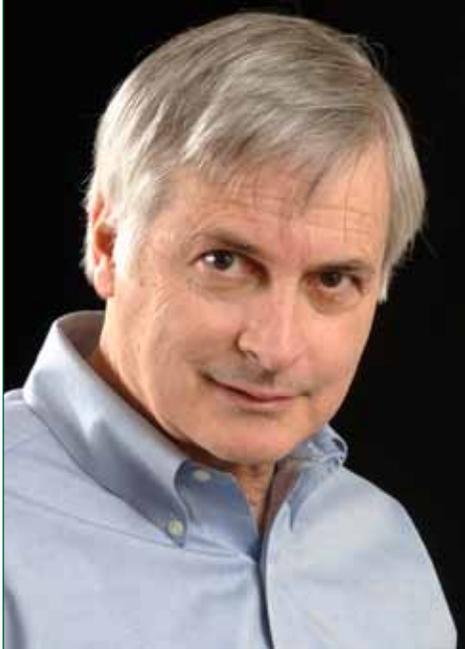


# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

April 2010

In color at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

Seth Shostak (below) has edited and contributed to a half-dozen books. His most recent tome is "Confessions of an Alien Hunter: A Scientist's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence" (National Geographic). His most recent article is in *The Explorers Journal*, "Exploring the Final Frontier, a Quest for Life in the Cosmos." (Spring 2010)



The scientific hunt for extraterrestrial intelligence is about to enter its sixth decade, and we still haven't uncovered a confirmed peep from the cosmos. For that matter, we still don't know if life—at any level of intelligence—exists beyond Earth. Could this mean that finding aliens, even if they're out there, is a project for the ages—one that might take centuries or longer?

New technologies for use in the search for



Some of the displays at SETI in the on-going very routine search for some signal from elsewhere. Maybe you have helped, as well, in SETI's distributed computing model.

## San Francisco — April 30, 2010 Seth Shostak, PhD: When Will We Find ET? SETI is trying

extraterrestrial biology suggest that, despite the continued dearth of hard evidence for life elsewhere or signals from other societies, there is good reason to expect that success might not be far off—that within a few decades we might find evidence of sophisticated civilizations.

Why this is so, what contact would tell us, and what such a discovery would mean, are the subject of this talk on the continuing efforts to establish our place in the universe of thinking beings.

Seth Shostak is the Senior Astronomer at the SETI Institute, in Mountain View, California. He has an undergraduate degree in physics from Princeton University, and a doctorate in astronomy from the Califor-

nia Institute of Technology. For much of his career, Seth conducted radio astronomy research of galaxies, and he has published approximately sixty papers in professional journals.

He has written several hundred popular magazine and Web articles on various topics in astronomy, technology, film and television. He lectures on astronomy and other subjects at Stanford and other venues in the Bay Area, and for the last six years, has been a Distinguished Speaker for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is also Chair of the International Academy of Astronautics' SETI Permanent Study Group. Every week he hosts the SETI Institute's science radio show, "Are We Alone?"

## Field Trips for NorCA Explorers

Unique to our chapter, our Field Trips give you ongoing opportunities to explore the world around us! Calendar two upcoming ones: April 17 and May 8/9. To join, please email **Von Hurson** <[trekking@sonic.net](mailto:trekking@sonic.net)> as soon as possible. Details will be sent to those who sign up.

**Our reception on April 30th will be hosted by Maplink of Santa Barbara. Will Spicer will bring along a copy of their "Earth" Atlas (see page 3)!**

**Saturday, April 17: Sonoma vineyard details, boring to store wine, visiting tools of the past**—Is wine simply fermented grape juice in a bottle? Not quite. We'll dig down to the roots of the matter with Steve Thomas, vineyard manager for both Wildwood Vineyard and Kunde Family Winery. Following our distinctly non-touristy vineyard trek we'll head underground to discover the whys and hows of boring through the earth to store barrels of wine.

Then, member **Gene Boudreau** will treat us to a delightful luncheon, after which we'll see his fabulous Tarahumara Indian artifacts while hearing stories about the tribe.

**Weekend of May 8 & 9: a visit to the Monterey Peninsula**—

At Point Lobos on Saturday, **Ed Clifton**, Geologist Emeritus, US Geological Survey, will lead a two-hour geology walk at Point Lobos. Ed is famous for his participation as an aquanaut for the Tektite projects in 1969 and 1970.

