

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter May 2015

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

LOCATIONS

Note venues and dates with care.

In San Francisco, CA
our next meeting is 6:00 pm
21 May, a Thursday,
California Academy of Science
55 Music Concourse Drive
Golden Gate Park

AN EVENING AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THURSDAY EVENING - MAY 21, 2015

Reception commences at 6:00 pm

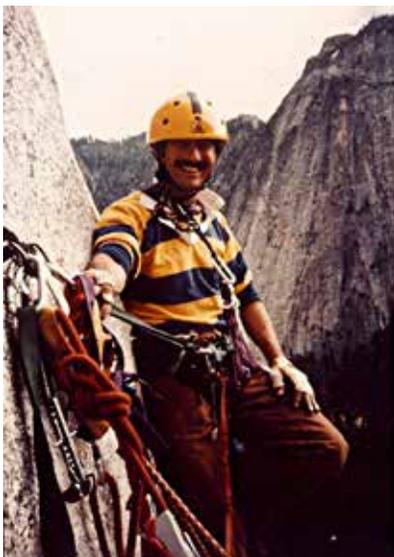
Hosted bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres

6:45 pm: Presentation by Dr. Meg Lowman of the California Academy of Sciences

Followed by the installation of the incoming Northern California Chapter Chair and Vice Chair
and the celebration of Rick Saber's term of the past two years as Chapter Chair.

7:15 pm: Small group, short guided tours of the Academy underground

7:15-9:30 pmm: Throughout the evening, continue to enjoy the Academy
the ample hors d'oeuvres and open bar (closes at 9:00 pm)



Outgoing Chair Rick Saber MN'01



Incoming Vice Chair Steve Smith FN'96



Incoming Chair Joan Boothe MN'07

Enter at "Business Entrance" on Nancy Pelosi Drive (east side of the main building)
Signs will direct you to where you will receive both your name tag and wrist bracelet.

Parking is available on the street or in the garage below the Academy, accessible from 10th Avenue and Fulton or from 9th Avenue and Lincoln. Parking in the garage is \$16 for the evening.

Plan for a very special and memorable evening. This will be a chance to honor and thank our past intrepid Chair of two years who guided our Chapter with passion and humor through both exciting and perilous times.

THE LAST OCEAN

THE TOOTHFISH AND THE BATTLE FOR THE ANTARCTIC'S SOUL

**A Film by Peter Young.
Brought to the Chapter Meeting by Dr. David Ainley**



Dr. David Ainley. photo by Von Hurson

The objective of this video was to portray the Ross Sea, which lies in the Southern Ocean between Antarctica and New Zealand, as the last ocean unspoiled by human activity. And even here, whaling in the past and industrial level fishing in the present are forces that belie the term "unspoiled".

The story began with references to the present concerns about climate change, environmental degradation and the effort to establish the Ross Sea as a marine sanctuary.

Superimposed on this effort was the con-

tinuing heavy commercial fishing activity, carried out almost entirely by the fishing industry in New Zealand, and the development of the ocean product described in markets and restaurants as Chilean Sea Bass for what was really the ToothFish. It included an education program that showed chefs how to prepare the ToothFish.

The presentation was made up of interviews with various people involved in the activities on both sides: scientists and activists who supported the idea of a Ross Sea marine sanctuary; and representatives of the fishing activity, primarily the Executive Director of the Fishing Industry trade association of New Zealand and the New Zealand Minister of marine resources. It showed interviews with market management and restaurateurs who defended the sale of the fish, and with the pro fishing lobby that spoke of the "sustainable" fishing practices which were supposedly in use. Reference was also made to the catch-tag-release programs and other fishing research programs claimed to be performed by the fishing industry association and the New Zealand academia.

All these interviews were superimposed on a background of scenes of springtime, penguins, whales and others species, and many images of snow and ice, as well as garbage

from past explorations. Poetry was recited, along with recorded underwater ballet sequences from videos of the wildlife under the ice. All this beside many shots of large fish being gaffed into the factory ship.

