

# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

January 2003

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San Francisco  
January 31, 2003  
Tom Joyce

The Ka'bah in  
Masjid al-Haram  
in Makkah

## Hajj Exploring the Center of the Cyclone

### LOCATION

**Date:** Friday, 31 January 2003  
**Place:** St. Francis Yacht Club  
San Francisco  
**Time:** 6:30 pm, no-host cocktails  
7:30 pm, dinner  
**Cost:** \$55 (by Jan 27)  
\$60 (if posted afterwards)

Reach Steve at 925 934-1051  
or, preferably,  
[nauticos@oceanearth.org](mailto:nauticos@oceanearth.org)

Reservation Form on page 5  
Please reserve promptly!  
NO MEAL WITHOUT RESERVATION

To Muslims, it is the center of the universe, the still point in a volatile and rapidly changing world. Makkah, in the Hijaz desert of Saudi Arabia, is the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad, and the spiritual home to the most rapidly growing religion on Earth. Every Muslim who can afford it is required to make pilgrimage there once in a lifetime, preferably during the month of pilgrimage: Dhul-Hijjah.

Few know that the Hajj, the pilgrimage, is more than a visitation to al-Ka'bah, the Black Cube in the center of Makkah's Haram, or that its origins pre-date Islam by several millennia. And very few explorers have journeyed there because of the prohibition to non-Muslims. An exception was Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton, member of the Royal Geographic Society, who made pilgrimage to Makkah and Madinah in 1853, "disguised as a dervish." In fact, Burton spoke fluent Arabic,

and he was both a practitioner and scholar of Islam.

In February, 2001, Tom Joyce decided to follow Burton's footsteps into the sacred precincts of Makkah and Madinah, to participate in the ancient ritual that binds together Muslims of every ethnicity, and to attempt to separate the "fundamentals" of Islam from the fanaticism of Wahabi extremists. He will share his story with the Explorers Club, read from his written account, and contrast his own experiences with some of Burton's descriptions of Hajj, accompanied by his photographs of the event.

Tom Joyce has been described as a dreamer, a dilettante adventurer, and a dangerous heretic—even by his friends. He has broken into the Castellian Springs at Delphi to drink the water, taken illegal pictures at the Haram in Makkah, and stolen a mani stone from a prayer cairn in Lhasa.

Continued on page 2

Tom in kaffiyeh at al-Rawasi Rub Attla Hotel in Makkah



Consequently, his house burned down in the Oakland Hills, and he mended his ways. Well, officially, anyway.

Tom describes himself as an explorer of sacred places and inner spaces. He has made pilgrimage to Mt. Kailash in Tibet, Mt. Athos and Olympus in Greece, Mt. Horeb in the Sinai, Tel-el Amarna in Egypt, as well as the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah in Saudi Arabia, as research for an on-going documentary project called *The Heretic's Pilgrimage*. Currently, he is compiling these experiences into a book called *Bay Boys and Bodhisattvas*, a somewhat sanitized autobiography. Tom has also published essays and stories in *Gnosis*, *Blue*, and *Travelers' Tales*.

In another disguise, Tom Joyce is a partner of Creativewerks Marketing Communications in Sausalito, California, where he functions as an art director, graphic designer, photographer, and copywriter. A graduate of Philadelphia College of Art, his work as an art director has received an array of international awards including the Silver Lion at the Cannes Television Advertising Festival.

Tom with Shaykh Yassir Chadly at the Masjid al-Nabi in Madinah



## The Search for Ancient, Really Old, Life Chris McKay San Francisco

Chris McKay was in grad school when the Viking Spacecraft surveyed Mars, and he has been focused on the Red Planet ever since.

3.5 billion years ago Mars was a much like Earth; therefore, it is really interesting to study. There was liquid, or what else could it be, that carved channels and canyons. Mars also has inert, gentle-sloping shield volcanoes, about 27 kilometers high, with a six-degree slope. Mars is like Earth when life first started on our planet, but there is more carbon dioxide.

The earliest living organisms on Earth were *cynobacteria*, pond scum. Chris McKay has traveled to the most remote areas in Earth to see where living organisms, such as these, can survive. He has studied organisms that survive in the dry valleys in Antarctica, tiny bacteria that live about a millimeter below the surface of sandstone rocks, and algae that grow in Lake Vanda under five meters of ice.

He has found life in the Gobi Desert. Actually, green algae grow under

white stones in all the Earth's deserts, except in Antarctica and the Anaconda.

