

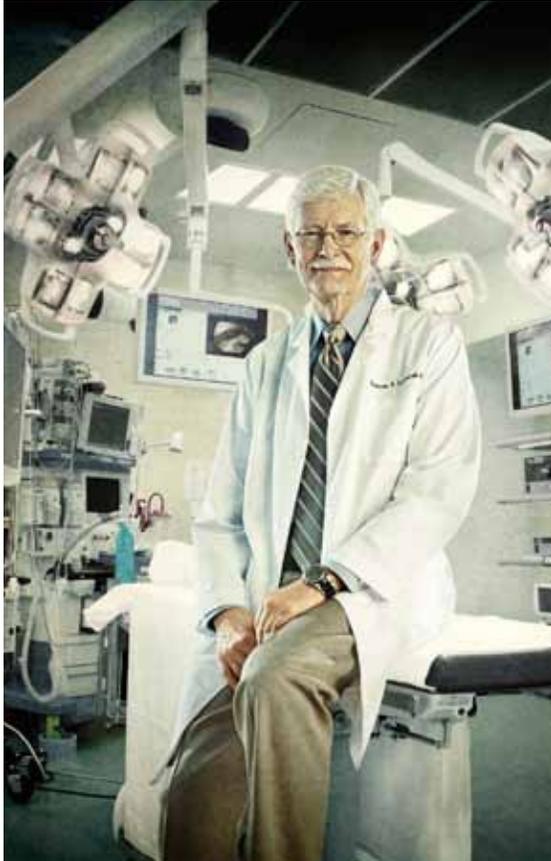
The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

March 2011

Note venues and dates with care.
In San Francisco, CA,
our next meeting is at 6:00 on
March 25, a FRIDAY evening,
at the University Club.

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



Disaster's Dr. Explorer

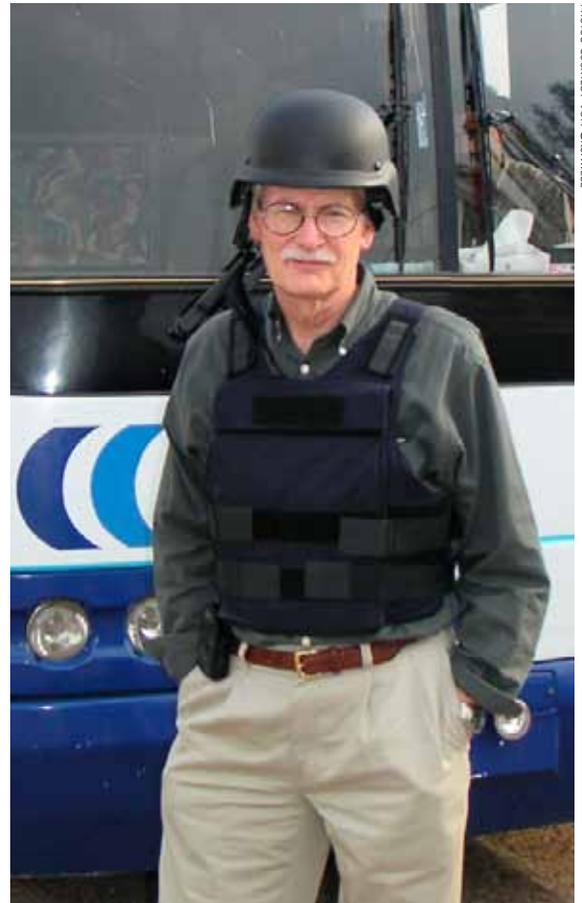
A Doctor Brings Help Where Needed San Francisco — March 25, 2011

Tom Cromwell is an anesthesiologist who has a penchant for working well beyond the confines of his local practice. Among other aspects, he has been the mayor of Belvedere, California, and remains on their City Council. He also responds to tragedies around the world—an aspect of exploration isolated to a number of physicians that ply their skills in the hinterlands of our world, if not the hinterlands those that become hinterlands due to natural or man-caused disasters where the population is at harm.

