

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (8 September 2021)

Attending at the Ramada – 25

Attending via Zoom – 10

Speaker: Ron Smith, “The Myth of the Amateur – A History of College Athletic Scholarships.”

Following dinner, President John Golbeck opened the meeting at 7 p.m. He thanked past president Ming Tien and the other officers for their efforts in the last, unusual year of Zoom meetings. He also saluted longtime member and past president Ed Buss, who died July 10 just shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Lee Stout introduced his guest, Dave Colton, who lives in Florida but whose years in State College included serving as sports editor of the Daily Collegian and as a development officer at Penn State. John encouraged members who have not done so to be speakers and said other members are available to help with their presentations. He said the club would be seeking new members and encouraging women, minorities and younger people to join. Club officers are thinking about varying the venues and may try to hold the June meeting at a winery or brewery. This season’s speaking lineup include two non-members with particular expertise, Ron Smith and the April 13 speaker, noted fly-fisherman Joe Humphreys. Vice President Larry Ragan encouraged members to begin thinking about participating in the 2022-23 speaker lineup and noted, as did John, that controversial topics are not off-limits.

John introduced speaker Ron Smith, a sports historian and author of 10 books who is professor emeritus in the Penn State Department of Kinesiology. He was an athlete at Northwestern University and had a brief career in professional baseball. He initiated an amicus brief for the recent NCAA v. Shawne Alston U.S. Supreme Court case regarding amateurism and the payment of athletes.

Highlights from Ron’s presentation:

-- It’s a myth that amateurism in athletics came from ancient Greece. It’s a British concept created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to separate the elite from competing against manual laborers. Americans copied many British customs and concepts, including British sports and the idea of amateurism. Still, American college athletes were paid in various ways, going back to the mid-1800s, including the first intercollegiate contest, a Harvard v. Yale crew race in 1852 at a New Hampshire resort.

-- Other examples included the tuition, meals and deals for Yale All-American football star James Hogan and the pay schedule for University of Pittsburgh football players in the 1920s and ‘30s.

-- Today, no high-level athletes are truly amateurs; they are paid in one form or another. As an example, swimmer Katie Ledecky was allowed by the NCAA to keep the \$355,000 she won for her 2016 Olympic victories when she joined the Stanford swim team.

-- College basketball star Ed O’Bannon, a member of the UCLA 1995 NCAA championship team, brought the issue of “name, image and likeness” (NIL) to greater public awareness when he sued the NCAA in 2015 and won a \$60 million settlement because it allowed his NIL to be used in video games without his consent.

-- In 2019 California passed a law prohibiting the NCAA from preventing NIL payments to college athletes in the state.

-- The issue was settled with this year’s 9-0 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Shawne Aston case (2014) against the NCAA. Alston was a West Virginia University football player who asserted that the cap on athletic scholarships violated the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. He wanted all his educational expenses paid. The Supreme Court said the NCAA “has not adopted any consistent definition of amateurism.”

-- Ron Smith’s amicus brief on the history of amateurism figured in the Supreme Court decision, with Justice Neil Gorsuch quoting from it.

Many questions and comments from member followed, indicating both their level of interest in and awareness of the issue and its future effects on college athletics and athletes.

The meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Oct. 13. The speaker will be Louise Goldschmidt; her topic, "Is That Thing Really a Mosque."

Respectfully submitted, John Dillon, recording secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (13 October 2021)

Attending at the Ramada – 22

Speaker: Louise Goldschmidt, 'Is That Thing Really a Mosque?'

President John Golbeck called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm. Reported officers' meeting, in which it was agreed to have meetings both in-person and on Zoom, depending on the Pandemic's course. He reminded members to pay their dues (\$60 for individual members, \$80 for couples). Bob Sills introduced his wife, Julianne. John introduced Ron Smith, a candidate for membership, who was voted in without opposition. The current *Torch* issue has an article about the *amicus* brief that Ron and five other scholars helped to write about so-called "amateur" athletes. John introduced the speaker, Louise Goldschmidt, her degrees, the influence of her parents, her husband, and her residency in State College.