Chris enjoys travel to these extreme areas, but he is not there just to visit. He is looking for patterns and life signs. On Earth, there is only one main example for life, and it is unlikely that this is the same pattern that would develop on Mars. The search for life on Mars means looking for a whole new set of patterns and life signs. His premise, or one of them, is that we need to recognize the subtle signs of life in the extreme areas on Earth, both to know the best spots to look when we get to Mars and to develop an 'eye' for which signs have the highest potential to be alive.

A second element of this premise is that people will need to be on Mars to do good research and find life. The remote sensors can help us figure out the best places for further study, but nothing beats the human presence.

Chris may not get to Mars, but he is laying a great foundation for the folks who do.



LANGAN

Our December speaker,  
Chris McKay,  
in a less-hostile climate

## Invite: Joan Bekins

I have an exhibition of my nature photography from February 4 to March 28, 2003, presented by the Tiburon Heritage & Arts Commission. **Place:** Tiburon Town Hall Community Room, 1505 Tiburon Blvd., 2nd floor. **Open:** Monday through Thursday from 9 to 5, Friday 9 to Noon. An **Artist's Reception** will be February 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. All Explorer' are invited!

## Go & Come & Tell

We had two special guests for the December meeting: **Rosemarie Twinam**, past chapter chair of the Southeast Florida chapter, came to the meeting and to help with the kiosk that we were keeping at the American Geophysical Union Conference at the Moscone Center. She was a 'kiosker' par excellent and represented the club diligently for the whole conference. **Brian Hanson**, The Explorers Club Vice President for Chapters spoke about the fund-raising responsibilities that are now part of being a club director. He also talked about the history of the chapter liaison and interaction between New York and the chapters. Brian noted that our very own Ron Reuther and Bob Schmieder were strong voices supporting the need for a chapter's position on the board, and, fortunately for all of us, they prevailed over the voices of the nay-sayers. Knowing how to make a chapter feel special, he mentioned that he had asked Jack Townsend to name the best chapters—Northern California was one of them! To make a retiring chapter chair feel special he gave her two big hugs— one from him and one from Sylvia Earle.

**Ann and Alan Hutchison** have been in Reno/San Francisco a lot more now that Alan has come out of retirement to practice law. He has passed on his love for diving to his grandson and is using a future dive trip to Honduras as a bribe (we mean reward) for good grades.

**Diana Pickworth** brought two prospective members— her godson Alex Cruthers and her colleague, Ethan, an economist with experience in Yemen. Alex is hoping to continue his family's history in the military and has applied to West Point.

**Bob Schmieder** has finished his latest book on a radio expedition to San Felix and is planning his next radio project. He was especially delighted to be holding the meeting at UCSF— the site of the old Masonic Cemetery and original interment location of Cordell (1821-1871). The bodies were all moved to Colma to accommodate an insurance company building, but the headstone remains buried somewhere on the site. Bob is offering a generous, yet to be announced, award to whom-



Brain Hanson & Rosemarie Twinam, looking very exploratory, at our December meeting.

ever recovers it for him.

**Dave Graber** apologized for his 5-year absence. He has been doing emergency medicine and mountaineering in New Zealand. He brought as a guest, Rebecca Moore who is studying admiralty law (and may be able to determine whether Bob can sail away with Cordell's headstone, when it is recovered.)

**Charles and Louise Geraci** have been traveling but not doing much exploration. Charles commented on his time as secretary that it had been fun— the important feature for anyone who volunteers is that they should plan to attend most of the meetings to report on everyone's comings and goings!

**Alan and Becky Nichols** will be climbing Kilimanjaro in a few months— probably their first sacred mountain as a married couple. Their wedding date is February 15, 2003— just after Valentine's Day.

**Tom Hall** is just back from Peru, and he chose to spend Liz's birthday with us for the dinner. It was his first return to Peru in 37 years, and he had a great time speaking only in Spanish.

**Hank Skade** is just back from Antarctica, and he brought a fellow ex-

plorer, Denver Coleman, a professional psychologist and amateur astronomer.

**Rick Saber** introduced his guest Aldeana and told of her recent trip to Tibet to a foundation dedicated to her uncle who has worked there for a number of years. Meanwhile, Rick has been working to have Sarah Washington Irving exhumed and buried next to her husband. He is also planning a 123-year birthday party for San Francisco's *Emperor Norton* on 11 January 2003.

**Krist Jake** is planning an Ocean Film Festival for about a year from now. The foci will be natural science, sports, and human cultures of the coast and island people.

