



# The Antarctic Society

*"By and For All Antarcticans"*

VOLUME 08-09

SEPTEMBER

NO. 1

## PRESIDENT

Dr. Arthur B. Ford  
400 Ringwood Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA  
(650) 323-3652  
[abford@aol.com](mailto:abford@aol.com)

## VICE PRESIDENT

Robert B. Flint, Jr.  
185 Bear Gulch Road  
Woodside, CA 94062  
(650) 851-1532  
[robflint@aya.yale.edu](mailto:robflint@aya.yale.edu)

## TREASURER

Paul C. Dalrymple  
Box 325  
Port Clyde, ME 04855  
Phone: (207) 372-6523  
[pcdal@roadrunner.com](mailto:pcdal@roadrunner.com)

## SECRETARY

Charles Lagerbom  
83 Achorn Road  
Belfast, ME 04915  
(207) 548-0923  
[icechip@prexar.com](mailto:icechip@prexar.com)

## WEBMASTER

Thomas Henderson  
520 Normanskill Place  
Slingerlands, NY 12159  
[webmaster@antarctican.org](mailto:webmaster@antarctican.org)

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Dr. Carl R. Eklund 1959-61  
Dr. Paul A. Siple 1961-62  
Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright 1962-63  
RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.) 1963-64  
Mr. George R. Toney 1964-65  
Mr. Morton J. Rubin 1965-66  
Dr. Albert P. Crary 1966-68  
Dr. Henry M. Dater 1968-70  
Dr. George A. Doumani 1970-73  
Dr. William J. L. Sladen 1971-73  
Mr. Peter F. Bermel 1973-75  
Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand 1975-77  
Mrs. Paul A. Siple 1977-78  
Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple 1978-80  
Dr. Meredith F. Burrill 1980-82  
Dr. Mort D. Turner 1982-84  
Dr. Edward P. Todd 1984-86  
Mr. Robert H. T. Dodson 1986-88  
Dr. Robert H. Rutford 1988-90  
Mr. Guy G. Guthridge 1990-92  
Dr. Polly A. Penhale 1992-94  
Mr. Tony K. Meunier 1994-96  
Mr. Ron Naveen 1996-98  
Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple 1998-00  
Ms. Kristin Larson 2000-02  
Mr. John Spletstoeser 2002-04  
Dr. Robert B. Flint, Jr. 2004-07

[WWW.ANTARCTICAN.ORG](http://WWW.ANTARCTICAN.ORG)

## CONTENTS

BRASH ICE .....	cover	TILL DEATH US DO PART .....	6
ANTARCTIC CALENDARS .....	2	BUDGET CRISIS AT NSF/OPP .....	7
RUTH J. SIPLE FUND .....	2	SHORT TERM CLIMATE SPIKES .....	7
WEBMASTER REPORTS .....	2	BOOK REVIEW, ROSE'S <b>EXPLORER</b> .....	7
IGY ANTARCTIC SIGNATORIES .....	3	OVERDUE ANTARCTIC NAME .....	9
GEORGE TONEY'S OBIT .....	5		

BRASH ICE. What's new in Antarctica? Well, for one thing a US Air Force C17 Globemaster made history on September 11th when they made the first landing by a pilot using night-vision goggles in the darkness of a McMurdo night. The Globemaster was making an 11-hour round trip overnight from Christchurch. A snowstorm nearly prevented the landing, but the Globemaster was able to touch down and then complete several other landings on the ice to ensure all the pilots on board gained experience. The successful mission means scientists and support personnel will be able to come and go from McMurdo during winter. How about that!!!

We are fast approaching some very historic dates. In a few short weeks, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary on October 29th of Ernest Shackleton leaving Cape Royds for, supposedly, the South Pole. Later on during the austral summer, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary on 9 January 2009 of his 'Furthest South'. And if you want to extend this still further, in approximately 1200 days we will be celebrating the most glorious date in the history of the Antarctic, Amundsen's arrival at the South Pole on December 14th, 1911. Wonder what great celebrations are in order, especially from the Norwegian side.

Our ever faithful friend in Christchurch, Margaret Lanyon, sent us a press clip from the CHRISTCHURCH PRESS of 12 July 2008 in which they wrote about an upcoming 800 K race to the South Pole, officially known as the Amundsen Omega 3 South Pole Race. At press time they had ten teams of three-persons each who were crazy enough to enter the race. Seven are from Britain, two from Norway, while the tenth is a combined Kiwi-Brit team. It is expected that teams will ski for 18 hours, on a good day, and that the fastest teams will get there in 30 days with the slowest teams taking up to 45 days. There is a mandatory 24-hour stop at the mid-way point. The contestants are expected to burn 8000 calories per day while consuming only 6500 calories per day.

