

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

May/June 2013

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

LOCATION
 Note venues and dates with care.
In San Francisco, CA,
 our next meeting is 6:30 pm
 May 24, a **FRIDAY**,
 at City Forest Lodge
NEW DATE

Conserving Ocean Resources

Empowering Remote Communities to Manage Marine Resources
 A story about Falalop, Ulithi Atoll, Federated States of Micronesia



Nicole L. Crane FN'97
 San Francisco—May 24, 2013

Life on the Edge of the Mariana Trench

Coral reefs around the world are suffering from multiple stressors, affecting the ecological integrity of coral systems and the livelihoods of people who rely on them. Nicole Crane will present the work of her group (see below), which addresses a need to work with small autonomously governed communities to

strengthen their capacity to manage their coral reefs and associated resources to enhance sustainability during a time of rapid ecological change.

She will talk about their unconventional approach, combining social science and ecological approaches, and the challenges and opportunities of working in the outer islands. These communities are literally on the edge of being able to sustain themselves, but their traditional methods and knowledge of the oceans can serve as an important foundation for conservation when combined with ecological data and taking into account more 'modern' fishing methods such as power boats.

By invitation of the Chiefs and Leaders, she and her team returned to Ulithi in the summer 2012 to help them establish a marine conservation plan. She will talk about their successes and why these outer island communities hold an important key to the success of conservation across vast stretches of the Pacific Ocean.



Pat Fong: Which fish are caught? (above)
 With fishermen on Mog Mog (upper left)
 Nicole Crane (below)



(l-r) Michelle Paddack, Avigdor Abelson, Giacomo Bernardi, Nicole Crane, Peter Nelson

The 2012 science team (1st five above)

- Nicole L. Crane, Oceanic Society and Cabrillo College (California, USA)
- Dr. Giacomo Bernardi, University of California Santa Cruz (California, USA)
- Dr. Avigdor Abelson, Tel Aviv University (Israel)
- Dr. Peter Nelson, Collaborative Fisheries Research West - CFR-West (California, USA)
- Dr. Michelle Paddack: Santa Barbara City College (California, USA)
- John Rulmal and Falalop community Chiefs and Leaders (Ulithi, Yap State, FSM)
- Undergrad Student Sara Cannon (Cabrillo College and UC Santa Cruz, Marine Conservation)
- Graduate Student Kate Crosman (University of Michigan, Marine Conservation)



Nicole Crane, a Marine Scientist educated at UC Santa Cruz, the Moss Landing Marine Labs and San Francisco State, is a senior conservation scientist with the Oceanic Society, where she has worked for over 20 years. Her main areas of focus are the Western Caribbean and the Western Pacific. She is also a faculty member at Cabrillo College (Santa Cruz). She has served on review panels for numerous agencies (National Science Foundation, Dept. of Ed, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Sea Grant and others) and been a participant in several science education/research related workshops aimed at developing and/or improving national and regional marine programs.

PICTURES COURTESY THE SPEAKER

NorCA Members, Sirdars, guests are invited to Angel Island

SUNDAY — 9 June 2013 – by public boat or with Capt. Schmieder or Capt. Saber
ESSENTIAL: you must sign up for the private boat transport — see details and description on Page 3

Radioing from a dot in the Pacific @ San Francisco — April 26



The Northern California Chapter was honored to hear our senior Chair Emeritus Dr. Bob Schmieder tell of his recent flag expedition to Clipperton Island at our April 26 meeting. Fresh in his mind, less than a month since returning, he told of the success of the thirty-member party in a series of scientific tasks that interposed with the main goal of a major DXpedition, an amateur-radio project.



