

# The Explorers Club

## Northern California Chapter

February 2016

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

### LOCATIONS

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

February 26, 2016  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3201 Ulloa Street at 33rd Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94116

## ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA: 28,000 Miles and "Counting" Rosemarie Twinam, MN '90 and Fred Galan, MN '14

Over the past six and a half years, Rosemarie Twinam and Fred Galan have participated in six 24-hour Game Censuses (Counts) for Wildlife & Environment Zimbabwe (WEZ) in Hwange National Park. For the census, teams are assigned a specific pan (water-hole). They sit in their vehicles and count all mammals that come to the pan from noon one day until 11:59 the next. During these



counts, teams record species, gender, age, whether or not the animal drinks, unusual behavior, or any snares or other wounds. They are also asked to report species such as cheetah, wild dog, leopard, lion and certain birds, such as raptors, to other local organizations. WEZ Game Census records go back to 1972.

Twinam is a former high school biology teacher, and a Flight Attendant with National Airlines and Pan Am. On her first safari to Kenya in 1970, she fell in love with Africa. Her first trip to South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Botswana was in 1974, and she has returned to East and Southern Africa at every opportunity. This last safari was her 35th. She has also been a former Education Committee Chair, Vice Chair, Chair, and now Chapter Treasurer of The Southern Florida Chapter of The Explorers Club, Inc. Twinam is also a Member of the Society of Woman Geographers. She has just received her 35-year pin as a Volunteer / Docent at Zoo Miami.

As a boy in Cuba, Galan spear-fished and explored the ocean near his home. He found two cannons on an old shipwreck, pulled them ashore, and gave them to a local museum. This was just the beginning of his explorations. Galan is a boat Captain and Dive Master. For 10 years he owned a SCUBA diving operation in the Florida Keys. He is a pilot and a Skydiving Instructor, and had his own plane and a Skydiving operation in South Florida, and helped develop the square parachute in the 1970's. He is an NRA Shotgun Instructor, and Sporting Clays Instructor. For 17 years he was Head Electrician and consultant on projects at Zoo Miami (formerly Miami Metrozoo).

Each trip across southern Africa begins in Johannesburg. Instead of taking the shortest and fastest route from Johannesburg to Hwange National Park, Twinam and Galan work backward from the Census dates to plan their extended safaris. On their latest trip, in August-September-October 2015, they were traveling for ten weeks! To date they have driven 28,600 miles across South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe.



Twinam and Galan's talk will focus on their most recent trip, but will also cover the results of their earlier participation in Hwange National Park game counting. The talk will be richly illustrated with their magnificent photos of the animals they count as they sit in their vehicle through an exhausting, but exhilarating 24 hours.

Photos provided by the speakers

### ECAD: 11-13 March 2016.

ECAD — Three chapter tables are now full, but we're hoping to organize another. If you have not yet purchased an ECAD ticket but decide to do so, please let us know and we'll do what we can to have you at a 4th NorCa table. — If you are going to ECAD, there's more than one way to get there! Chapter member Keith Kvenvolden, FE '80, is taking the train. He writes: "A convenient Amtrak train leaves from Emeryville, California at 9:10 AM on Monday March 7 and arrives at Penn Station in New York City at about 4:50 PM on Thursday March 10. The trip should be a great exploration adventure". If anyone is planning to take this train to ECAD, please contact Keith and he will look for you on the train. His phone number is 650-328-0414 and his email is <kvenvolden@earthlink.net>."

# MODERN OCEAN EXPLORATION

## Studying Marine Mammals Through Photography for Fun and Science

### Ted Cheeseman MN'15

The Friday, January 22, presentation before 60 attendees, was a masterful overview of the Antarctic, its beauty and natural life, the threats to it from human activity, and finally a suggestion for using the current tourist activity as a positive tool in studying one aspect of the present status. The speak-



er's array of slides of cliffs, water and ice, and of the inhabitants - penguins, whales and birds set the stage. Memorable were a slide of 180,000 King penguins, part of a colony that numbered many more, a close-up of the magnificent Wandering Albatross



with young, and a view of a rarely seen Killer whale that is much larger than what is seen in California.

The natural conditions of Antarctica reflect a remarkable contrast between the cold of the antarctic air and the warmth of the water. The scale of the intensity of the weather makes for a dynamic environment. The plankton blooms in the water "drive the local economy" contributing to the basic components of the food chain upon which the higher members of the chain, the penguins and the cetaceans thrive.