After lunch, well-known photographer, photojournalist and member **Peter Hemming** will take us on a photo expedition and offer outdoor photo tips.

On Sunday, there will be a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Shore diving (snorkeling) at Point Lobos is also possible.

# Commercial Exploration Overnight Express to the Moon

## San Francisco

Bob Richards' company, a private venture looking for added capital, reflects the enthusiasm of Silicon Valley in its epitome. His far-out idea is to go to the moon, routinely. He is well along to provide a freight company that will get your experiments there. Once this becomes a success, and he is competent it will, he will work toward making the round trip.

For now, his first attempt will be to carry 50 kilograms safely to the moon's equatorial surface for one two-week day. If you have something to ship contact Odyssey Moon ([www.odysseymoon.com](http://www.odysseymoon.com)); it will cost as little as two-million dollars per kilo, a trifle when compared to the cost of paying to ride aboard the space shuttle—if it were to go to the moon, beyond the International Space Station.

By partnering with NASA, in effect hiring their technology and skills, Dr. Richards is able to focus on a much more modest mission than 'Moon 1.0', the nation's placement of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon's surface on July, 20, 1969. This modesty allows him to reduce the costs greatly (he need not amortize the research) and to sell the freight service at an affordable amount. Customers have lined up: universities and private companies studying how materials react over time in low-gravity space. By sending robotic experiments on a one-way trip, and returning the data, the cost of understanding space effects is greatly reduced.

We have but scratched the surface out there: six manned landings (and only twelve robotics) within an area comparable to all of the Americas. Sure we have photos, but our experience from earth says there is so much we do not know. Richards, and his team of true space experts (look at his web site to see the depth of skills) hope Odyssey Moon's capability will grow, fueled by private capital, to become a major enterprise in the commercialization of the moon based on international cooperation.

We shall watch; they hope to blast off within a couple of years. In so doing they also hope to win the carrot awaiting, the Google Lunar X Prize of \$30 million. If successful they would become another private venture into space, akin to Rutan's commercial space flights. Already commercial communications has a \$160 billion annual flow of enterprise usage—with a large host of international satellites carrying the news and views of the world.

Richards peeks well beyond his confidence for success to fly to the moon; he sees this as a small practice step toward reaching further into space. We wish him well.



Cities in North America are superimposed upon the moon's surface; the scale reminds us that six landings leave much to be explored!

Chair Alan Nichols, Odyssey Moon's Bob Richards, new Director Lee Langan



Von Hueson

## NorCA News

Your editor was successful in his bid to become a director of The Explorers Club, and this was acknowledged at a reception at our March meeting. Glasses were lifted, and it was all smiles to celebrate the chapter's return to headquarters: founder Charlie Elkus (yes, Gerry's late husband) served in the 1970's, Don Johanson served in the 1980's, and Charles Brush was president from 1978 to 1981. The national Board of Directors is composed of three classes serving three years each. Lee will serve until 2013. It is the responsibility of the board to guide our 106-year-old venerable group into the future in its service to members and support for the goals of exploration around the world.

A symbolic element of the club's exploration is our Flag. It is a privilege to carry the Explorers Flag into the field, and it is a recognition by fellow members to be granted the opportunity. Alan Nichols was notified just three days after our March meeting that he will be given Flag 186 to carry to Mongolia in June! Congratulations Chairman. Alan is a repeat carrier: remember his 4-stage 10,000-mile bicycle ride along the Silk Web.



Your votes counted; thank you!

Becky Nichols provided a work of art, featuring the Explorers Flag, for our desert.



Von Hueson

**NorCA Chapter Dues Paid**

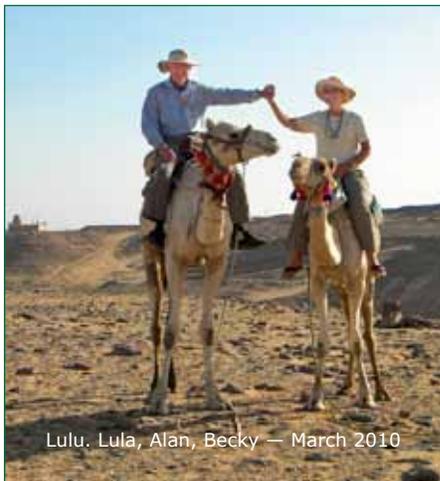
**The Corner Chair**—Thanks to **Von Hurson** and **Didi Kutz** Spring has sprung two unique field trips (the Monterey Affair and Organic Wining.) Hold your breath for the new Members Directory, thanks to our Secretary and former Chair **Steve Smith**.

