

# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

December 2017

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

## LOCATION

Note venues and dates with care

Sunday, 17 December 2017

2435 Divisadero Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115

## EXPLORERS -- COME TO THE ANNUAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

All Explorers Club Members, NorCal Sirdars,  
their spouses,  
partners, or potential members are invited to  
gather and trade stories  
at our annual Holiday Gala  
at the home of  
Joan Boothe, our current chapter Treasurer  
and Past-Chair,  
and her husband Barry,



### THE PARTICULARS:

**DATE:** Sunday, December 17

**TIME:** 5-9 PM

**PLACE:** 2435 Divisadero Street, SF, CA 94115

**GUESTS:** Members and Sirdars are each welcome  
to bring one guest.

**PLEASE RSVP** to Joan Boothe ([hoodooskr@aol.com](mailto:hoodooskr@aol.com) or 415-233-1697) by Thursday,  
DECEMBER 14th for planning the food and beverages. Although there is no charge  
for this party, a \$20 per person donation at the door would be most appreciated.

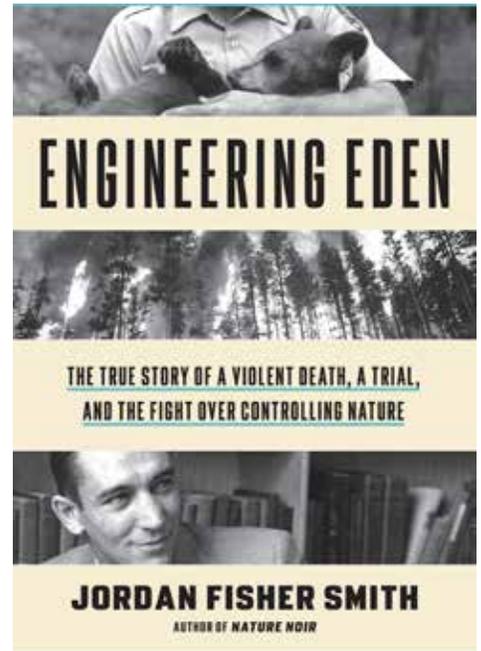
The Boothe's home is gray-blue, on the west side of Divisadero Street, between Pacific  
Avenue and Jackson Street. There is usually ample street parking nearby. The best  
bets are on Divisadero Street or on Pacific Avenue and Broadway Street.

**Public transit:** two Muni lines, the Jackson 3 and the Divisadero 24, stop at the corner  
of Jackson and Divisadero, a steep half-block from the Boothe's house.

**ENGINEERING EDEN . . . or not!  
17 November 2017; Jordan Fisher Smith**

On November 17, at our meeting in San Francisco's Outer Sunset, Jordan Fisher Smith delivered a compelling talk about what led him write about a legal proceeding involving Yellowstone National Park. The government was accused of bungling the handling of wildlife in the death of a visitor after an attack by a grizzly. Did the bear belong there or did the visitor? The case reached the Supreme Court and set at odds those who champion leaving the wilderness alone and those who believe it needs to be managed. His book, *Engineering Eden\**, puts forth the arguments and the outcome.

under the protection of the Interior Department. After attending a meeting about climate change, attended by federal scientists and park rangers a decade ago, he found that long-ranging discussions about how to manage the wilds were inconclusive. The pending impact on these 'custodians of the timeless', was real. He felt it imperative to attempt to clarify as best he could the public and non-scientist view of fact vs fiction, with the belief that without this understanding, a free society cannot exist. Accepting facts is essential to justice. "Alternative facts" are not. Arguments, yes; fiction, no.



Using Yellowstone as his example... it being the oldest National Park, founded in 1872 He described the history of free-range hunting that had decimated the elk herds by the end of the 19th century. There followed a series of attempts to control these herds, excluding

The courts in the end found the government negligent and awarded a moderate sum to the deceased's immediate family. Read the book and see if you agree with this finding or the concepts debated.

Smith was a park ranger for more than twenty years before undertaking extended travels to understand the lands we have

hunting, and managing other predators: wolves, cougars, grizzlies and other bears, and human detritus.

In the course of these efforts, lawsuits have created a raging debate between naturalists arguing to let nature take her course and those insisting that wildlife needed to

be managed and controlled by man. In the case of Yellowstone, the efforts were mis-directed. The conclusion seems to be that, whatever management does to deal with human encroachment, it must be done with consideration of local conditions.

The debate continues and has become ever more appropriate in this age when our parks are overrun by visitors more than ever and the wildlife inhabitants are encroached upon. Smith's book describes the dilemma.

It deserves comment that a week prior to this talk, just a short distance from our meeting place, a puma roaming a neighborhood was tranquilized, tagged, equipped with a GPS collar and released a few miles south in the City's wilderness watershed. A praiseworthy management of wildlife in an urban setting. (LL)

\*(2016) ISBN 978-0-307-45426-3, Crown, New York.