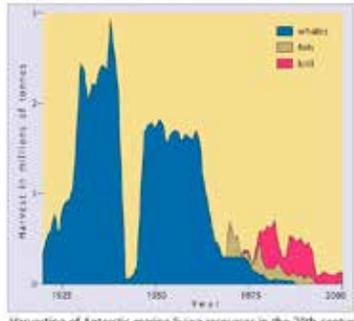
This led the talk to the consideration of specific challenges presented to the Antarctic by its discovery by humans. A slide showing Captain Cook and his crew introduced one of the downsides of exploration

and discovery. His report on the abundance of the elephant and fur seals in Antarctica led to the boom in seal hunting and the near destruction of the fur seal population to



gratify the desire of northern customers for sealskin coats. Later reports on the abundance of whales in the Antarctic led to the whaling boom which had the same effect on the local whale population. That boom only ended when the population was almost completely taken, making it no longer profitable to continue whaling there. The slide below shows the boom and bust cycle of that whaling, with a sharp curtailment of whaling

Exploitation of Antarctic Marine Life



during WWII when all the boats were commandeered by the military.

Cheeseman acknowledged the importance of his hero, Alfred Russel Wallace, whose history of detailed, painstaking work as an exploration and research biologist led to his own decision to become a biologist. The actions of past explorers were to add to the knowledge of the known world. Exploration of Antarctica continues to this day, one aspect of which is the mapping of the topography of the land mass under the ice sheet, as shown in the next illustration of an airborne geophysical survey over the continent.

This served as an introduction to the final section, which was a presentation of his



proposed incorporation of the enthusiasm of modern ecology-minded explorers into a whale tracking program. He introduced the website [www.HappyWhale.com](http://www.HappyWhale.com) which encourages all those eco-tourists to submit their photos of the tail of a whale which comes up just before the whale sounds. Each whale has a different pattern on the trailing edge of its tail, which makes a

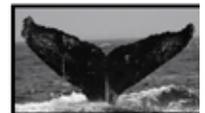
### 1 Set.

Be sure to reflect the local date and time. Turn on GPS if you've got it!



### 2 Shoot.

Capture as many photos as you can clearly showing the tail's flukes.

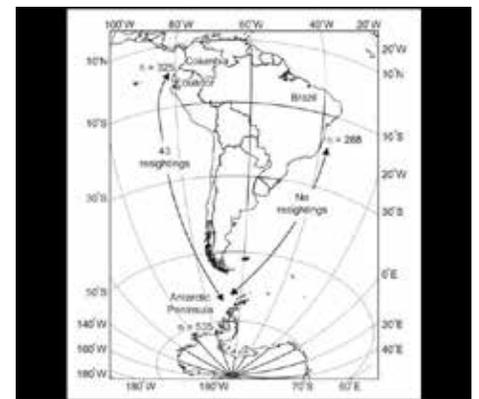


### 3 Submit.

Go to [www.happywhale.com](http://www.happywhale.com). Upload all tail shots for each whale. Your account will auto-generated upon submission.



perfect way to identify that whale, just as a finger print does the same for a human. By



establishing a data base of tail pictures, complete with date and location of the whale, a

An interesting idea. AJ

All illustrations provided by the speaker

## HONOR ROLL OF PAID UP DUES FOR 2016

### Members

Jim Alexander  
Julia Amaral  
Susan Anderson  
Bonnie Bibas  
Peter Bogardus  
Kendra Bolt  
Joan Boothe  
Doug Cheeseman  
Alan Cooper  
Mike Diggles  
Thomas Dolan  
Louise Downe  
Thomas Durbin  
Elaine Dvorak  
Donald Dvorak  
Sue Estey  
Robert Eustace  
Art Ford  
Ron Glantz  
Tom Hall  
Peter Hemming  
Michael Herz  
William Heydorn  
Robert Higgins  
Jim Hurson  
Von Hurson  
Anders Jepsen  
Steven King  
Ronald Klein  
Keith Kvenvolden  
Edward Ross  
Sandra Ross  
Bob Schmeider  
Richard Tenaza  
James Weil  
Gordon Wiltsie  
Sherry Wren

### Sirdars

Linda Alexander  
Marion Blumberg  
Barry Boothe  
Sandra Cook  
Dafne Engstrom  
Mats Engstrom  
Anna Freitas  
Louise Geraci  
Gina Glantz  
Nancy Isaac  
Kathy Jepsen  
Iyana Christine Leveque  
Bonny O'Keefe  
Ingrid Peterson  
Laura Phelps  
Andrew Wegst

## FROM THE CHAIR

Joan Boothe MN'07

Well, the holidays are now well in the rearview mirror. For our Chapter, 2016 started off with a bang, with Ted Cheeseman's wonderful talk, delivered in our new venue. More than 60 people signed up to attend, by far the largest attendance we've had this 2015-16 chapter year. With plenty of space in the new venue, I hope that we will have more very well attended events in the months to come. As for the venue, do let me know what you think!