Just in case you're reading this, let me know what you think of our new venue, the University Club; last Friday a few true explorers found parking on the street and the smart ones park cheap at the Brocklebank (on Sacramento between Powell and Mason, \$10.)....Becky, our Martha Stewart of the Silk Web, came through again with a huge cake for **Lee Langan**, the hero of the night and the newest National Board Member.... Congratulations to our new Members approved by the Board last week whom we hope to honor at our next meeting April 30: **Charlette Rygh, Kathryn Fiorella, Karl Hutterer, Diane Ragone, Paul Freitas, Eliot L.Hodges, and Lisa Kristine**, and thanks to the sponsors: **Kriston Larson, David Dolan, Barry Glickman, Susan Murch, Robert Higgins, Fletcher Hodges, Lawrence Huntington, Elizabeth Kinsey, James Hurson**, and yours truly. (I've let all the impressive titles, Ph.D's,etc. go in the interest of friendliness.)

Speaking of Members, since baseball has begun its time, all Members step up to the plate and bring in a new member or two or at least a Sirdar; in fact I was told in New York at the Annual Meeting that our chapter will be given \$5000 if we bring in more members this year than any other Chapter....Any ideas for prizes for new member intros?

Thank you for paying your dues; it was a record (79 to date) for so early in the year... and hopefully an inspiration to anyone who forgot...join the Club!

*"Exploration is more an attitude than a altitude, an inspiration more than perspiration, and a journey more than a destination."* Xuan Zang, 627 AD, *"Journey to the West"*



Lulu, Lula, Alan, Becky — March 2010

**FCAD Weekend**—Bagpiper **Kyle**, his mom **Lynn, Alan, Becky, Char** and **Ken Howery** attended from our chapter. **President Lorie** inspired us all with her efforts—financial, administrative, personal.

There was more 'transparency' about the financial report than I've ever experienced. Membership is up while its down with most nonprofits these days.

Objections to the Nominations Committee's claimed "arbitrariness" sparked the annual meeting. (We had only recommended eight candidates.) President Lorie responded that she did not control the nominations, and my suggestion that concerns about the process could be resolved with bylaws changes, and next year's election, was accepted by the Members

The Chapter Chairs meeting was informative and led to a resolve next year to do more comparative discussions than listening to reports. The Journal was discussed, especially the finances, but the Chairs were very supportive and appreciated of Lee's efforts on the Publications Committee as reported on by his Vice Chair **David Dolan**, soon a new member of NorCA)

The Big Show on Saturday evening at the Waldorf Astoria lived up to it's billing. Ran long, as usual, added a circus act and music recital to the speeches from the dais. The celebrity emcee, Dan Aykroyd, introduced the award winners and talks, justly inspirational. Honorary Chair **Jim Fowler** brought along some 'friends', but the exotic *hors d'ouerves* were eliminated. Our capable student member **Kyle Rothschild-Mancinelli** piped throughout the reception and honored those who died since our last gathering.

—Alan Nichols (FN84)

**Go & Tell**



Former resident Chapter member (now in San Diego, but he keeps in touch and remains on our roster) **Frank Castle** LF72 on the summit of Mt. Spigot, Continental Peninsula, Antarctica (December 2009.) Frank has now summited mountains on all seven continents, including a first ascent of Mt. Bokkra (17,500 ft) in the Siguniang Range of China.

**Diana Pickworth** FN01 sneaked away to Yemen for the Easter Break, spending the time artist-wise and editing poetry. She reports, "it is wonderful and swimming in the Indian Ocean a joy never to be missed. We had a Palm Sunday service here...only seven brave souls, and four children who cheerfully carried the real palm stalks." She will attend the ICAANE (International Congress on the Ancient Archaeology of the Near East) conference at London University and the British Museum in mid-April.

Photographer **Sara Shoemaker** MN99 opened "*A Mermaid's View*" at the Ucross Foundation Art Gallery in Clearmont, Wyoming on February 27th; it will run until May 21. "The bold, glossy colors of my underwater photography work were an exotic contrast to the snow-dusted frozen mountains and prairies of North Eastern Wyoming."



