



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter MAY 2022

Also available at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

MONTHLY MEETING
FRIDAY 20 MAY 2022 5:30 PM
GATHER BY PERSON
OR BY ZOOM INVITATION

ANNUAL MEETING, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER THE EXPLORERS CLUB WITH ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS PRESENTATION BY AARON SINGER

The May 20, 2022 meeting will be a hybrid, with the option to participate either in-person or by Zoom. The meeting site will be the Commodore Center Seaplane Base (FAA 22C), on the Redwood Highway in Mill Valley, with the social part of the evening on the grounds of the Seaplane Base. The Annual Meeting and presentation will be up a long flight of stairs and the bathroom is up a short flight of stairs. Portions of the Seaplane Base are being renovated; however, the meeting room and bathroom will NOT ADA accessible by May. To allow maximum participation in the annual meeting and presentation, they will be provided by Zoom. The social portion of the meeting will not be covered by Zoom.

Mr. Aaron Singer will be speaking about urban mobility and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). 'A fascinating look in where we are today with the technology and where it's likely to go.' Aaron is currently the CEO of Automodality, Inc. where he oversees the growth and strategic development of the global leader in fully autonomous advanced robotics control software for UAVs and other small mobile robot systems. He is also the owner and CEO of Seaplane Adventures, the leading seaplane air tour and air charter operator in the State of California. For the last 30 years, Aaron has been a successful technology entrepreneur and CEO with several successful startups in his portfolio, including the ad hoc Group, The Pacific Carbon Exchange, Seaplane Adventures, and Automodality, Inc. Aaron has been an active volunteer, Board member and philanthropic contributor to several non-profit organizations in the Bay Area.



History of Venue:

The Commodore Seaplane Base has been in operation since the early 1940s starting as a Pan Am Clipper base. It is the last and only commercial seaplane operation in California. The base has a unique musical history as well. In the late 1960's, Heliport Studios operated on the top floor of the Base and where the Chapter meeting will take place. Here the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Big Brother and the Holding Co, and others practiced and recorded their music. And, memorably, Otis Redding penned his iconic song, "Sitting on the dock of the Bay" at the Base.

Important Notes:

Access: At this time, the Seaplane Base is undergoing some renovations and as such will not be ADA compliant at the time of the Chapter meeting. There is a long flight of stairs up to the meeting room and a short run of steps up to the bathroom. We are working on arrangements to broadcast the meeting via zoom and potentially to a location on a lower floor but those plans have not firmed up as of yet.

Covid precautions: All attendees must be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination prior to entering the facility. Mask use will be per Marin County's mandate which at this time is fully lifted. However, if you feel you'd be more comfortable wearing a mask please do so.

THE HESTER LAKE B-24 WRECK

On April 29th, we heard a fascinating story of Bryan Heisinger's expeditions to Hester Lake to find and survey the wreckage from WWII B-24 bomber, B-24E 41-28463. This plane was on a night training mission on December 5, 1943, and it never returned to Hammer Field. The crew, pilot, 2nd Lt. Charles W. Turvey; co-pilot, 2nd Lt. Robert M. Hester; navigator, 2nd Lt. William T Cronin; bombardier, 2nd Lt. Ellis H. Fish; flight engineer, S/Sgt Robert O. Burse, and radio operator, Sgt. Howard A. Wandtke were on their last training mission before heading to Europe.



The wreckage was discovered originally in 1960 by a US Army Corps of Engineers survey team and we had a surprise zoom visit from Jim Moore, one of the members of the survey team. According to Jim, they stopped at the Lake for a water break where they saw first an oxygen bottle on the bank, then a parachute floating in the water and finally a leg still in its boot. In 1960 and 1961, two expeditions returned to the lake to recover the human remains with only partial success.



Bryan Heisinger, archeologist and Walt Horn, Mission Robotics, were part of a team that traveled twice to Hester Lake to map and study the debris from the plane and determine whether the crash site should be treated as a Traditional Cultural Property for listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The trek to the site was challenging. Hester Lake is at 11,259' MSL, and the expedition team traveled about 13 miles up Le Conte Canyon, carrying food, tents, a small Trident ROV, cameras, equipment, and other gear, weighing, on total, about 360 pounds. To map the underwater, wreckage areas, they placed a buoy on the ROV and two people on land took compass readings as the ROV and buoy moved around the lake. Using the ROV and cameras, they created a photomosaic of the wreckage in the lake.