Is That Thing Really a Mosque?

Louise began by thanking Tom Reyburn and Larry Ragan for their technical assistance. This talk is a follow-up to a previous one about American mosques, which pointed out the effects that regional differences and Muslims' lifestyles in various parts of the country had on mosque design.

**Canada.** Global warming is bad news for many countries, but good news for Canada, as it will probably make it possible for Canadians to settle farther north in their country in the future. The government is investing a lot of money in developing Canada's newest province, Nunavut, which is mostly north of the Arctic Circle. Inuits (Eskimos), who used to make their livings hunting and fishing, have been strongly encouraged to move into town. Social problems have developed as these men have been deprived of their traditional functions and status. However, two groups, one in Inuvik and another in Iqaluit, have converted to Islam and worked together to buy and install new mosques, and this has given new meaning to their lives. Both mosques have subsequently opened food banks to help support needy families, as food, especially in Inuvik, must be flown in by plane and is very expensive.

**Germany.** Turkish workers, brought in to help re-build after World War II, have now become a significant and vocal minority of the German population. Many of their mosques are controlled by the Turkish government, which supervises the education of the imams and provides them with weekly sermons, which are often pro-Turkish and anti-German. The new mosque in Cologne, built in 2015 and financed entirely by the Turkish government, makes a strong political statement, and has brought many of these tensions to the fore.

**Russian Federation.** Russia has the largest Muslim population in Europe---about 12 million according to the last census. Many of them live in Central Asia, and are migrating to Moscow and Leningrad in search of better job opportunities. The European Muslims are an older group, declining in numbers; the Central Asians are younger and are increasing in numbers. Relations between the two groups are not good. There are an estimated 2.5 million Muslims in Moscow alone, and until recently there were only four functioning mosques. Recognizing the political volatility of the situation, the Russian government in 2015, with Turkish financial assistance, was able to renovate the old Moscow Cathedral Mosque, and ease the situation.

Timbuktu, **Mali.** Timbuktu, located at the juncture of four important trade routes, was once one of the wealthiest cities in Africa. Salt, cloth, and horses from Egypt and North Africa were traded for gold, ivory and slaves from the Gold Coast. The city was also home to a prestigious university, which attracted students from all over the Muslim World. Unfortunately, it is located in a climatic zone of grassland where the climate is becoming hotter and drier, and trees are few and far between. Although the area has mosques that go back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, they are all built of adobe bricks and mud, and must be constantly maintained. This maintenance is a community effort and takes place every year.

**Saudi Arabia.** The pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, Islam's two holiest cities, takes place during a special month once a year and normally draws 2.4 million people from all over the world. However, the Covid-19 epidemic of 2020 and 2021 has greatly disrupted this and has seriously cut into foreign revenue. The Saudi government has dealt with the problem by severely limiting the number of pilgrims, insisting on quarantines and close supervision, and closely monitoring where the pilgrims can go. The area around the Ka'aba in Mecca is a dramatic example of the new rules.

Mosul, **Iraq.** Mosul's Nuri Mosque, named after local ruler Nur-ed-Din Zengi, was built in 1172 and was famous for its leaning minaret. In 2014 a UNESCO team was examining it for much-needed repairs, but that same week ISIS invaded Mosul and occupied the city. Three years later ISIS was challenged by an army of liberation, and, rather than surrendering, blew up the mosque, which was over 800 years old. The United Arab Emirates has pledged \$50.4 million to rebuild it, and an Egyptian architectural firm has won the contract to design a new mosque, but it is going to take much more than \$50.4 million to restore the old building and its surrounding historic neighborhood.

Malaysia and Indonesia. European demand for spices goes back to the Middle Ages, but in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries the usual trade routes across the Mediterranean and the Arabian Peninsula had been cut off. Europeans needed to find other routes. The Portuguese led the way in exploring the west coast of Africa. In 1497 Vasco da Gama, commanding a fleet of four ships, rounded the Cape of Good Hope, entered the then-unknown Indian Ocean, and reached the port of Calicut near the tip of India. In 1511 the Portuguese, sailing east and then south down the Malay Peninsula, entered the Strait of Malacca, and captured its fort, which controlled the Strait, which led to the Spice Islands of Indonesia. They were followed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Dutch, who established themselves at Jakarta on the island of Java, and built an empire which would last until 1949. The British, who arrived soon after, learned how to dominate the local rulers of the Malay Peninsula, and continued to do so until World War II.