As most of you are aware by now, dues notices have gone out by email. I say "most of you" because if you were already current for 2016, we did not send you one of these reminders. This is the first time in many years that we've sent out such reminders. That we have done so does not mean that chapter dues for members are required. They continue to be optional and you will stay on our distribution list and be very welcome at our meetings whether you contribute your \$25/year or not. You dues, however, are important to the financial health of our chapter, so we are most grateful to those of you who do send them in.

For Sirdars, the situation is a bit different. To maintain your Sirdar chapter affiliation and stay on our distribution list, we do require that you stay current with your \$50/year dues. If you are wondering about the difference in treatment and amount, it is based on the fact that Explorers Club members already pay very substantial annual dues to the Explorers Club. The Sirdar \$50 amount is a combination charge as follows: \$25 to maintain your chapter affiliation plus \$25 that matches the chapter dues that we request from Explorers Club members to help pay for news-

letter and other chapter costs. PLEASE, if you have any comments or questions, do feel free to contact me.

As you receive this, ECAD is less than a month and a half away and New York beckons. Our three chapter tables are full. It is great that so many NorCa people are going to New York, but we are hoping for even more. If you sign up with New York, let us know if you would like to be at a possible 4th NorCa table.

On a final, whimsical note — I had lunch recently with a friend who talked about an "exploration" goal he has created for himself. All of you, I am sure, are aware of the "Seven Summits" concept, a notable achievement first successfully conquered in the mid-1980s. Well, my friend offered up a new, and far easier, twist on this. He wants to visit the lowest place on every continent. He already has bagged Death Valley in North America and the Red Sea, which would take care of Asia. But what is the lowest place for the other five continents? He's not too sure about that. Hmm. Somewhere in the Netherlands for Europe? But that would be a manmade, artificial, creation, he says, so maybe that doesn't count. Is there somewhere below sea level in South America, Australia, Africa, and Antarctica? He's researching the matter. He does know already that for Antarctica, the answer is yes, but it's below thousands of feet of ice. So that isn't reachable. Maybe this isn't all that easy a goal after all! At any rate, he's trying to figure it out. I loved his creative thinking when he told me about this. It's just one more illustration that exploration is an activity with many dimensions.

Joan



Left to Right: Chair Joan Boothe with Speaker Ted Cheeseman; Liz McLaughlin and Tom Hall; Mats & Dafne Engstrom  
Photos by Von Hurson.

## 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](mailto:ajviking@aol.com)) so the rest of the club can enjoy them - picture, story or both..

**From the National Board:** — January's Board Meeting was held in New York on the day of the remarkable, near all-time record snow...with all attending, most in person. The Board approved those members who are running to replace the entire Class of 2016, all termed out after years of service. In addition details of a new development program were discussed, as were plans for our return to the Waldorf for ECAD 2016. Most importantly, Ted Janulis was reelected to serve as President for a second term, beginning in March. Other matters were more routine. —Lee Langan FN'99

## February 2016 Issue

### Northern California Chapter Established 1973



Chair: Joan Boothe MN'07  
415-346-5934  
hoodooskr@aol.com  
Vice Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96  
925-934-1051  
ecnca@oceaneearth.org  
Treasurer: Kendra Bolt FN'14  
731-327-2658  
NorCalExplorers@gmail.com  
Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10  
Trekking@sonic.net  
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92  
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03  
ajviking@aol.com  
925-322-8893

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

##### Upcoming Events (2016) 2016

February 26 . . . . . Rosemarie Twinam  
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 . . . . . Ann Sanquini  
Surviving the 2015 Earthquake in Nepal GLChurch  
June . . . . . Chapter Picnic at Angel Island

##### 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 Tornados . .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](mailto:ecnca@oceaneearth.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS & FIELD TRIPS

**February 1 - 28:** 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](mailto: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

Limited to 20 attendees, but a few spots remain.

RSVP to: Rick Blake, [blake2@llnl.gov](mailto:blake2@llnl.gov)

### CHAPTER MEETING Friday, February 26, 2016

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

**Date:** Friday, 26 February, 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)  
Chicken Marsala, Grilled Salmon or Veggie (Eggplant Parmesan)  
**Cost:** \$49 in advance \$60 after 23 February; Students: \$35.  
(2016 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)  
Please mail reservations, meal choice, checks & dues to Kendra Bolt  
email: [NorCalExplorers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:explorersnorca@gmail.com)  
There is a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website ([www.explorersnorca.org](http://www.explorersnorca.org)); easy to use!