They also found wreckage on the scree slope leading down to the lake; most of the parts from this area were from the right side of the plane, indicating that the right wing tip might have hit the ridge and caused the crash. Since the flight was in December, they also hypothesize that the lake might have been frozen and the plane might have slid across the lake, causing the wide scattering of debris.

The father of the co-pilot, Robert Hester, spent years searching for the plane and the remains of the crew and, in recognition of that effort, the lake was named to honor Robert Hester's father. Heisinger and Horn have no plans to make a third expedition to the B-24E wreck site, but some questions still remain. The main one is why the plane was so far off course. It was a night flight so there were none of the normal visual clues to help with navigation. Some speculate that the plane had a faulty compass causing them to veer east of their intended route. The plane's nose section has not been recovered so this hypothesis cannot be tested.



Bryan Heisinger is preparing a final report on this expedition for the National Park Service and asked that we not record or take any photos of his presentation. As a result, we have no images for this write-up; those interested in more details will need to wait for the official report.

Lesley Ewing FN'93

CANDIDATE FOR VICE CHAIR STATEMENT

Jimmy Friedman MN' 19

The exploration of martial arts has led me to remarkable discoveries. For twenty years I have led weekly classes to adults with Down syndrome, a physical handicaps, or psychological problems, as part of my affiliation with ARC of San Francisco. Over the decades, I have worked with countless students, exploring traditional fighting techniques not just as exercise or self-defense, but as arts of peace and daily living. In my approach, Aikido is a way of making connections among and between people; it helps us understand how we connect to ourselves and each other across social boundaries, cultural boundaries, and even boundaries of physical limitation.

My personal cultural and travel exploration center around East Asia and India. I have traveled to Japan, India, Nepal, Thailand, Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam extensively. I have studied and taught Aikido and self-defense in these countries for nearly forty years. And I am proficient in basic Japanese, as my lifelong teacher spoke no English. Additionally, I am a senior advisor to Aikido of Mumbai. I visit twice a year to teach Aikido and self-defense seminars in Mumbai and Varanasi.

I am very proud that I have become a technical advisor and assistant to Dr. Anders Jepsen in his Exploration for Humanity project. Our goal to perfect drone technology to find and destroy UXO, Landmines, and all ERW (Explosive remnants of war). Our next expedition is to go to Cambodia and locate geographic areas that will be compatible with our drone research.

STATEMENTS OF INTEREST FOR ELECTED DIRECTORS (listed alphabetically)

Tom Dietz, FN'20

I was honored in 2020 to become a Fellow of The Explorers Club. Although, joining during the global pandemic has made meeting my fellow Chapter members somewhat difficult. I have though managed to participate in almost all of the Chapter's Zoom meetings for the past 2 years and I introduced myself in a short write up in one of the Chapter's newsletters. I joined the speaker subcommittee of the Board in 2021 to get involved and I have taken the lead on setting up the Chapter's first post-pandemic in-person meeting on May 20th. Both Lesley Ewing and Jimmy Friedman have spoken to me extensively about joining the Chapter's Board. I can add valuable insights from my careers in science and business and my extensive service on both for- and not-for-profit boards. I would welcome the opportunity to serve the Chapter by joining the Board and continuing to be an active and productive Chapter and Club member.

I grew up camping, hunting, fishing, and exploring parts of North America and Europe. I have a Ph.D. in molecular biology and biochemistry from Washington University, was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Marine Biotechnology and Ocean Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Oregon State University, and served as a research faculty member at OSU and UCSF. My scientific focus was on biochemical and molecular adaptations of organisms to unusual and stressful environments. I studied animals from such environments as Antarctic waters, the deep sea and hydrothermal vents, intertidal zones, and microgravity. Science provided me many unique opportunities including going to sea, conducting research dives on scuba and submersibles, and exploring many remote parts of the Baja peninsula. In my business life, I've helped fund, build, and advise over two hundred science-based businesses, principally in the biopharmaceutical and agricultural biotechnology sectors.

I've worked as a cargo pilot, as a professional research diver, have authored over two dozen scientific publications and book chapters, and had a career as a Wall Street research analyst, investment banker and CEO. I'm an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. I've traveled extensively, explored underwater caves, kayak, fly regularly into the backcountry, backcountry ski, and enjoy viewing the night sky. I've advised appointed and elected officials at the local and national levels on biotechnology and business issues and served for several years as a judge for the bipartisan White House Fellows Program.

