

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

January 2017

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

LOCATIONS

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

January 27, 2017

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

THE GOLDEN SHORE CALIFORNIA'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE SEA Friday, January 27, 2017

Our speaker, David Helvarg, will relate how California's growth as a maritime power from Paleo-Indians trading in the Channel Islands to the development of America's largest (and greenest) ports helped shape the world's 6th largest economy. He will highlight the role of the Navy, surfers and other drivers of change in the nation's most populous state and how a Gold Rush and World War redefined the Golden Shore. He'll explain the ongoing currents of discovery, California's unique contribution to marine science and science-driven

Helvarg, founder and Executive Director of Blue Frontier (www.bluefront.org) will share the history, culture, and changing nature of California's coasts and ocean. He will examine how the Pacific has come to define policies at a time when the best available science is identifying a global crisis for



our living seas. While over-fishing, pollution, loss of habitat and climate change threaten the very survival of most of our blue planet and ocean dependent economies, California provides a model for how we might turn the tide and live well with our coasts and ocean.

David Helvarg is the author of six books: *Blue Frontier*, *The War against the Greens*, *50 Ways to Save the Ocean*, *Rescue Warriors*, *Saved by the Sea* and *The Golden Shore*. He is editor of the *Ocean and Coastal Conservation Guide*, organizer of 'Blue Vision' Summits for ocean activists and the



Peter Benchley Ocean Awards (co-hosted with Wendy Benchley), and winner of Coastal Living Magazine's 2005 Leadership Award and the 2007 Herman Melville Literary Prize.

EXPLORERS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, March 25, 2017 (weekend of March 24-26)

Are you planning to attend ECAD? If so, we hope that you'll join your fellow NorCa Chapter members at special NorCa tables. To do so, please purchase your tickets from Joan Boothe (hoodooskr@aol.com) rather than directly from TEC. We currently have 13 tickets available at \$450 each (the least expensive ECAD ticket). If more than 13 people indicate interest, we'll buy more tickets for the chapter.

HOLIDAY EXPLORATION PHOTO CONTEST DRAWS 51 ENTRIES

The 2016 Exploration Photo Contest had 51 jpeg files submitted. Of these, the most interesting 31 were selected for showing at the Northern California Chapter Holiday Party. During the course of the evening, 43 ballots were filled out, each with no more than 4 choices for best photo. The voting was counted with the help of David Hirzel and Sara Marville, with each photo getting one vote for every circle indicating a choice on the ballot. The winners were announced at about 8:15 pm. The winner received 26 votes, second place received 13 votes and third place received 9 votes. Each of these photos has its own interesting story. There were several other photos very close behind these winners in the voting. They will be included in the February Newsletter.

BEST PHOTO EVEREST UNDER THE MILKY WAY DAN AKERMAN AN'14

Dan submitted Mount Everest in May 2016. This photo was taken at 3 am from the base camp below Mount Everest. It's hard to imagine the feelings of awe one must experience while right next to such a mountain as Everest on top of the world, especially under starlight such as this. AJ



SECOND PLACE BERBER RIFLEMEN LEE LANGAN FN'99

In 2014, then President of The Explorers Club Alan Nichols and several of the club's Directors visited Morocco as the the honored guests of the Moroccan king Mohammed IV. to discuss establishing an Explorers Club Chapter there. As part of the visit, Alan gave a speech recognizing the significance of Morocco's contributions to exploration and the importance of a worldview less centric to Western Civilization. The event from which this picture was taken was staged out in the desert as entertainment for the visitors. LL



THIRD PLACE MAASAI CIRCUMCISION CLASS OF 2016 PEGGY DAY MN'90

There are many rites of passage in Maasai culture to mark their place in their society. The circumcision initiation for the Maasai males is one of the most important rituals in their lives. It is one that elevates a boy to a man and is performed shortly after puberty. We were in Arusha, Tanzania, in the fall 2016, late at night, when we saw a group of about 20 Maasai elders surrounding five boys about 13-14 years old. Chanting loudly, the group moved slowly out into the countryside. We did not wait until pre-dawn when the boys were circumcised without any anesthesia other than a piece of wood in their mouth so as not to scream.