**IN MEMORIUM**

It is with sadness that we note the passing on November 12, 2017 of our long-time loyal Chapter Member Pierre de St. Julien "Scot" Macbeth FN'81. A service will be held for Scot on Thursday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the Carmel Mission, Carmel California. A memorial celebration of Scot's life is planned for early in 2018.

**HONOR ROLL  
PAID UP DUES  
FOR 2017**

**Members**

Jim Alexander  
Linda Alexander  
James Allan  
Julia Amaral  
Robert Anderson  
Susan Anderson  
Guitty Azarpay  
Joan Bekins  
Richard Blake  
Joan Boothe  
Sheldon Breiner  
Keith Chase  
Doug Cheeseman  
Ted Cheeseman  
Sandra Cook  
Alan Cooper  
Thomas Cromwell  
Richard Dehmel  
Mike Diggles  
Tom Dolan  
Don Dvorak  
Elaine Dvorak  
Palmer Dyal  
Scott Ellis  
Sue Estey  
Robert Eustace  
Lesley Ewing  
Art Ford  
Susan Fox  
Anna Freitas  
Paul Freitas  
Peter Hemming  
Gerald Griffith  
Tom Hall  
Mike Herz  
Bill Heydorn  
Don Heyneman  
Robert Higgins  
Jordan Hollarsmith  
Jim Hurson  
Von Hurson  
Alan Hutchinson  
Dana Isherwood  
Krist Jake  
Anders Jepsen  
Steven King  
Ronald Klein  
Jonathan Knowles  
William Kruse  
Keith Kvenvolden  
Alison LaBonte  
Lee Langan  
Ellen Lapham  
Scott MacBeth  
James Prigoff  
Sandra Ross  
Becky Rygh  
Rick Saber  
Schmieder, Bob  
Steve Smith  
James Weil  
Ed Von der Porten  
Mordechai Winter

**Sirdars**

Barry Boothe  
Marion Blumberg  
Karoli Clever  
Will Cooper  
Wendy Crowder  
Joy Durighello  
Sandra Fish  
Louise Geraci  
Louise Heyneman  
David Hirzel  
Ann Hutchinson  
Nancy Isaac  
Kathy Jepsen  
Fred Johnson  
Kathy Judd  
Joe Kidd  
Margot Komarmy  
Christopher LaFranchi  
Karine Langan  
Tim Loew  
Liz McLoughlin  
Bonny O'Keefe  
Tom Patterson  
Laura Phelps  
Aldeana Saber  
Kay Schmieder  
R Stewart  
Z Stewart  
Judy Van Austen  
Robert Van Austen  
Mark Weiman

**From the Chair**

I am pleased to report that we held another fine meeting in November with a wonderful author/speaker, Jordan Fisher Smith. Jordan recounted some of the experiences gained from his 21 years as a National Park Ranger and, in particular, the story of a young man killed by a Grizzly bear in Yellowstone; and how that incident led to both a moral and legal examination of the conflicts arising from the dual purposes of our national parks – hosting and ‘entertaining’ the public while at the same time ‘preserving’ our wilderness. The complex issues are explored in detail in Jordan’s latest book Engineering Eden, which I heartily recommend.

On a sad note, I also reported at the meeting the passing of one of our senior Chapter members, Pierre de St. Julian “Scot” Macbeth FN’81 on November 12, 2017. Scot was a mountaineer and explorer of the first rank that we were proud to have as one of our own and he will be missed. A memorial celebration will be held in SF in 2018.

As we approach the end of 2017 I wish to express my appreciation to all of our Chapter Members, Sirdars, Offi-

cers, and Board members for their support and dedication. Together we have forged another successful year for the Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club.

As the Club moves forward into 2018 (yikes!) with a number of important initiatives, our chapter will help lead the way. We are doing so this month with the addition of eight individuals to our Chapter roster! I’m pleased to welcome Devon O. Chivas, FN’17, Joel D. Einhorn, FcN’17, Anna H. Freitas, MN’17, Gerald E. Griffith, MN’17, David E. Hayen, Mn’17, Elora H. Lopez, Term’17, Alec L. Shumate, FcN’17, and Nancy K. Thomas, FN’17 to our ranks. Congratulations. We are excited to have you aboard.

Lastly, don’t forget our upcoming Holiday Party on Sunday, December 17th, hosted again this year by Treasurer Joan Boothe at her lovely San Francisco home. Good friends, good food, good wine, and great (and mostly true) stories are to be expected, and perhaps even a few surprises. Happy and Safe Holidays to all from your Officers and Board.

