

**In 1966 David began his life of adventure** in earnest when he was honored to receive a scholarship as a foreign exchange student to Chile for one year with the American Field Service.

**In 1971 David was magically introduced to a new graduate program** and received one of the first master's degrees in *Experiential Education* in the country. The Program was closely aligned with the Outward Bound Schools of the United States.

**David went on to train at the Hurricane Island Outward Bound school** off the coast of Maine; sailing open "Pull" Boats, camping and learning more survival and group leadership skills amidst the picturesque islands off the Penobscot Bay area.

**He then went on to become a Sr. Instructor at the Minnesota and Canadian Outward Bound Schools** and finally taught many years for the Colorado Outward Bound school leading mountain courses throughout Both summer and winter seasons.

**For 8 years David was asked to develop an adaptive wilderness adventure program for the Parole and probation department** of Wyoming. Basing and supplying out of a NOLS school in Lander Wyoming, David led young students on extreme ski adventures in the Wind Rivers Mountain Range, Yellowstone National Park, and on white water rivers of Utah.

**He was also sent by the Colorado Outward Bound School in 1974 to climb** all the classic Peaks in the Grand Teton Range of Wyoming and train with some of the climbing greats of the era such as TM Herbert, Chuck Pratt, Pete Lev, and Jeff Lowe.

**For over 45 years he has expanded his career as a professional guide,** expedition leader, photographer, and teacher. This has enabled him to travel, work, and play throughout remote and, often unexplored, wilderness areas of North, South, and Central America, Asia, Indonesia, Australia, Morocco and the South Pacific.

**He also ran a very successful cross-country ski school in Aspen,** David Blehert's Cross country ski school and was a pioneer in the reawakening of the oldest turn on skis; the Telemark Turn!!

**David later was asked by TV producer and filmmaker John Wilcox** and new owner to run the Ashcroft Ski touring center in the Castle Creek valley above Aspen in 1985.

**On a first adventure after meeting love of his life and lifelong partner, Deborah Koehn** in Aspen in 1976; they set off after parking David's home on the road, "Ely" his 55 Ford Pickup truck at the Leadville, Colorado Outward Bound base camp and began an overland adventure hitch hiking through Central and South

America to lead a climbing trip In the little explored Cordillera Vilcanota Range of Southern Peru.

**Paddling a dugout canoe around lake Atitlan**, going native in southern Costa Rica on the Osa Peninsula, exploring the mountains and jungles of Ecuador, hiking the Incan Trail to Machu Picchu alone without maps and no discernible trail and camping in Machu Picchu, and meeting our climbing crew to lead clients up the remote peaks for one month. The expedition was led by Jack Miller, big wall climber from Yosemite and legendary Patagonia climber and explorer and one of the first guides for Mountain Travel, and co-guide Carlos Buhler, who went on to achieve multiple successful ascents of Mt Everest. Helping to guide this adventure led the way for David to return to the Andes and ultimately inspired him to explore the Himalayas and was the beginning of his Professional Adventure Photography and international guiding career. He and Deborah went on to live on Lake Titicaca on the remote Island of Taquile, and to ultimately reconnect with his AFS family in Chile after a grueling trip across the Antofagasta desert of northern Chile.

**David has led the first ever *Telemark* Ski descents and climbing ascents** of the highest Peruvian and Bolivian Andean peaks and numerous Amazon explorations into virgin rainforest encountering new flora and fauna and some of the last surviving primitive tribal peoples and paddling small delicate dugout canoes to encounter the pink dolphin of the upper amazon.

**David's Adventures also included sea kayaking** off the Hawaiian coast, canoeing throughout the vast Canadian wilderness, teaching Whitewater River Kayaking in eastern Ontario with the United States, German and Canadian Olympic teams, and running rivers and explorations of the Southwestern United States, Nepal, Bali, and Peru. David and a close friend from Outward Bound accomplished the first ever open canoe river expedition of the San Juan River in Southern Utah from near the source in Aneth, Utah; a small trading post; to Lake Powell in 1975.

