



# LEATHERBACK TURTLE NEWS™



Volume 3 Issue 1

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July 1, 2009



Welcome to the third issue of our Leatherback Turtle News Letter. We are late in sending this edition late to you because ...well because... There are many events happening with the Foundation; often some develop

and require time to resolve that the time just runs away to get the issues out to you. Liz has added her own "corner" to report on items she feels important to show you. See "Liz's Corner" on last page.

We have embarked on a very aggressive and promising research year on the beaches. Our three internationally acclaimed coral and turtle Marine Biologists (Volunteers, all) who outlined the refining of our data collections based on the results to date and identified some added research efforts reviewed our data from the past 4 seasons. We are embarked on these activities now. I recently returned from the beach where we explained the different activities to our village staffs. This added effort DOES require your financial support, if we are to be successful. Please help us with your Donations mailed either direct or via Pay Pal (instructions are in our web site). Send us what you might spend on a movie and popcorn or a dinner or a party. **We DO need the help; and need it right now!** That we learn will have a positive effect on the seafoods your children may enjoy.

*Larry McKenna*



## THERE REALLY IS A SANTA!

As we send this news for you, even months post the event all of us remain HUMBLED over the happening.



In mid December, We received a phone call from the executive secretary of a private family foundation of whose name I was not aware. The Knopf Family Foundation. She explained that our non-profit Foundation was selected for a significant Grant in 2008 from this Foundation (who remains away from the media circus).

The news was exciting that we had been identified to be a Grant recipient. Follow on searches of the web and other places failed to turn up any information as to ... is this "for real"? We were stunned over the news and wondered who from the family foundation became aware of our efforts.

On December 20, the check arrived! Christmas took on a different meaning because of the Knopf family deciding to help us. The funds were badly needed to help pay for the 2008 on the beach expenses and developing the research data we collected for examination and to base our 2009 research activities upon. THANK YOU... THANK YOU --- Knopf Family for assisting us. The Leatherbacks have a better opportunity to survive because of your generosity because we now are able to obtain a better focus on the important data, which has always been over looked that are quite important to understand the extinction dilemma better --- and be in a stronger position to implement corrective actions.

## VISIT US AT DEMA, ORLANDO, NOVEMBER 4-7

S.O.L.O. WILL AGAIN EXHIBIT AT the International Diving trade exhibition --- DEMA--- in Orlando, FL between November 4th through 8th, 2009. We will be located at space # 2427 We will be there to discuss the critical survival situation which threatens the huge sea turtle and the marine damages its loss is causing to the Pacific Oceans.



We will display the donated original paintings of WYLAND, ROGEST and HILLER and other talented artists who have donated paintings as a method of generating funds for the Foundation. Larry McKenna, our Foundation Director will present updated speeches of our 2009 on the beach activities each day. Please check the DEMA show schedule for room # and times. These are updates not to be missed.

Shop in our new Leatherback Boutique at DEMA for unique and special hand made gifts. That Jolly & Happy time of year will be arriving shortly after DEMA.



## Sorong, Papua, Indonesia, May 9, 2009

### S.O.L.O./Y.A.L./PAPUA GOVERNMENT AND VIL- LAGE LEADERS CONCLUDE A HISTORIC MARA- THON WORKING SESSION TO AGREE ON 2009 LEATHERBACK TURTLE RESEARCH AT JAMS- BURS-MEDI BEACHES.



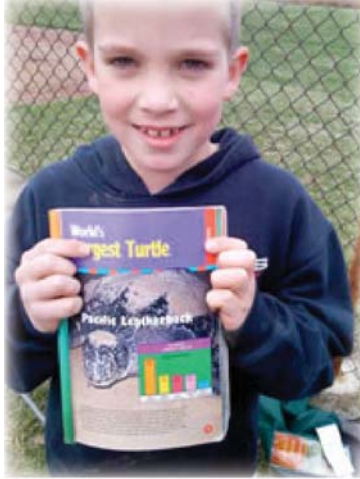
Parties to the Agreement: **Sitting; (L- R) Butel Sambur, Indonesian Conservation Dept. On Site Beach Manager; Deminicus Yecsawen, Government Head Man; Martinus Yessa, Village Head Man & Land Owner; Isaac Yessa, Beach Staff Member. Top: Larry McKenna, Founder of S.O.L.O.; Akil Yusuf, YAL-NGO Director; Victor Sunday, Government Conservation**

By the glow of late evening candles, the assembly shown above concluded a day and night long discussion of the Leatherback turtle tasks to be accomplished during the CY 2009 nesting season, which begins in May and ends in November. This is the first time where all components of the Indonesian Government and the Village leaders met with the Indonesian NGO partner of S.O.L.O. and the S.O.L.O. Foundation.