**Ron Reuther and Gerry Elkus** were pleased to see Brian Hanson and wished him good health. They were present several years ago when a prior vice chair for chapters, Max Gallimore attended and ended up in the emergency room. We were pleased to see Brian the day after the meeting, and he was happy and healthy. Ron reminded us of an informal Earhart meeting at the Western Aerospace Museum, Oakland Airport, North Field, on Saturday, February 1, 10 am to 4 pm. All welcome.

—Lesley Ewing, FN'93

## Kiosk at the AGU

We borrowed the Club's kiosk to use at the American Geophysical Union in early December. Rosemarie Twinam held down the fort for the whole conference—greeting prospective members and welcoming several existing members. Lots of people came by to find out about the club, comment that they did not remember us being at the conference before (we were not), or to ask how they could renew a lapsed membership.

A couple of people wanted to 'buy' a membership for someone as a holiday gift—so we suggested giving them a subscription to the *Journal* as a gift (and to slip in an application just in case.) Lesley Ewing was at the kiosk a few hours each day, Brian Hanson on Saturday, Eve Iverson on Sunday, Lee Langan for Monday morning, and Bob Schmieder finished up on Tuesday.

The kiosk can be a lot of fun. If you are going to an event where you think there may be potential members, consider using the kiosk from Member Services, New York.

## Evolution

### @ The Explorers Club

#### Politically Correct

In conversation with several members of The Explorers Club the question was raised: should the Club take a stand on an issue important to explorers that may be politically charged? Specifically, should the Club take a stand on protecting the Usumacinta River Valley, between the states of Chiapas and Tabasco in Mexico and Guatemala's Petán selva, from plans for a large new dam?

The fact is that plans are being made to block this river where major Mayan archaeological sites exist, unknown ones are there with little doubt, and neither are developed. In addition indigenous Maya descendants reside in this region, and there are many wild unique animal and plant species. Once the Boca del Cerro Dam is built, a large area will be inundated. Like California's Hetch Hechy Valley, the ground will be flooded and beyond reach—at least by other than very limited underwater archaeological techniques. Surely known finds will be lost to further traditional exploration.



awaiting provisions, 50 miles off Hilo

## ON A RAFT ACROSS THE NORTH PACIFIC

### The Last 1000 Miles

On December 30, in the Pacific's tropical squalls the raft *Nord* passed Tanageri Atoll, the last obstacle in her transpacific route westward from California. Just a couple days earlier the raft crossed the 180-degree meridian, causing the adventurers to skip ahead one day on their calendar. So far, this endeavor to be the first wooden raft to cross the turbulent North Pacific ocean has logged over 4500 miles in 102 days. (The famous raft *Kon-Tiki* sailed 3000 miles in 65 days.)

Andrew Urbanczyk, Ph.D., is a fellow member of The Explorers Club. The expedition is carrying the Explorers Flag # 146—and it is sailing under the flag of United Nations, the United States, Canada and Poland.

Dr. Urbanczyk, the leader of the Raft Transpacific Expedition reported: "Since Hawaii, in the last 50 days, we have not seen any ship, any airplane, or any other sign of civilization. Just water, the sky, sometimes a bird. To fulfill the wishes of the late Thor Heyerdahl, our expedition's mentor, the raft will try to land in the Marianas Archipelago, a territory that figured prominently in Heyerdahl's research. Consequently, we have still 20 meridians to cross and expect to sail the remaining distance of the Pacific in about 30 days." (Ed note: this will be on the date of our January meeting!).

Visitation will be eliminated; many artifacts will be lost forever. Like at China's Three-Rivers Dam, locals will have to be moved elsewhere. Should the Club support a stance against such a project?

The reaction was divided, in active conversation: We should. There are 'problems' such as this around the world; any pro-stance would grow into demands for equal treatment. A pro-stance would evolve into a major cost for the Club (to be effective.) The need for electricity may well offset the need to protect these remnants. Inundations may actually 'protect' the sites

for potentially better archeological technologies *long* into the future. The spectrum from conservation to development existed in a small gathering! A read of John McFee's 1965 *Encounters with the Archdruid* elucidates these diverse positions well.

Here is a web site for a grasp of the threat/opportunity: <http://www.mesoweb.com/reports/dam2.html>. The threat is real. The opportunity is too, for non-polluting electricity. What do you think? Responses and comments are welcome.

—Lee Langan, FN'99

# The Chapter Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

It is with a mixture of pleasure, humility, and wonder that I find myself the new Chair of the Northern California Chapter as we enter 2003.

My appreciation goes out to all of those who have expressed their support for my success in this auspicious endeavor. Thanks are especially due to outgoing Chair, Lesley Ewing, for all of her dedication and hard work during her tenure and for the guidance and support she afforded me during my term as Vice Chair.