Dr. Satya Contcho A Contcho PhD MI'21

Dr. Gontcho A Gontcho is a French Cosmologist working at the forefront of the efforts to build, with the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument, the largest three-dimensional map of the observable universe ever made by mankind. She received her B.Sc. from University Paris Saclay, her M.Sc. from University Paris Sorbonne, her PhD from the University of Barcelona and has worked at University College London and the University of Rochester before joining Berkeley Lab as project scientist. Her work on studying the distribution of matter in the universe in the era following the formation of the first stars and galaxies has earned her to be featured as one of the Forbes 30 Under 30 in 2019. That same year she was the recipient of the Giuseppe Sciacca International Award in acknowledgement for her scientific excellence and her strong commitment to mentor the future generations of scientists. In her spare time, she uses her expertise as a scientist and as a performance artist to explore the various ways storytelling can be adapted to reach a broad audience and bring the public's attention to the wonder of understanding the universe in which we live.

Dr Gontcho A Gontcho has been holding positions of high responsibility since early on in her career. Multi-million dollars scientific projects depend on her on-the-spot judgement for the good continuance of their scientific mission. She is a poised, experienced decision maker and enforcer. In addition, Dr Gontcho A Gontcho's multi-cultural and multi-continental background and life experience, as well as her extended scientific and artistic education make her an exceptionally well-rounded individual able to bring unique point of views to the discussions at hand. TEC nurtures inquisitive minds that back up their curiosity with actions, leading to it being a wonderful space of exchange of knowledge and a catalyst of inspiration for today's explorers. Dr Gontcho A Gontcho is looking forward to exchanging ideas with other TEC Norcal members in order to contribute to the smooth running of the club as well as making it one of the shining chapters of the TEC organisation

William M. Phillips III, JD MN '21

Although I have only been a Sirdar and member of the Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club for not quite 2 years, I am thoroughly enjoying my involvement in it and I am excited about meeting and getting to know various members. Having said that, I wish to be considered for an Elected Director position. I have held many leadership positions in organizations throughout my life, including being an Executive Level manager (I prefer the word "leader" to manager...) at the Central Intelligence Agency where I led global teams of analysts and others in developing and implementing unique aspects of US national security policy. I have also had the honor of serving as a senior executive leader at Los Alamos National Laboratory, leading a group of experts to develop programs significantly strengthening protection of some of our nation's most important and sensitive projects. Also, I have served as Chapter Vice President of my fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., (the oldest African American Greek letter fraternity in the United States.) I am a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha. Currently, I am a member of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Achievers (SFA) and serve as the Chairman of the Program Committee for that Board. My committee is responsible for developing and strategizing the various programs for SFA. Please visit this link to learn more about SFA: <https://www.sfachievers.org/>. I also am currently responsible for writing the Northern California Chapter Quarterly report which is submitted to Headquarters for The Explorers Log.

I am very sensitive to the fact there are many in our chapter who have so much more experience with our Club (and Chapter) than I do and who have, frankly, much more impressive organizational and experiential explorer credentials. It humbles me to be considered a member with such people! I only ask to be considered for a Director position because I believe I can bring my unique leadership abilities to bear to help keep our Chapter vibrant and relevant. Exploration has so many dimensions which, to me, are only limited by the creativity, imagination and desires of the human mind. Please feel free to reach out to me and ask any questions you might have about my interests, career, family or ideas.

THE EXPLORERS CLUB NEWS (National)

Club elections: Richard Garriott was elected as President for a second term and Lee Langan was elected for an additional term as a Director.

The website: The revised website has a Members Only section that lets everyone set up their own profile and use the website to share or keep information privately. At a minimum, please be sure that HQ has a working email address; they will use your email for billing, voting and information about club activities. Any information that you make public will be searchable by other members through the new website. The club will soon also add an Expedition Exchange to the website that can link explorers with planned expeditions.

Fjalraven Partnership: Club members can get a significant discount for internet purchases from Fjalraven. You will get a discount code through the Fjalraven website by sending them a scan of your membership card. The discount code is not instantaneous so you might want to get the code a day or so before you plan your shopping spree.

Oceans Week: June 5 - 11, 2022. Check the club site for the program.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS

We have two new Sirdars this month -- Meg Ruxton and Shane Davis. We hope to see them at meetings soon. Also, James Weil, MN'79, is out of commission for a while following surgery for a brain tumor. Friends can send him notes to his post office address.

CHAPTER PICNIC June 12, 2022

After two summers without a picnic, on June 12th, we will be heading back to the Island Picnic area in Tilden Park. For more information and a location map visit https://apm.activecommunities.com/ebparks/facility_search?facility_id=137

Who is Invited: All members, Sirdars, spouses/partners/kids, or friends who might want to learn more about us. Dogs are also welcome!