Both Malaysia and Indonesia are predominantly Muslim countries but have an enormous variety of ethnic groups and a great many islands within their borders. Both countries have a hot, rainy, tropical climate. The indigenous mosque architecture reflects this. The older mosques are kampong style---built on stilts, of tough, native wood, and with steep, two- or three-tiered roofs. Modern mosques are very eclectic in style and may include any kind of architectural feature---European, Malaysian, Indian, Arab, Javanese, Chinese or modern---the sky is the limit. The Malaysians, especially, like to build their mosques on man-made islands or peninsulas, festooning them with colored lights, which are reflected in the water.

**Australia.** Historically, Australia has had a very strict immigration policy, which barred non-white people from immigrating to the country, but that has gradually loosened over the years. As of 2016 the percentage of Muslims in Australia was only 2.2%, but it has increased 15% since the 2011 census, a space of five years. Even today, Muslims often find themselves on the defensive, but there are some mosques, including two, that are decidedly modern.

Japan. The first mosque was built in the port of Kobe in 1935 and was intended for the use of foreigners. The second one, built in Tokyo in 1938, now functions as a Turkish cultural center, and is very active in giving tours to outsiders. After World War II Japan imported many "guest workers" from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia to work on reconstruction projects. Many have remained and have taken Japanese wives. Because the Japanese census does not inquire about religious preference, the number of Muslims in the country is unknown. Best current estimates are between 70,000 and 100,000.

Questions from the audience.

- Why did some Eskimos decide to convert to Islam?
- How rapidly is Islam growing in countries outside the realm of historic Islam?

- Are there any physical features that are common to all mosques?
- Comment: In Cologne Muslims are finally being allowed to make the call to prayer outside the mosque.

Discussion ensued on the role of the Turks in Germany.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Next meeting is 10 November, with a talk by Bill Arden.

Respectfully submitted, John Dillon, recording secretary

## **CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (10 November 2021)**

Attending at the Ramada – 31

Attending via Zoom – 10

Speaker: Bill Arden, “Celestial Navigation – Shackleton’s Way Home”

President John Golbeck opened the meeting at 6:56 p.m., saying he has been impressed with the growing in-person attendance. He said the idea of a May meeting at a place other than the Ramada is looking less realistic but having an extra, weekend daytime gathering at a winery or other social site will be explored. He asked for volunteers to help organize this event.

Three guests were introduced. Marylee Taylor’s guest via Zoom was Mike Johnson, a retired social psychologist. Larry Ragan introduced Scott Henderson, who recently retired after 41 years with Raytheon and briefly with Penn State’s Applied Research Lab. Scott’s field included digital signal processing, detection processing and wideband communications. Peter Jurs introduced Wayne Osgood, professor emeritus of criminology and sociology at Penn State, where he taught from 1996 to 2017. Wayne has also been on the faculty at the University of Nebraska, the University of Michigan and the Behavioral Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado. Wayne plays classical guitar and banjo. Wayne had expressed an interest in joining the club and was quickly voted in by the membership.

John introduced the speaker, Bill Arden. Bill has degrees in physics and math, an MBA and a master’s in astronomy. He lived in Minnesota for 40 years and his career included 35 years in technology management, 10 years teaching business courses and two years teaching astronomy, both at the college level. He also has a passion for sailing. Bill handed out a sextant to be passed around among the members while he told the story of Ernest Shackleton, whose 28-man expedition to the Antarctic in 1915 was shipwrecked there. While 22 men awaited his return, Shackleton and a crew of five sailed in a lifeboat to South Georgia Island, 830 miles away, using celestial navigation, standard for seafarers at the time. They returned with a rescue vessel after four and a half months and saved the remaining men.