For the benefit of those who I have not had the pleasure to meet, a brief introduction is probably in order. My first real exposure to The Explorers Club came as a result of coordinating dive operations on a 1995 expedition to Easter Island, led by former Chair Bob Schmieder. Standing next to Flag 123, carried by Thor Heyerdahl on the *Kon Tiki* in 1947, again to Easter Island in 1955, and for the third time in 1995, is pretty heady stuff. Since that time, I have become increasingly involved with the Northern California Chapter, serving as Vice Chair for the last two years, and leading my own flag expedition to Micronesia in 2001.

In the real world, I am involved in the energy business, helping to create an option to the traditional utility paradigm we have all come to know and love. I also serve as the Dive Safety Officer for St. Mary's College of Moraga, where I train nascent underwater archaeologists how to keep breathing while recovering maritime cultural artifacts. Among all of these endeavors, the opportunity to coordi-

nate our EC speakers over the last two years certainly stands out. The chance to interact with such a diverse group of individuals with such incredible talents has been truly rewarding.

It is especially challenging to assume the Chair position as we look forward to our chapter's 30th anniversary in February and our National Club's centennial in 2004. This should be a period of rededication to the principals and goals that have provided the foundation of our organization. At the same time, I believe we must look forward to broadening our scope to embrace the meanings of exploration in the new millennium.

For our chapter I have two initial goals. The first is to attempt to reduce the cost of participation in our dinner meetings. These meetings are the venue by which we renew our friendships and exchange new ideas, and they are critical to our on-going success. We live in one of the most expensive regions of the country, and participation suffers because the cost of attendance on a regular basis can become prohibitive to many of us. I look to the membership for suggestions and ideas in this regard.

Note that the newsletter masthead includes the contact information for all of our officers.

My second goal is a broader one. It is to improve the direct involvement of the members in the club's operation. As is true of many organizations, a relatively small group of individuals are charged with the on-going tasks and responsibilities of the club. This not only can become taxing, but it lessens the investment of other members in the success of the chapter. To this end, do not be surprised to receive an email

or two in the future from one of us directly soliciting your ideas and help. When we have done this in the past, the results have been gratifying and, I believe, rewarding to all.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation in advance to our fine slate of officers and committee chairs for 2003. I am certainly lucky to be working with you this year.

I hope to see you all at the January 31 meeting for a topic that is highly appropriate to our current times.

—Stephen E. Smith, FN'96

## In Memorandum

**Ray Aker, MN'79**, died January 4. He was an expert on Sir Francis Drake and Drake's Bay in Marin. His good friend Ed Von der Porten said Ray was a master craftsman in ship modelling, drafting, especially of ships, and a nautical artist in pen and ink, pencil, watercolors and oil. Ray was the world's authority on the history and construction of at least a dozen sixteenth-century sailing vessels.

The San Francisco Chronicle added, Mr. Aker was a man of many parts— a World War II merchant marine officer, an exacting draftsman who helped design the Polaris missile and a historian who became an expert on sailing ships of the great age of exploration.

**Dr. George Van Brunt Cochran**, former President of The Explorers Club (1981-85), died on January 6. 'Van' saw it as his mission to explore remote, uncharted mountain regions around the world. Dr. Cochran was Professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia University.

Please make your checks out to The Explorers Club, Northern California Chapter,

and mail with this form to: **Dr. Stephen E. Smith**  
402 Via Royal  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces for Jan.31, 2003, at the St. Francis Yacht Club.  
Cost: \$55 each by Jan 27; \$60 if postmarked thereafter (contact Steve at [nauticos@oceanearth.org](mailto:nauticos@oceanearth.org) or 924 934-1051 to assure a reservation).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if changed): \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

meal choice (please circle):

meat

fish

vegetarian

**NOTE: THIS IS A DIFFERENT LOCATION THAN DECEMBER.**

## Northern California 2002-2003 Event Calendar

(Mark the dates! Future venues to be determined)

September 27, 2002 St Francis Yacht Club	Ugo Conti	"Outer Adventure, Inner Journey"
October 25, 2002 St Francis Yacht Club	Reid Dennis	"Chasing the Ghost of Amelia Earhart"
December 6, 2002 UCSF, Laurel Heights	Chris McKay	"From Antarctica to Mars: The Search for Life"
<b>January 31, 2003</b> <b>St. Francis Yacht Club</b>	<b>Tom Joyce</b>	<b>"Hajj - The Journey of a Lifetime"</b>
February 28, 2003	Anne Keiser	"Sir Edmund Hillary and the People of Everest"
March 28, 2003	Jim Allan	"In the Deep and In the Dirt: A Look at California's Maritime Archaeology"
April 25, 2003	Martin A. Pomerantz	"Astrophysics in Antarctica: Observing the Universe from the South Pole"
May 30, 2003	Terry O'Brien	"Fair God and Feathered Serpents".
June, 2002	Chapter Picnic	

Please note venues with care. The January 31 meeting is at  
St. Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco.