Emphasis then moved to describing the educational efforts that have been made to inform the world in general, and decision makers in particular, of the deleterious effect of the intense fishing in the Ross Sea, which had grown to include other countries besides New Zealand, and the efforts to expand the market for the 'Chilean Sea Bass'. A famous chef in New York was shown in two interview segments, in the first of which he defended the inclusion of Chilean Sea Bass on his menu and in the second of which he reported on his decision to remove it from the menu as a result of the environmental activism.

The final segment showed the international lobbying efforts that were carried out to promote the establishment of the marine sanctuary and the anti-sanctuary opposition that was maintained by at least two governments, New Zealand and the USA.

No success was to be reported, and the video ended with the sanctuary concept left in limbo and at least this writer with a feeling of despair. AJ.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH STORY OF THE MONTH

Got a favorite picture from your explorations? How about an interesting little story. Please submit them to the Newsletter editor (ajviking@aol.com) so the rest of the club can enjoy them. This elephant photo and the others that accompany Teresa O'kane's story on Page 4 were taken by Scott Soper and are from one of their explorations abroad.



Kathy Judd, Teresa O'Kane & Scott Soper
April meeting photo by Von Hurson

Contact the Editor or Chapter Secretary to submit your email address if not already receiving notices OR for a color print. Pass the word..

FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR

All good things eventually come to an end! For a lifetime of memories, learning from our fine list of world class speakers and the camaraderie we continually share, I thank each and every Member, Sirdar or supporter in our Chapter for your support and fun we've shared. I plan to do this personally during our Meeting 21 May at the California Academy of Sciences, then gracefully pass the gavel to our talented Chair (elect) Joan Boothe. Our April meeting constituted a forum; Joan Boothe and Steve Smith were elected by acclamation as incoming Chair & Vice Chair.

If you read our "State of the Chapter" attached to the May flyer invitation, you have some idea of the pinnacles we've achieved through the efforts of our Board.

Solar Impulse 2 and our tile #7744 landed in Nanjing completing leg 6 on their around the world flight. SI2 should be ready to commence its most challenging long-distance flight early May in its attempt to cross the Pacific.

Nicole Crane's Flag Expedition to Ulithi Atoll, planned for June, was on hold. Word just came to us that it is a "go". We will be warmly welcomed, albeit living in rustic

conditions due to super typhoon Maysak which raked the tiny atoll over the Easter weekend creating a survival environment. The Ulithi people are desperate for funds needed to rebuild and sustain them. See her website for options should you wish to help - <http://ulithimarineconservation.ucsc.edu>

In the past two years, NorCA has had many successful membership applications approved thus insuring the continuing vitality of our Chapter. I am proud to leave our Chapter in the extremely capable hands of Joan and Steve. For the time being, I say in flying parlance, "Over and Out!"

Capt. Rick Saber MN'01

FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR

With our May meeting, we will say goodbye to Rick Saber as chair of our Chapter, but much more importantly, we shall say THANK YOU for his inspired leadership and guidance over the past two years. For me personally, it has been a huge honor and privilege to serve as his Vice Chair, not to mention a very special learning opportunity. Rick is going to be a very hard act to follow, but I am going to do my best. I will be looking to all our Members, Sirdars, and chapter friends for support in this effort.

