



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter SATURDAY, 25 MARCH 2023

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

**MONTHLY MEETING IN PERSON
SATURDAY 25 MARCH 5:00 PM
DEEP OCEAN EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH
650 W. TOWER AVENUE, ALAMEDA**

**NorCA CHAPTER 50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY and MEETING
EXPLORERS AS HUMANITARIANS
>>>>> RESCHEDULED TO 25 MARCH<<<<<<**

Join us on March 25th to recognize many of our members' accomplishments, hear from several explorers about their humanitarian efforts and speculate on the exploration feats that will be hallmarks of the next 50 years of exploration.

Deep Ocean Exploration and Research (DOER) will open its workshop for our celebration. It's an active and interesting work area. But, be warned, wires and equipment are everywhere and there is no indoor heat, so wear comfortable, close-toed shoes and dress warmly.

5:00 – Nibbles and drinks; social time and tours of DOER

6:30 – 7:15 Program

Celebration of NorCA's First 50 Years

PROGRAM: Explorers as Humanitarians

Liz Taylor and/or Sylvia Earle: Welcome to DOER

Mikkel Vestergaard Frandsen, LifeStraw, Sceye, Humanitarian Philanthropist

Angela Abshier, Sail to Shelter

Jimmy Friedman, Aikido Training for One Million Indian Women

Peggy Callahan, Voices4Freedom, Mission Joy

Richard Garriott, Sylvia Earle and/or Lesley Ewing: Closing Remarks

7:15 – 8:00 – Cake cutting and more social time

8 PM – Move conversations across the street to Almanac for more food and drinks

Reservations are required. Unfortunately, this event is currently sold out. If you would like to join the waiting list, please contact Anna Freitas at treasurer@explorersnorca.org

ECAD April, 22 2023
“The Explorers Club Annual Dinner”
Reserving a chapter table

If you have purchased tickets and want to sit at a NorCA chapter table,
please let
Jimmy Friedman (sfaikido@gmail.com) know ASAP.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Sunday, March 26, 2023 – 5 - 7 PM

AGENDA

All chapter members are welcome to listen to the meeting but will be asked to hold questions or concerns till the end of the open meeting. The final item of the open meeting provides time for members who are not on the Board to ask questions or raise concerns. These questions or concerns will be answered during the meeting or carried over to a future BOD meeting for discussion.

The agenda provides for an Executive Session, following the member comments, that can be used to discuss topics that are sensitive or of an executive nature. In the subsequent BOD meeting, the Secretary will report out about the general nature of these Executive Sessions.

Many agenda items are informational. Items that have a vote or requested follow-up are highlighted in red. No votes can be taken for any item that has not been included in the agenda. Key Efforts for this meeting are:

- Chapter's Annual Report, submitted to HQ
 - * ECAD Dinner and Table(s) for Chapter Members
 - * In-person Meeting Locations
 - * Annual Meeting, May 19, 2023, election of officers and new directors
 - * Volunteers to plan Summer Celebration
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1. Roll call and identification of additional agenda items (Lesley 5 min)
2. January 2023 Executive Session Report-out (Joyce/Lesley, 3 min)
3. 2023 Chapter Meeting Schedule (Lesley, 1 min)
 - * April 22, 2023 – ECAD
 - * April 28, 2023 –Dr. Laurie Marker at Pedro Pt. Fire Station, Pacifica
 - * May 19, 2023 – In Person Annual Meeting with Speaker (location TBD)
 - * June 2023 -- Summer Picnic or Celebration
4. Future Board of Directors Meeting (Jimmy, 3 min)
Ideas for scheduling BOD meetings to be used for 2023/2024 time period.
5. Committees and Activities (25 min or less if possible)
 - * Website (Len Bruffett has been asked to discuss)
 - * New Newsletter Editor 2023/2024 and beyond (Anders and Lesley)
 - Possible changes to newsletter frequency
 - * Locations for April and May meetings?
 - * Field Trips (Tom Dietz)
 - * Chapter Flag Expeditions (Tom Dietz)
 - * Social Media (Jimmy Friedman & Margeigh Novotny, co-leads)
 - * Swag and promotional items (Jimmy Friedman),
 - * Volunteers to organize a Summer event.
6. Comments from members (15 minutes)
7. Executive Session (BOD Only) (30 minutes total)
 - a. Review and approval of Minutes (10/22 and 1/23 copies attached)
 - b. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report (copy attached)
 - c. Google Docs, Lists, and Training (watch video if you need a primer)
 - d. Procedures for updating website (Jimmy)
 - e. Changes to Board membership
 - f. Upcoming Annual Meeting and Procedures for Election

A TRIP TO ANTARCTICA: REPORT FROM THE FIELD.