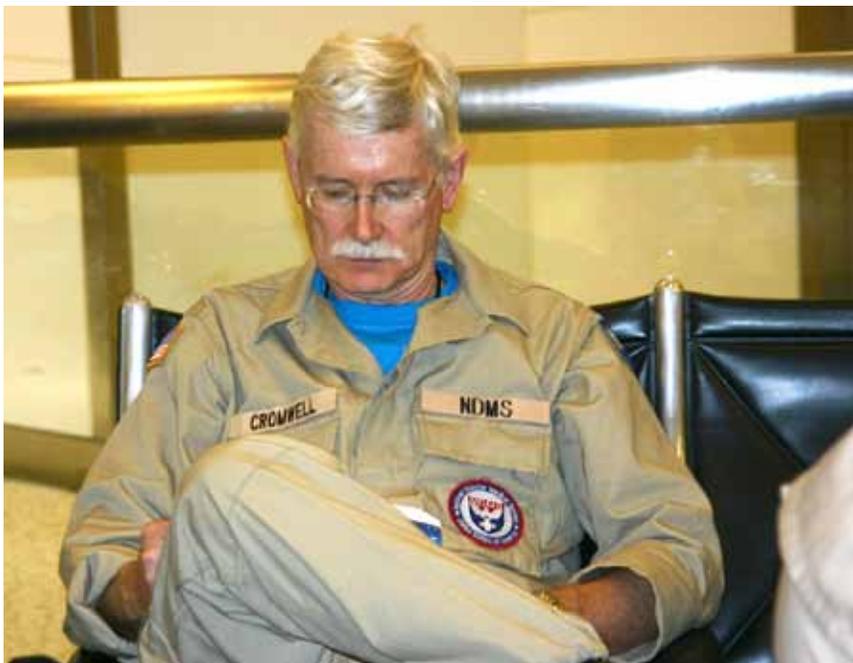
Suddenly medical help is needed. Urgently. How is this accomplished? Dr. Cromwell calls upon his participation in the natural earthquake ruins of Haiti, the dictator-caused diminution of Iraq's once-pristine medical institutions, the storm-based intrusion of water into New Orleans. In each case he has participated in the immediate need to tend to people in distress.

There are practical limitations when the facilities so familiar to the modern world are broken or no longer exist. He has tales to tell; come listen.

Dr. Cromwell is the former Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at the California Pacific Medical Center, is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of California San Francisco, and belongs to numerous professional, academic and community societies. He sails and sings. He belongs to the Federal Disaster Medical Assistance Team CA-6.

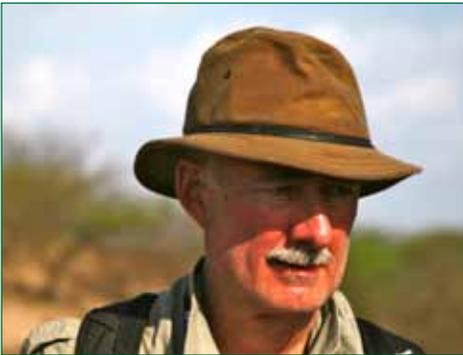


PHOTOS COURTESY TOM CROMWELL



Our NEXT dinner meeting, on April 22, will feature Robin Ziegler of Google Earth.
Your editor jumped the gun on February 25 when he confused the date by speaking about the Google Earth talk as earlier.

Behind the Scenes in
Field Exploration
is not always smooth going
San Francisco—February 25



