

EXPEDITION NEWS



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EXPEDITION NEWS, now in its 14th year, is the monthly review of significant expeditions, research projects and newsworthy adventures. It is distributed online and to media representatives, corporate sponsors, educators, research librarians, explorers, environmentalists, and outdoor enthusiasts. This forum on exploration covers projects that stimulate, motivate and educate.

FLYING CARS: FINALLY

What happened to the flying cars? Those of us of a certain age will remember great promises that by the year 2000 we'd all be zipping around in flying cars. Thus, imagine our delight to learn that a team of British adventurers will embark on a journey from London to Timbuktu, Mali – across the Sahara Desert – in the world's first road legal bio-fueled flying car. The expedition departs next month in Parajet Skycars – sort of a dune buggy on a flexible parasail – to prove the concept of “fly-driving.” Sponsors have funded the project to the tune of £250,000 (about \$375,000).

With the help of their sponsors and supporters, the intrepid explorers expect to raise over £100,000 for a number of charities including an African orphanage. Expedition leader is London-based Neil Laughton, 45, an entrepreneur, aviator and adventurer who holds paraglider, hang-glider, paramotor, fixed wing, and helicopter licenses. A Seven Summiteer, he was the first person to jetski around the U.K. and holds world records for extreme golf, Tin Tray Racing, and the 24-Hour Pram Pushing Record (all of which, for some reason, doesn't surprise us). (For more information: Neil Laughton, neil@skycarexpedition.com, www.skycarexpedition.com). ▲

EXPEDITION NOTES

Deep Divers – The ten divers posing for photos at The Explorers Club's Sea Stories conference on Nov. 15 were part of an adventurous fraternity – they had all dove the Italian luxury liner *Andrea Doria*, which entered the history books in 1956 when it was rammed by the Swedish liner, *Stockholm*, 45 miles from Nantucket. The Italian ship keeled over and sank the next morning; the *Stockholm*, her bow badly mangled, remained afloat. Fifty-one people died, but hundreds were saved.

Since then, hundreds have dived the wreck and many items have been recovered, including the two famous “Gambone panels” from the ship's Winter Garden Lounge – large ceramic sculptures created by the Italian artist Guido Gambone. Each is about six-ft. high by 5-ft. wide and weighs approximately 1,000 lbs. They were salvaged by John Moyer of Vineland, N.J., who filed an Admiralty Arrest in U.S. Federal Court in 1993 which gave him exclusive salvage rights and clear title to any artifacts recovered from the wreck.

Some believe the wreck should be left in peace – in situ. Many divers disagree. “Sure it's an underwater museum,” says diver Capt. Steven Gatto of Sicklerville, N.J., “but no one is home. Tons of steel are falling on galleys and stacks of dishes.” Moyer adds, “If we don't recover artifacts they will be lost forever and no one will get to see it.” (For more information: <http://uwex.us/andreadoria.htm>).

The Sea Stories event also included a presentation by Pierette Simpson who was traveling to America with her grandparents when the ill-fated ship went down. Simpson

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is the author of *Alive on the Andrea Doria: The Greatest Sea Rescue in History* (2006, Harbor Hill-Purple Mountain Books).

Forget Me Not – “It was a humbling moment, finding George Mallory’s body on Everest almost 10 years ago,” climber Conrad Anker tells the New York section dinner of the American Alpine Club on Nov. 15. “It was also a defining moment in my life.” Since then he and his wife Jennifer Lowe-Anker established the Khumbu Climbing School in Phortse, Nepal, to teach basic climbing skills to Sherpa, who account for upwards of 70 percent of all climbing fatalities. Over 250 students have graduated from the course. “We try to keep them safe so they can better serve their clients,” Anker said.