David Herzil



Port Charcot Ice



LeMaire Channel Entrance



Port Charcot Ice (other direction?)



LeMaire Ice Fall



Toward Orne Harbor

Editor's Note: When David Hirzel mentioned that he was planning a trip to Antarctica, I asked for pictures. Here are some of his favorites:

David Hirzel has been writing and publishing about Antarctica since 1996, but until this trip had never actually been there. Now, when asked, he can say “yes. Alice and I signed up for the trip while still under the pall of the Covid pandemic, a year in advance of the departure date (a commitment we never make), hoping for the best. And now, having gone to the white continent, I can finally say that our Hurtigruten cruise was “the best.”

“M.S. Nansen is IAATO compliant and has an environmentally friendly hybrid propulsion system. She took us quietly through some of the world’s most striking scenery, and got us ashore without leaving an impact on that pristine place. Our photos can only hint at our truly memorable cruise for us, one we would highly recommend.”

THE LAGOON
Encounters with the Whales of San Ignacio

Editor's Note: These words and pictures were received from James Dorsey FN'10



My fourth book, *THE LAGOON, Encounters with the Whales of San Ignacio*, will be published in May by Diversion Books of New York.

Few people have spent as much time on the water in direct contact with giant wild animals, and my book will take the reader inside their secret domain. They come to us to be petted and bring their newborns to our boats for affec-



tion, behavior they do not practice on the open ocean, but only in the lagoon where they know they are protected.

It is a very timely memoir of the 22 years I worked as resident cetacean naturalist in the gray whale birth/nursery lagoon in Southern Baja, Mexico. It is a definitive work about gray whales, the natural history, and indigenous peoples who have had a spiritual connection to the whales for at least 10,000 years. The Mexican Lagoons are the only place on earth where wild animals in their natural habitat routinely seek out human contact.

“THE LAGOON,” has endorsements from eight best-selling outdoor authors, and since we live directly on the migration path of these whales, (The southern migration is happening as we correspond); it is an appropriate current topic for your Northern California audience.)



James Michael Dorsey is an award-winning author, cetacean specialist, photographer, and lecturer, who has traveled extensively through 56 countries. When he is not on the water interacting with whales, he visits remote tribal cultures to write personal narratives about his travels.

His articles and essays about marine wildlife strive to enlighten and entertain those who may not have the same access to remote areas, or simply prefer to travel from the confines of their easy chair. He is a retired fellow of the Explorer's Club and member emeritus of the Adventurer's Club of Los Angeles.

For additional information please visit his website shown here.

www.jamesdorsey.com



HONOR ROLL
Paid up Dues for 2023

Members

Berg, Barbara
Bruffet, Leonard
Cohn, Francesca
Dietz, Thomas
Dorsey, James
Ellis, Scott
Ewing, Lesley
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Friedman, Lincoln
Gill, Lucy
Hargreaves, Kyle
Hemming, Peter
Jepsen, Anders
LaBonte, Alison
Oesterle, Matt
Pickworth, Diana
Saber, Rick
Smith, Steve
Thompson, Scott

Sirdars

Cohn, Lawrence
Crowder, Wendy
Fairbanks, Matthew
Friedman, Christen
Hirzel, David
Jepsen, Kathy
Kobetz, Joyce
Kobetz, Paul
Koehler, John
Longo-Cohn, Mary
Saber, Aldeana
Schmieder, Kay

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



The weather this year is unrelenting. I hope everyone is coping and staying safe and dry. Apologies again for postponing the February meeting, but I am hoping that we'll be rewarded with good weather for March 25th. The program will be as close to the prior program as possible. Some people are still checking their schedules. This event will be our only event in March – the March 31st zoom meeting has been cancelled.

The April meeting planning is coming along swimmingly. Dr. Laurie Marker will be in the Bay area for her "Make the Wild a Better Place" tour. She will join us on Friday, April 28, 2023, for an in-person meeting at a new (new for us) location – the San Pedro Point Fire Station in Pacifica. The fire station was built in the 1950s to house a fire truck. Fire services have moved to a larger station. The Pedro Point Community Association has taken over the building and turned it into an event center for Pacifica. The city is a lovely coastal spot, worth arriving early for a walk on the beach or for riding some waves at one of the many local surf spots. Alternatively, you can revisit Dave Herzel's San Andreas Fault tour from 2020 and do your own geologic and fault zone sleuthing. Reservations for this event will be posted after our Saturday, March 25th event.

I recently went to Don Heyneman's memorial service that was scheduled for what would have been his 98th birthday. It was a moving and wonderful service to honor his long life as a doctor, a parasitologist and explorer. It reminded me just how amazing our community is and how grateful I am to have discovered such an interesting group of people.