The healing process takes 3-4 months and during this time, they are sent away to a special village built by their mothers and left to fend for themselves. During this time, they dress in black and paint their faces to show their new status as a warrior. A few days later we found them sitting beside the road and stopped to speak with them. They agreed to a picture and assumed this pose. PD



HONOR ROLL OF PAID UP DUES FOR 2016

Members

Jim Alexander
James Allan
Julia Amaral
Susan Anderson
Reginald Barrett
George Belcher
Bonnie Bibas
Rick Blake
Peter Bogardus
Kendra Bolt
Joan Boothe
Keith Chase
Doug Cheeseman
Ted Cheeseman
Sandra Cook
Alan Cooper
Thomas Cromwell
Don Dana
Peggy Day
Rick Dehmel
Mike Diggles
Thomas Dolan
Louise Downe
Thomas Durbin
Susan Dutcher
Donald Dvorak
Elaine Dvorak
Scott Ellis
Sue Estey
Robert Eustace
Art Ford
Susan Fox
Paul Freitas
Lawrence Glacy
Ron Glantz
Arjun Gupta
Tom Hall
Peter Hemming
Michael Herz
William Heydom
Don Heyneman
Robert Higgins
Jim Hurson
Von Hurson
Alan Hutchison
Anders Jepsen
Steven King
Ronald Klein
Suzanne Klotz
Bill Kruse
Keith Kvenvolden
William Lidicker
Pierre de St.J. MacBeth
Marco Meniketti
Teresa O'Kane
Peter Overmire
James Prigoff
Edward Ross
Sandra Ross
Rick Saber
Bob Schmieder
Sara Shoemaker Lind
Steve Smith
William Straka
Susan Taylor
Richard Tenaza
Ed Von der Porten
Don Walsh
James Weil
Gordon Wiltzie
Sherry Wren

Sirdars

Linda Alexander
Caryn Anderson
Marion Blumberg
Barry Boothe
Karoli Clever
Wendy Crowder
Joy Durighello
Dafne Engstrom
Mats Engstrom
Sandra Fish
Eric Follestad
Anna Freitas
Louise Geraci
Gina Glantz
Jerry Griffith
Louise Heyneman
David Hirzel
Nancy Isaac
Kathy Jepsen
Fred Johnson
Kathy Judd
Margot Komarmy
Ellen Lapham
Iyana Christine Leveque
Tim Loew
Liz McLoughlin
Bonny O'Keefe
Ingrid Peterson
Laura Phelps
Aldeana Saber
John Schlagheck
Kay Schmieder
Scott Soper
Robert Van Austen
Judy Van Austen
Andrew Wegst
Mark Weiman
Thomas Yohannan
Robin Ziegler

FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year to one and all!

January is going to be a busy month for our chapter. Your officers and board will be meeting in mid-month to discuss a wide range of matters, including how we can involve more of you in active management of our chapter. If you're interested, please do let us know. And if there is any matter that you want to be sure that we consider, please call or send an email to me or any other officers/board members. We want to hear from you!

January is also the month that we'll be kicking off an exciting new chapter activity — a film series that will be an addition to our regular dinner programs. Former Chapter chair Lesley Ewing is taking the lead on this on behalf of the chapter. An announcement about this will be coming your way in a week or so. In the meantime, see elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Another January activity — we'll be sending out reminders to all NorCa Chapter members that a new year has begun, and if you have not already sent in your voluntary chapter dues for 2017, we encourage you to do so. For Sirdars, dues are not optional. If you have not yet paid 2017 dues, you'll be receiving an email dues notice. And about those dues, as of 2017, they may be tax deductible. We have now received all the approvals from both the Internal Revenue Service

and the State of California for our chapter's non-profit, 501(c) (3), status. By the time the dues notices go out, we should have sorted out whether chapter dues qualify as a tax-deductible donation. (By the way, don't forget that a large portion of National members' annual dues to TEC do qualify. The amount depends on your membership category.)