Many issues were discussed and agreed to, including the tasks S.O.L.O. with its International volunteer PhD Marine Biologists and turtle veterinarian developed research agendas based on past years of the NGO's activities and active Leatherback research. Their collective counsel will be used to obtain missing nest data to be, over time, S.O.L.O. and the scientific community may be in a better position to quantify missing answers, which directly relate to the efforts of extinction avoidance for this endangered species. Issues as to pay and compensations at each level were discussed and agreed to.

## OUR YOUNGEST SUPPORTER

Meet Luke Elsen. Luke is our youngest Leatherback supporter. He reads a lot (his favorite pass time). Luke came



Luke Elsen.  
Photo by Peaches Haas.

across an article in the magazine he holds for his photo on the Leatherbacks. He began asking many, many questions, which his Mom, Lynda referred to one of our Foundation Advisors, Peaches Haas who is a long-term Elsen family friend. Peaches was able to answer Luke's questions (he asks a lot) and raise his interest in the Leatherback turtle plight. Now Luke is our 7-year-old helper in the Cleves, OH (near Cincinnati) area.

Luke is the # 4 son of six boys in the family. In addition to reading, he does enjoy being active in math quizzes, and science projects. Out of doors, his love of football and baseball often drives the family to fun distraction. He is reading his age in school levels. 7th grade reading. Lynda, his Mom hopes ... "His love to learn new stuff never dies". Ohio has spawned many American heroes. Luke may well be on his way for his generation. Luke, we are PLEASED to have you on board!

## MEET INDONESIA'S YOUNGEST LEATHERBACK TURTLE VOLUNTEER

Meet Justin Howard. He is an 11th grader at Ipeka International Christian School in west Jakarta, Indonesia's sprawling capital city.

Justin contacted S.O.L.O. over 1 year ago by surfing on his computer and found our Web site. Frequently since then Justin has peppered us with all manner of questions concerning the extinction crisis facing the Leatherbacks. He has attempted to engage class mates in the information sharing and in extolling them to join him in spreading the awareness of the situation here in his own nation. He will succeed as time pushes forward. Justin has the firm support in his activities from a super keen family.

He is 16 and about to begin his senior year of high school. Justin's education in University is to be a Marine Biologist and join in



Global efforts to save our oceans. Justin can be e-mailed at: [pandaren\\_73@hotmail.com](mailto:pandaren_73@hotmail.com)

## FULL TIME BEACH MANAGER SIGNS CONTRACT WITH YAL//S.O.L.O.

After two years of effort, YAL and S.O.L.O. have succeeded in locating the "Right Man for the Right" job way out in remote Papua. The on going research activities are, at best spotty because a lack of constant supervision of both men and equipment. Finally, we have crossed that bridge in the signing of Beutel Samber for the position of Nesting Beach manager on the Jamsburs-medi beaches where S.O.L.O. conducts its nesting activity research via YAL – our Indonesian associate NGO.



Samber is a turtle specialist  
Samber signs 1-year contract as  
Beach Manager. Akil,  
YAL Director Looks on

Samber (out there most go by only one name; the last name, as no genealogy or family heredity trees exist) is one of two highly trained Leatherback experts in Papua. He has been trained by NOAA experts during former occasional research trips to the region. Samber is a turtle specialist

with the local Government in Papua at the same sets of locations so he can do double duty in these same remote locations. He is well qualified to teach other Papuans the ways of conducting research to obtain better and more real time information. His duties will include daily management of the village researchers, train them for added responsibilities and become responsible for all S.O.L.O. imbedded assets on the beach. Our researches are required to provide Samber with frequent written sets of research data, which will come to us for science evaluations, by our panel of PhD turtle experts.