**In 1985 Alison Teal was born and David and Deborah continued to travel** taking Alison on their camping, trekking, river rafting, skiing and canyoneering adventures in Colorado and Utah and to the base camps of expeditions in Peru, Nepal and India. Later David and family shared camel safaris in the desert of Rajasthan in northwestern India and across the Sahara Desert of Morocco, trekking in Ladakh and Tibet, and the Himalaya of India and trekking extensively in the Everest region, and living in remote villages of Indonesia. These locations became home to David, Deborah, and Alison Teal. At 3-month-old Alison accompanied on a photo ski expedition to 18,500 feet for Patagonia.

**David wrote a feature article** and provided photos for Mountain Bike Magazine featuring a 3-month adventurer around the Big Island of Hawaii. Alison rode in a prototype Burley Bicycle cart sponsored by Burley and David and Deborah rode some of the first Trek Mountain bikes produced. This adventure inspired David and family

to take a break from winter expeditions to settle for a couple of years in Hawaii, which ultimately became a lifetime pursuit.

**David also has never lost his desire to preserve our planet** and live with a small footprint. When not photographing or adventuring or simply playing, David decided to build their sustainable oceanfront Hawaiian off the grid retreat. It incorporates the best of creature comforts with a very minimalist approach to day-to-day Island Life. The emphasis is to have a roof overhead, hot water, great island food, and never lose an intimate connection to Nature which David believes provides him and others with a balanced life.

Fulfilling a lifetime dream he also spent the last 20 years **completing his Colorado mountain ski cabin**, which is also steeped in sustainable comfort and an equally small footprint. Light clay straw walls clay floors, and high solar efficiency for passive heat and electricity. This modest mountain retreat represents a never-ending close connection to the mountains he and Deborah still call 'Home' and to their beloved Telemark Ski Mountaineering.

At the age of 56 on a return from leading adventures and photographing in South America; **David jumped on his first Surfboard** on the beaches of Nosara, Costa Rica with Deborah, and daughter Alison Teal and is currently addicted to waves! His Surf exploits have included riding endless waves throughout Indonesia, Peru, Morocco, Australia, Cost Rica, Fiji, California, and especially enjoying the crystalline surf from their Hawaiian Home.

*"I may never surf as well as I dance down the snow-covered mountains on my Telemark and cross-country skis, but surfing is definitely both humbling and exhilarating, and will always be a challenge and meditation and lesson in finding one's center."*

**After about 20 years of sharing in Deborah's passion for Yoga studies** and practice David was able to rejuvenate his body from years of extreme sports, climbing, boating, skiing, mountaineering and adventure. Through yoga, meditation, and breath, he now encourages his fellow travelers to use their bodies to the fullest, with confidence and agility, allowing a heightened sense of vitality and awareness.

**Highlights of his yoga training included studies with Angela Farmer and Victor Van Kooten and living in Mysore India with Pattabhi Jois and his family for 3 month and practicing Mysore style Ashtanga Yoga with the master.**

**David also has practiced I Ching reading** as both a meditation and personal practice for 30 years and offers readings to friends, Hawaii guests and travelers.

**His love of travel and exploration**, extreme technical skills, traditional first aid training, and fluency in local languages and dialects, enable him to continue to guide

groups into remote and relatively inaccessible regions with a sense of comfort, safety, and ease.

**David's photographs of his family's adventures and travels** may be enjoyed throughout this website. Having photographed professionally for over 35 years; David's images were featured extensively in national advertisements, books, magazines, and catalogues for publications including: Patagonia, National Geographic Traveler, Machu Picchu Parque Nacional, Outside, Wilderness Travel, Yoga Journal, Teva, Leki, Lowepro, Ocean Kayak, Moss Tent, Rossignal, K2, Black Diamond, Leki, Asolo, Marmot, Mountain Hardware, The NorthFace, and Eagle Creek.