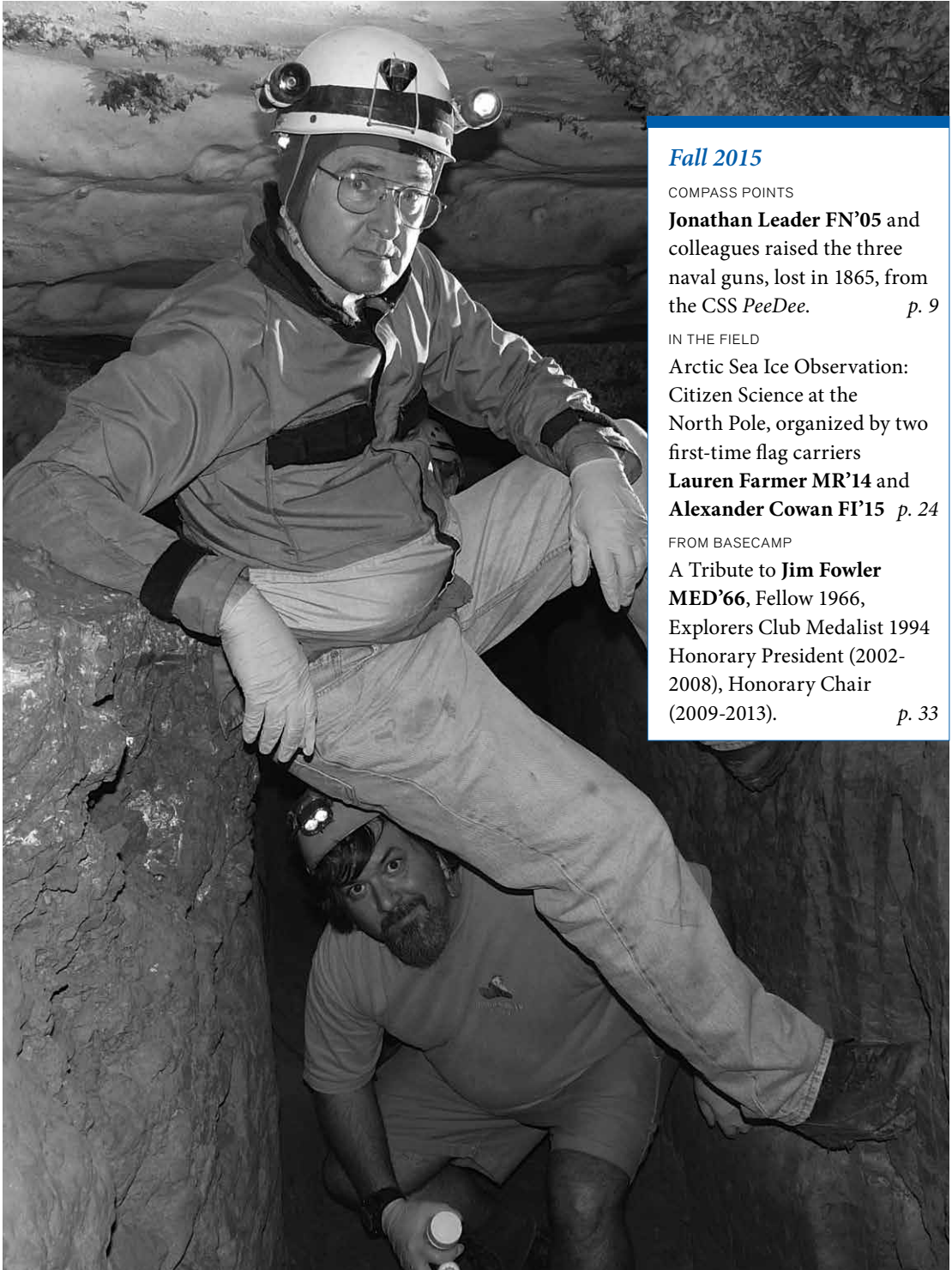




THE EXPLORERS LOG

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COMPASS POINTS

Jonathan Leader FN'05 and colleagues raised the three naval guns, lost in 1865, from the *CSS PeeDee*. *p. 9*

IN THE FIELD

Arctic Sea Ice Observation: Citizen Science at the North Pole, organized by two first-time flag carriers
Lauren Farmer MR'14 and **Alexander Cowan FP'15** *p. 24*

FROM BASECAMP

A Tribute to **Jim Fowler MED'66**, Fellow 1966, Explorers Club Medalist 1994, Honorary President (2002-2008), Honorary Chair (2009-2013). *p. 33*

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Floyd Collins Crystal Cave

Doug Soroka FN'06 and
Chris Clark of the National
Park Service in Floyd Collins
Crystal Cave (part of
Kentucky's Mammoth Cave
National Park); see
St. Louis Chapter, page 19.