## LORIMAR GROUP DONATES BADLY NEEDED RADIOS FOR BEACH COMMUNICATIONS



The LORIMAR GROUP of El Cajon, CA has wonderfully donated VHF long range, hand held, and digital radios to our Papua beach research activities. The radios were badly needed to allow our village researchers to communicate over an 18 km long nesting beach. The researchers are divided into 4 cells along this beach. Constant communication is necessary to allow the men to report nesting and hatching events as they occur, as well as wild pig sightings so the men and dogs can gather for a pig hunt.



**Four Lorimar VHF Radios  
being shipped to the Beaches**

Often, as in the situation of a need to relocate a Leatherback nest, added help is necessary. The radios allow instant communication and then our yellow boat is put to sea with the necessary men and equipment.



LORIMAR was founded by former Navy SEAL, Mike Johnson, who now serves as President and CEO. He is a Disabled Veteran. Under Mike's guidance, LORIMAR has become a center for radio technology, developing, manufacturing and integrating off the shelf products for a wide and expanding array of customers. He and his staff are super motivated to satisfy the requests and designs of their customers. They listen and deliver. The Leatherbacks Thank you-all and our Foundation also Thank you. Mike, you and your Group are helping us tremendously.

### OUR PUBLISHER

Some days Magic things do happen. During the Our World Underwater Exposition in Chicago, we met up with Peter Symes from Copenhagen. He was exhibiting to promote his internet dive magazine..."X-Ray Magazine". As we spoke of many things, a bond developed for all the right reasons. Peter took a sincere interest in the objectives and achievements our Foundation is attempting and made an agreement to publish all news about what we are accomplishing. His Internet magazine and related publications have an International audience which exceeds 250,000 readers.

In between our newsletters, you can read about us, monthly on X-Ray Magazine. [www.xray-mag.com](http://www.xray-mag.com) His site contains an anthology of what is happening in the oceans, good and bad. The color process he uses is amazing in its definition and quality. His current issue is #29; shows a tremendous staying power in the market. See MORE of our Foundation in X-Ray! Thank you Peter!



Peter Symes, Editor & Publisher  
, X-Ray Magazine

## PIONEER RESEARCH CAMERAS AT WORK IN PAPUAN JUNGLES

Sorong, Papua, Indonesia May 9, 2009



SeaLife Underwater Cameras

Thanks to the courtesies of Pioneer Research, a quantity of the Sea Life Reef Master Mini cameras were donated to assist in Leatherback Turtle conservation and research on a very remote beach in Papua, Indonesia. The cameras will allow us to gather night data on each female Leatherback which comes to the shore to nest and begin a digital photo tracking library of each. This data along with tagging of the nesting Leatherbacks will permit a better method of counting the females when they nest. No data exists on the male Leatherbacks because they spend their life in the oceans.



Akil Yussuf, Director of YAL Demonstrates the use of the Pioneer Sea Life Camera to Abner Yenjau and Martinus Yessa of the Papuan Village Staff



Abner Yenjau Taking His 1st Photos with the Sea Life Camera

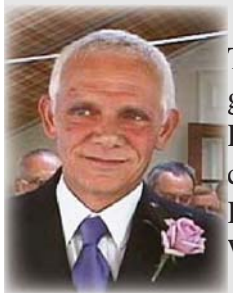
The Sea Life camera is uniquely capable of taking digital photos in the remote locations because of its rugged// waterproof to 40 meter design, where all parts are sealed except for battery compartment which has a waterproof “o ring” to keep moisture out. Its design is a true “point and shoot” which allows it to function well by basic educated peoples and survive. Its rubberized and shock proof design will help preserve the photo quality where the camera will be dropped in the sand or ocean from time to time (by mistake, of course).

These photos were made with a Sea Life camera. Abner is the beach manager of the working staff of Papuans who will do the applied research for S.O.L.O.

Save Our Leatherbacks Operation (S.O.L.O.) is a non profit; IRS Certified 501(c)(3) Foundation. Our successes in this critical research can only be accomplished by Donations as Pioneer Research has provided. What CAN YOU help us with????