In 2007, he attempted to summit Everest in replica 1924 clothing – Burberry, cashmere, silk and other natural fibers that today’s climbers shun. Despite heat packs in his boots and modern underwear, “Let me tell you, they’re still pretty cold,” he said. Lowe-Anker spoke about her book *Forget Me Not* (2008, The Mountaineers Books), a memoir about the death of her former husband Alex Lowe and her subsequent marriage to Anker, his climbing partner, in 2001. It won the 2008 National Outdoor Book Award for Outdoor

Quote of the Month

“I’ve been there so often, the penguins recognize me.”

– Geoff Green, founder and executive director of the Students on Ice program based in Gatineau, Quebec. Since 1999, Green has traveled to the polar regions over 100 times, 75 to Antarctica alone, with over 1,000 students from 35 countries in tow. On Nov. 13 at The Explorers Club in New York he introduced this year’s five New York-area recipients of a scholarship funded by New York philanthropist Harold Snyder. Green, 42, says that when 65 students travel with him to Antarctica in late December, “They will arrive not as tourists but as students ready to learn. The polar regions are the greatest classrooms on earth.”

Over 100 applications were received for an additional 10 Polar Education Foundation scholarships funded by an anonymous American donor. “These are the new Shackletons who will study how the planet can survive.” Watch for a first-person account of the 2008 Students on Ice Antarctic Youth Expedition in next month’s issue coming out in mid-January. (For more information: www.studentsonice.com).

Literature (see related story). (For more information: www.alexlowe.org).

Old School –After years of going to expedition slide shows that really weren’t slide shows but instead low resolution PowerPoints, imagine our delight recently to once again hear the distinctive sound of a Kodak slide carousel dropping one slide after another into view. Back before digital, seemingly when dinosaurs were still roaming the earth, a slide show was how explorers usually reported back to a stunned audience. Sir Ernest Shackleton had magic lanterns, but Wilton, Conn., professional adventure photographer and cable TV host Daryl Hawk still has his slide carousels.

“I just like the sound of slides dropping into a tray,” he told *EN* last month in Westport, Conn., at an Appalachian Mountain Club presentation. “I fell in love with film at a young age. It has stuck with me and I’ve done well by film. It’s a craft. It’s a way of life. I’ll never give up film. There’s no reason to,” he said. Hawk’s slides of Costa Rica – its people, abundant birdlife, incredible diversity of insects and stunning volcanic scenery – were shown with a level of color saturation and definition no PowerPoint could match.

Another advantage of staying the course with film? “There’s no question about manipulation. What you see is precisely what the camera saw.” Hawk, 51, adds, “I don’t need instant gratification. I like the anticipation of not knowing what I’ve got until I return home.” (For more information: www.darylhawk.com).

Expedition Research Helps Protect Honduran

Hummingbird – International and national conservation organizations including The Hummingbird Society, The Hummingbird Conservancy, and EcoLogic Development Fund have partnered with international law firm Crowell & Moring LLP to petition the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) for the protection of the Honduran Emerald, a rare and remarkable hummingbird found only in the Republic of Honduras. The petition aims to list the Emerald under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which would greatly enhance the interest of public and private entities in pursuing conservation efforts.

The Emerald has been the subject of an Explorers Club scientific research and photographic expedition led by Robert E. Hyman and is considered the most endangered bird in Central America, as well as one of the most endangered hummingbirds in the world. The bird is faced with many threats to its environment, including plans to build a highway through a section of its unique habitat, and unregulated, rapid destruction of the land where it resides. The current population of the bird, known as the Emerald for its glittering blue-green throat and upper chest, is estimated to be between 500 and 2,000 breeding pairs.

An analysis conducted by conservation organization BirdLife International estimates that nearly ten percent of the world's hummingbird species are on the verge of extinction. In 2004, the Honduran government passed an initiative declaring the Emerald's home in the Aguán Valley protected area. An ESA listing will advance those efforts.