How did Shackleton do it? Bill explained the basic concepts of celestial navigation using the sun, moon and stars, as practiced across cultures for centuries. The techniques are still in use today. The basic elements: measure the angle of the celestial object above the horizon, know what time it is, calculate your position. Bill’s slides showed the basic steps for sun navigation, the math behind it, and the purpose and use of the sextant and the annual Nautical Almanac. He also explained how factors that could cause errors are accounted for, including the need to use the geometry of spherical triangles since the Earth is round. “It’s all just math,” he said.

Other highlights: The U.S. Naval Academy stopped teaching celestial navigation in 2006 but resumed in 2015 when cyberwarfare threatened GPS signals. Celestial navigation isn’t just for sailing: Lewis and Clark used sextants to navigate across North America, and aircraft have used them as well. Numerous questions from members indicated a high level of interest in Bill’s talk.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 8 p.m.

Larry Ragan is the speaker for the Dec. 8 meeting.

Respectfully submitted, John Dillon, recording secretary.

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (8 December 2021)

Attending at the Ramada – 27

Attending via Zoom – 2

Speaker: Larry Ragan, “The Story of St. Rita’s Professional Development Academy (PDA)”

President John Golbeck opened the meeting at 7 p.m., following dinner. He reported that club treasurer Carl Sillman had died on Dec. 7 after an illness. He was 67 and had been a member for five years. John also congratulated Roger Williams on becoming president of the Centre County Historical Society. Lee Stout, who has filled in for Carl as treasurer at recent meetings, was nominated by Bob Hendrickson to be the new treasurer and was elected in a unanimous vote. John asked that members wear their masks during the meeting when not eating or drinking. In light of the increase in Covid infections in the region, he said that holding future in-person meetings would be assessed on a monthly basis.

Larry Ragan introduced his guests – Jim Diamond, an agriculture educator of 50-plus years at Penn State; Larry’s wife, Laurie, a speech therapist; and Jan Dillon, who was serving as the Zoom moderator, a role that Larry fills at other meetings. Ron Smith introduced his guest, Terry Engelder, a geologist and geosciences professor at Penn State who had a key role in the discovery and assessment of the Marcellus Shale natural gas field in Pennsylvania.

Art Goldschmidt asked for a vote of members on their preference for decaf versus regular coffee at the club meals, in order to inform the hotel. Decaf was overwhelmingly preferred.

John then introduced Larry. Here are the highlights of Larry’s presentation:

-- His professional background fit the needs of an ambition of a school in Buea, Cameroon, and he was drawn to helping. He has a Ph.D. in instructional systems and a 37-year career in continuing and distance education, course creation and professional development, as well as international education experience.

-- The project was the brainchild of Margaret Mbeseha, a Ph.D. in special education, who founded and is principal of St. Rita Inclusive School in Buea. It has 400 students, including 40-50 with special needs.

-- In Cameroon, special-needs children receive no help in the school system, and there is no teacher training for special needs. Twenty-three percent of children ages 2-9 have at least one disability; 65 percent of those are the result of illnesses, including polio, malaria, leprosy and measles. Margaret’s vision was to provide St. Rita’s teachers with basic special education knowledge and skills and to identify therapy consulting services for special-needs children there.

-- She posted a request for assistance in State College’s Our Lady of Victory parish bulletin. She had attended the church while living here (she now lives in Virginia). Larry and Laurie stepped up to help.

-- A faculty of volunteer experts and specialists was assembled from around the state, plus a lead faculty member at St. Rita’s. Training of St. Rita’s teachers began in January 2019 using technology and software including Moodle and Zoom. The first course taught topics in special education and physical, occupational and speech therapy. St. Rita teachers, often using just their cell phones, met with the volunteer faculty weekly on Zoom. Rolling power outages, unstable Wi-fi connections and the cost of bandwidth were regular challenges for the teachers.

-- The impact of the course was powerful for the teachers, faculty, the children, their parents and their community. More teachers wanted the training. Children’s lives and education were improved.

-- For the professional development academy’s future, goals include stabilizing funding and finding a university to take it on.

A number of questions and comments from the members followed.