But let's take a look at what a group of us aging walking Antarctic curiosities did this past summer. We gathered in mid-coastal Maine to celebrate first that we were still somewhat alive, second, to reminisce about what, if anything, we had accomplished in Antarctica in the past fifty odd years, and third, to see if we can use the past to help guide the Antarctic Society towards a fruitful growth. Quite a few of our past presidents ( Bob Rutford, Bob Dodson, Polly Penhale, Tony Meunier, Rob Flint, Guy Guthridge, Art Ford, Paul Dalrymple ) showed up, and many other prominent scientists, including Charles Swinbank, George Denton, Warren Zapol, Tony Gow, Mary Albert, Lou Lanzerotti, Charlie Bentley, John Behrendt, David Marchant, Hal Borns, Chet Langway, Ed Robinson, Jamie Robertson,

Hugh Bennett, Dick Chappell. John Clough, Dick Cameron. Steve Den Hartog, and others joined in.

The IGY was well represented with Bentley, Behrendt, Cameron. Glasgal, Bennett, Dalrymple, Den Hartog, Gow, Rutford, Denton, Robinson, Ken Moulton, Bill Meserve, Art Jorgensen, Johnny Dawson, Jim Burnham, and Charlie Bevilacqua. And Mildred Crary, Bess Balchen Urbahn, and Barbara Honkala represented their deceased husbands. Felise Llano, daughter of George, came with her brand new husband. And there were two pre-IGYers, as Swithinbank was on the ice at Maudheim in 1949-52, and Dodson was on the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition to Stonington Island in 1947-49.

How many stations were represented? Well, there was Little America V, Byrd, Amundsen-Scott South Pole, Ellsworth, Wilkes, McMurdo, Eights, Siple, Plateau, Vostok, and Novolazarevskaya. Hallett Station was not represented from the stations with a US connection during the IGY, as we only had one person there, Jim Shear, and he has been long deceased. One of us, Rob Flint, holds a distinction that will probably never be equaled, that of wintering over at three interiors stations (Byrd, Plateau, and Vostok). There should be an asterisk on Vostok as he worked there another summer, as well as another summer at Dumont d'Urville.

Our Gathering was also graced/blessed by some of the younger generations. Drew and Diana Logan have many multiple years at the South Pole in recent years: he wintered over thrice, she twice. Dr. Will Silva is one of our favorite Antarcticans of all-time, and he had just returned from another sojourn to Palmer Station. With Dr. Dalton being there – he being the Irish doctor at Byrd in 1957 – we had one of the very first doctors and certainly the most recent. Jerry Marty is certainly not a youngster, but his ever-going trips to the South Pole leads one to erroneously suspect that he is still a kid.

Was there a purpose for the Gathering beyond a desire to see old friends from bygone years? Some of us are on borrowed time, and records show that Antarcticans celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, then just fade away. Three of my colleagues from the South Pole, Class of 58, made the supreme efforts under most trying conditions. Jim Burnham came all the way from Costa Rica,

even tho he could hardly stand, even with a cane, as he is in a very advanced stage of Parkinson. Johnny Dawson came, even tho he had just completed a series of chemo treatments for lung cancer. Art Jorgensen was given two years to live last year, but he opted to come. Then Chet Langway came, thanks to daughter Nancy driving him here.

There was a very legitimate reason for having so many important Antarcticans together, and that was the preservation of the Antarctic Society for future generations. And that reason was Tom Henderson and our website which he has built in the past year. It was his first dry run through the website before a critical knowledgeable Antarctic crowd. Tom is especially proud of Time Trek, which has become his baby, and he walked two different groups through his showing. It was most favorably received, and we invite, in fact, encourage you all to familiarize yourself with the website. It is going to be, hopefully, the salvation of the Antarctic Society, something which will bring into the fold the new generation of young Antarcticans.

There was actually quite a wide-spread of attendees. Including wives and families, there was over a hundred in attendance. Public Radio found out about our Gathering, and asked if they could come and interview some of our people from the IGY, and we said “Sure”. So Barbara Boyaev came along with an engineer and interviewed some of the more prominent, who you may have already heard on Public Radio. We ourselves have a close personal Antarctic friend who just happens to be a videographer, and he recorded at least a dozen histories which will be made into a private DVD.

It might be said that the Gathering was held on hallowed grounds, as the property was once owned by Russell Porter (see Herman Friis's THE ARCTIC DIARY OF RUSSELL WILLIAM PORTER) who once went north with both Peary and Cook. And the live music was polarized by Steve Lindsay, who had an arcticite uncle, Harry Whitney (who authored HUNTING WITH THE ESKIMOS), who was ably assisted on the bass by Renny Stackpole, a distant relative of the real Roald Amundsen. And as an add-on, our very own Ed Robinson, a retired Hokie professor, donned his kilts, pumped up his bags, and played his pipes as the beverages were consumed into the

twilight. Even the hard-shelled Dave Bresnahan found fun and enjoyment in meeting socially with scientists who hitherto he had to be hard nosed. The last evening ended with spectacular fireworks over neighboring Tenants Harbor, which just happened to be celebrating Saint George Days that weekend.