To assist in raising support for the protection of the Honduran Emerald, Clos LaChance Winery, San Martin, Calif., has partnered with The Hummingbird Society to create the Honduran Emerald Meritage, a Bordeaux-like wine featuring a hummingbird on the label. A portion of the proceeds will be used to assist in the purchase of lands critical to the Emerald's survival. (For more information, visit www.closlachance.com). ▲



MEDIA MATTERS

Power Tripping – Charles Veley, 42, of San Francisco is trying to become the world's most traveled man. He's logged almost one million miles and has spent nearly \$2 million in an effort "to go everywhere in the world." Writer Rolf Potts calls him an "extreme traveler, a far-ranging geographical trophy hunter." In 2003, at age 37, he became the youngest person to visit all 317 countries recognized by the Travelers' Century Club, an organization of globetrotters who've visited at least 100 countries or territories.

Unable to get Guinness World Records to certify his status as the world's most traveled person, he created his own arbitrating organization in 2005, a community-driven Web site called www.mosttraveledpeople.com that has more than 4,800 members. According to the site, the world is made up of 757 countries, territories, autonomous regions, enclaves, geographically separated island groups, and major states and provinces. To visit all 757 would be to go everywhere. Veley has been to 709.

Veley makes no excuses for his obsessive power tripping. "One way to look at this is to think of the world as a giant buffet table," he said. "I wanted to go everywhere, to taste everything first so I'd know where I wanted to come back to for seconds and thirds. I'm doing that now – coming back for more – and it's really enjoyable." Veley has a wife and three children under age six back home, so he covers a lot of ground fast and rarely lingers.

Not So Funny – An animated Hell Pizza ad in New Zealand was pulled from the Web because it showed a mostly skeletal Sir Edmund Hillary, along with actor Heath Ledger and the Queen Mother, emerging from graves to dance to Michael Jackson's song *Thriller*. It was posted on the Internet two days before Halloween, and was quickly

dubbed "grotesque" by Sir Ed's son, Peter Hillary. "I think it's a bit disturbing ... a little grotesque. I don't think it's funny and I'm not very impressed," Stuff.co.nz quoted Hillary as saying.

"It is early days and it's still pretty raw. It's extremely poor taste really," he added.

Hell Pizza promotions had been under fire for campaigns featuring Adolf Hitler, a mail drop that included condoms, and a spoof of Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin's death. Glenn Corbett, retail operations manager for TPF Group, which acquired the Hell chain in 2006, said the company had no intention of offending anyone, especially the Hillary family. "Clearly he's revered in New Zealand and we all love him. It's the sort of thing that Hell does to create a little bit of fun and a little bit of humor," he said. "The idea of Sir Ed being there was intended to be a light-hearted remembrance of Sir Ed that was a bit hellish."

Artwork Frozen in Time – "For centuries the polar landscape stood as the embodiment of nature's stern and heartless grandeur," writes Miles Unger in the *New York Times* (Nov. 9). "Now it is viewed as mortally wounded by big-footing humans who have reduced mighty glaciers to quivering slush.

"Any chance we get to reconnect with that sense of awe is gratifying, even if the experience is secondhand, through a period piece artifact."

According to the *Times*, visitors to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., will get a chance to reconnect with a "patch of turf protected from human excess." The museum's *To the Ends of the Earth: Painting the Polar Landscape* exhibition brings together more than 50 works by well- and lesser-known artists – mostly from Britain and the U.S. – and pays homage to the great age of polar landscape painting, "when the world, at least at its extremities, felt both mysterious and dangerous and when nature could still put up a fight." The show continues through Mar. 1 and features renowned painters such as Frederic Edwin Church, Rockwell Kent and Lawren Harris. (For more information and a view of six striking gallery images: www.pem.org).

Eight Million Students Followed Ann Bancroft – Some astounding Internet numbers were revealed in a September *NWA World Traveler* story by Greg Breining about Minnesota explorers Will Steger, Ann Bancroft and Paul Schurke. In 2007, Bancroft and her partner Liv Arnesen were forced to abandon their quest to cross the Arctic Ocean after Arnesen's feet froze. Breining reports, "Letters of support poured in from many of the 8 million students who went on to finish the curriculum anyway, and Arnesen did regain full use of her feet – despite losing her big toe and part of a second toe.