The meeting ended at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Dillon, recording secretary



## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (12 Jan 12, 2022)

President John Golbeck called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He announced that the Club officers decided, due to Covid-19's resurgence, to replace in-person meetings with Zoom meetings from January through March. They will decide then whether or not we can meet in person in April through June. Peter Jurs, this month's scheduled presenter, requested that his presentation be postponed until a time when he can speak in person. Carolyn Wilhelm has offered to speak this month. Because of the death of Carl Sillman, who was due to speak in March, Art Goldschmidt will talk on some aspect of the contemporary Middle East. John congratulated Roger Williams on his election to head the Centre County Historical Society. John called for a vote on admitting Terry Engelder to membership. Lee Stout moved, Roger Williams seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Art Goldschmidt reported on the plan of some members of the International Association of Torch Clubs to write a history of the IATC in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1924. He also announced that the IATC Convention will take place in Saratoga Springs, NY, on 16-19 June 2022. He invited the members to consider attending. John Golbeck and Larry Ragan announced that our club will soon have its own web page.

John introduced tonight's speaker, Carolyn Wilhelm, who gave an illustrated Torch Talk entitled "Art Inspired by Homer's *Iliad*." She began with the geographical and historical context of ancient Greece and explained that Homer's epic poem dealt at length with only an episode that occurred near the end of the ten-year siege of Troy carried out by Mycenae aided by Sparta. A complete video of her talk, including the slides that clarified the geography of ancient Greece and of the siege and showed statues, amphorae, wine cups, tapestries, and paintings that depict scenes from the siege and the fights that are described in the *Iliad*. Carolyn took care to describe the details of the depictions and the social context within which the European artists, Joachim Wtewael, Peter Paul Rubens, and Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, did their work. In addition, she gave a lucid explanation of the siege of Troy and the significance of Homer's account of the gods and men involved in the events. The video was posted on the Internet by Larry Ragan on 14 January 2022 at 10:33 a.m. and all members should have received it.

Questions following Carolyn's talk: did Ingres intend to make the Greek God Zeus resemble Napoleon (yes), ate the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* still taught in public high schools (probably not), has anyone depicted the beauty of Helen of Troy (Homer never mentions Helen), and why are lions depicted in the landscape (in ancient times the climate was different, and lions and other tropical animals could be found in the lands around the Mediterranean).

John announced that Dick Jones will speak in the 9 February virtual meeting on the MIT-Sloan ENROADS Climate Simulator. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. Attendance—27.

Respectfully Submitted

Art Goldschmidt, corresponding secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (12 Feb, 2022)

President John Golbeck opened the meeting at 7 p.m., following 30 minutes of online socializing. He remarked how recent presentations have been relevant to events and topics in the news. As an example, he noted that the coverage of the James Webb deep space telescope talked about how Lagrange Points in its orbit were given names from ancient Greece, and that Carolyn Wilhelm's January presentation on art inspired by Homer's "Iliad" helped him know more about those names.

John also reported that the club's new website, which he built, has just been launched. He asked for thoughts about putting a member roster on the public part of the site or giving members an opt-out. Several members offered ideas, including listing members' names but not email addresses.

Minutes of meetings also will be on the site: <http://centralpatorch.org>

John asked for guests to be introduced. Dick Jones introduced his wife, Ann, and the program's co-presenter, Sylvia Neely. Sylvia is a retired Penn State professor of French history and volunteer co-leader of the State College chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.

John introduced Carol Baker, an associate research professor in microbiology.

Peter Jurs introduced Kim Steiner, retired Penn State professor of forest biology and the retired director of The Arboretum at Penn State.

Speakers: Dick Jones and Sylvia Neely, "An Interactive Demonstration of the MIT-Sloan EN-ROADS Climate Simulator."

John then introduced the night's speakers, Dick Jones and Sylvia Neely. Dick is senior consultant for the R.W. Jones Agency, a national media relations firm, and in semi-retirement has been active in the Citizens' Climate Lobby, where he works with Sylvia.