Well, that was all Show and Tell, but at the same time democracy was at work in Ballston, with a reorganization taking effect in the Office of Polar Programs. From the outside, it has looked to us as though this office has gone through several major changes. First it was Era of Tom Jones and Bert Crary, Ken Moulton and Al Fowler, Joe Fletcher and the real boss, Helen Gerasimou. Then there was the follow-up generation with Ed Todd, Peter Wilkniss, Cornelius Sullivan, Polly Penhale, Julie Palais, David Bresnahan, Erick Chiang, and Jerry Marty. But in the last year or so Guy Guthridge, Al Southerland, Bresnahan and Chiang have all retired, so I guess it was reshuffling time. Section Heads became Division Heads. Scott Borg is one of the few dinosaurs left who actually earned his stripes on the ice, and he is head of the Division of Antarctic Sciences. Brian Stone is Acting Head of Antarctic Infrastructure and Logistics. Michael Montopoli heads Polar Environment, Health and Safety, Simon Stepherson heads the Division of Arctic Sciences. Carrying it a step further, in the Division of Antarctic Sciences, Kelly Falkner is Program Director for Integrated System Science; Roberta Marinelli is Program Director for Organisms and Ecosystems; Peter Milne is Program Director for Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences; Vladimir Papitashvili is program director of Aeronomy and Atmospheric Sciences. Just take a second look at that listing, Bernie Lettau is actually gone, retired, can you believe it? It's true!!

**ANTARCTIC CALENDARS.** We are begging you to buy the 2009 Hedgehog/Caxton Antarctic calendar for 2009. To be utterly truthful, this is not their best calendar by any means, but even a poor Hedgehog calendar is far better than any of its competitors. We have a pile in stock right now, so we can supply you immediately. We are asking you \$15.00 for each calendar. Even buying in bulk, we are still only making pennies on each calendar. Checks should be made payable to the Antarctic Society, mailed to P.O. Box 325, Port Clyde, ME 04855.

**THE RUTH J. SIPLE FUND.** The most positive action during the past few months has been the procurement of twenty-seven CDs/DVDs of Antarctic Music, hand selected by our musical expert in Montreal, one Valmar Kurol, for Palmer Station. These were housed in another beautifully engineered cherry-wood box by Bob Small of Quarter Point Woodworking, LCC. Bob is a friend of our Society through osmosis, being married to a daughter of Gracie, a woman behind the scene in our Head Shed. Valmar's selection is very similar (four exceptions) to his South Pole Collection previously sent to the Ruth J. Siple Memorial Library at the South Pole.

The selection of books for the Ruth J. Siple Memorial Library is well underway. Basically we have 1) solicited personally inscribed copies of books by Antarctic authors, 2) duplicate prime copies of surplus Antarctic books in the hands of Society members who are noted book collectors, and 3) selected Antarctic books from Longitude Books. Darrel Schoeling, an Antarctic through the travel industry, chief honcho of Longitude ([www.longitudebooks.com](http://www.longitudebooks.com)) is offering us a 25% discount on books selected from his listing. We fully expect to have several shipments of books at the South Pole by the end of the calendar year.

**WE HAVE ACHIEVED ORBIT!** (by Tom Henderson) I reported in the last newsletter on the launch of the Society's new website, "<http://www.antarctican.org>". I can now report that the website has successfully achieved orbit. From February 1 through August 31, 2008, there have been 4,435 visits to the site resulting in 29,731 pages viewed. 71% of the visits have been made using Microsoft's Internet Explorer browsers, 17% using Mozilla Firefox, 6% using Apple Safari, 5% using Netscape Navigator, and 1% using Opera or other browsers.

The biggest change on the website since its launch has been the completion of the Time Trek application. Now, both the Static Map and Google Earth versions of Time Trek are available. Time Trek is an interactive timeline of Antarctic history that is combined with mapping of the continent and information on stations and geographic features as well as photos taken by Antarcticans. There are two things that make it stand apart from any other timelines on the internet: (1) there are two separate map interfaces to the timeline, one to a fixed satellite image map and the other to

Google Earth's dynamic mapping, and (2) the content is contributed by users – in other words, you and me!

Time Trek's map interfaces have different purposes. The Static Map version is intended for users who either want simple retrieval of the information in Time Trek or do not have a computer of the type or power to use the Time Trek Google Earth version. The Google Earth (GE) version directly embeds Google Earth within Time Trek, giving a whole new dimension to Antarctic history. GE is a free browser plug-in that connects to an enormous repository of aerial images of the entire earth, including Antarctica, and provides the tools to navigate through this imagery in both two and three dimensions! Within the past eight months, Google has added huge amounts of high-resolution satellite images and terrain data to their repository, with more expected in the remainder of this year. Since Time Trek embeds all of GE's capability, whenever Google updates GE, Time Trek users automatically have access to it!

One drawback – at least temporarily - is that the Time Trek is guaranteed to work properly with only Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) browsers, versions 6 and 7. Soon, the Static Map version will work with any of the major browsers (Mac Safari, Firefox, or Opera). Google released a beta version of their first Application Programming Interface (API) for GE in April. The full production version of the API, expected in the fall of 2008, will include support for all major browsers. When the production API is available, it will be incorporated into Time Trek so that all users with high-speed internet connection and a computer with enough power will have access.