“I don’t think I ever received such powerful mail from students as we did from this one,” Bancroft says. “It’s totally relatable, because everyone has failed at one time or another.”

National Outdoor Book Award Winners Announced – A stubborn band of optimists who fought and refused to let the magnificent American chestnut tree slip into extinction. A young mother rebuilding her life after the death of her husband in a mountaineering accident. These are some of the themes found among the winners of the 2008 National Outdoor Book Awards (NOBA).

As an example of outstanding writing, Ron Watters, award chairman and professor emeritus at Idaho State University, points to the winner of the Natural History category, *American Chestnut: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree*. Authored by nature writer Susan Freinkel, it tells the story of the American chestnut tree which at one time stretched in vast numbers from Georgia to Maine.

In the History-Biography Category is a new, exhaustively researched but eminently readable *Fallen Giants: A History of Himalayan Mountaineering* by Maurice Isserman and Stewart Weaver. Complete reviews of these and the other 2008 winners may be found at the National Outdoor Book Award Web site: www.noba-web.org. ▲

EXPEDITION FOCUS

The Sun Never Sets on a British Explorer

While it’s no longer true that the sun never sets on the British Empire, it’s a safe bet that at anytime of day or night, there’s a British explorer studying something somewhere. This is particularly evident each year at the annual Royal Geographical Society Explore conference in London where upwards of 200 current and would-be explorers gather to compare notes and network. Whether the seminar is about the spread of jigger fleas in rural northwest Cameroon, studies of the remote island caves of southern Chile, or a “Grease to Greece” journey in a biofuel truck to Athens, there’s no better place to see the heritage of wandering Brits like Robert F. Scott, Ernest Shackleton and Dr. David Livingstone writ large.

One lad walked around with a sign Scotch taped to his back that read, “I want to go from Ward Hunt Island to the Pole. Will you help?” Other attendees posted bulletin board notices seeking partners to travel around North America, to Everest, through the Amazon, and even Mars. Here’s a look at some of the more notable comments:

- **Sponsorship USP** – “Your expedition needs a USP – a Unique Selling Proposition – get people to say ‘Wow!’ when you explain it,” says Neil Laughton (see related story). “Expedition fund-raising is like hitchhiking. Everyone can do it, but not everyone can do it well.” Laughton suggests explorers under-promise and over-deliver. That’s exactly what he did when he helped make a wish come true for a disabled athlete in a wheelchair he led to Everest base camp. Then for good measure, they climbed an adjacent peak. “Don’t be shy – ask potential sponsors what they want to get out of your expedition. Meet them eye-to-eye so they can share in your passion,” he said.
- **Who Needs Sponsors Anyway?** – Preparing sponsorship proposals, visiting prospective funders, creating a logo and establishing a Web site – it all costs money. “Who needs it?” asks Felicity Aston, 31, of Birchington, England. “You’re better off reducing the size of the expedition and, if you need to, holding your own fund-raising events. If you’re not prepared to pay for an entire expedition by yourself, then why should your sponsor?” In 2006, Aston led the first team of British women across the Greenland ice sheet, and in 2008 traversed frozen Lake Baikal in Siberia with used and borrowed gear and a miserly budget of £3,000 (about \$4,500).
- **Safety Check** – John Adams, a retired accident investigator for the British Military, believes passionately there needs to be a transparent, safe system in place for those who undertake an expedition. He is chairman of the committee for BS8848, a voluntary safety standard for use outside of the U.K. It contains 20 clauses that identify safety requirements for adventures and expeditions involving transportation, accommodations, guide services, and third party providers. Pointing to a need for such guidelines, he tells of a girl who died in Namibia because a third party provider used a clip gate carabiner instead of a recommended screwgate locking carabiner. “BS 8848 can provide parents with peace of mind,” Adams says. The 40-page guide will be available for £100 in early 2009. (For more information: ref. BS8848-2007 +A1 2009, www.rgs.org).
- **What’s Left to Explore?** – “In the past, expeditions were about hardship and heroism. Whatever you did, it was really uncomfortable,” said business leadership consultant Jonathan Stevens, a resident of the English Lake District. “Expeditions have moved from exploring new territory and blanks on the map, to closing personal and psychological gaps about yourself.”
- **Polar Weight Watchers** – While some polar explorers consume 5,000-6,000 calories per day to fuel their treks, Hannah McKeand, 35, of Newbury, Berkshire, U.K., prefers to fatten up before her trips. Like Robert De Niro putting