Web site: [www.saveourleatherbacks.org](http://www.saveourleatherbacks.org) E-Mail [info-saveourleatherbacks@earthlink.net](mailto:info-saveourleatherbacks@earthlink.net)

### WE WELCOME OUR SCRIBE!



Graham Mead

Through most fortunate circumstances (Graham married well to Andrea and now has feet and golf clubs/SCUBA gear on two Continents), Graham has agreed to be the Foundation Scribe. He will review all documents (including this Newsletter) we create and suggest applicable changes, considering his exulted experiences as to the context of word choices and meaning. In future releases do not be surprised if you read a bit of “blarney” and British humor therein. We are most fortunate to have Graham helping. You can meet Graham and Andrea at DEMA

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## INDONESIAN NAVY CONTINUES TO INTERDICT ILLEGAL LONG LINE BOATS

Sorong, Papua, Indonesia. The Indonesian Navy based in Sorong and in Manokwari continues a previously reported active intercepting and boarding/seizing long line boats that enter Indonesian waters to illegally take the large tuna stocks. The boats have been observed off the Leatherback nesting beaches in abeam formations about 5 miles to seaward dragging their hooks to catch any fish which swims by INCLUDING our Leatherbacks on the way and from to the nesting beaches.



Indonesian Navy Crews Secure Seized Illegal Long Line Boats

The crews (mainly from Philippines, Taiwan & Japan) are allowed to return to their Nation as long as all expenses are paid. Then the boats are sold (if in a decent condition) Derived funds remain with the Navy to finance further pro fish activities.

### EAT LEATHERBACK TURTLE MEAT – YOU MIGHT DIE!!!

Following is a true story exactly as it was written.

Consumed Leatherback Turtle meat; 2 citizen of Mentawai, Sumatra Died, and 20 people in critical condition

PADANG (Sumatra) - About 20 people citizen of village Cimpungan, Siberut Tengah, Regent Mentawai Islands, Province Sumatera Barat, had poison symptoms after they ate a Leatherback turtle. 2 were dead in this case. Obou (23), one of the villagers said, they had a party on March 5, but started to complain of sickness on Sunday. One of the villager name Ginda died, and the next morning, another one named Felik followed,” said Obou, Monday (9/3/2009). Not only 2 villagers dead, another 20 people were brought to nearest clinic of Puskesmas Cikabalan, about 2 hours by boat.

Head of Puskesmas Cikabalan, Marinus confirmed about the 20 people who are having treatment in his clinic. “they were poisoned because of consumed Leatherback turtle. We gave them medication. 2 of them have to stay in the clinic, while the rest can go home. Marinus will stand by if there are other citizen come with same symptoms. “Implication of the poison is quite long, he said.

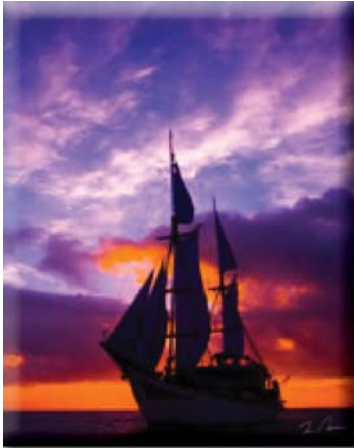
Based on data gathered by Okezone, that people had poison because of eating Leatherback turtle is not first time happen, Happened before in 2005 where 2 people died, and 2007 was 12 people.

The Leatherback turtle is categorized as luxurious food for Mentawai. So they keep consuming this even they know what has happened before. Villagers also do not know if any research has been done to find out what kind of poison contained in the turtle.



**DUHHHHH THIS IS ALSO A STORY ABOUT COLLECTIVE STUPIDITY!  
LESSONS RELEARNED. EAT LEATHERBACK TURTLE MEAT --- AND YOU  
DIE.**

## TIM ROCK ---INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED PHOTOGRAPHER & AUTHOR DONATES ART PHOTO TO RAISE FUNDS