**Stephen E. Smith FN’96**

**A Remembrance of Pierre de St. Julien “Scot” Macbeth FN’81  
March 25, 1930 - November 12, 2017**

**by Dede Whiteside Hicks MN’13.**

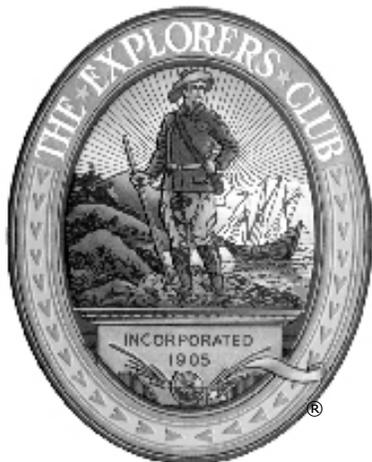
When a stunningly beautiful human lives a fully engaged life, doing so raises up that possibility in all of us. Scot was such a person. He adored the Carmelite Sisters and Single Malt Scotch. He took 200 mile treks because he liked to walk. He found beauty in the wrinkled face of an old Tibetan woman as well as a morning view of Mt. Kailash. Most of his tall tales were actually true. He bought a home for his beloved Mom by the sea and died in it after living among the Himalayan peaks and the jungles of Thailand. He cherished great books and recited poetry by heart. He was a scientist and an artist, a deeply spirit-filled soul without an ounce of dogmatic prejudice. He left me filled with revelations but a nagging question: how’d I get so fortunate to know such a being? Happy Trails Dear One.

I can vision you now walking the peaks of Mt. Kailash!

Scot Macbeth and Dede Whiteside at Garapata, Big Sur,  
September 2008 Chapter meeting  
Sipping that old scotch.



*December 2017 Issue*  
**Northern California Chapter**  
*Established 1973*



Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96  
 925-934-1051  
 ecnca@oceaneearth.org  
 Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93  
 lesleycoastal@gmail.com  
 Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10  
 Trekking@sonic.net  
 Treasurer: Joan Boothe MN'07  
 hoodooskr@aol.com  
 415-346-5934  
 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  
 December 17 . . . . .Holiday Party  
 . . . . .Home of Joan and Barry Boothe  
 2018  
 January 26 . . . . .Grace Lutheran Ch  
 Climate Change on Mt. Everest. . . Dr. John All  
 February 23 . . . . .Dr. Sherry Wren  
 Surgical Approaches in the Ebola Crisis . . TBA  
 March 30 . . . . .Ms. Kimberley Chambers  
 Swimming With Sharks Before Breakfast . . TBA  
 April 27 . . . . .Alan Eustace  
 The Stratospheric Jump . . . . .TBA

**Earlier Chapter Events**  
 2016

June \_\_\_\_ . . . . .Crissie Field  
 September . . . . .Drakes Bay Field Trip  
 November 18, 2016 . . . . .Dr. Bob Schmieder  
 2016 Heard Island Expedition . .Grace Luth Ch  
 December 11 . . . . .Holiday Party  
 Home of Chapter Chair Joan Boothe

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 Life Signs on Mars Spengers, Berkeley  
 June 24 . . . . .Chapter Picnic  
 . . . . .Angel Island  
 September 22 . . . . .Dr. Anders Jepsen  
 Drones to map landmines . . . . .Grace Luth Ch  
 October 27 . . . . .Dirk Rosen  
 Save Deep Sea Corals . . . . .Grace Lutheran Ch  
 November 17 . . . . .Jordan Fisher Smith  
 Engineering Eden . . . . .Grace Lutheran Ch

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

**OTHER EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS, etc.**

**Chapter Chair's lending library:** Bear in mind that Steve's collection of books on exploration will be available at each meeting for monthly borrowing.

**BOOK NOOK**  
**(RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CHAPTER MEMBERS)**

When Your Life Depends On It. Extreme Decision Making Lessons From The Arctic.  
 Brad Borkan & David Hirzel, 2017, Terra Nova Press, PO Box 1808, Pacifica, CA 94044

Vivid Memories of an Interesting Life  
 Col. John H. Roush, Jr. Self Published, 2017, Marketing Services @xlibris.com

Muddy Boots -- essays of a field biologist.  
 Meg Lowman F '97 and Lowell Thomas Awardee '02. Peppertree Press, and on Amazon.com

**Northern California Additions to Explorers Club Roster**

Devon O. Chivas, FN'17	Nancy K. Thomas, FN'17
Anna H. Freitas, MN'17	Gerald E. Griffith, MN'17
David E. Hayen, MN'17	Elora H. Lopez, Term'17*

Joel D. Einhorn, FcN'17**	Alec L. Shumate, FcN'17**
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\*Term is category available to full-time graduate students and teaching instructors that meet the same requirements as regular members.  
 \*\* FcN (national) and FcI (international) denote the new "Friend of the Explorers Club" category formerly identified as Associate.  
 Previous Associates will retain the AN or AI appellation.

**CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**Sunday, December 17, 2016**

**Home of Joan and Barry Boothe**  
**2435 Divisadero, San Francisco, CA 94116**  
**If coming, respond to Joan Boothe at (hoodooskr@aol.com)**  
**or by telephone (415) 233-1697**

**We have an established PayPal account.**

With an account, you can sign up and remit your meal costs, dues, etc. to the NorCA Chapter  
There is a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website ([www.explorersnorca.org](http://www.explorersnorca.org)); easy to use!