on 60 lbs. for *Raging Bull*, McKeand reports she gained 28 pounds in advance of an expedition to the South Pole two years ago. “That way,” she says, “I have less weight to pull on my sledge.” She tells *EN* the unorthodox training regimen works because of her slow metabolism.

In December 2006, McKeand set a new world record of 39 days 9 hours and 33 minutes for skiing solo and unsupported the 690 miles from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole, beating the previous record by two days. She lost 49 pounds during the trip. Last April on a solo trek to the North Pole, she fell into an eight-foot crack and dislocated her shoulder. She called for an emergency evacuation after fashioning a ladder out of her skis. “When planning an expedition, it’s important to pay attention to details. Even blisters can end an expedition,” she said. “The poles can kill you in hours if you don’t do the right thing at the right time.”

- **Polar OCD** – Ben Saunders, 31, of Parsons Green, London, is the youngest person to ski solo to the North Pole and holds the record for the longest solo Arctic journey by a Briton (straight line distance of 641 miles/1032 km). He describes his career as one where he “drags very heavy things around very cold places.

“Polar travel is peculiarly addictive. It’s an expensive way to go camping,” says Saunders who has been on six polar expeditions above the Arctic Circle in the past seven years.

Saunders spoke about the need to develop a healthy dose of OCD when preparing expedition gear (or “kit” as it’s commonly known in the U.K.). “Two screws that cost 15 pence each can cancel an entire expedition,” he said. This from an explorer obsessive about weight. He cuts the labels off his parkas, pulls the metal tabs off zipper pulls, and goes so far as to cut the handle on his toothbrush which, to start with, is a child’s size. Yet, he won’t scrimp on communications gear. “The Internet is simply the best medium for sharing an expedition with audiences because they can interact in real time,” he told RGS conference attendees. “Learning the language of blogs and streaming video is as important today as learning how to use a compass was for early explorers.”

In March, Saunders will return to the North Pole from the Canadian side in hopes of setting a speed record to the Pole solo, unsupported and on foot. Then in October, he sets out to attempt the first roundtrip journey to the South Pole on foot – at 1,802 miles/2,900 km it would be the longest unsupported journey in polar history. He will be accompanied by Alastair Humphreys, a fellow adventurer and friend, who will help haul all the food, fuel

and equipment they’ll need for four months. Both like to quote Apsley Cherry-Garrard, survivor of Robert F. Scott’s Terra Nova Expedition (1910-13), who famously said, “Polar exploration is at once the cleanest and most isolated way of having a bad time which has yet been devised.”

- **Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff** – In an expedition sponsorship session, Alex Hibbert, 22, a member of the Royal Marines, discussed the merits of cash versus in-kind sponsorship. “Don’t spend six months trying to get a pair of socks,” he said. Hibbert adds, “Consider the polar region as a blank canvas and do something that’s never been done before.” Last March, Hibbert led the Tiso Trans-Greenland Expedition – 1,374 miles and 113 days, unsupported and without sled dogs. (By comparison, in 1988, polar explorer Will Steger co-led a training expedition on a south-to-north traverse of Greenland to prepare for his International Trans-Antarctica Expedition. One 1,600-mile segment was the longest dogsled trek in history).
- **Pack a Sense of Humor** – During the past five years, Duncan Milligan spent a year in South America, drove from the U.K. to Cameroon and back, Nairobi to Cape Town, Kathmandu to the U.K. via China, Tibet and Central Asia, and last winter spent four months in West Africa exploring the Mauritanian Sahara. Once at a remote border station he was asked what kind of documentation he brought along. Milligan bluffed his way through by saying, “I bring with me greetings from my Queen.” He advised budding explorers, “When it all goes wrong, never forget where you are. Remind yourself why you wanted to push yourself. Pack a sense of humor and remember that the worst adventures always make the best stories.” ▲▲

