

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

January 2016

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

LOCATIONS

Note venues and dates with care
In San Francisco, CA.

January 22, 2016
Grace Lutheran Church
3201 Ulloa Street at 33rd Ave
San Francisco, CA 94116

MODERN OCEAN EXPLORATION

Studying Marine Mammals Through Photography for Fun and Science.

Ted Cheeseman MN'15

Polar oceans appear to be among the world's most pristine environments, but is this true? The great age of exploration went hand in hand with an age of exploitation that made commercial and industrial products from what seemed like an infinity of whales and seals. The whalers left empty seas. Happily the story did not end, but we hardly know what's become of the few whales that survived. A great hole lurks in modern science, with few tools to understand how and where whale populations are recovering, and how they are responding to modern environmental changes. Building on over 20 years of polar expedition leading, Ted is part of forging a bridge for polar travelers into citizen science through the project Happywhale.com, enabling photographers to turn serendipitous encounters into real scientific contributions. We are uncovering sightings of whales almost unknown to science, like the elusive 'Type D' killer whale, previously known from only 14 recorded sightings since the 1950s. Join Ted and the chapter for an exploration of the Antarctic, polar oceans, and modern citizen science.



Ted Cheeseman grew up in California, whale watching and getting seasick in Monterey Bay from the age of a toddler. He was fortunate to join his parents leading wildlife safaris beginning in 1983, and on polar expeditions beginning 1994. After earning a graduate degree in tropical conservation biology from Duke University, Ted was seduced by the glory of polar extremes and returned to California to work with Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris (www.cheesemans.com), the company his parents founded in 1980. Ted now leads Antarctic expeditions for Cheesemans' Ecology and is developing Happy-whale (www.happywhale.com), a platform to promote marine mammal photo identification studies through citizen science.

HOLIDAY PARTY PHOTO CONTEST

The Holiday Party Photo Contest drew 16 participants with a total of 63 submissions from which 23 were selected and projected continuously on the Boothe's living room wall during the party. The winning photos are shown with their vote counts in parentheses beside each photo title.

Of the 23 photos in the competition 18 of them received at least two votes, showing the diversity both of the photos and of the tastes of the voters. All together, 49 guests cast ballots. Many thanks to Tom Dolan who helped count the votes.

This winning photo of Volcan Agua as seen from a street in Antigua, Guatemala, was taken by Sheldon Briener FN'78 during one of his geophysical expeditions. As a prize he received an Explorers Special Travel Kit.

CONTEST WINNER: SHELDON BREINER FN'78

Volcan Fuego, Antigua, Guatemala (19)



THE JOY OF GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP 2015 HOLIDAY PARTY AT JOAN AND BARRY BOOTHE'S HOME

Some 90 members and friends of the Explorers Club Northern California Chapter started the Christmas Holiday season with the annual Chapter Holiday Party which was held at the home of Joan (our Chapter Chair) and Barry Boothe. A spectacular array of tasty goodies, savories and sweets kept a steady stream around the dining room table. And the bounteous wine supply included some special items from Barry's private collection. Meanwhile, discussions in the kitchen and the living room and individual viewings of the submissions to the Holiday Party Photo

Contest maintained a hum of conversation throughout the evening.

A collage of photos taken at the Holiday Party is shown on page 4. It represents about a third of the total number of guests. Several of those pictures show how intensely the photos in the contest were being viewed.

And for those who stayed late: Maggi Blake regaling us with song and dance to America The Beautiful.

What an evening! AJ

MORE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

**TIED FOR SECOND PLACE - Sandra Cook
The Silk Road in Northeastern Afghanistan (9)**



More on the Photo Contest (continued from page 1)

Two photos were tied for Second Place. Sandra Cook's Silk Road in northeastern Afghanistan photo was taken during a horse trek in 2014. Sandra reports that when the horses were absconded with, she continued her Silk Road travels on a Yak. Since then she has made a personal trek to the headwaters of the Ganges in India in late 2015.

Ted Cheeseman's Second Place photo of a Sperm Whale off Dominica was taken during a study trip in the Caribbean in 2015. Ted will be discussing it along with other issues involving cetaceans during our January, 2016, talk later this month.

Third place was Suzanne Klotz's Madhyalas or Masked Dancers in the festival of Phagli, Tirthan River Valley, Himachal Pradesh, India, February 2015. from her latest expedition to the Himalayas of Northern India in 2015. Suzanne will be returning to that area to continue her investigations in February of this year.