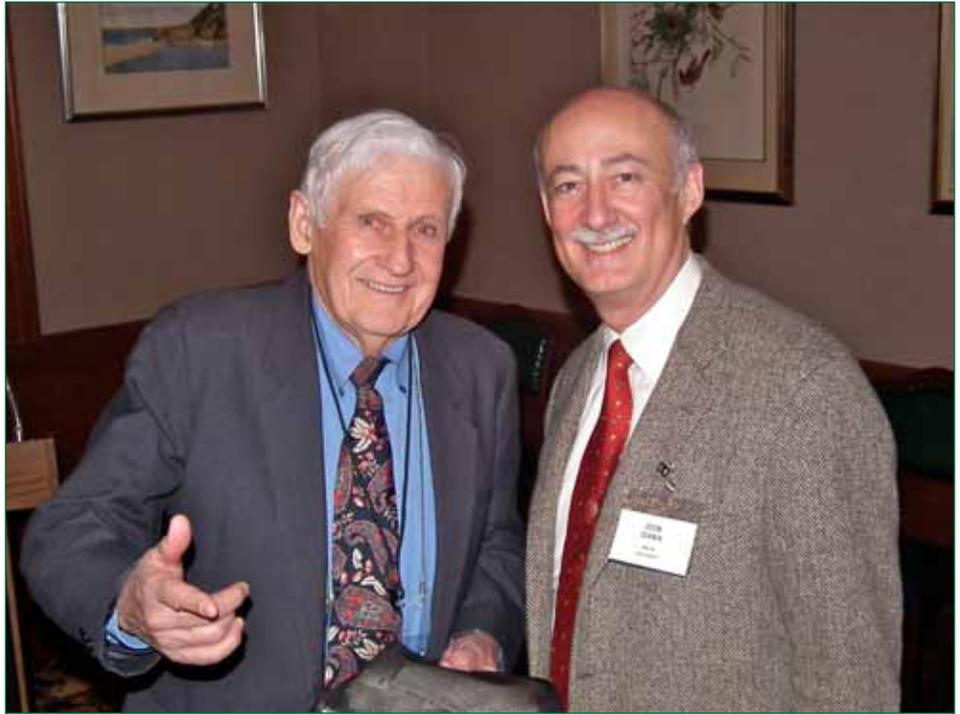
Don Dana MN06 is the President of the Leaky Foundation (www.leakeyfoundation.org), and he rose to this position largely because he is an explorer in the old tradition. He has a burning interest in the migration of ancient man and in ancient hominids themselves. He has sought ways to understand how humans have populated the earth, and he has done so on his own. He has been in the field in Asia, the Americas, and Africa. He has traveled as the expedition leader and as a camp observer; as a result he has experienced the behind-the-scenes nature of exploration. On this evening he shared some tongue-in-cheek truisms of exploration expeditions.

There was a lot of reality in what he has deduced!

Don expounded on six basic observations about exploration: 1) You have to go to some remote place. 2) You will experience primitive conditions. 3) To succeed you must embrace the local culture. 4) You have to find something! 5) You will suffer the ailments that strange places bring upon you. 6) You have to live to tell the tales you have experienced and the finds with which you return.

The examples he chose, with a sense of reality borne by experience and talking with other explorers, were born of humor and practicality. Think about it. This is the essence of exploration, now and before. Everyone in the audience roared in appreciation and understanding.

Don has returned to live, so far, to engage his listeners with examples of gouey bugs, nondiscript meals, close calls with pirates and the conduct of real science. In his day job, he helps Wells Fargo.



Vice Chair Dr. Anders Jepsen gives the NorCA 'Trek Kit' to Speaker Don Dana

Ethiopian Professor Alema shows a 'find', satisfying requirement #4 for Dana's 2007 expedition to the Afar Region

Getting to know an Afar youth helps in satisfying #3, the need to embrace the local culture (left).



Explorers Barred from the Antarctic—Fully within its rights, the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs cancelled the travel of two senior Fellows of The Explorers Club (and a new Member) who were about to embark on a five-week expedition to re-live a time spent in the Antarctic fifty years before. Less than a week before the program-grant explorers were to rendezvous in Christchurch for deployment to the Ice, each was informed of a potential delay. Shortly thereafter each received a brief letter of denial that they were not physically qualified, not given the required *PQ* status. In each case, a medical reason was listed for the decision.

Each explorer granted permission to make public their stated medical limitations: Principal Investigator **Morton Beebe FN78** was denied because of a heart murmur (which he has had for twenty years, even while running a marathon and traveling to the Antarctic Peninsula three times.) **Lee Langan FN99** was denied because the uric acid content of his blood was high (which can cause gout); subsequent medication brought it to normal levels even before the denial. **Geoffory Lee-Martin M111** recently underwent cancer surgery; his doctors proclaimed him healed. Each signed a waiver of risk, but, within a fortnight, this too was denied.