BUZZ WORDS

Drake Shake – A particularly rough crossing of the Drake Passage from Argentina and Chile to the Antarctic Peninsula. One usually hopes for calm seas, or the so-called “Drake lake.” Source: Students on Ice.

Big Eye – Insomnia in South Pole parlance. Source: the late astrophysicist Martin A. Pomerantz (1916-2008). According to his obituary in the *Wall Street Journal* (Nov. 15-16), life in Antarctica could be scary and bracing. His uncomfortable sleeping quarters induced insomnia ... “you had to put the beer in just the right place so it would not freeze. It would freeze on the floor and it was terribly hot above.” In 1994 he proudly attended the dedication of a South Pole observatory named in his honor. ▲▲

IN PASSING

Deep Sea Explorer Dies – Jacques Piccard, a scientist and underwater explorer who plunged deeper beneath the ocean than any other man, died Nov. 1 at the age of 86 at his Lake Geneva home in Switzerland. Exploration ran in the Piccard family. Jacques' physicist father, Auguste, was the first man to take a balloon into the stratosphere and his son, Bertrand, was the first man to fly a balloon nonstop around the world.

Jacques Piccard helped his father invent the bathyscaphe, a vessel that allows humans to descend to great depths. On Jan. 23, 1960, he and U.S. Navy Lt. Don Walsh took the vessel into the Pacific's Mariana Trench and dove to a depth of 35,800 feet — nearly seven miles below sea level. It remains to this day the deepest dive ever.

“By far the most interesting find was the fish that came floating by our porthole,” Piccard said of the dive. “We were astounded to find higher marine life forms down there at all.” The discovery of living organisms at such depths played a key role in the prohibition of nuclear waste dumping in ocean trenches.

Walsh remembers his work with Piccard, “Jacques was a remarkable person. Though not trained as an engineer, he helped develop and pilot six manned submersibles. These included the first bathyscaphs, the world's first tourist submarine and one which still holds the world's submerged endurance record of 30 days. I had the good fortune to work with him in 1959-1960 on the Navy's Trieste Program and in later years we sometimes worked together on other projects for manned submersibles,” Walsh tells *EN*.

“Never a ‘big organization man’, through his Bureau Piccard in Cully, Switzerland, he was able to bring many of his ideas to successful completion. His imagination, intelligence and tenacity will be missed.” ▲▲

EN HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

They've been telling us all to spend our way out of economic troubles, so as part of our patriotic duty during the credit crunch, *EN* respectfully suggests you engage in some retail therapy and consider these holiday gifts for the explorer on your list who has everything.

- **I Shot the Polo Shirt** – If your friend or loved one had a rather uneventful expedition that will bore the fellows back at the club, give them a Shot-Up Shirt from Attus Apparel. This is distressed merchandise, to say the least, having been peppered with fire from shotguns, 357 Magnums and 45's. Looking like an extra in a *Rambo* flick doesn't come cheap, but the stories are priceless. (\$100, www.attusapparel.com).