Photo: Doug Soroka archive

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EXPLORERS LOG SUBMISSIONS

The Explorers Log welcomes brief submissions from members, preferably in Microsoft Word .doc format with digital photographs as high-resolution .jpg files sent separately from the text. Please send all materials to: log@explorers.org. The authors are responsible for the content of their articles. Their views do not necessarily reflect the views of The Explorers Club, and the Club is not responsible for their accuracy.



*The Explorers Club
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FI-INTERNATIONAL	MI-INTERNATIONAL	AI-INTERNATIONAL
FE-EMERITUS	ME-EMERITUS	
LF-LIFE FELLOW	LM-LIFE MEMBER	HONORED
	CO-CORRESPONDING	MED-MEDALIST
	TM-TERM	HON-HONORARY MEMBER
	SM-STUDENT	PEX-PATRON OF EXPLORATION

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News items, photos, member and chapter
activities, and subjects of general interest
are welcomed.*

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On the Ascent

Flash From the Field – Exploration is Alive and Well!

TED JANULIS MR'95, PRESIDENT

If you're like me, you've been asked this question in one form or another recently: "What's left to explore, haven't the big discoveries already been made?" Of course as explorers our immediate reaction is, "You have to be kidding, we're just scratching the surface!" But, I believe one of the reasons we so often get the question is that we are an institution that participates in and celebrates so many "firsts" – as the plaque in our headquarters lobby says: "First to the North Pole, First to the South Pole, First to the Summit of Mt. Everest, First to the deepest point of the ocean, First to the surface of the Moon". As our Executive Director Will Roseman recently noted, we've even left a little room on the bottom of the plaque for the "First to Mars."

While these accomplishments are iconic and monumental, they are of course part of a larger fabric of exploration. Over the last few months, it has been easy to find headlines and articles in the news celebrating new firsts. Just two weeks ago a new species of polar dinosaur was discovered in Alaska, and this is suspected to be the first of many outstanding finds in the area. Our very own Fellow International Lee Berger was instrumental in discovering the remains of *Homo Naledi* – a previously unidentified species of human life in South Africa. In July, after a decade flying through the solar system, NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft passed Pluto for the first time. Back on our planet, NASA, as recently as September, confirmed evidence of water on Mars. *Hōkūle'a*, a Polynesian voyaging canoe, is *sailing* around the world on a journey to a more sustainable future. If that sounds like a familiar endeavor, you would be right; *Solar Impulse* is *flying* around the world – without a drop of fuel – in the first airplane to use clean technology and renewable energy on such an endeavour.

From TEC's perspective, with over 35 flags awarded so far this year, we are seeing as much field activity as ever. Mikael Strandberg's recent effort to document the lives of prison camp survivors carried him deep into Kazakhstan where few foreigners have been permitted to go. And the research that Randi Rotjan is currently conducting in Samoa will examine the effects of climate change and the impact of the growing El Nino, which is predicted to be the most severe in recorded history. In the tepuis of South America, Dr. Bruce Means continues his biodiversity work and has discovered a new family of frog. These members, and many others, prove through their on going work that there is still much to explore and that we must never give up our curiosity or capacity for wonder.



VP Special Projects Constance Difede aboard the *Northabout*.

delightful sun and fair seas to driven snow, icebergs and gale force winds. In the area surrounding Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, we practiced picking our route through fields of icebergs around Lilliehookbreen in anticipation of the conditions we shall encounter next summer. (Ny-Ålesund is also known to be the starting point of Roald Amundsen's successful 1926 expedition to the North Pole on the airship *Norge*.)

The Polar Ocean Challenge is the conception of TEC Director David Hempleman Adams, MED'00. It entails an expedition sailing a route through 13,500 nautical miles and navigating both the North East and North West Passages within one summer season. The critical pinch points in terms of ice will be Cape Chelyuskin in Russia (North East Passage) and the Bellot Strait in Arctic Canada (North West Passage). At these pinch points the *Northabout* will need the ice to open to sail through both the passages to complete the Challenge.

