



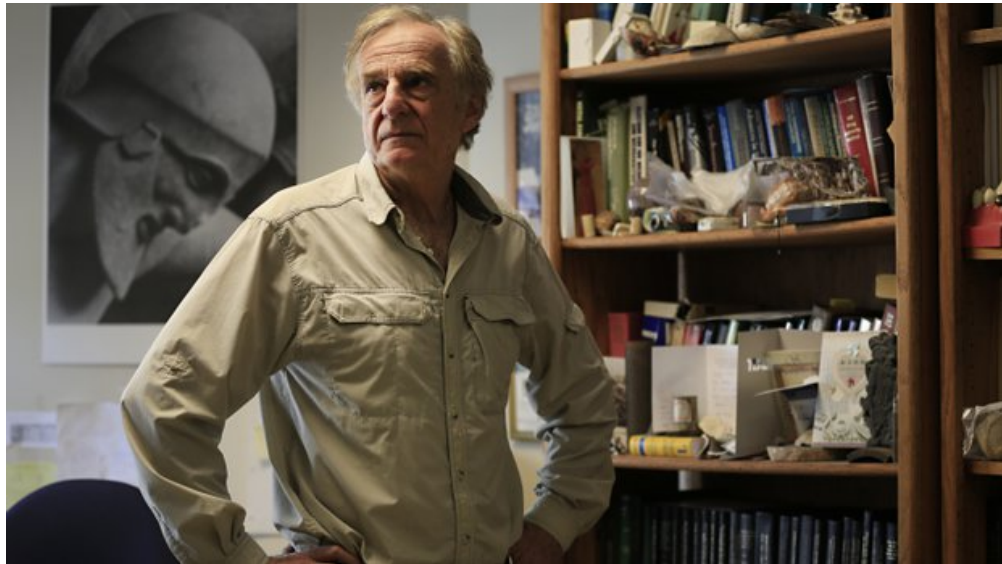
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UCSD engineer making risky Amazon trek

By **Gary Robbins** 11:46 A.M. OCT. 8, 2014

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UC San Diego materials engineer Marc Meyers *James Gregg*

UC San Diego materials engineer Marc Meyers leaves Monday for Brazil, where he will lead an expedition that will retrace the path that Theodore Roosevelt took during his famous “River of Doubt” journey in 1913-14.

Meyers will be accompanied by Jeffrey Lehmann of Del Mar, an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker whose work has been featured on the Discovery Channel and PBS.

Meyers, Lehmann and two other men will use kayaks and canoes to make their way along the Roosevelt River, a largely uncharted 400-mile long Amazonian waterway that passes through some of the most remote territory in the world.

The river -- formerly known as the River of Doubt -- features challenging waterfalls and rapids, and is home to piranha, an omnivorous freshwater fish.

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Filmmaker Jeffrey Lehmann *Barnstormer Productions*

The river is part of a roughly 1,500-mile South American journey that Roosevelt made a century ago with the renowned Brazilian explorer Candido Mariano da Silva Rondon. Roosevelt nearly died during the expedition, which was devoted to science, mapping and hunting. His party was plagued by heavy rains that made travel very difficult.

Meyers, 68, said he's beginning his expedition now to avoid the same type of seasonal rains that hampered Roosevelt. He plans to eventually cover the entire 1,500 mile route that Roosevelt followed.

Meyers will enter the Roosevelt River near Baliza, Brazil, and proceed north, to where the waterway merges with the Aripuana River. The journey is expected to take about three weeks.

"This will be a homage to the people who were on the Roosevelt-Rondon expedition," said Meyers, who is Brazilian.

Lehmann said, "I have a lot of experience in extreme settings in the wilderness. And I've been to the Amazon. But I'm anxious about this trip. I have zero experience with this kind of river. We're doing a lot of planning so that this comes to a happy conclusion."

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