Chair Anders Jepsen and Chair Emeritus Bob Schmieder holding the Explorers Club Flag that accompanied the TX5K DXpedition (left). Congratulations for an excellent talk and Chapter TEC cap as a memento (above)



The French island, lonely in the Pacific, is barren. An atoll surrounds the stagnant acidic freshwater lagoon; deadly sulfuric acid concentrations not far below its surface. A jagged volcano core remnant creates a high point; it's a rope climb, but just so. The seven mile beach circumference has occasional groves of palms. Red-shell crabs (inedible), seabirds (mostly 'Boobies') and residual rats (from a shipwreck long disappeared) compete in a classic ecological disruption.



There is no harbor. A near-constant turbulent surf makes landfall treacherous. Good fortune allowed the rubber Zodiacs to offload from the San Diego-based charterboat. Mindful pre-planning to details produced a functional camp in short order. Radios, computers, antennae and software were up and running to result in a world-class DX project successful in all aspects. Logged were 113,601 contacts in a week—displayed on a DXA webpage, updated by the minute.

They left eight days after arrival taking all evidence of being there. The next group will never know they were, except for the 248-page book completed upon return and available at our meeting: =DXA=, *The Real-time Online Radio Log Server*. It is oriented toward amateur radio but tells the story of the expedition from planning-start to return. Bob for a copy: Schmieder@cordell.org. The expedition website is www.TX5K.com.

Meals were prepared aboard ship and brought through the surf; they ate well. The European participants had the foresight to bring ample beer and two refrigerators to keep it cool in the burdensome heat. Water from the lagoon's surface layer was treated to provide a cool shower for frequent use. A Kawasaki 4-wheel drive ATV became an essential tool, towing a large trailer to move gear about the island.

The *Shogun* returned to San Diego on the evening of March 18. Bob's long-time friend and fellow ham operator from Mexico, Luis Chartarifysky, was felled by a fatal heart attack less than an hour after landing. The book is dedicated to his memory.

Scientific samples were gathered, measurements beyond the radio project made. Unique kite-board aerial photos were taken over the camp site and volcanic core. They reconnoitered a deserted French military camp, the only human remnant present.



Chartered *Shogun* from San Diego; antenna forest during expedition; DAX display after last contact.

Clipperton Rock volcanic remnant.

New life, a coconut palm begins sustained by its own milk.



Chapter Picnic on Angel Island — 9 June 2012 As stated before, the most fun of the year for our active chapter; not to miss. The ride on Bob Schmieder's *Cordell Explorer* is a real treat (as is the afterglow); new Chair Saber's *Eagle* adds a choice for those who wish to come from Marin. Everyone is rewarded with hikes, a pot-luck picnic, games, and the chatter about explorations and travels. Plan ahead, and reserve (a must to be allowed aboard): with Capt. Bob Schmieder you **MUST** arrive before the *Cordell Explorer* departs Berkeley Harbor at 9 am sharp; call (925) 934-3735. <schmieder@cordell.org>. Capt. Saber's *Eagle* departs Loch Lomand Marina, San Rafael at 9:45 SHARP; contact Rick <eagle@rsaber.com> to find details—his capacity is more limited. Then, of course, there are ferries from Tiburon (hourly) and the City. Check the web for detailed schedules.

Your plans can be minimal: bring food and drink for yourselves. Kay Schmieder will bring charcoal, a chest of ice and fruit salad to share; the Sabers will share a pot of chili. There are grills on the lawn by the cove. We usually stay from about 10 through 2 or so. There is no fee for this fun, but please register with the boat folks. Tell Joan Boothe you are planning to attend so we have a guess as to how many will enjoy the Sunday, June 9th picnic. Diggle's pictures from 2011 & 2012:



Steve Smith letting go; Saber & Jepsen; Sara Shoemaker Lind preping for long shots; Saber & Schmieder aboard *Eagle*; on stern of *Cordell Explorer*; Kay & Bob Schmieder