Cost: No charge.

What to Bring As has been our practice over the years, this is a potluck. The Club will provide plates, glasses, napkins, table clothes, and utensils. The Club will also provide some ice chests, beverages and nibble type food, but additional drinks and eatables are needed and up to you to supply. In case you're wondering, both beer and wine are allowed at Tilden Park. To repeat, this is a potluck! There will be a grill and the club will have charcoal and grill utensils available, so if you want to bring something that needs that sort of cooking, go for it. But that's the only cooking possible.

RSVP REQUESTED — Although there is no charge for the picnic, we would appreciate your responding and letting us know if you are coming, and if so, how many people are in your party. This will allow us to plan for the number of plates, glasses, etc. that we need to bring. Please RSVP to Jimmy Friedman, either by email [sfaikido@gmail.com] or phone [415-244-1881]

HONOR ROLL
Paid up Dues for 2022

MEMBERS

Allan, James
Ballou, Philip
Berg, Barbara
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Bruffet, Leonard
Bunch, Nick
Chambers, Kimberley
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Chirurg, J. Thom
Cohn, Francesca
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Cromwell, Thomas
Dana, Don
Dietz, Thomas
Diggles, Michael
Durbin, Thomas
Dvorak, Don
Dvorak, Elaine
Ellis, Scott
Estey, Sue
Eustace, (Robert) Alan
Ewing, Lesley
Fadiman, Maria
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Friedman, Lincoln
Gontcho A Gontcho, Satya
Grubbs, Melodie
Hemming, Peter
Heyneman, Donald
Higgins, Robert J.
Horne, William (Clif)
Hutchison, Alan
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Kuhns, Matthew
Kvnevolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Lee (Akey), Katherine
Leonard, Cheryl
Mangus, Rodney
Meniketti, Marco
Mercer, Meaghan
Pedtke, Andrew
Phillips, William McKinley III
Ross, Sandra Miller
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Bob
Schwemmer, Robert
Smith, Ronald
Smith, Steve
Tarter, Jill
Weed, Ryan
Weil, James
Whiteside, Dede
Winter, Mordechai
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Arroz, Linda
Boothe, Barry
Brandt, James
Clever, Karoli
Cohn, Lawrence
Crowder, Wendy
Davis, Shane
Durighello, Joy
Friedman, Christen
Heyneman, Louise
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Kidd, Joe
Langan, Karine
Longo-Cohn, Mary
Mani, Cassandra (Cassie)
Messerly, Ed
Miskiv, Rick
Nikas, A. James III
Novotny, Margaret
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Pennathur, Sudha
Reddy, Shridhar
Rolandson, Matthew
Saber, Aldeana
Schmieder, Kay (Kathleen)
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Walker, Nigel
Weiman, Mark
Yoder, Karl

A FEW WORDS FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

We mark this transition with our first in-person chapter meeting in over two years. However, it is still too early to throw away the masks completely and due caution is recommended. The meeting will be a hybrid with an online component.

This summer we will again have a chapter picnic and possibly a field trip. I wish everyone a great summer.

Marco Meniketti FN'10



**CYRIL DERREUMAUX MN'20:
CHAPTER MEMBER AND SOLO KAYAKER
IS MAKING A SECOND ATTEMPT
TO PADDLE TO HAWAII IN JUNE**



Back in June of 2016, French born US citizen Cyril Derreumaux and three others rowed across the Pacific from Monterey, California to Honolulu, Hawaii, earning a Guinness World Record for the fastest crossing in 39 days.

After a first attempt in June 2021 to paddle the 2,400 nautical miles of the same crossing but this time in a custom-built Kayak, solo and unsupported, Cyril Derreumaux is about to leave the coast of California again on a new attempt beginning June, 2022.