I mentioned previously that content will be contributed by the users. The Time Trek model is much like Wikipedia in this regard -- only users do not add their content directly to the website. Information on timeline events is contributed to the webmaster, who will then organize it into linked pages within Time Trek and upload it to the site. I should note that "event" simply means anything that can be related to a time and place. Events do not have to have major historical significance; Time Trek is intended to record experiences that might go unrecorded otherwise. Every Antarctic has some story, photo, letter or recording that could be shared. Time Trek is one

place where it can be shared with the entire world! The good news is that members are beginning to respond. At a recent gathering in Maine, I received electronic diaries, photos and PowerPoint presentations that will soon be posted in Time Trek. To learn how to contribute, please read the document by that name linked on the Time Trek main page, or just contact the webmaster, Tom Henderson, by email at [webmaster@antarctican.org](mailto:webmaster@antarctican.org).

You may have noticed if you Google "antarctican society" that you don't see the link to our website at the top of the search results. The reason for this is that, even though our name is an exact match, the search algorithms that Google (as well as other search engines) use are based on many factors. These factors include key words in the website's descriptive information, the number of links to our website from other sites, the number of times the website is reached through web searches, and other factors. One way each of you can help elevate our site's ranking is to do a Google search on "antarctican society," find the link to our site in the search results, (it begins *"The Antarctic Society is a social and educational organization founded in 1960 ....."*) and then click on that link to get to our site. The more hits on the search results link from different computers, the higher our ranking will be.

By the way, if you haven't been to the website for a while you can get a quick idea of what has changed since your last visit by clicking the "What's New" link on the Home Page. There you will find a chronological listing of the significant changes made to your website. Also, there is something similar on the Time Trek page specifically for the Time Trek application, titled "Time Trek Content Changes."

I really want to emphasize that this is your website. Use it, contribute to it, criticize it, but don't ignore it! Comments and suggestions are always welcomed.

#### **IGY ANTARCTIC SIGNATORY CACHETS.**

The following paragraphs provide some background for what is now on the Society website. Prior to going to the Antarctic at the end of 1956, I, Paul C. Dalrymple, met with a family friend, one Mrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott of New York City, a philatelist, and we worked out a plan whereby, hopefully, we could collect cachets from

all of the stations in Antarctica during the IGY, requesting their leaders at the stations to sign the envelopes. Mrs. Elliott was to send two envelopes to each station, and have them returned by the various postal services to her. With the exception of one envelope, both collections were the same. The sole exception was that President Eisenhower would only sign one envelope, which remained in Mrs. Hall's personal collection. After the IGY, her Collection received second prize in a national philatelic show held in New York City. Shortly thereafter Mrs. Elliott passed away, and where she had no children, I assume the estate sold her Collection at auction, although I have no proof of same. I might add that Mrs. Elliott was one of the very first females to join the Antarctic Society.

The Van Allen Dinner Party. Back in the early 1950s, when the famed space scientist, James Van Allen, was living in Washington, DC (actually Silver Spring, MD), he hosted a dinner party where several prominent scientists were hosted. One was Lloyd Berkner, who was one of Admiral Byrd's radio operators on board a ship participating in the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition. Berkner had been active in the Second Polar Year when he was Head of the Section on Exploratory Geophysics of the Atmosphere in the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. During the course of the evening, Berkner suggested that the time might be right for holding another International Polar Year. Also in attendance that evening was Sydney Chapman, who was the Sullivan Professor of Natural Philosophy of Queens College, Oxford, and was soon to be elected president of the supreme nongovernmental academic body, the International Council of Scientific Unions. Also in the Van Allen's living room that evening were three other geophysicists, S. Fred Singer, J. Wallace Joyce, and Ernest Vestine. It was decided that evening that Berkner and Chapman would present Berkner's proposal for another polar year to the Mixed Commission on the Ionosphere to be held three months later in Brussels. So the seed for what later turned out to be the International Geophysical Year had been planted by Berkner in Van Allen's home.

Signatories Cachets/ Covers. It is my feeling that this exhibit of IGY Antarctic Cachets/Covers should lead off with the envelope signed by James

Van Allen, followed by the one signed by the flowing signature of Lloyd Berkner, and then the one signed by Sydney Chapman. The USA soon formed a National Committee for the IGY, and there is an envelope signed by Joseph Kaplan, chairman of the US IGY Committee. Larry Gould signed one as Director of the US Antarctic Programs, Harry Wexler as Chief Scientist for the Antarctic IGY, Bert Crary as the Deputy Chief Scientist for the Antarctic IGY, and Hugh Odishaw as head of the IGY offices in Washington, D.C -- A Who's Who of Antarctic bigwigs during the IGY.

Then there are many cachets signed by personnel at all of the American scientific stations (Little America V, Amundsen-Scott South Pole, Byrd, Ellsworth, Wilkes, and Hallett. McMurdo was strictly a logistical support base during the IGY. Some of the cachets have multiple signatures, such as participants on the first Ross Ice Shelf Traverse, the first Weather Central, the foreign scientists at Little America V, and the first Congressional Delegation to visit Antarctica. The last group featured Congressman Torby McDonald, former All American at Harvard, who was JFK's best man when he married Jackie, and who initiated legislation for local viewing of all NFL games sold out by the preceding Thursday. Then there were special individual signatory envelopes, showing the autographs of explorer Sir Hubert Wilkins, Father Dan Linehan, a seismologist and Jesuit priest, who took the first seismic shot at the South Pole, Gentleman Jim Zumberge, budding glaciologist-college president, and many, many others.