Allan, Jim
Barrett, Reginald
Blumberg, Marion
Bogardus, Peter
Boothe, Barry
Boothe, Joan
Breed, George
Cantini, Mary
Chase, H. Keith
Cheatham, Nonna
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Crowder, Wendy
Day, Peggy
Dutcher, Susan
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Faggioli, Richard E.
Ford, Art
Glantz, Gina
Glantz, Ron
Guzy, Michael
Guzy, Michael
Hamer, Michael
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Hicks, Harry
Higgins, Bob
Hirzel, David
Hodges, Eliot
Hurson, Jim
Hurson, Von
Hutchison, Alan
Hutchison, Ann
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Jepsen, Kathy
Judd, Kathy
Klotz, Suzanne
Klotz, Suzanne
Komarmy, Margot
Komarmy, Margot
Kutz, Dida
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Karine
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Libowitz, Dan
Long, Elgen
Maroney, Robert
McGann, Mary
McPhail, Brian
Meniketti, Marco
Merdinger, Charles
Moyer, David
Neiman, Martin
Nichols, Peter
O'Kane, Teresa
Perkins, Shelby
Phelps, Laura
Prigoff, James
Ross, Sandy
Roush, John
Rygh, Char
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Bob
Schmieder, Kay
Smith, Mark
Smith, Steve
Stewart, Zack
Taylor, Susan
Van Austen, Judy
Van Austen, Robert
Von der Porten, Ed
Walsh, Don
Weil, James
Whiteside, Dede
Ziegler, Robin

From the Chair— I can't say enough about the resources we have within our Chapter membership. Bob Schmieder's talk at last Friday's meeting was a perfect example of the experience, organizational talent, energy, and speaking ability that is resident in many of our regular members. A great talk, Bob. Thank you.

Those of you who managed to get to the rescheduled visit to Moffett Field to see the *Solar Impulse* know what an interesting experience it was. The two explorers, Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg were very generous with their time, staying after their talk to mingle with the Chapter members, answer any and all questions, and generally demonstrate not only a spirit of adventure in our wonderful earth, but also a genuine caring for its preservation. To be a part of this adventure, the Northern California Chapter has adopted one of the solar panels on the *Solar Impulse*. We wish Bertrand and Andre a safe flight across the United States of America.

I have some thoughts on field trips by our Chapter. My first field trip was as a geology student when I was a 20-year-old undergraduate at McGill University in Montreal. The trip was to look at the geology of Mount Royal, just up the hill from the university, in the center of Montreal. Mount Royal is the resistant core of an ancient volcano and I remember that trip and all the others that were part of my career as an exploration geologist. So, I was at first a bit overwhelmed by the idea of going to look at an old coal mine. After all, I had been in several mines in the US and Canada, in Europe and in South America. But I have to confess that the old juices have started to flow again, and now I'm eager to see what happened in mining right around here more than a hundred years ago. Kathy and I will be there. Thanks to Von and Rick for pushing this trip.

Last night Kathy and I were at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum to hear our own Suzanne Klotz MN'12, give another in her series of talks about the northern India Himalayan religious practices dating from back as far as 500 AD or earlier. All about goddesses. Attendance at Suzanne's talks has been building such that the Museum has had to use the larger meeting hall to hold all the interested audience. I recalled reading about the earlier explorers like Shackleton and Amundsen who gave similar talks all around the country to rally support for their explorations. Suzanne's talk is perhaps less dramatic than going to the South Pole, but it still is very interesting and supports my point about the breadth of interests of our Chapter membership.

Finally of course, our annual expedition to Angel Island is in the offing and I'm looking forward to it. We are, of course, blest with such a gorgeous natural environment surrounding us here in the Bay Area, the Bay itself, Angel Island, the many hiking trails and the good weather to enjoy it. See you on Sunday June 9th!

—Anders Jepsen PhD FN'03



Check in hand.
A thank you NorCA's
donation to the *Across
America* flight!