Submissions from Dan Ackerman and Sue Fox, who were tied for Honorable Mention, can be seen on page 4. Dan's photo of Mount Manaslu in Nepal was taken days before he submitted it in 2015. Sue's stallion fight photo was taken during one of her Explorers Club flag expeditions to Mongolia to study the reintroduction of the wild stallions back to their origins. AJ

**TIED FOR SECOND PLACE - Ted Cheeseman MN'15
Sperm Whale off Dominica, Caribbean Sea (9)**



**THIRD PLACE - Suzanne Klotz MN'12
Madhyalas or Masked Dancers in the Festival of Phagli,
Tirthan River Valley, Himachal Pradesh, India (8).**





All Holiday Party photos were taken by Von Hurson.
 Row by row, left to right, top to bottom; * Photo Contest Winners

- 1: Ted Cheeseman*, Nancy Isaac, Rick Saber; Joan Boothe, Judson Rogers; Barry Boothe, Sybil Boudreau, Peter Bogardus.
- 2) Joy Durighello, Kathy Jepsen; Barbara Berg, Barbara Kanowick; Carole Ford, Keith Kvenvolden, Art Ford
- 3) Sandra Cook*, Anders Jepsen; Mimi and Sheldon Breiner*; Krist Jake; Mike Diggles
- 4) Doug and Teresa Tlden; Steve Smith and Ed Von der Porten; Alan Rice and Laura Phelps.
- 5) Tom Dolan; Dede Hicks and Keth Kvenvolden

**HONOR ROLL
OF
PAID UP DUES
FOR 2015**

James Allan
Barbara Berg
Richard Blake
Marion Blumberg
Kendra Bolt
Joan Boothe
Barry Boothe
Ann Chokas
Karoli Clever
Nicholas Clinch
Sandra Cook
Wendy Crowder
David Dolan
Thomas Dolan
Elaine Dvorak
Donald Dvorak
Palmer Dyal
Sue Estey
Lesley Ewing
Eric Follestad
Susan Fox
Thomas Hall
Peter Hemming
David Hirzel
William Heydorn
Laura Holmes
Louise D. Hose
Alan Hutchison
Ann Hutchison
Anders Jepsen
Kathy Jepsen
Fred Johnson
Kathryn Judd
James Kelley
Steven King
Jonathan Knowles
Keith Kvenvolden
Lee Langan
Karine Langan
Ellen Lapham
Iyana Leveque
Luke Mertens
Angelina Mertens
Christopher Michel
Teresa O’Kane
Laura Phelps
James Prigoff
Sandra Ross
Edward Ross
Rick Saber
Aldeana Saber
David Serne
Sara Showmaker-Lind
Stephen Smith
Zack Stewart
Richard Tenaza
Judy Van Austen
Robert Van Austen
Edward Von der Porten
James Weil
Mark Weiman
Gordon Wiltsie
Sherry Wren

FROM THE CHAIR: Joan Boothe MN’07

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season — however, wherever, and with whomever you celebrated it. If that sounds very similar to what I wrote a month ago, yes, it is; November and December are an ongoing holiday time. For the Northern California Chapter, we capped it off with our annual Holiday party, which you can read much more about elsewhere in this newsletter. It was my great pleasure to host so many of you at my home, a party made so much easier by all the help I received from so many of you. Thanks to all who pitched in, including those who came early, those who helped during, and those who stayed late to aid in cleanup. And then there were the tech people, who took my balky computer and made it perform so that we could have our photo show. The party wouldn’t have been complete without their efforts. I do hope our party helped launch you into the rest of your holiday celebrations.

The big news of January is that we are once again changing our meeting venue. Please be sure to look at the details on the last page of the newsletter, as well as on the meeting announcement we sent out several days ago. I hope you will agree that the change is a positive one. The space is much larger, more open, and less cluttered.

Good public transit has a stop one block away and there is ample street parking. I welcome your comments and feedback on this change.

Several weeks ago, you should have received an announcement about our Chapter organizing chapter tables for ECAD. As I write this, the Explorers Club’s Annual Dinner is only about two months off. We still have a few places at one of our pre-paid tables, so if you want to take one or more of those seats, do let me know. Reminders will be coming your way.