**Red Sky**



**Tim Rock**

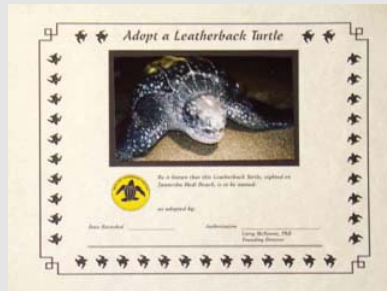
World famous underwater photographer and author, Tim Rock of Guam, USA has donated an original signed and numbered photo to our Foundation with copyright permission to sell 20 copies as another method to raise funds. The photos are processed in 11 x 14 inch size on high quality mat paper. The photos are available via our Leatherback Boutique as can be seen in our web site home page. Just click on the Boutique logo. Thanks VERY MUCH, Tim

## NOW YOU CAN ADOPT A LIVING LEATHERBACK TURTLE

Thanks to the artistic and design help of Peaches Hass and Elaine Jones in Venice, FL over the past 4 months, we have completed the design and procedures to allow an “ADOPTION” of a living Leatherback Turtle which nests on the remote beaches in Papua, Indonesia (where we conduct our Research). This effort is an extension of our Foundation efforts to “educate and inform” about the rapid road to extinction, this Jurassic creature now faces --- in a fun way. If people can have a star named after them or as a gift to friends and family, why not “ADOPT” a Leatherback???



**Peaches & Elaine  
Designing Certificates**



**Sample of Adoption Certificate**

Adoption details are provided in the Leatherback Boutique section of our Web pages. Just click on the Boutique Logo at right side of Home Page. This is a neat opportunity to provide a gift to you, a family member or an associate. The “ADOPTION” is delivered in a neat Presentation designer package. All you need to do is add a note. – Or we can do that for you. Cost? \$49, including US 1st class postage. Supplies are limited because the Leatherbacks are being killed every day.

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## ERM GRANT APPROVED AND FUNDED

In July of 2008, we were encouraged to apply for a Grant from the ERM Foundation. We did that. We requested Grant funds to help us with logistics and equipment for the 2008/2009 Nesting season on the remote beaches of Indonesia. Nothing more was heard from ERM for months. THEN on December 15, we received a letter AND Grant proceeds from ERM and their many employees located across America. This Grant is an example of people giving to their company who in turn distributes the proceeds to Foundations in need.

The money has been applied according to the guidelines provided and as we requested. ERM – all of you folks. THANK YOU very much for this needed support. Your help to us in efforts to save this Giant turtle (The Leatherback) is a Godsend.

### LEATHERBACK BOUTIQUE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Boutique Logo

When you click on our Foundation web site ([www.saveourleatherbacks.org](http://www.saveourleatherbacks.org)) you will see this logo on the right hand side of the home page. Click on it. Then you will find a wide assortment of gifts for you, family and friends. Most of the gifts are hand made in Indonesia and by our Aboriginal villagers. Prices per item range from \$10 to over \$4,000; which includes US normal postage or UPS if an item is too large to mail. Rest assured that these items are exclusive to S.O.L.O. and were made for us to use as a source of Donation funds.

You can pay us by mailing a check or Bank money order OR by Credit Card (Master and Visa) through the Pay Pal link also shown in the web site. We ship (cost of postage and handling is included in the prices shown) when we receive payment. The article(s) will be shipped including a Tax claim certificate. ALL monies donated are tax deductible. Questions? Ask us by e-mail ...[info-saveourleatherbacks@earthlink.net](mailto:info-saveourleatherbacks@earthlink.net)

### Editor's Corner:

Liz Logan



Larry has asked me to write something in each issue and right now all I can think of is the upcoming trip! I'll be going on the July 14-24 Research trip and I'm so excited - although not looking forward to the extreme heat and bugs! I'm sure the experience with the Leatherbacks will more than make up for both of those. And, I'm sure that trip will give me a LOT more to write about next time!

Contact Liz with your comments and suggestions on our News Letter activities. [travel@followliz.com](mailto:travel@followliz.com)

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Disclaimer: Publisher, Editor and those listed above are NOT liable or responsible for the words or opinions presented in this News Letter. Articles are printed to educate, inform, and develop a forum of information concerning Pacific Leatherback Turtles and what is happening to them. We welcome commentary and articles to be considered for future issues. Each submission will be reviewed for content, objectivity and appropriateness to the goals and objectives of this Foundation. (Our attorneys make us say this)