**A Visit from Earth**



To keep our feet grounded on *terra firma*, for our April meeting our predinner reception will be hosted by Maplink; this Santa Barbara company has published the largest and most complete atlas in existence (64 pounds; available for under \$6000.) The book will be on display and on sale; our chapter gets a commission! Bill Spicer of the Southern California Chapter will be on hand to allow a touch and feel.

To get a sense of the beauty and scale of this immense project look at:

[http://catalog.maplink.com/maplink/maplink/earth\\_atlas.html](http://catalog.maplink.com/maplink/maplink/earth_atlas.html)

April 2010



Chair: Alan Nichols  
415 789-9348  
nicholsalan9@gmail.com  
Vice Chair: Anders Jepsen  
925 254-3079  
ajviking@aol.com  
Treasurer: Sue Estey  
510 526-2216  
sestey@earthlink.net  
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith  
Webmaster: Mike Diggles  
Newsletter: Lee Langan

When Will We Find ET?  
30 April – University Club, San Francisco

**Northern California  
Calendar of Events**

(Venues will be identified as soon as known.)

Our next Events

- April 17 . . . . .Organic Wining  
Sonoma Valley & Boudreau's home
- April 30 . . . . .Seth Shostak  
Are We Alone in Space? . . . . .University Club
- May 8 . . . . .Seashore Field Trip  
Point Lobos, Monterey Peninsula

Future Events

- May 21 . . . . .Music of the Antarctic Expeditions  
Left Bank/Rive GaucheStanford Geology Corner
- June 5 . . . . .Angel Island Picnic  
option: ride with Capt. Schmieder from Berkeley
- July 1 . . . . .Joint Meeting with Dendrology Society  
Marcel Robinson. . . . .University Club
- September 17 . . . . .planning
- October 29 . . . . .Expeditions and the Media  
Josh Bernstein . . . . .University Club
- November 19 . . . . .planing
- December 5 . . . . .Alan & Becky Nichols  
Chair's Member Reception Nichols home, Tiburon

Earlier Events (2009-10)

- September 25 . . . . .Jim Sano  
Retracing Shackleton, GGYC
- October 30 . . . . .Diana Pickworth  
Yemen Archaeology, GGYC
- November 20 . . . . .Nathaniel J Dominy  
Tsavo Lions of yore, Dana home, Tiburon
- December 5 . . . . .Fofo Gonzales  
Cave Field Expedition
- December 12 . . . . .Alan & Becky Nichols  
Chair's Member ReceptionNichols home, Tiburon
- January 29, 2010. . . . .several  
Story Night . . . . .University Club
- February 26 . . . . .Reginald Barrett  
The Elusive Fisher. . . . .University Club
- March 26 . . . . .Bob Richards  
Odyssey Moon . . . . .University Club

Send address changes and  
corrections by email to Steve at  
[nauticos@oceanearth.org](mailto:nauticos@oceanearth.org)

**USE PAYPAL!**

**April: UNIVERSITY CLUB**

**Date:** Friday, April 30, 2010  
**Place:** University Club  
800 Powell St., San Francisco, CA  
**Time:** 6:30 - reception  
7:15 - dinner  
8:00 - talk  
**Cost:** \$49 in advance; \$60 on the 30th  
Chapter 2010 dues: \$25  
Please mail information to Dr. Sue Estey,  
216 Carmel Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530  
or email [sestey@earthlink.net](mailto:sestey@earthlink.net)  
or call (510) 526-2216

Reserve \_\_\_ spaces for  
April 30, 2010  
SETI  
on Nob Hill in San Francisco  
Cost: is \$49 (Chapter annual dues are:  
\$25 for members and sirdars)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if changed): \_\_\_\_\_  
Companion: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please reserve by April 26!**

**We have established a PayPal account.**

For those of you who have these accounts, you can sign up and remit dinner costs to the  
NorCA Chapter by transferring money to: [explorersnorca@gmail.com](mailto:explorersnorca@gmail.com)

There is also a **PAYPAL BUTTON** on our website ([www.explorersnorca.org](http://www.explorersnorca.org)); easy to use!



**University Club,  
Atop Nob Hill  
where the cable  
cars cross**

The University Club has Valet Parking for \$20; **the Brocklebank Garage on Sacramento is only \$10!**  
Other nearby garages are expensive. Some street parking. Muni (cable cars OR Sacramento #1) is very  
near; BART & CalTrans connections are easy. Car pool! The University Club is wheel-chair accessible.