

ROTARY CLUB OF THE NORTH FORK VALLEY

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WEB SITES: www.rotary.org

www.rotary5470.org

www.paoniarotary.org

LAST MEETING:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BOD will consider a fund raising event for the PHS football uniforms. The State Champ football team from PHS will be guests at the Bronco/San Diego Team tonight!!!

December 29 at 2 PM there will be a holiday party at Kevin and Jackie Park's to watch the Broncos.

Election of officers for the July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Motion by Bill Barton, second by Greg Thompson for unanimous approval of the slate nominated as published in the 12/12/13 bulletin. Passed unanimously. President elect will be selected in January, 2014.

PROGRAM:

CRAIG CHILDS was our storyteller. He is an acclaimed author and lives near Crawford. He is a traveler and author living in sometimes a scary life. He has just been walking across the White Sands, New Mexico for the

The following is a very small part of what I found on the internet about Craig.

Craig Childs writes about the relationship between humans, animals, landscape, and time. His stories come from visceral, personal experience, whether in the company of illicit artifact dealers or in deep wilderness. He has published more than a dozen critically acclaimed books, and is a commentator for National Public Radio's Morning Edition. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Men's Journal, Outside, and Orion. At High Country News, he's a contributing editor, and he teaches writing for both University of Alaska in Fairbanks and Southern New Hampshire University.

past several days. The dunes remind him of the Arctic. He is writing a book about evidence of ancient man and animals. He has traveled in remote areas, like on missile ranges where few other



people go. Local photographer, Jordan Schevene recorded his trip. He found mammoth tracks from about 20,000 years ago. Other tracks might have been saber tooth tiger or dire wolf.

He reported that in NM the wind blew all the time, carrying fine gypsum sand into everything and he proceeded to pour some of it out of his boots in this meeting.

This type of wilderness experience is very elemental and pure. It is what he craves.

He used to climb a lot, but that changed when he had children. A handhold lets loose, and you die. In a sandy wilderness you have several days to figure it out before you die.

Another trip to the sand dune sea in SW New Mexico was a 3 week challenge. Nothing but sand in every direction. They walked barefoot at night, but had to be wary of rattlesnakes. With nothing to look at, one hallucinates a lot. Using their peripheral vision they saw many more shooting stars than usual. The dune landscape reduces vision to the elemental and allows us to see stars in the daytime.

The most remote place in the world he has been to is the Greenland Ice Sheet.

He travels about 1 1/2 years gathering information, before writing

a book. The next trip will be to the Boundary Waters in Minnesota on a dog sled to look at a 12,000 year old site. Next, will be spear hunting wild boars in Oklahoma.

THIS WEEK:

We will hear from JASON BEASON, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

"CIVILIZATION WAS NEVER destined to be satisfied with those things which the unaided mind and hand working to the maximum of efficiency and in coordination could never had made the product of a Raphael or an Angelo, nor could have written the Declaration of Independence. Those tasks drew upon the supreme resource of man, his emotional instinct, his heart. When a job is so big that head and hand fail, try a little heart in it. The greatest of all achievements of which mortal man is capable are the result of heart and head and hand working in perfect coordination.

Paul Harris, ROTARIAN, September 1912