Since his first attempt in 2021, specific modifications were made:

- Modification of the sea anchor system and its lines, to the rudder, to the daggerboard well.
- Specific training in high wind situations off the coast of Santa Cruz, California
- Installation of a satellite communication system with an external antenna (Iridium go) enabling him to make phone calls and emails from inside the cabin
- Customs side panels were added to prevent side entry of water into the cockpit
- Addition of a manual bilge pump inside the cockpit, to second the electric one

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aw16p0yfcge7i69/AAD__Qz02R7bcZ0u_js_D40Ea?dl=0

May 2022 Issue
Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Acting Chair: Marco Meniketti FN'10
Vice Chair: _____
Secretary: Joyce Chang MN'17
Treasurer: Anna Freitas MN'17
Treasurer@explorersnorca.org
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
ajviking@aol.com
925-322-8893

2022

May 20 Annual Meeting
Urban Mobility and UAVs Aaron Singer
June 12 Chapter Picnic

2020

February 28 Dr. RobeJune rt
Griffith
Endangered Rhinos Dolan
March 27 Cheryl Leonard
Found Objects and Music RESCHEDULED
April 24 Dr. Paul Auerbach
Enviromedics RESCHEDULED
May 24 Dr. Sandra Cook
Foreign Devils on Silk Rd RESCHEDULED
May 22, 9:30 AM: Roz Savage
The Gift of Solitude ZOOM Presentation
May 29, 7:30 PM ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING
June 5, 8 PM. Eliot Jessup
24 hr Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim. Zoom
September 20 Explorers Club Chapter VP
Intro to Northern California Chapter Zoom
September 25 Liz Taylor and Sylvia Earle
Mission Blue- Hope Spots. Zoom
October 30 Mimi George
Vaka Taumako Project Zoom
November 20 Cheryl Leonard
Found Objects and Music. Zoom
December 13. Holiday Party

2021

. Zoom
January 22 Diana Pickworth & John Wilken
Explorations (2) Zoom
February 26 Kent Lightfoot
Fires & indiginous land use practices Zoom
March 26 Deana Weibel
Motivations for robotic space exploration Zoom
April 23 Brandi DiCarli & Scott Thompson
Farms from a box Zoom
May 21 ANNUAL MEETING
May 21 Alison Fundis
Deep Sea Exploration. Zoom
September 24. Ashley Lemke
Archaeology Below the Surface Zoom
October 15 Dr. Craig Clements
Wildfire in the West Zoom
November 19 Dr Roberto Junco
Caribbean Archaeology Zoom
January 28 Scott Warnasch.
Iron coffins
February 25 Satya Gontcho a Gontcho
. Astro physics and Cosmology

CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Directors (Past Chairs)

Joan Boothe MN'07
Lesley Ewing FN'93
Lee Langan FN'99
Anders Jepsen FN'03

Alan Nichols FN'84
Bob Schmieder FE'86
Rick Saber MN'01
Stephen Smith FN'96

Elected Directors

Paul Freitas MN'10
Jimmy Friedman MN'19
Kimberly Chambers MN'16

Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number

chair@explorersnorca.org
vicechair@explorersnorca.org

treasurer@explorersnorca.org
secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@explorersnorca.org
fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

MEETING VIDEOS

“Our Chapter has been recording our zoom meetings and the previous in-person meeting. Please go to our Chapter website explorersnorca.org and click on “Videos of Past Presentations”. Presentation videos on the website go back to 3/22/2019.”

Annual Meeting and Request for Interest for Chair,
Vice-Chair and Elected Director positions

Our annual meeting will be held on May 20th prior to the evening presentation. The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting, with options to participate either in person or on Zoom. See the May 20th Meeting Preview for more details.

The Board is now soliciting interest from Members or Fellows of the Explorers Club (who are designated by New York as members of the Northern California Chapter) in being considered for Chapter Chair, Chapter Vice Chair or as an elected director. Duties and responsibilities for each position are posted on our website and all interested members should review the relevant Duties and Responsibilities to understand what is expected of persons interested in these positions. We will also be soliciting interest from all chapter members in helping with events and activities as we begin to develop in-person events for the summer and fall.

All Members and Fellows who would like to be considered for elected positions (Chair, Vice-Chair or Director) should notify Joyce Chang of interest, include what position (or positions) you're interested in, with a short statement (less than 300 words) describing what you'd like to bring to the Chapter.

Joyce Chang: secretary@explorersnorca.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER DUES

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. A new year started on January 1st. Member dues are \$25 annually; sirdar dues are \$50 annually.

The Honor Roll is a listing of individuals who have paid their dues. To verify whether you have paid your dues, just check the Honor Roll list on page 5.

Dues can be paid on-line by clicking on the paypal link on the website. If you prefer to pay by check, please make the check payable to Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club. Mail the check to Anna Freitas, 161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Please note that Northern California Chapter dues can be tax-deductible.
Anna Freitas MN'17, Treasurer

POSSIBLE CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

* **Pinnacles National Park:** Early 2022, possible 2-day expedition.

For more information or suggestions, contact:
Jimmy Friedman MN'19 - sfaikido@gmail.com.