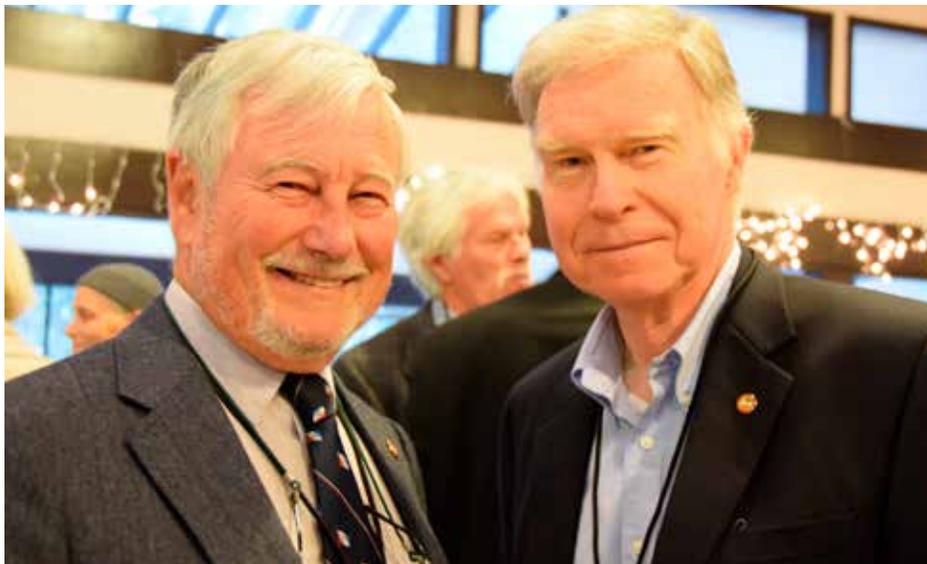
Plans for our 2015-16 chapter year are still forming, but several things are already definite.

Our annual Chapter picnic will be our first chapter activity under my chairmanship. The date is Saturday, June 13, as previously announced, but the location is currently under discussion. We will be letting you know just where it will take place, as well as other details, in a week or so.

After the picnic, we will, as usual, take a break from Chapter activities for the balance of the summer. Then, in September, we shall resume our monthly meetings, nearly all of which take place on the 4th Friday of the month, so note that date on your calendars.

Even though no Chapter meetings will be held between the Picnic and our September meeting, your Chapter Board will be meeting to plan for the coming year. You may hear from us from time to time asking for your input. We're looking forward to organizing more field trips, scheduling exciting speakers, and bringing more of you into active roles in the Chapter. Keep posted!

Joan Boothe MN'07



The guys who do the Audio Visual: Rick Saber and Jim Hurson.

Photo by Von Hurson

EXPLORERS ON THE MOVE

(If you have news of a Chapter member's impending expeditionary activity, please send the information to the editor.)

From the Board: The main task of your Board and the new Administration at its meeting subsequent to the election was to appoint key positions. The new Bylaws shuffled the Officers somewhat; four VPs are designated: Chapters (Atwater), Membership (Wallace)—notice they have swapped positions!—Flag & Honors (Concannon), Research & Education (Chase). Two VPs are optionally defined: Development (Dolan) & Special Projects (Difede). Senator John Glenn & Dr. Don Walsh were confirmed Honorary Chair & President, as were standing Honorary Directors. Four Special Directors were appointed: David Hempleman-Adams, Bill Liss, Theodore Roosevelt IV, Maria Wilhelm. An outstanding complement for our 112th year! —Lee Langan FN'99

Bathing an Elephant in Sri Lanka

Dreams Do Come True

by Teresa O’Kane MN’12

Several months before planning a trip to Asia, I had an extremely vivid dream. In it I was bathing an elephant in a river in Sri Lanka. The dream was vividly detailed down to the trousers--a pair of Capri khakis with a North Face logo on the pocket. After the dream I went on an elephant washing trouser hunt and found the exact trousers in my dream at an REI store. Six months later we were on a train to an elephant orphanage in Pinewella Sri Lanka.

At the orphanage one can stroke baby elephants while they are bottle-fed by volunteers. If you look pathetically desperate to hold the bottle yourself, as I did, they let you. Large families and tour groups from Colombo and Kandy arrived throughout the morning to have their picture taken with elephants before piling back into waiting minivans that would take them to the next stop on the itinerary.