British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Having a connection in Wellington, New Zealand, I purchased perhaps forty TAE cachets, and I got both Crossing Parties (Hillary's from New Zealand and Fuchs' from the UK) to sign the cachets. I gave them to relatives and close friends, although I dare say now that there are probably only a couple of dozen in existence. I also was a close friend of Ralph Lenton of Fuchs's party -- even stood up for him when he got married. So I ended up with some very special signed cachets that were carried from Shackleton Station to the South Pole to Scott Base.

**GEORGE R. TONEY**, 89, died at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, on January 17, 2008.

George was born in West Barrington, Rhode Island, but grew up in Newton and Needham Heights, Massachusetts. He graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, just prior to the beginning of World War II. He served with the U.S. Army as an interpreter in France and Belgium during the war.

Following his return from Europe, George taught English and French in the Gloucester, Massachusetts, school system before he was lured away by the Arctic Operations Project of the U.S. Weather Bureau. In 1950-51, he served as Executive Officer at Isachsen Station, a joint Canadian/U.S. weather station on Ellef Ringnes Island in the Canadian Arctic (now part of Nunavut). Following the year at Isachsen, he was employed full time at the Arctic Operations Project office in Washington.

In 1954, George served as a Weather Bureau observer aboard the icebreaker USS ATKA during the ship's voyage to Antarctica to survey coastal sites for the International Geophysical Year (IGY) stations. As preparations for the IGY Antarctic program were ongoing George was reassigned from the Weather Bureau to assist the U.S. National Committee for the IGY in the planning and screening of scientific personnel to man the Antarctic stations. He subsequently served as scientific leader at Byrd Station during the IGY.

After he returned from the Antarctic, George joined the newly formed Office of Antarctic Programs at the National Science Foundation where he served until the mid- 1960's. He worked at NSF for several more years before retiring at the end of 1971, after 25 years of service to the U.S. Government. In recognition of his dedicated service to the Antarctic Program, Toney Mountain in Marie Byrd Land, Antarctica, was named in his honor. Following his government career, at the age of 52, George attended Antioch School of Law and subsequently embarked upon a second career. He spent over 20 years in solo practice defending juvenile and neglect cases in the District of Columbia.

Prior to his death, George summed up his life as follows: "I have lived through a series of unique and exciting events. Most of my life's endeavors have challenged my spirit and abilities and generated satisfaction of a very personal kind while also contributing to worthwhile endeavors."

George is survived by his wife of over 66 years, Sallie and son Stephen. He was predeceased by a daughter Sara.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of knowing and working with George Toney during the infancy of the U.S. Antarctic Program. He was instrumental in my being employed at the National Science Foundation. He was a mentor and teacher for me and many others in the Antarctic Program. How can I forget those long work days when we were in the field together! Most of all he was a friend during those years and I feel privileged to have known him. ....

**Kendall Moulton**

**TILL DEATH US DO PART.** This is a deadly Newsletter in many respects. We are in the process of identifying obituaries published in our Newsletters of the past, said information going into our new website. Why are we doing this? Because our obituaries are in many cases outstanding, as they have been prepared by their fellow colleagues who knew the individuals up front and personal. We are including in this section on deaths a lot of some of the more prominent, but by no means all-inclusive, Antarcticans who have died natural deaths since our Society was formed. Chances are that their obituaries will be on our website several months after the death date is shown.

How long can Antarcticans expect to live? Whenever I shave, and look in the mirror, I wonder how many more days that face will be in that mirror. The average age of Antarctic deaths shown is about 80, so we have beaten the odds by quite a few years. Ages on our list run the gamut from Harry Wexler, Chief Scientist of Antarctic programs during the IGY, who checked out at the very early age of 51, to Norman Vaughan, Harvard drop-out and dog team driver on the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition, who survived (by a few days) over the century mark. How come Norman lived so long? Was it because he never drank and never smoked, yet was still alive? Was it because he never swore and had a relationship with the Almighty God? Was it because he had five marriages (although one did not officially count as it was a remarriage) and had to keep moving? Was it because he met and married a real young thing, 40 years his junior, in late life and then had no desire to die? We vote for Carolyn!

Where do Antarcticans end up? Well one, Ralph Lenton, radio operator on Fuchs' British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition ended up at the South Pole. His ashes were actually taken there by one of his sons, Anthony, who once worked for an American contractor. At the other end of the globe, Sir Hubert Wilkins, the first man to fly in Antarctica and who led several expeditions to the Antarctic, actually ended up at the North Pole, courtesy of SKATE, an American nuclear submarine.