—Constance Difede LM'01, cdifede@explorers.org

Honduran Emerald Hummingbird Listed as an Endangered Species

Robert E. Hyman LF '93 and his wife Deborah Atwood SWG '95, were recently interviewed by a reporter for *Audubon Magazine* regarding the approval of their petition before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (on July 29, 2015) to list the Honduran Emerald Hummingbird under the Endangered Species Act. Roberts previous flag expeditions to Honduras have focused on the destruction of this endemic birds habitat. Robert and Deb have been involved in biodiversity conservation in Honduras for more than a decade. To learn more about their efforts visit www.honduranconservationcoalition.com

Related Links include:

The *Audubon Magazine* interview can be read at <https://www.audubon.org/news/hope-honduran-emerald-hummingbird>

Press release by USFWS <http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=D5394B01-5056-AF00-5B9E773EBDBDA77B>

The ruling on the Federal Register is at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/07/29/2015-18602/endorsed-and-threatened-wild-life-and-plants-listing-the-honduran-emerald-hummingbird-amazilia>

Vanessa O'Brien Brings Back Glacier Samples From K2

This past July, **Vanessa O'Brien MN'13** took Explorers Club Flag 132 to K2, the world's second highest mountain, in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan. O'Brien was attempting to become the first American woman to summit the 28,251-foot peak.

Bad weather ultimately kept O'Brien and her team, organized by Madison Mountaineering, from the top, she collected snow and ice samples at the Godwin-Austen Glacier. Dr. Natalie Kehrwald at the US Geological Survey in Denver, CO, will use radiogenic isotopes from the samples to help determine whether glaciers are thinning from the top down above 6,000 meters. If glaciers are melting from the top down as well as



Robert Hyman and his wife Deborah Atwood with Club flag in Honduras. Photo: Hyman archive

from the bottom up, and scientists are not taking both occurrences into consideration, projections for glacier melting could be understated.

Glaciers, valuable reservoirs of freshwater, also feed major headwaters. For example, the Naimona'nyi Glacier in south-central Tibet is at the headwaters of the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers, which supply fresh water to a half-billion people. Knowing how much freshwater is available and stored within mountain glaciers helps policymakers and planners update global projections. It is difficult to determine the volume of freshwater stored in glaciers using satellite techniques. For sample collection, one must use traditional “boots on the ground” – ie, the old fashioned way.

O'Brien, an accomplished mountaineer, has accomplished summits of four 8,000-meter peaks: *Everest*, *Manaslu*, *Shishapangma* and *Cho Oyu*. She plans to return to K2 at some point in the future.

Note: Guinness World Records 2015: Person to climb the Seven Summits The highest mountains on each of the continents are known as the “Seven Summits”. Two lists have been compiled: the “Bass list”, which includes Mount Kosciuszko in New South Wales, Australia, and the more difficult “Messner list”, which recognizes Oceania’s highest point as Puncak Jaya in Indonesia. It took Vanessa O'Brien (USA) 295 days to climb both Messner’s and Bass’s list – the fastest Seven Summits ascent (female). Vanessa began with Everest on 19 May 2012 and finished on Kilimanjaro on 10 Mar 2013.



Vanessa O'Brien with Jalal u Din (left) and Mohammad Abdul, two Pakistani high-altitude porters, at Concordia with K2 in the background. Photo: Gul Muhammad

Ed Ross

A hundred colleagues, friends and family gathered in downtown San Rafael, California, to honor centenarian **Dr. Ed Ross FE'79** on August 29. He turned 100 years old September 1. Quick of mind but a bit steeped, he still minds his trove of photographs to add to his enormous scientific bibliography. His contribution to scientific knowledge is as an entomologist—his bug photographs are all the more remarkable because of his early use of close-up flash photography resulting in a huge Kodachrome inventory of insect “portraits”. (Today’s digital capability didn’t exist in his years of field exploration on long months in his outfitted home/laboratory truck traveling the African continent.)

There were three large video displays showing images of his long productive life: 1) the insects, colorful in their natural habitat; 2) an extraordinary sequence of portraits from pre-World War II field work in Afghanistan, interspersed with scenes from that era before the turmoil of recent decades; and 3) a rolling sequence of pictures of family members of Ed as a young man growing up in San Francisco, including receiving his PhD in 1937. These were all the more enjoyable because each had a careful notation written on its back and shown in sequence, attention to a detail evident throughout his life.

Several invitees spoke spontaneously and the theme had a common thread describing a curious man eager to share his knowledge and to encourage all who might have any interest. In other words, a classical explorer. Several prominent professors credited their own careers to his scientific excitement an excitement experienced when they were young students.

Ed’s wife **Sandy MN'03** arranged a fitting tribute, a luncheon and an afternoon of celebration allowing those close to honor this man of merit.

—Lee Langan, lee@langan.net



TOP Ed and Sandy Ross.

ABOVE The chocolate birthday cake adorned with bugs.

Photos: Lee Langan



The 112th

EXPLORERS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 12, 2016
AT
THE WALDORF ASTORIA