Solar Impulse

Megathinking. There has been a huge broad conceptualization that drives the creators of the Swiss-designed and built *Solar Impulse* aircraft. It is not just about flying without using non-renewable fuel or creating a flying machine some said could not be built. No, the driving enthusiasm is that this project demonstrates in a very dramatic fashion what can be done with the sun. Balloonist Bertrand Piccard and jet-pilot André Borschberg have joined their technical and entrepreneurial skills to show the world what can be done with less. If their impact is heard, and acted upon, there is the potential that the world's use of non-renewables can be halved.

The *Solar Impulse* has to be seen to be appreciated. It is a big airplane, mostly wing with 10,748 solar panels affixed. Another 880 panels fit on the rear horizontal stabilizer; the vertical tail dwarfs a man in height. To fit within Moffett Field's Hanger #2, the redwood structure built for the Navy's airship *USS Macon*, the crew slides it in sideways. Four 10-hp electric motors, two near the forward cockpit and two far out on the wing, provide the driving force. This bird flies slow and steady at a maximum air speed of 43 mph. It takes hours to reach cruising altitude near 30,000'; hours more to descend. The lithium batteries allow flight at night too, all night. The limit to endurance is the single pilot; André and Bertrand have trained to stay aloft 30 hours—enough to skip across America.



Chair Anders Jepsen, Pilot Bertrand Piccard, Pilot André Borschberg, Vice Chair Rick Saber, Treasurer Joan Booth during the visit to Moffett Field

The details of this impressive craft can be viewed at their website <www.solarimpulse.com>. The planning to get this far is equally impressive, and the goal is to circumnavigate the earth in 2015 (with the addition of an auto-pilot capability so the pilot can catnap on very long stretches.) A second aircraft is being built streamlining a few items learned from the current Model One. The creativity demonstrated by the small focused team of engineers and scientists is showing a practical use where solar energy can be applied, eliminating traditional fuel in flight. They influence the development of battery technology, solar panel efficiency, computer control, light-weight structural materials and even human endurance.

HB-SIA departed Moffett Field at 06:12 on May 3.
Sunrise at 06:11 lightened its wingtip.



The team of Piccard and Borschberg welcome sharing what they are learning and encourage participation in the fruits of their growing knowledge. What can come of this exploration? It is a work in progress. Already it has had an impressive impact on international cooperation as they fly beyond the borders of their mountainous homeland. It was wonderful to share with them, and the NorCA Chapter offered support by funding a solar panel as it flies *Across America* (see top photo).

New Chair for Northern California— There will be a change in chapter leadership at the close of our May 24 meeting. As agreed, when Dr. Anders Jepsen completes his two years as Chair, the position will pass to the Vice Chair. Capt. Rick Saber will take on the responsibility for the balance of 2013—hopefully beyond. The masthead will change, as well: the new Vice Chair is Joan Boothe; the new Treasurer is Steve Smith. Our new Secretary is Dede Whiteside. Mike Diggles and Lee Langan remain tied to their tasks. Thank you Anders for your very successful tutelage and guidance.

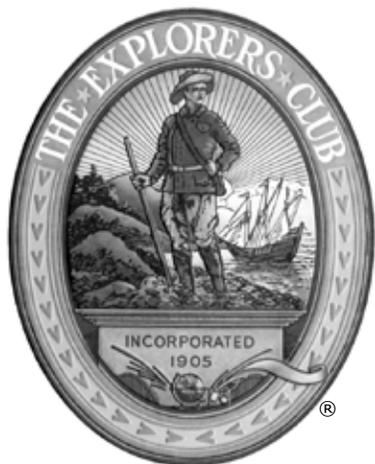
From the Board Board committees have been busy since the ECAD weekend, but with the next scheduled meeting on May 11, there is not a Board report this month. My Publications Committee has released the *2013 Chronicle & Roster*, available in the Member's section on the TEC National website: <http://www.explorers.org/roster/pdfRoster>. It will soon also be available as an ePUB optimized for an iPad, and it can be ordered as a printed copy for a modest cost. Also, the entire Club is participating in the *Solar Impulse* expedition, and Bertrand Piccard FI'00 will be welcomed at HQ after his arrival in New York.