In a repeat of what I wrote last month, you will see that we have an “honor roll” of those who have paid Chapter dues for 2015 in the monthly newsletters. As you know, our chapter receives no regular financial support from New York. Thus your chapter dues are important to us, making it possible for us to have first rate AV equipment for meetings, pay for the Holiday Party, and for other chapter costs. For the first time in quite some time, we’ll be sending out dues reminders in January. Chapter dues are optional, but we really hope that you’ll send them in.

Happy New Year to all,

Joan

**HONORABLE MENTION - SUE FOX FN’14
Taksi Stallion Send-off, Mongolia (7)**



**HONORABLE MENTION - DAN AKERMAN AM’14
Manaslu in the Moonlight, Nepal (7)**



PHOTO AND STORY OF THE MONTH

Got a favorite picture from your explorations? How about an interesting personal story? Please submit them to the Newsletter editor (ajviking@aol.com) so the rest of the club can enjoy them - picture, story or both..

This month’s story and photos are drawn from the Holiday Party Photo Contest.

From the National Board: From the National Board— By now each of you have received your new dues invoice from headquarters; please pay this promptly as these are the funds that support our operational budget. This year two new considerations have been implemented; 1) you are asked to submit dues to cover a six-month period. (This enables a change from a calendar year charge to a fiscal year system. In June you will receive another invoice for the full 2016-2017 Fiscal Year.) And 2) there is a modest increase in dues. Pay up; it is worth it! —Lee Langan FN’99

Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



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Chapter Calendar of Events
(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Upcoming Events (2016)
2016

January 22. Ted Cheeseman
Modern Ocean Exploration . Grace Lutheran Ch
February 26 Rosemarie Twinan
Game Counting in Africa . . Grace Lutheran Ch
March 11-13. ECAD New York
March 25 Daniel Lin
Navigation on Polynesian Voyages Grace Luth Ch
April 28. Autodesk
. TBA
May 27. Grace Lutheran Ch
. TBA

Earlier Chapter Events (2014)
2015

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
May 21 (Thursday) Meg Lowman
Underground Tour, CA Academy of Sciences
June 13 Chapter Picnic
. Angel Island
September 25 Tom Dolan
Studying Tornadoes . .Covenant Presbyterian Ch
October 23. David Imus
Art of Cartography . . Covenant Presbyterian Ch
November 7-8 Lowell Thomas Meeting
November 20. Arjun Gupta
Third Pole Initiative. Covenant Presbyterian Ch
December 13. HolidayParty
. Home of Joan Boothe

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

UPCOMING EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS & FIELD TRIPS

January, 2016: Bhutan expedition, room for up to 8 individuals.
For more information, contact Peggy Day at mizday@me.com
February 1 - 14: Suzanne Klotz will be in Delhi, Varanasi (studying Hindi) and the village of
Goshaini in the Tirthan River Valley of Himachal Pradesh and some smaller villages
February 21, 2016: Chapter Field Trip: Observing Robotic Surgery.
March 11-13 2016: ECAD, New York City
March, 2016: Dr. Bob Schmieder reports that the Heard Island expedition is on track and
on budget to depart Capetown in early March.
For more information, email him at schmieder@cordell.org

AV HELP WANTED

Join the Chapter AV team to help with video and audio equipment set-up at Chapter meetings. You don't have to attend every meeting, but if you are interested in doing this from time to time, let Joan Boothe know, and she'll get you set up for a meeting where you can be trained in what needs to be done.

ROBOTIC SURGERY FIELD TRIP

To be held February 21, 2016
Details to be announced in January
Number of attendees is limited.
RSVP to: Rick Blske, blake2@llnl.gov

CHAPTER MEETING Friday, January 22, 2016

Grace Lutheran Church
3201 Ulloa Street, at 33rd Ave., San Francisco, 94116

Date: Friday, 22 December, 2016
Place: Grace Lutheran Church
3201 Ulloa Street, at 33rd Ave
San Francisco, CA 94116
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner ---8:00 - program
Meal Options (reserve your choice)
Teriyaki Chicken, Salmon or Veggie (Pasta prima vera)
NOTE: veggie request must be in by prior Sunday
Cost: \$49 in advance \$60 after 19 January; Students: \$35.
(2016 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)
Please mail reservations, meal choice, checks & dues to Kendra Bolt
email: NorCalExplorers@gmail.com Call 731-327-2658 or
mail to 1800 Bryant Street #114, San Francisco, CA 94110

We have an established PayPal account.

With an account, you can sign up and remit your meal costs, dues, etc 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!