Ours is a group that both appreciates our past and is always looking forward to the future. For our chapter, the future includes some changes. In 2021, Tom Dolan and Marco Meniketti were elected chapter chair and vice-chair. Marco finished out Tom's first year as chair after Tom's death, but Marco did not want to serve a full second year as chair. At our 2022 Annual Meeting, I was elected to serve out Tom's term and Jimmy Friedman was elected to serve out Marco's term. Our year as chair and vice-chair will end soon. At our 2023 Annual Meeting (May 17th) you will be asked to elect new officers. Along with voting, you are invited to get more involved with the chapter by running for office or for a director position. We'll provide the more formal 'how tos' for this process in the April Newsletter; this is an early announcement to let you decide how you want to get more involved. Feel free to talk with me, or any of the officers or directors if you want to learn more about what's entailed.

In addition to the upcoming election, Anders Jepsen has announced his plans to step down as our newsletter editor. He has wanted to hand over the newsletter for a while. In 2021, I had offered to take over the newsletter once I ended as chair. Events upset that plan, but we again need someone to take over the newsletter. We also may overhaul the newsletter so if you want to suggest options for making our communications more efficient, while also maintaining some record of our chapter's history, suggestions are welcome.

The newsletter and other issues will be items for discussion at the next Board of Directors meeting, March 26th. The Board agenda is included in this newsletter and we will send a zoom link closer to time of the event for those who wish to listen in or chime in.

Take care, explore safely, bring back good stories, and think about your future involvement with the chapter.

Lesley Ewing, FN'93

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers

March 2023 Issue
Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
 Vice Chair: Jimmy Friedman MN'19
 Secretary: Joyce Chang MN'17
 Treasurer: Anna Freitas MN'17
 Treasurer@explorersnorca.org
 Webmaster: Leonard Bruffett MN'21
 Field Trips: Tom Dietz FN'20
 Newsletter Editor: Anders Jepsen FN'03
 ajviking@aol.com

2023

March 25 50th Anniversary meeting
 Alameda
 April 22 ECAD (NY)
 April 28 Laurie Marker
 May 19 ANNUAL MEETING, Speaker TBD
 June Summer Picnic or Celebration

2021

January 22 Diana Pickworth & John Wilken
 Explorations (2) Zoom
 February 26 Kent Lightfoot
 Fires & indigenous 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

2022

January 28 Scott Warnasch.
 Iron coffins
 February 25 Satya Gontcho a Gontcho
 Astro physics and Cosmology
 March 25 Randall Reeves
 Sailing round the Americas and Antarctica
 April 22 ECAD
 April 29 Bryan Heisinger
 The Hester Lake B-24 Wreck
 May 20 Annual Meeting
 Urban Mobility and UAVs Aaron Singer
 June 12 Chapter Picnic
 September 23. Sonia Meyer
 Speleology & Expedition Caving Zoom
 October 28 Ed Bernbaum
 Sacred Mountains of the world Zoom
 November 18 Ryan Weed
 Interstellar Human Exploration Zoom
 December 11 Holiday Party

2023

January 27 Kim Frank
 Human-elephant conflict in India Zoom
 February 25 Cancelled

CHAPTER DIRECTORS
(Past Chairs and Elected Directors)

Joan Boothe MN'07	Bob Schmieder FE'86	Paul Freitas MD MN'10
Lesley Ewing FN'93	Rick Saber MN'01	Kimberly Chambers MN'16
Lee Langan FN'99	Stephen Smith FN'96	Satya Gontcho A Gontcho MI'21
Anders Jepsen FN'03		Tom Dietz FN'20
Alan Nichols FN'84		

Chapter Email Addresses

chair@explorersnorca.org	treasurer@explorersnorca.org	webmaster@explorersnorca.org
vicechair@explorersnorca.org	secretary@explorersnorca.org	fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

MEETING VIDEOS

“Our Chapter has been recording our zoom meetings and the previous in-person meetings. 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.”

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER DUES

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. A new chapter club year started on January 1st. Member’s voluntary 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 the prior page.

Dues can be paid on-line by clicking on the paypal link on the website. The weblink to paypal buttons can be found on the “About” page on the right side.

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

CHAPTER FIELD TRIP

Robert Ferguson Observatory - Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

Mark your calendars and RSVP. We have rescheduled the Chapter field trip to RFO for September 15th. A time of year that has one of the highest probabilities for good weather. Within one day of a new moon, viewing should be excellent. There will be reminders and important details in future Newsletters as well but Tom Dietz will be accepting indications of interest now. We’ll look to open the payment system in the later Spring. Please email Tom at www.tjdietz415@gmail.com indicating your interest in attending the event and if you would like to camp that night.