Dick said the purpose of the MIT EN-ROADS Climate Simulator was to "help people teach themselves" about what combination of manmade changes could hold the increase in global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Without changes it has been projected to rise by 3.6 degrees C by 2100. The interactive program is used around the world and has been translated into many languages. It can be found at this site:

<https://en-roads.climateinteractive.org/scenario.html?v=22.1.1>

EN-ROADS is the acronym for energy rapid overview and decision support. The simulator presents 18 public policy tools, or levers, within six categories: energy supply, transport, buildings and industry, growth, land and industry emissions, and carbon removal. Changes made by increasing any one or a combination of those levels show in a change in the temperature rise by 2100. Sylvia explained each of the policy tools and demonstrated how the simulator calculates effects from policy changes.

Within the categories, the policy tools are:

Energy supply: coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear, bio-energy, renewables, near-zero carbon, and carbon price.

Transport: energy efficiency, electrification.

Buildings and industry: energy efficiency, electrification

Growth: population, resources growth

Land and industry emissions: deforestation, methane and other

Carbon removal: afforestation, technological

The reason for concern is that the Earth's atmospheric carbon dioxide is higher than in the last 800,000 years. A chart showed that it did not rise above about 300 parts per million until 1950 and has since risen to about 410 ppm.

Dick and Sylvia encouraged members to use Zoom chat to type in suggested changes in the 18 levers. Fifteen suggestions quickly followed and the results of these suggested changes were shown on the simulator on members' Zoom screens.

Of the policy tool changes suggested, the carbon tax provided the biggest effect among the options. Methane reduction also showed results but faces cultural resistance around the world since it would require a sharp reduction in meat consumption. However, as Dick and Sylvia emphasized and as the simulator showed, no one change produced the desired outcome; it would take a number of changes in combination to reach the goal. Discussion also included the political difficulties and realities of making big changes.

Dick urged members to look into the Citizens' Climate Lobby and its State College chapter: (<https://statecollegeccl.org/>)

Attending – 25

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Dillon, recording secretary

## **CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (9 Mar, 2022)**

President John Golbeck opened the meeting at 7 p.m., after 30 minutes of online socializing. He reported that the officers had met and, with guidance and data from Dr. Charles Maxin, decided to resume in-person meeting at the Ramada for April, May and June. Attending members are asked to be double-vaccinated and to wear a mask when not eating or drinking. The meeting will also be on Zoom for those who want to attend remotely.

John remarked, as he did at the last meeting, that members' talks continue to be relevant, citing Bill Arden's November talk on "Celestial Navigation – Shackleton's Way Home" and the just-announced discovery of Shackleton's sunken ship, Endurance, lost since 1915.

John also said he spent two days researching Torch Club records kept in the Pattee Library Special Collections. Among the items, he found the club charter, minutes of the first meeting and the list of 39 charter members. He has added some historical records to the club's new website, <https://centralpatorch.godaddysites.com>, including the past 10 years of meeting minutes.

John introduced several guests: Connie Sherman, who was with Bill Arden, and Carol Baker. Art Goldschmidt announced that he was working on the Centennial History project and he invited members to attend the IATC Convention, which will be held from June 16-19 in Saratoga, NY.

Scheduled speaker: Art Goldschmidt, "Afghanistan: History and Mystery."

John introduced the night's speaker, Art, professor emeritus of Middle Eastern history at Penn State. However, as Art began his presentation a bad internet connection prevented members from hearing Art adequately. John then decided it would be best to move Art's presentation to the June meeting at the Ramada.

Before wrapping up the meeting, John gave members a tour of the club website, highlighting the tabs at the top of home page. "About us" includes club history, members' names and past presidents. A form allows interested persons to contact the president about joining. "Historical corner" includes minutes from 2012 on, and the annual trifold program schedules from 1955 on (these are in the Pattee archives, which includes material from 1947 to 2006).

Vice president Larry Ragan suggested the idea of a panel of experts as an optional presentation format, possibly including one guest expert. He urged members who have not given a talk in two or three years to consider doing so. Art Goldschmidt asked Larry to reach out to those who have not given a talk in a while.