—Lee Langan FN'99

The list is building.
Add your name!
Dues go to the cost
of our newsletter!
Send \$25 to
Joan Boothe



May/June 2013



Chair: Anders Jepsen
925 254-3079
ajviking@aol.com
Vice Chair: Rick Saber
415 457-0345
eagle@rsaber.com
Treasurer: Joan Boothe
415 346-5934
hoodooskr@aol.com
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

May 24, 2013 – Conserving Ocean Resources

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

May 24, 2013 - Nicole L. Crane
Conserving Ocean Resources City Forest Lodge

Upcoming Events (2013)

June 9, 2013 - NorCA Picnic
Angel Island "Expedition"

Earlier Chapter Events (2012/13)

- January 27, 2012 (Friday). Expedition Medicine
Matthew Lewin, MD
February 24 Joshua Glovin
HOT Ocean Exploration City Forest Lodge
March 30 Ed Von Der Porten
New Findings of San Felipe. City Forest Lodge
April 27, 2012 Stephen Smith
16 years at Kosrae City Forest Lodge
May 25 John Wilus
Fremont's Canon City Forest Lodge
September 29 Return to Garrapata
The Hicks' Big Sur home.
October 26. City Forest Lodge
Cordillera Blanca. Dr. Bill Straka
November 30. Prof. Michael J. Harner
Tribes of the Amazon and Shamanism
December 16. Annual Holiday Party
.. 'best expedition photo contest' Saber home
January 25, 2013. TEC Board visit
Board's Story Night Ferryboat, Pier 3, SF
February 22, Dr David Des Marais
Mars Exploration by NASA, Moffett Field
March 28, Susan Klotz
Northeast Nepal. City Forest Lodge
April 26 Bob Schmieder
Clipperton Isle City Forest Lodge
April 29, 2013 Solar Impulse visit
Moffett Field Mountain View
May 11, 2013 NorCA Field Trip
Black Diamond Coal Mine, Contra Costa

Send address changes and corrections by email to Steve at nauticos1@oceanearth.org

USE PAYPAL!

May 24, San Francisco @ City Forest Lodge

Date: FRIDAY, May 24, 2013
Place: City Forest Lodge
254 Laguna Honda Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94116-1409
(415) 753-8326
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner — 8:00 - talk
Cost: \$49 in advance; \$60 after 22 May
Students: \$35. (2013 dues \$25!)
Please mail information to Joan Boothe,
2435 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115
or email hoodooskr@aol.com or call (415) 346-5934

Reserve __ spaces for 24 May 2013
Cost: \$49 (for members and sirdars)
\$35 for card-carrying students
Name:
Address (if changed):
Companion:
Entrée Choice (select from below*):

Please reserve by MAY 22!

We have an established PayPal account.

For those of you who have an account, 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!

*MAY Meal Options (select your choice)
roasted chicken breast, stuffed port tenderloin with mashed potatoes, vegetable raviolis

In 2012, the City Forest Lodge was sought out as a meeting place in the heart of San Francisco. The lodge is hidden in a driveway just south along Seventh Avenue as it turns into Laguna Honda Boulevard. The Lodge has the catering and space needs we require, and our meetings this year have proved it is working!

Location details should be researched in advance

There is parking, and the location, while unfamiliar to some, is easy to find tucked away just across from the City's Laguna Honda Hospital. Once the lot is full, park within the neighborhood, just uphill to the west. Muni access is VERY easy from downtown via the light-rail Taraval 'L' Line and Ocean View 'M' Line. Exit at the Forest Hill station and walk a block north. These lines can be reached by BART and the Peninsula's CalTrain. (Forest Hill Station is located deeper underground than any other Muni Metro station; so much so that, unlike other stations, most people use an elevator to reach the platform at Forest Hill.)