One of the most unusual depositions was that of George Llano, who at the age of 93, died on a cruise ship to Antarctica, dying off the Falklands. I had talked to George the night before he left for the cruise, and he had promised to bring me back a polar bear, which I was eagerly looking forward to receiving! When George died, while his accompanying son was at breakfast, a three-ring circus followed. The family wish was for George to be cremated and left on the geographic feature named after him on King George Island. No way, it seemed that a body must be delivered to the crematorium in Punta Arenas within 24 hours of death. Next family choice was the cemetery at Grytviken. No way, that cemetery is reserved for whalers and The Boss. Meanwhile, George is taking a farewell cruise around Antarctica except he saw none of it. It was beginning to be like that hilarious Shirley McLain movie about burying Harry. The family wanted George to be left somewhere near his beloved home-away-from-home, so the Falklands became the only viable option. But wait a minute, was it really viable? No, it wasn't, it seems that the Falklands would not accept George until the family flew out a medical doctor from the U.K. to perform an autopsy to see if old George was truly dead. It seems that he was, and at a considerable cost to his family, George now overlooks the harbor at Stanley. George is now trying to rest in peace.

The Founding Father of our Society, Carl Eklund, met a real untimely early-on death. Coming back from a year on the ice, expecting his bank account would have profited by his absence from malls, found to the contrary that he was broke! In an effort to recoup and get back on his feet, he signed up for a lecture tour. His first port-of-call was Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. The lecture went fine, he went back to his hotel

room, and died that night. So much for that lecture tour.

On the other side of the coin, Finn Ronne, in late life, finished his final book on the Antarctic, and then visited his homeland, Norway. While there he was graciously welcomed by their King, who treated him like a member of the Royal Family. Finn returned home to Maryland, went to bed with a smile on his face and never woke up. He was 80, and what a way to go.

One Antarctic, Paul-Émile Victor, who directed the French Antarctic programs, died at age 87 on an island in French Polynesia, close to Bora Bora. He did not want to take any chances that his friends would not be informed of his passing, so Paul-Émile, an artist of some small merit, made up this cartoon entitled "Feed Me To The Sharks" and left it in his Paris office to be sent out to special friends announcing his demise. The cartoon that he did was priceless, an albatross view from above showing a flying winged Paul-Émile, waving goodbye to his beloved wife Colette and their daughter on the beach, who in turn were waving goodbye to Paul-Émile as he floated upward and onward.

I have been to a lot of Antarctic services. Did you know that there is a special Antarctic hymn, one which is played at many services? Yes, there is. Some of us have gone out with full military dress performances at Arlington Cemetery, with cannons blasting off, taps being played over a neighboring hill. Some of us have departed without the help of the clergy, as classical music wafted through a chapel. Our former Honorary President, Ruth Siple, was laid to rest in real wind-chilling conditions, ground covered with snow, and wind buffeting so strongly that young strong men had to be on each corner of the canopy to prevent it from being blown into the next county.

And strange things can happen when you are laid to rest. Perhaps the strangest of all is that Admiral Richard E. Byrd and Colonel Bernt Balchen, arch enemies in real life, find themselves next to one another at Arlington National Cemetery. Byrd has a simple white cross, like the tens of thousands at Arlington, with only his name, Richard E. Byrd. Balchen, who died much later than Byrd, has a massive tombstone, at least five feet high, with all of his credentials.



Now for the roll call:

Age 50s

Harry Wexler, 51.....Carl Eklund, 53.....Mary Alice McWhinnie, 57.. Malcolm Mellor, 58  
Paul Siple, 59.

Age 60s

Hugh DeWitt, 61.....J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., 62 Ralph Lenton, 63..... Emanuel Rudolph, 64  
Harry Dater, 65.....Lois Jones, 65  
Dave Canham, 65.....Ned Ostenso, 65  
Mike Benkert, 66.....Hugh Odishaw, 66  
Jim Zumberge, 68.....Richard E. Byrd, 69  
John Katsufakis, 69.

Age 70s

John Mirabito, 70.....Sir Hubert Wilkins, 70  
Fred Milan, 70.....Ed Zeller, 70  
Peter Wilkniss, 70.....Bill Cooke, 71  
Vernon Anderson, 72.....Art Owens, 73  
Gordon Ebbe, 73.....Kirby Hanson, 74  
Admiral George Dufek, 74  
Bill Benninghoff, 74.....Al Wade, 75  
Duwayne Anderson, 75.  
Tom Abercrombie, 75.....Jerry Webers, 75  
Cam Craddock, 76..... Bert Crary, 76  
Charlie Morrison, 77,  
Aleksei Treshnikov, 77.....Walter  
Sullivan, 78 ..Harry Darlington, 78.....Murray Wiener,  
79.....Price Lewis, 79.

Age 80s

Admiral David Tyree, 80.....Finn Ronne, 80  
Ed MacDonald, 80.....Bob Thomson, 80  
Dwight Schmidt, 80.....Dick Goldthwait, 81  
Tom Poulter, 81.....Bud Waite, 82.....Dick Conger,  
82.....Richard Moulton, 82  
Ambassador Paul Clement Daniels, 82.....Mort Turner,  
83.....Ed Todd, 83.....Charlie J.V. Murphy, 83.....Palle  
Mogensen, 83.....Father Dan Linehan, 83.....Rudi  
Honkala, 83.....  
Bolling Byrd Clarke, 85  
Arnold Court, 85 ..John Dyer, 85  
Walt Seelig, 85.....David Lewis, 85  
Joe Hill, 85.....Tom Jones, 85  
Mort Rubin, 86.....Henry Harrison, 87.....Paul-Émile  
Victor, 87.....John Roscoe, 87  
Sir Edmund Hillary, 88  
Admiral James Reedy, 88.....Whirley Bird  
McCormick, 88  
Don “Curly” Wohlschlag, 88...George Toney, 89.