Attending – 23

The meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Dillon, recording secretary

## **CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (13 April, 2022)**

President John Golbeck called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. There were two guests. Peter Jurs introduced Kim Steiner, the former director of the PSU Arboretum. Carolyn Wilhelm introduced Kevin Alloway, Professor Emeritus of Neural Biology in Penn State's College of Medicine. Art Goldschmidt announced the IATC Convention, which will be held in Saratoga Springs, NY, on 16-19 June.

Larry Ragan introduced Joe Humphreys, who is internationally renowned as a fly fisherman. Aged 93, he has introduced famous new techniques of fly fishing. He is enthusiastic about teaching people formally and informally about caring for the environment, especially water quality. Penn State's program in fly-fishing now bears his name. He caught his first trout in 1936 and is still fishing now. George Harvey was his mentor in fly fishing technique. Runoff pollution from local chemical industry ruined Spring Creek in 1956, wiping out the Green Drake (a kind of fly that fish like). State College's treated sewage flows into the Duck Pond which then overflows into Spring Creek. This should be remedied. Joe showed the prize-winning film "Live the Stream: The Legacy of Joe Humphreys." It depicts the forest environment and trout streams, teaching us how to manipulate the fishing rod, the line, and the fly on its end to outsmart a fish and catch it. In most cases one unhooks and releases it back into the stream. He loves the running waters, their sound and even taste.

The film shows a tool that makes bird calls to attract wild turkeys. Joe also demonstrates how to cast, overhead, sidearm, even from the ground; but he mainly seems to throw the line out into the stream. One also learns how he manufactures his own flies. The film pays tribute to George Harvey, who spoke about how trout have become much scarcer now than when he began fly fishing. He demonstrates his technique. Joe notes how fishing with George laid the basis for their lifelong friendship. Fishing is the "greatest leisure time activity there is," one that you can do all year round. Joe enjoys teaching and helping people. He urges the viewer to protect the earth, the forest, and the streams. Physical training is necessary. Excitement of novice fisherwoman. Joe recalled taking George to Spruce Creek when he was in his nineties. Let's enjoy the fishing while we can. How does he feel about stocked fish? He accepts stocking streams. Spring Creek used to be fed by many springs, but most no longer flow.

The growing population of the area causes more demand for water. He enjoys cooking and eating fish occasionally, but usually catches and releases them, using forceps. You must never touch a fish directly when you take it out of the water, for handling it kills it. Nowadays, fish are smaller because so many big ones have been caught before they could reproduce. Fishing in Pennsylvania is gaining popular appeal. People come from afar to fish here. Only president he ever fished with is Jimmy Carter, who is excellent and eager to learn more. He advises fishermen to stand away from the stream because fish can see them if they stand in or near the water. Fly fishing goes back to the ancient Macedonians. Although Spring Creek supports a healthy fish population, there are other waters around the country that support larger numbers such as Idaho's Green River. Joe hopes to fish for the rest of his life, hoping to snag a certain 20-pound brown trout, even if he must live to 108 to do so.

Next meeting on 11 May will feature Bob Sills, speaking on "Outward Bound."

Attendance was 28 in person and 7 on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (11 May, 2022)

President John Golbeck opened the meeting at 6:52 p.m., following dinner. Guests were introduced: Julianne Sills, wife of the night's speaker; past member Lou Persic and his wife, Freddie; and Kim Steiner, a second-time guest.

John reported on the officers' meeting on May 6. The bylaws were discussed but no changes proposed. The club is thriving, with 47 members, up from the low 30s several years ago. He reminded members of the "household member" category in the bylaws for \$20 a year and urged members to "consider bringing your spouse or significant other." He reported that this year the club experimented with two outside speakers, sports historian Ro Smith, who has since joined the club, and noted fly fisherman Joe Humphreys. Next year, a slot for one outside speaker is planned.

John also said he has spent time with the Torch Club's historical records in the Pattee Library. The State College chapter was founded in 1955. He has put each year's trifold on the club website. Several highlights of his research: Years ago, the application process was quite involved and has since been streamlined; in 1982 the bylaws were changed to remove men-only references, but it wasn't until 1991 that the club voted to admit women.