I wanted more than just a photo. I wanted to live my dream. I asked one of the elephant handlers, a mahout, “Where do the elephants bathe?” and he gestured with head and hand in the direction of the exit. Then he proceeded to burst my bubble. “Only mahouts bathe elephant.”

I was mystified. “This isn’t like the dream at all,” I said to my husband Scott while turning away from the mahout. I felt completely deflated. Why would I have such a vivid dream if it wasn’t going to come true? I thought. I shrugged off my selfish desire and helped feed one more baby elephant before starting toward the exit.

Suddenly, I sensed I wasn’t alone. I turned around to see 85 elephants walking in my direction but at a much quicker pace. I high-tailed it out the exit and watched the elephants come toward me. The elephant in the lead and apart from the others was enormous and very old. Two mahouts led him, one on each side, murmuring quiet direction. Aw, how sweet, I thought. Those two men are so

kind and gentle with that old elephant.

Just before the elephants reached the gate, a guard blew a bugle announcing to everyone in bugle range that in a minute all traffic would stop and that all the elephants would cross the road to get to the river. Except for one elephant. Instead of heading to the river, the the old elephant with the two mahouts turned away from the herd and began walking down the middle of the road. As the threesome turned, one of the mahouts looked at me and cocked his head, “Come with us,” he gestured. So I did.



I looked for Scott but couldn’t see him anywhere. I finally spotted him trapped on the other side of a conga line of elephants heading to the river. He took advantage of a gap in the line and cut through the elephants so he could catch up to us.

Scott was confused. “Tris, What are you doing? Where are you going?” Scott asked when he reached me.

“I’m not exactly sure. But I hope I am going with this mahout to bathe this elephant.” Then I asked the mahout, Rajit, through pantomime, “Why does this elephant not go with the others?” He indicated that the old elephant was blind and that the place all the other elephants go to the river to bathe is too steep for the blind elephant to navigate.

We continued walking down the road until we came to small white bridge and a path that led to the river. We followed the elephant and the mahouts down the path.

The elephant stepped carefully into old footprints that formed a ramp made by hundreds of trips down his personal path to the water.

The mahout showed me how to scrub the elephant with a coconut husk. At first I wasn’t scrubbing hard enough but then I remembered how I did it in the dream and I quickly got the hang of it.

I scrubbed his whole body. I had to kneel on top of him to reach his back. I washed his tusks, which were incredibly smooth. I gently stroked his eyes with my hands. When the mahout asked the elephant to stand up and turn over, he did and I washed rinsed and repeated on the other side. As I scrubbed, the



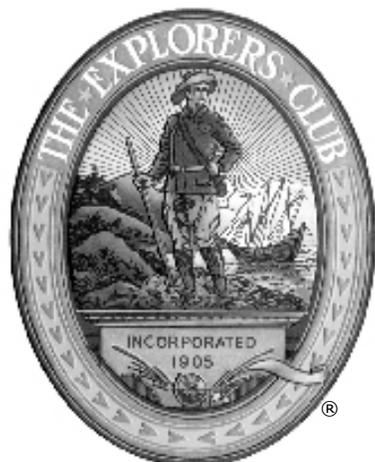
elephant, relaxed and content, fell asleep in the river.

I could barely believe what was happening. It was my 50th birthday and I was exactly where I wanted to be doing exactly what I wanted to do. Dreams do come true.



The next morning I waited in the road outside the orphanage to watch the procession of 85 elephants head down to the river. As Rajit turned the blind elephant away from the herd he looked at me and gestured, “Come with us.”