Age 90s

Bob Nichols, 90.....Dick Black, 90  
Bill Field, 90.....Sir Vivian Fuchs, 91.....Alton  
Lindsey, 92  
Ruth Johannesmeyer Siple, 92

Ike Schlossbach, 93.....George Llano, 93 ..Robert  
Feeney, 93.....Pete Burrill, 94  
Howard Mason, 95  
Gordon Cartwright, 97.....Larry Gould, 97.

Age 100

Norman Vaughan, 100.

**NSF/OPP BUDGET TIME AND SUPPORT  
CONTRACTOR TIME.**

If you live in the U.S. and have not yet gotten used to gasoline prices around \$4.00 a gallon, you might feel better if you tune into the website that describes the current predicament of the U.S. Antarctic Program, as administered by the NSF Office of Polar Programs. The FY 2009 (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) budget represents a fixed amount from the prior year, which was essentially the same as for FY 2007. Fuel costs up \$8 million for 2007-08 would normally require contingency planning of an amount up to \$19 million for 2008-09, thus deferring many logistical plans and science projects, such as pier renovation at Palmer Station, reducing lengths of science cruises, and many more. That’s just a spin-off because of fuel costs, whereas additional increases in labor costs and inflationary issues make the picture more pessimistic. About 30 specific deferred items affected by the problem can be found at [http://nsf.gov/od/opp/ant/usap\\_pi\\_alert.pdf](http://nsf.gov/od/opp/ant/usap_pi_alert.pdf), with some details included in an article in *Science* (29 August 2008, p. 1142-43), with the title (and pun) “NSF Budget Ills Send Big Chill Through Antarctic Program.”

The timing for re-bidding the contract for support for the USAP has occurred, with a pre-solicitation conference at NSF on Aug. 26-28, 2008, already past, with 41 companies represented. A final Request For Proposals is scheduled for October 2008, and an award for October 1, 2009. See the website at [http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfq/s/support\\_ant/conference/index.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/about/contracting/rfq/s/support_ant/conference/index.jsp) for details on the proceedings, the time lines, and a list of companies.

The contractor selection is a critical exercise for USAP, with a budget expenditure at the ratio of 10:1 for support of science. In other words, it takes a lot of money to achieve what has been, and is, a successful U.S. science program in Antarctica for many years. (Many thanks to Polly Penhale, Environmental Officer at NSF/OPP, for the information that led to this news item.)



### **ANTARCTIC CLIMATE, SHORT-TERM SPIKES, AND LONG-TERM WARMING.**

According to a story in Science Daily (Aug. 15, 2008), dramatic annual temperature swings and a century-long warming trend in West Antarctica are linked to conditions in the tropical Pacific Ocean, according to a recent analysis of ice cores at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the University of Washington (UW).

David Schneider (NCAR) and Eric Steig (UW) are the scientists behind the results, alerting us to watch the tropics -- as the tropics warm, so too will West Antarctica, thousands of miles to the south, an interesting correlation with El Nino events. Destabilization of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet is the subject of concern, as to whether it will survive over a period of decades or centuries. If the ice sheet (covering an area the size of Mexico) were to melt, global sea level would rise to as much as 16 feet.

El Nino influence can be shown by changes of a major El Nino event from 1939 to 1942, temperatures in West Antarctica rose by about 6 to 10 degrees F, and then dropped by an estimated 9 to 13 degrees F over the next two years. While West Antarctica is the subject of considerable study for the above reasons, the ice sheet in East Antarctica is close to stable due to different atmospheric and oceanic patterns. Disintegration of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet has been proposed to have happened in the geologic past by Dr. John Mercer, forerunner in this subject.

**EXPLORER; The Life of Richard E. Byrd**, by Lisle A. Rose. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, 2008, 544 p. Reviewed by Steve Dibbern.

"Explorer" is an attempt to put the enigmatic "Admiral of Antarctica" into perspective after the passing on of both the subject and all of his companions on his most heralded expeditions. It relies on material not previously available to the general public and significantly on several recently published diaries of expedition participants. It also goes deeply into the origins of Byrd's activities with a family history and his earlier less well known exploits.

Early in the book Rose makes a spirited defense of Byrd's claim to have flown over the North Pole which has been the subject of much controversy and would later make the grist of personal

animosities between Byrd and some of his associates, notably Bernt Balchen. Indeed Rose's defense of Byrd's claim leads into the major theme of the book which is that Byrd was an extremely complex man. A gentrified Virginia gentleman from a very achievement-oriented family, he was egotistical and very protective of what he regarded as his "turf". He chose aviation as his mode of exploration but was neither an accomplished pilot nor it appears was he comfortable in the air. He held grudges, and had powerful political allies, but appears to have been painfully naive about the politics of the day. He was a drinker but sometimes chose non-drinkers for lieutenants. Drinking was to cause major problems on both of his major Antarctic endeavors. The book is a vibrant and enlightening trip through an under-analyzed period of Antarctic and American history as well as an analysis of one the most flamboyant personalities of the time.

