

THE EXPLORERS

LOG



The Explorers Club
World Center for Exploration



Alan on California's Mt. Lassen rock face, from *To Climb a Sacred Mountain* describing his expedition around the world.

On the Ascent... Summiting with Shugendo

Whether it's a hill at 3,000 feet or a summit over 6,000 meters, climbers know "it's the mountain more than the summit"... physically, chronologically, and philosophically.

Still there's nothing like a summit for inspiration.

That's the story of *Shugendo* at Mount Omine-san in Japan's Central Alps. Climbing the mountain is the religious practice. The summit is the enlightenment, *Nirvana*. If you want a good hike or to be a *bodhisattva* (an "enlightened one") go to Omine-san or build your own ten-step course; Mount Omine-san's physical practice is below.

1. **Jigoku.** "Hell." (Predawn naked immersion in a freezing cold spring.)
2. **Gaki.** "Survival, hunger, thirst." (A long hike up the mountain without water or food.)
3. **Chikusho.** "The darkness and hardships of animal existence." (The initiate is guided into a cave by the guide priest and left in the dark to find a different way out through a narrow tunnel, like being reborn.)
4. **Shura.** "Dispelling antagonistic and competitive feelings." (You and the guide priest must help each other to scale the cliff.)



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From Basecamp

Members' Dinner



Ted Vail sat with Daryl Hawk MR'98 in the New York Members' Lounge.

Explorer and mountaineer Ted Vail presented his award-winning film *Finding Shangri-La* on September 17; he gave a fascinating summary of his expedition to Tibet. Shangri-La was presented to the world by James Hilton in his 1933 book *Lost Horizon* and subsequently featured in Frank Capra's 1937 Academy Award winning film of the same name. Ted set out to find this place, and his documentary recounts the search for its location; he found Shangri-La in eastern Tibet.

Exploring Legends

The summer months brought four more audience-filled *Exploring Legends* events to The Explorers Club's Manhattan clubhouse.

Following *Solar Impulse* pilots **Bertrand Piccard FI'00** and **Andre Borschberg's FR'13** July 2 appearance, **Clive Cussler FN'78** entertained Board member **Jim Clash's FR'99** questions on July 10, just five days short of the author's 82nd birthday. When Clash asked Cussler what he thought of the popular TV series *Mad Men*, the former 1960s ad executive and marine archaeologist scoffed, saying it was not only a terrible show but has nothing to do with what really went on in that storied decade.



The Fall lectures began on September 4, when father and son astronauts **Owen Garriott FN'78** and **Richard Garriott MN'98** gave Clash unique perspectives on flights to Skylab 3 (1973), Spacelab 1 (1983) and the International Space Station (2008). Owen, 82, dismissed a rumor that his Skylab crew saw a UFO in the extraterrestrial sense, saying he believed the blinking red object was a satellite in a near-similar orbit. Afterward a surprise audience guest, Wilshire Associates founder and the first space tourist Dennis Tito, asked about training for the ISS toilet. The audience roared when Richard and Dennis, both of whom had flown to ISS by Soyuz rockets, revealed that preflight orientations in Russia were not 'sufficient' for use of the real thing. The spontaneous exchange was so entertaining it was written up at Space.com by a reporter in the audience.

On September 9, mountaineer **Vanessa O'Brien MN'13** wooed another packed house with tales of her recent *Explorers Grand Slam* women's world record, climbing the 'Seven Summits' and skiing to the North and South Poles in just 11 months. The 48-year-old, an ex-banker from Morgan Stanley who joined the Club this spring and has already bought a terrace paver stone, said next on her list of climbs includes *Ama Dablam*, one of the world's most beautiful mountains, and possibly *K-2*, one of the world's most deadly.

These events bring to fourteen the number of *Exploring Legends* interviews conducted by Clash in 2013. All were filmed, and they are being edited for the Club's website and historical archives. An active search is on for an *Exploring Legends* corporate sponsor; interested parties should contact Board Member Ted Janulis or Executive Director Will Roseman: (212) 628-8383.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

On July 2, pilots Andre Borschberg (left) and Bertrand Piccard (right) were guests of interviewer Jim Clash on *Exploring Legends*.

Photo: Lee Langan (from streamed viewing)

July 10 saw author/marine archaeologist Clive Cussler (right) on the end of Jim Clash's *Exploring Legends* questions.

Photo: Stacey Severn

September 4 was a 'family affair' as son/father astronauts Richard (left) and Owen Garriott were guests of Jim Clash on *Exploring Legends*.

Photo: Stacey Severn

Mountaineer Vanessa O'Brien with interviewer Jim Clash during her *Exploring Legends* interview on September 9.

Photo: Alex Serrano