The club has one vote in the IATC vice presidential election, which has two candidates. After previous consultation with Corresponding Secretary Art Goldschmidt, John asked members for their assent to vote for Art Bloom for that position. Assent was given.

Lee Stout gave the treasurer's report. There is a balance of \$2,566.53, which will be \$2,021 after an outstanding Ramada bill is paid. "Where we normally are" at this time of year, he said.

Vice President Larry Ragan said next season's speakers have been tentatively lined up, except for the May and June meetings. Jim Serene then offered to speak in May. Larry said the December meeting will try a new format – an open mic with topic updates from past speakers.

Speaker: Bob Sills, "Outward Bound"

John then introduced the night's speaker, Bob Sills. After 15 years in the construction industry Bob enrolled in a master's program at Rutgers University and became an ag-science teacher. He entered the doctoral program and completed his degree in vocational-technical education. His dissertation, "The Effects of an Outward Bound Course on Two Dimensions of Teachers' Sense of Efficacy," propelled him into a 16-year career with Outward Bound. Bob began as a lead instructor in the open enrollment program but moved into working with educators and corporate executives in leadership training and team-building programs. He worked with many Fortune 500 companies and universities.

Highlights of Bob's presentation:

- Outward Bound is a nonprofit experiential education organization. Participants must interact with instructors and other participants in challenging environments and reflect on their experiences.

- Its history goes back to the early 1940s when Lawrence Holt, a shipping line owner, sought a training program to toughen young sailors to survive if their ships were torpedoed. Kurt Hahn was headmaster of Gordonstoun School in Scotland, which Holt's son attended. Hahn had developed physical and wilderness challenges to teach perseverance, skill, teamwork, leadership and service. In 1941 Holt and Hahn opened the first Outward Bound school in Wales, using the action learning cycle model.

- Josh Minor brought Outward Bound to the U.S. in 1962, opening the first school in Marble, CO. A separate program opened in Puerto Rico for Peace Corps recruits. Several others followed. Today there are 35 schools worldwide, with 10 in the U.S. Outward Bound USA charts new schools, provides safety

design and monitoring, and maintains a website listing courses. Each school is independent; together they serve 250,000 students each year.

-- In its early years, many teachers took courses and became instructors. At one Denver high school, the principal noticed the changes in his teachers – stricter with student achievement, giving students more independence, encouraging student participation and decision-making, communicating better and being willing to take more risks. Such results at Outward Bound programs led to the development of an Educational Services Division for teachers and administrators, and the opening of Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound schools, a whole-school reform program based on interdisciplinary thematic learning. Today 150 public and public charter school participate.

-- In the mid-1970s, Outward Bound Professional was developed to serve team building and leadership training needs of corporations and both public and private companies. Outward Bound facilitators and program managers develop a program to meet the assessed needs of a particular organization. Programs can be delivered anywhere, from the wilderness to hotel ball rooms. Bob spent many years with this and Educational Services as a program manager.

-- A small part of Outward Bound is its adjudicated youth programs for teen offenders who are given the choice of prison or an Outward Bound course.

-- By far the largest of Outward Bound's offerings are the open enrollment programs for anyone who can pass the physical. Catalogs are online; courses run from seven days to a semester at various locations; main activities include backpacking, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, dog sledding, and more. Courses are wilderness- and urban-based. For instructors, two skill sets are needed – the hard, technical skills of having mastered the activity, and the soft skills of managing a group. Briefs and debriefs of participants are essential.

-- Bob then described the general steps commonly experienced by open-enrollment participants, culminating with a final expedition in which the students are on their own as a team. This is followed by a final debrief. "It tends to be a very emotional time and often lasts well into the night," Bob said.

-- Bob said he fully retired from Outward Bound at 71 "with the belief that I had made a difference in the lives of many folks and organizations."

A number of questions from members followed. The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Attending – 28 in person, eight on Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

John Dillon, recording secretary

## **CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (8 June, 2022)**

President John Golbeck cancelled the meeting due to Covid-19 concerns.