I like the book very much but it would be dishonest to ignore some faults. The author needed an editor. This is the first book on Antarctic history for which I kept a pencil next to my chair to mark mistakes. Chapter 7, The Secret Land stands out. It appears to have been an add-on, as it does not flow with the narrative. This historical set piece is riddled with misspellings and wrong facts. Examples include on page 183, Scott did not use ponies on his first expedition, he had (and misused) dogs. Shackleton was the first to use ponies in 1907. Scott had two, not three companions on his first trip to the South. Rose repeats the pony mistake several times on the next few pages. He later credits Mawson with reaching the South Magnetic Pole "which Professor T. Edgeworth David had earlier plotted" when David led the trip to the magnetic pole with Mawson in support. He further claims that Mawson wintered over again twenty years later when he did not. The "B.A.N.Z.A.R.E." expeditions were summer only. The same chapter calls Shackleton's ship the *Endeavour* a number of times. Both the crews of the *Endurance* and Capt. Cook's *Endeavour* would have been slighted.

Another "fact check" should have been about the Fokker airplane that Byrd took on BAE I. Rose claims that Byrd wanted to use the larger Fokker Tri-Motor for his South Pole flight rather than the Ford Tri-Motor suggests that the loss of the

Fokker early on during a geological trip put the Polar flight in jeopardy. In fact the Fokker taken on BAE I was not a Tri-Motor at all but a smaller single engine airplane that was never meant to be anything but a support aircraft.

The maps in the front of the book are superfluous. They are too small to be of much use and are unexplained. Several of the illustrations are a bit strained as well. For example World's Fair photo and the last which shows Byrd shaking hands with an unknown person and is captioned "Marie greets her husband"; she is only in the background.

This book was a fascinating read but it also annoyed me. It is a real first rate attempt to understand one of the most controversial men in Antarctic history. By in large it admirably succeeds. Byrd was a larger than life figure with a larger than life ego who could be a formidable enemy or a life long friend. He put Antarctica into the forefront of American consciousness, but damaged his legacy in the end for his narrow-mindedness. We have Lisle Rose to thank for unraveling all of this but the book is seriously flawed by the lack of a good editor.

**Addendum (PCD).** Several months ago I received the book from the University of Missouri Press that Steve Dibbern reviewed in the above paragraph. As I had known the author when we both worked and lived in the Washington, DC area, and where I was not particularly enamored by his first book on Admiral Byrd published by the Naval Institute Press, I looked for a reviewer who did not have my inborn prejudices. It did not take me long to find that person, as within five minutes I was on the phone with Steve Dibbern, who never knew any of the Byrds or Lisle. I

Then several weeks later I received a telephone call from one of our close friends and neighbor, Bess Balchen Urbahn, one of Bernt's former wives. She had received a copy of the book, and upon reading it her temperature exceeded her boiling point. She took deep exceptions to quite a few, in fact, many references (over forty) to her former husband. A sixteen-page letter followed to the Editor of the University of Missouri Press, with copies to four so-called polar experts and six societies/museums/libraries, signed by both Bernt Balchen Jr., and his brother Lauritz Balchen. The letter to the editor of the Missouri Press said "Mr.

Rose's book contains so many lies and innuendoes about our father, Bernt Balchen, that we respectfully suggest that you stop the sale of his book." If you care to read the material sent to the Editor, it is included in its entirety on our website.

#### **A GEOGRAPHIC NAME LONG OVERDUE.**

A geographic feature in Antarctica has recently received its proper name, after many years of being referred to by many of us who were unaware of the complete story. The UK Antarctic Place-Names Committee recently made the feature 'Una Peaks' official, whereas it had been known as 'Una's Tits' as early as 1956, according to a British chart of the area. The complete citation for the naming can be found on a website, which reads as follows:

'On 20 May 2008 the Antarctic Place-Names Committee of Great Britain (UKAPN) approved the name Una Peaks for "Twin ice and snow-capped peaks on Renard Island, south of Cape Renard, at the entrance to Lemaire Channel. Named after Una Spivey, a member of staff in the SecFIDS Office in Stanley, Falkland Islands in the 1950's. Known colloquially as Una's Tits since circa 1955, also as Cape Renard Towers (APC, 2008)." Renard Island was also approved as a new name at the time.'

The words within quote marks above are excerpted from the SCAR document "Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica" (CGA), whose database can be downloaded from the web site [www3.pnra.it/SCAR\\_GAZE](http://www3.pnra.it/SCAR_GAZE). The location of Una Peaks is perhaps best known by those who approach Lemaire Channel on tour vessels for its striking topography prior to entering the channel from the north. After researching for further information, it turns out that the UK Committee printed the wrong information, as Una was Secretary to the Governor in Stanley, not the FIDS Office. This, however, is being corrected in the next announcement by the CGA, following communication between the Place-Names Committee and Una. The complete story is in a draft manuscript which I prepared for submittal to a journal, and which awaits approval by Una herself. Watch this space for an update. **John Spletstoesser**

**HEADS UP:** Be sure to look up the IGY signatory cachets on the website. They are beautiful!