Finally, it's time to start thinking about ECAD. The dinner itself will be on Saturday, March 25. Yes, it's nearly three months away, but it's not too soon to make plans. With the Waldorf Astoria not available this year due to renovation work, the dinner venue has been shifted to Ellis Island. This is going to be a fabulous weekend. Last year, we had four full tables of NorCa people attending. We hope to do as well this year, especially since our very own Lee Langan will be honored with the Edward C. Sweeney Memorial Medal. If you plan to attend and wish to be seated with others from our chapter, rather than buying your tickets directly from the club, please let me know. At this point, I have purchased 20 tickets — places for two tables. A few of them are already spoken for, but there still quite a few available. As we did last year, if you want to be at a NorCa table, you buy the ticket from me, and I ensure that you're seated at one of our tables. If we need more than 20 places, I'll buy more tickets.

Joan Boothe MN'07

EDITOR'S NOTE: One entry to the Holiday Exploration Photo Contest was somehow lost in the shuffle and not included in the final Power Point that continuously ran at the Holiday Party. To atone for this lapse, it is included here as a separate and unique example of what an explorer can run into in a day's work.

CHAMAELEO MONACHUS - photographed by **Diane Pickworth FN'01** on the Island of Socotra in 2002.

Diana writes:

"I visited the remote Socotra Island in the Indian ocean three times to examine antiquities. The island is first mentioned in the "Periplus of the Erythraean Sea" where it is called Dioscorida and named as a dependent of Charabael, a Sabaean King. The remoteness of the island (it is 120 miles from Cape Guardafui the most eastern point in Africa, 220 miles from Ras Fartaq on the Yemeni coast and 300 miles from Mukalla in the Hadramaut), meant that its flora and fauna developed endemically. It could only be reached by sea until a commercial landing strip was built in 1999 and until then there were no paved roads.

"The island is covered in stratified limestone which overlies older igneous and metamorphic basement which is exposed by the 1,500 ft. high Haghir Mountains which form a spine across the island. These mountains attract precipitation and a heavy low cloud covers the mountains until mid morning. We climbed through heavy vegetation on the slopes of the mountains and several streams flow down the hills on the northern side and across the flat fertile Hadiboh Plain.

"During December and January the north north-easterly trade winds blow in violent gusts; again in June July and August south-west monsoon blows hard with violent gusts on the northern coast. The distances and difficulties of access have long protected this magical and beautiful island, filled with unique species like the Dragon's Blood tree, frankincense trees and the little chamaeleon pictured here who is considered magical by the local inhabitants."



A HOLIDAY PARTY WORTH THE VOYAGE

On a chilly December evening, more than 80 people made the journey to San Francisco for the always anticipated NorCa Holiday event. Inside the home of Chapter Chair Joan Boothe it was warm, with animated conversation, the usual opulent spread of delicious food, and some amazing wines enhanced by some from Barry's personal cellar. It was a gathering of people with endless curiosity, a thirst for new knowledge and desire to experience new adventures. What could be better?

Snatches of conversation caught during the evening brought back 2016 member-participation highlights. Activities that included a hands-on introduction to the world of robotic surgery, a Mt. Diablo hike to practice remote wilderness survival and a trek to Pt. Reyes to view the probable landing site of Francis Drake. And then there were the individual member voyages to far off places like Ulithi, Heard Island and Antarctica.

The annual Holidays Party Exploration Photo Competition produced some stunning images to be voted on. So difficult to choose among them! So what better way to close another NorCa chapter year than by coming together in celebration of an explorer-active year? An evening spent partaking in life's greatest pleasures, sharing not only the warmth of each others company but also the wonderful stories of adventures past and those to come.