- **Are We There Yeti?** – Is the explorer on your list griping about not getting enough publicity? Here's a sure-fire attention-getter: a genuine adult men's Bigfoot costume. Dress a team member in these duds, snap a photo, and you're ready for prime time. (\$99.99, www.amazon.com). Also available: a Bigfoot mascot costume that's bold and cuddly, featuring a furry body, hand mitts, shoe-covers, and a roomy head with an evil frown, for \$1,466.95.
- **The Rite Stuff** – Blogs, vlogs, podcasts and streaming video work so long as there's juice. But when the power dies, there's nothing like putting pen to paper, especially when it's the Rite in the Rain line of all-weather writing paper, notebooks, journals and sketch books. The Extreme Journal, made of weatherproof, tear-proof and, heaven help us, blood-proof Dura Rite paper, can even be used underwater (can you spell S-H-A-R-K!?!). (Prices start at \$3.25, www.riteintherain.com).
- **What's Worn Under a Kilt?** – It takes a special man to wear a kilt, but the folks at Utilikilts assure us these man-skirts can be a practical choice for those secure in their masculinity. Their Survival kilt, for instance has removable cargo pockets – at the airport just pull off the pockets, drop them on the x-ray conveyor belt, and stride through the metal detector with a smile. The Survival also features a modesty closure system that seals the Utilikilt even in the toughest wind so an explorer won't flash his buddies on the trail. (\$290, www.utilikilts.com). By the way, in answer to the above: “Aye, lass, nothing's worn. Everything is in perfect working order.”
- **Say Hello to Yesterday's Lunch** – It's said there are two kinds of sailors: those who have been seasick and those who haven't been seasick – yet. For those wishing to avoid Gulf Stream gastritis, give them a few cases of Reed's Ginger Brew, available in a variety of flavors. The British medical magazine *The Lancet* reports it works better than some popular over-the-counter medications. Besides, Dramamine makes a terrible rum mixer. (\$19 for 32-7 oz. bottles, www.reedsgingerbrew.com). ▲

EXPEDITION CLASSIFIEDS

Mt. Shasta Winter Trip – Join AdventureCORPS for four days of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice-skating, yoga, and hot tea around the fire at mystical, magical Mt. Shasta on January 17-21. No experience necessary. Summer version with road cycling and yoga offered July 29-August 2. <http://www.adventurecorps.com>.

Costa Del Mar Sunglasses – The leader in high performance polarized sunglasses is interested in sponsoring expeditions. Help us “See what's out there™.” See Costa Del Mar's online

video network dedicated to water sports and angling adventures (www.costachannel.com). Submit film footage of “you-had-to-see-it-to-believe-it” extreme water sports and fishing expeditions. Contact Laurie Fontenot at lfontenot@costadelmar.com for information. Learn more about our commitment to exploration and adventure travel at: <http://www.costadelmar.com/adventures/>

Himalaya Climbs and Treks - Five percent discount for Explorers Club members. Climbs and Treks with Dan Mazur and SummitClimb.com - Africa, Himalaya, Aconcagua, Everest Basecamp Treks, Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya Treks and Climbs. Ascents and walks around Africa, Tibet, China, Nepal and around the world with our experienced friendly team. Established for 18 years. Novices, and experts are welcome. 360 570 0715, info@SummitClimb.com, www.summitclimb.com.

New LEKI Antishock System – LEKI, the leading international manufacturer of trekking poles, has introduced a Soft Antishock-Lite (SAS-L) System that provides much more comfort along the trail. The impact energy is absorbed directly into the lower shaft. The perfect combination of steel spring and elastomer provides precise synchronization between spring strength and compression – making trekking with a pole more comfortable than ever, reducing stress on the joints, muscles and ligaments. (www.leki.com)

Insulated Support for Cold Weather Athletes – CW-X Conditioning Wear is specifically tuned to provide total support to the key muscle groups and joints of the lower limbs and upper body. Tights and Tops, and the company’s Sports Support Bras, are made for a wide variety of high-energy activities, including running, fitness walking, hiking, cycling, skiing, snowboarding, track and field, and other fitness activities. Studies show that when wearing CW-X tights there is 26 percent and 36 percent lower oxygen usage compared to regular Tights and Shorts respectively. New for fall/winter 2008-09: the Insulator line of insulated support Tights and Tops. (www.cw-x.com). 