Pleas to reconsider fell upon deaf ears, beyond a recital that denials were based upon medical advice. The

The Corner Chair—

Randolph K. Adler Jr.
Guitty Azarpay
Barbara Berg
Barry Boothe
Joan Boothe
Eugene Boudreau
Tammy Camp
H. Keith Chase
Dan Cheatham
Ann Chokas
Nicholas Clinch
Wendy Crowder
Mike Diggles
Jack Dumbacher
Susan Dutcher
Don Dvorak
Elaine Dvorak
Palmer Dyal
Sue Estey
Joann Franklin-Knox
Charlene Glacy
Gina Glantz
Ron Glantz
Peter Hemming
Don Heyneman
Harry Hicks
Robert Higgins
Ken Howery
Alan Hutchison
Anders Jepsen
Kathy Jepsen
Barbara Kanowick
David Kennard
Margot Komarmy
Dorothy Koo
Candida Kutz
Keith Kvenvolden
Joan Mary Lamphier
Karine Langan
Lee Langan
Matt Lewin
Sara Shoemaker Lind
Mary McGann
Charles Merdinger
David Moorer
David Moyer
Neal Mueller
Linda-Lee Myers
Nancy Nenow
Michael Powers
James Prigoff
John Richardson
Ed & Sandra Ross
Peter Rundquist
Carina Trowbridge
Sabharwal
Bob Schmieder
Mark A. Smith
Stephen Smith
Patti Stack
Phil Trowbridge
Edward Von der Porten
Saryl Von der Porten
James Weil
Dede Whiteside
Robin Ziegler

ELECTIONS: We will hold our local NorCA election of new officers at our May meeting. (If you are interested in being elected to an office or would like to become a SuperExplorer for our Chapter, contact me.)

ECAD: We have 14 people signed up for tables at the Waldorf Astoria to attend ECAD—a record for participation from the West Coast for many years. (Ron Reuther used to rally the chapter to attend.) We'll give you a report in the next newsletter.

It is very rewarding that TWO of our chapter members are being honored:

Merle Robertson FN90 will receive a Citation of Merit for her life-long contributions to archaeology in Central America expanding our knowledge of the Maya. **Mort Beebe FN78** will be given the Communications award for his exploration in Antarctica and his life-long photographic portfolio.

AWARDS NIGHT: Save the date of May 20, 2011. We'll solve a 750 year old Mongolian mystery with our speaker and present some special awards to some unsung heroes!

ANYONE WANT \$6000?: I remind you that the award for winning the Chapter Membership contest has been received. If you have a proposal or any ideas as to how to distribute this money in whole or part, send it to me by the end of March! You must be a participant in our Chapter to be eligible. The grant should be related to exploration. —Alan Nichols FN84



Field-trip photos: Within the cozy snow cave; making fire; the arrival of the SAR team and the participants!



**SNOWBOUND, A
NorCA Field Trip!**

Location: a beautiful snow-covered, tree-studded forest near Lake Tahoe in the Sierras

It was an exquisitely crisp, beautifully clear mountain morning on February 5th when 13 hearty explorers met for a winter survival trek. Last we strike off unprepared, three local SAR (Search And Rescue) members arrived to meet us at the trailhead. They regaled us with survival tactic basics, fire-starting and tales of rescues – finding people dead or alive – valuable lessons on why some survived and some didn't.

We then headed off into the snow and all the trials that might await us. As we walked, light clouds came in but not the howling snow-storm that could have quickly descended, as it sometimes does in the mountains. Enroute, things started "happening" – altitude sickness, frostbite and hypothermia, and we survived them all with Von and Jim's help. We had a lovely lunch and continued our trek. Then, with a single radio call, three rescue SAR snomobiles swooped in – one with an impressive "Rescue sleigh". Our SAR heroes had gone out the previous day to dig and outfit two 3-man snow caves and a lean-to shelter at the base of a tree. Crawling inside the caves (cozy!) was an amazing experience in itself! After our five hours in the wilderness, some welcomed a ride back on a snowmobile – either for fun or comfort. Most importantly, we had survived! And thanks to what we learned, we knew we were better equipped to do so in the future.