Finally, a note of gratitude to Joan and Barry Boothe for hosting the glorious Holiday celebration, and to Aldeana Saber for welcoming everyone at the door – sitting outside, giving out name tags and ringing bells. Von Hurson MN'14



Top, left to right, Mike Diggles, David Thompson, Karyn Gladstone, Maggie Blake
Bottom: a festive board

Top, Rick Saber and Nicolle Crane
Bottom: Rick Blake, Rick Saber, Krist Jake
Photos by Von Hurson

January 2017 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
ecna@oceaneearth.org
Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
Trekking@sonic.net
Treasurer: Sandra Cook MN'16
cook_sandra@comcast.net
510-653-3665
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.)

2017

January 27 David Helvarg
The Blue Ocean Grace Luth Ch
February 23 David Rumsey
Rumsey Map Center Stanford University
March 31. Eric Weiss
Expedition Medicine Grace Luth Ch
April 28. Sandy Ross
Afghanistan pre-Taliban Grace Luth Ch
May 26 J.R. Skok
Seeking Signs of Life on Mars TBA

Earlier Chapter Events

2015

December 13. Holiday Party
. Home of Joan Boothe

2016

January 22 Ted Cheeseman
Modern Ocean Exploration Grace Lutheran Ch
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 21 (Thursday). Autodesk
Technology in exploration. Gallery, 1 Market, SF
May 27 Anne Sanquini
Surviving the 2015 Earthquake in Nepal GLChurch
June Crissie Field
September Drakes Bay Field Trip
September ?????
November 18, 2016 Dr. Bob Schmieder
2016 Heard Island Expedition Grace Luth Ch
December 11 Holiday Party
Home of Chapter Chair Joan Boothe

Send address changes and
corrections by email to Sandra Cook
sandra_cook@comcast.net

OTHER EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS, etc.

June 22-July 8, 2017: Expedition to Mongolia with a member of our Chapter. Susan Fox, FN'14 will be leading a 2-week of examination of areas that she has been studying for the past several years. For information, contact Susan Fox at sfox@foxstudio.biz or at 707 496 1246

March 24-26, 2017: Explorers Club Annual Dinner (ECAD), Ellis Island, NYC

Chapter Film Program: A message from Lesley Ewing FN'93

In 2017 our Chapter will start a film evening that will be in addition to our monthly dinner program. We want to start small to see how much interest there is. We can expand as we go along, but think of the first event as a soft opening.

Ana Blanco, currently Executive Director of the San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival, has been working with Lesley Ewing and Angie Mertens, Outreach Coordinator for the Cheetah Conservation Foundation, to develop the film program. The plan is to have a Sunday afternoon film every other month, using different venues around the Bay Area.

The film program will start in February with a showing of Thule Tuvalu, a documentary by Matthias von Gunten. The film was first shown in the Bay Area at the 2015 San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival. Thule is a remote region of Greenland and Tuvalu is a remote Pacific Island. From the IMDb review, "When the ice melts in Thule, Tuvalu drowns in the ocean. A touching portrait of the people whose fates are intimately linked though they live at completely different corners of the world." Filmed on location. Use this link to view a trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2e8jzbzofFQ

The organizers are still looking for a location for the first Sunday afternoon event. Once the location is set, we will send out information on the date, time, location and how to buy tickets.

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.

CHAPTER MEETING Friday, January 27, 2017

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

Date Friday, 27 January 2017

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)
Stuffed chicken breast, grilled salmon or egg plant parmesan
NOTE: veggie request must be in by prior Sunday

Cost: \$49 in advance, \$60 after 24 January; Students: \$35.
(2016 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)

Please mail reservations, meal choice, checks & dues to Sandra Cook
email: cook_sandra@comcast.net Call 510-653-3665 or
mail to 1550 Oakland Ave., Piedmont CA 94611

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!