FLAG REPORT FOR FLAG NO. 75
PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO THE EXPLORERS CLUB BY:
LEONARD A. WEAKLEY, JR., MN ‘97
ECOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PENGUINS OF ISLA NOIR
DECEMBER 7-17, 2012

Participants: Leonard A. Weakley, Jr., MN ’97 Cincinnati, OH USA
David A. Oehler, FN ’07 Cincinnati, OH USA
W. Roger Fry, MN ’97 Cincinnati, OH USA

The exploration team left Cincinnati on December 7, 2012 after a delay of a couple of weeks due to transportation issues with our charter ship. The team arrived at Punta Arenas, Chile on December 8 to discover that the water transportation previously scheduled was not going to arrive in time to get us to Isla Noir. Alternate transportation was secured from DAP airlines via helicopter, but due to limited passenger capacity only three of the team members could be accommodated on the helicopter out to the island.

Expedition Purpose and Results:

The goal of the 2012 expedition was to continue our scientific investigation to gather pertinent data on the ecology of Rockhopper penguins in Southern Chile on the island of Isla Noir. Team of Weakley, Oehler and Fry landed on Isla Noir on December 14 by helicopter on the same beach where our 2003 expedition had our encampment. The team then climbed the mountain side to a previously surveyed Rockhopper colony and began gathering data. Measurements were taken on approximately 15 Rockhoppers, measuring the width, depth and length of their beaks, the length of their wings, the color of their beaks, the number and length of the yellow plumage, number of their claws and the weight of the penguins. Blood samples were also taken then Lotek Brand Ltd. 2400 Geolocator Archival Tags were then secured on the penguins’ wings and they were released. All 24 Geolocator Archival Tags were deployed throughout the colony. Coincident with the data gathering, a solar powered remote camera was secured to a tree to document colony activity throughout the year. After a few photo shots of the team displaying the Explorers Club flag in the colony, the team then returned to the waiting helicopter and flew back to Punta Arenas, Chile. The team then returned to Cincinnati on December 17, 2012.

The current expedition plans are to return to Isla Noir in December 2013 to retrieve the Geolocator Archival Tags and the remote camera while securing some additional updated data on the Rockhoppers. All of our goals were completed on this expedition and the Team is looking forward to next year to collect the results of our recent efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures
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Len Weakley retrieving Rockhopper Penguins for study and tagging  December 14, 2012