The day was climaxed with a dinner by Becky, our very own "Martha Stewart of the Silk Web" and a birthday celebration for our newest chapter Sirdar Dorothy Koo.

From all comments received, the production was extraordinary! A thanks to each of the Cast of Characters: High Altitude Sickness, Frostbite Hypothermia, SAR Snomo Rescue Team, Head Rescue-man, Firestarter, The Aussie; Alan & Becky Nichols, Char Rygh, Peter Hemming, Ray O'Brien, Chris McConnell, Nick Demopoulos, Von & Jim Hurson, Mort Beebe. Special thanks to Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue:

<http://www.tahoenordicsar.com/>
For your copy of winter survival tips and more, email Von:
trekking@sonic.net



Photos by Von Hurson, Peter Hemming, Mort Beebe

on-going business of the National Science Foundation precluded further consideration. By late January, the opportunity had passed through lack of action. As noted, this was within the right of the agency: after all they were the granting and funding source. They could and did decide. The explorers felt the brunt of the decision.

This is brought to the attention of other member explorers for three reasons: 1) Understand the conditions of any grant early on, before too much time and money is invested. Unfortunately the NSF does not publish the medical reasons for denial in advance. The grantees were quite aware that the harsh conditions of the Antarctic do pose a special circumstance. 2) Be timely in conforming to any requirements of the granting agency; ask where the pitfalls may exist. 3) Be realistic when dependent upon the support of any organization; he who pays, decides.

The three explorers continue to feel that the decision to deny was one in the extreme. Not only are each quite healthy, even after the time of the planned expedition has passed, but they had never scheduled to place themselves beyond the more-populated sites of America's scientific program. They had not volunteered for this expedition to be foolhardy; they were fully aware of the risks. Each would hope that, in the future, the NSF polar program would offer a means to adjudicate rather than simply ignore.

In a separate decision, earlier, the NSF was enthusiastic about the expedition and its goals. The Explorers Club was as well, granting Flag #24. After all, the principals each had been at the South Pole and McMurdo only fifty years after Amundson and Scott! Geoff was with Hillary; Mort was with Dufek. What may have been learned with this insight? We shall have to wait. —Lee Langan FN99

March 2011



Chair: Alan Nichols
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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

Tom Cromwell — March 25 — University Club

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues will be identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Events

March 25 Medical Exploration in Iraq
Tom Cromwell, MD University Club
March 19 ECAD
Maya Prophecies Waldorf-Astoria

Future Events

April 22 Google Earth
Robin Ziegler University Club
May 20 Dead Men Tell Tales
Alan Nichols University Club
June 18 Angel Island Picnic

Earlier Events (2010)

May 8-9 Seashore Field Trip/lunch
Point Lobos, Monterey Peninsula, Hick's home
May 21 Left Bank/Rive Gauche
Music of the Antarctic Expeditions Stanford
June 5 Angel Island Picnic
July 1 Marcel Robischon
'Discovering the Redwoods. University Club
September 17 Don Johanson
Lucy and Our African Origins University Club
October 29 Josh Bernstein
Expeditions and the Media University Club
November 19 Jack Dumbacher
Poison Birds of New Guinea University Club
December 5 Alan & Becky Nichols
Chair's Member Reception Tiburon
December 13 Alan Nichols
Mongolian Flag Expedition Honolulu
January 21, 2011. Story Night
Member tales University Club
February 25 Don Dana
Ethiopian Research Expedition University Club

USE PAYPAL!

March 25: University Club, San Francisco

Date: Friday March 25, 2011
Place: University Club
Time: 6:00 - reception
7:15 - dinner
8:00 - talk
Cost: \$49 in advance; \$60 on the 21st
Students: \$33. (2011 dues \$25!)
Please mail information to Dr. Sue Estey, 216 Carmel Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or email sestey@earthlink.net or call (510) 526-2216

We have an established 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

There is a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website (www.explorersnorca.org); easy to use!



The University Club Atop Nob Hill where the cable cars cross

Send address changes and corrections by email to Steve at nauticos@oceaneearth.org

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 California #1) is very near; BART & CalTrans connections are easy. Car pool! The University Club is wheel-chair accessible.