May 2015



Chair: Rick Saber MN'01
415 457-0345
eagle@rsaber.com
Vice Chair: Joan Boothe MN'07
415 346-5934
hoodoskr@aol.com
Treasurer: Stephen E. Smith FN'96
925 934-1051
ecnca@oceaneearth.org
Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
ajviking@aol.com
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Northern California
Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

Upcoming Events (2015)

May 21 (Thursday)Meg Lowman
Underground Tour, CA Academy of Science
June 13 Chapter Picnic
. TBA
SeptemberArjun Gupta
. TBA
October Lowell Thomas Meeting
October TBA

Earlier Chapter Events (2014)

April 26, 2014FIELD TRIP
Geyser's Field trip Richard Blake
May 23 Dr. Meg Lowman
Forest CanopiesCity Forest Lodge
June 8 Summer Gathering
Gene & Sybil Boudreau's home, Sebastapol
June 20FIELD TRIP
USS Hornet Oakland
September 26 M.E.A McNeill
Apiary ScienceCity Forest Lodge
October 11 Lowell Thomas Award Dinner
. Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA
October 24 Dylan Burge
Botany Field TripGolden Gate Park
November 21 Tony Liang
An exploration into cancer. . City Forest Lodge
December 10,Holiday Party
February 27 . Nicole Crane & Giacomo Bernardi
Romance & Discovery Under the Sea. .Pomeroy
March 21 ECAD
American Museum of Natural History New York
March 27 Dr. T. Mark Harrison
Earth's Geochronology. Pomeroy
April 24 Dr. David Ainley
Last Ocean (& NorCA election) Pomeroy

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

Upcoming Expeditions: We have been advised of several upcoming
expeditions which we believe Chapter Members and/or Sirdars may be interested in. Each of
these expeditions has at least a place or two available as of the date of this newsletter. Because
of space limitations, we can only provide brief descriptions here, but if you would like more
information, please contact the listed expedition organizer or Rick Saber (ricksaber1@gmail.com)
or Joan Boothe (hoodoskr@aol.com).

May 2015 — Raivavae Research Program, led by Explorers Club Board member Capt. Lynn
Danaher. Raivavae is an island in Polynesia with a population of under 1,000. One of 5 of the
Austral Islands, it is lush, unspoiled and stunningly picturesque. It is located just south of the
Tropic of Capricorn at 23 52 S latitude and 147 40 W longitude. Participants will be involved
in helping to collect data, visiting the communities, and learning about the unique management
and conservation efforts in the region. This program will be through the Oceanic Society in
partnership with our One People One Reef project. Information about this program can be found
at http://www.oceanicsociety.org/trip/research/ulithi-reef. An Explorers Club Flag has been
applied for.

June 8-28, 2015 Ulithi Expedition Update Explorers Club FN Nicole Crane called
for volunteers to join her and her science team, along with Rick Saber,, NorCA EC Chapter
Chair, to work with outer island communities on reef conservation and management. Since
that announcement, Ulithi Atoll has experienced a major destructive storm. Updates
can be found at onepeopleonereef.ucsc.edu. Donations through PMA at this link:
http://www.pmapacific.org/contribute/give/index.php (say Ulithi relief) OR http://
ulithimarineconservation.ucsc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Gift_form.pdf

August 2015 — Travel down the Nelson River in Canada to York Factory with the Fara Heim
Expedition to search for the lost warships of the 1697 Battle of Hudson Bay. For information,
please call (262-960-2959) or email David Collette (david@faraheim.com). For more information
re Fara Heim, go to www.faraheim.com

November 10, 2015 - December 22, 2015 ----Dr. Bob Schmieder reports continuing prog-
ress on his Heard Island expedition. The possibility of going along on the ship with day trips
ashore remains a possibility. For more information, contact him at
www.schmieder@cordell.org.

Thursday, May 21, 2015
A Glittering Night of Celebration

May 21, San Francisco @ California Academy of Sciences

Date THURSDAY, May 21, 2015
Place: Calif Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
55 Music Concourse Drive
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 379-8000
Time: 6:00 - reception
Hosted Bar, Heavy hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening.
Cost: \$100 in advance; Reservations close Saturday 9 May.
Please mail reservation, checks & dues to Steve Smith.
email ecnca@oceaneearth.org, call (925) 934-1051, or
mail to 402 Via Royal, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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!