(When copying the URL addresses be sure to keep them all on one line; most are also available as links on our Chapter web site.)

### *January 2003*

Dr. Stephen E. Smith  
The Explorers Club  
Northern California Chapter  
402 Via Royal  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



## THIRTY YEARS OF EXPLORATION

### Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club, Founded February 12, 1973

**Joseph S. Rychetnik, FN'67**, had recently arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area, having become a member of the Club while he was in Alaska. His sponsor was **Lowell Thomas**, Honorary President of the Club, and his co-sponsor was **Wendell Phillips, FN'51**, noted Explorer in Africa and the Middle-East. Joe, a humorous raconteur, had been a staff member of the U.C. Berkeley Expedition from Cairo to Capetown, '46-47, the Time-Life Bureau Chief in Portland, Oregon, and Anchorage, a National Geographic photographer, a hunter and fisherman and expert in guns and knives, and most recently an Alaskan State Trooper. He also was a former teenage Merchant Marine seaman under Kamikaze attack in the Pacific in WWII and a U.S. Marine Corps aerial ordinance man and combat infantryman in the Korean War. Finding there was no existing chapter in the area, Joe approached **Charles de Young Elkus, Jr, FN'54**, a partner in a large San Francisco law firm, about forming a chapter.

Charlie was a member of a prominent San Francisco family and, along with his family, was heavily involved in promoting and protecting the rights, culture, and well-being of Southwestern American Indians. He explored much of the homeland of the Southwestern Indians and was a past Director of the Intertribal Indian Ceremonial Association of Gallup, NM. He was instrumental in forming an extensive collection of Indian art and artifacts which is now in the California Academy of Sciences. The collection is so large that only portions of it can be exhibited at any one time.

Charlie, a natural and humorous leader, was agreeable to establishing a local chapter and assisted and allowed Joe to use his office, secretarial help, and phones. They contacted local members of the Club and encouraged them to assist in forming the Northern California chapter. From the start the concept included Explorers living from San Luis Obispo and Fresno north to the Oregon border plus those in Northern Nevada.

The first meeting occurred on February 12, 1973, at the St. Francis Yacht Club on the shore of our glorious and historical San Francisco Bay. Charlie was a member of the Club and sponsored the meeting. He had contacted the New York Headquarters to determine what was required to establish a Chapter and was elected the Chapter's first Chairman. **Richard "Klondike Dick" S. Finnie, E'38**, historian for the Bechtel Corporation, author, and north-Canadian explorer, was elected Vice Chairman. Joe Rychetnik was elected Secretary/Editor and Program Chairman, and **Richard "Dick" Fullerton, MN**, a professional financial executive, was elected Treasurer. The Chapter began to grow.

The pattern then established was to hold monthly Friday dinner meetings with a break in the summer months of June, July, and August and with the November and December meetings combined in early December. There was no formal incorporation, and from the start women were invited as guests. This made the Northern California Chapter unique, as all other Chapters excluded women from their meetings. Thus our Chapter led the way; it was not until about 1984 that the Club as a whole included woman members under the leadership of then National President **Charles Brush, PhD, MED'50** (who later shared membership in our Chapter and in the New York headquarters.) Chapter meetings were, from the start, informal; they feature a cocktail hour, dinner, comments from members, and a formal presentation by an Explorer. One particularly outstanding meeting during Charlie's tenure was a two-day event with a Friday dinner meeting at the Stanford Faculty Club and a Saturday tour of NASA's Ames Laboratory with some of the astronauts.

Charlie Elkus became a member of the National Board of Directors of the Club, was a member of the Legal Committee, and participated in the formulation of procedural rules for the Chapters. Charlie died on May 25, 1976.

After Elkus' death Dick Finnie was elected Chairman in September 1976. **Carleton Skinner, FN'62** was elected Vice Chairman, and Joe Rychetnik was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer and Program Chairman. (Joe had assumed the position of Chapter Treasurer in addition to Secretary in 1975.) Skinner was a former U.S. Coast Guard officer in WWII, former Governor-General of Guam and an authority on the Pacific Ocean islands, Honorary Consul of Nauru, and business man. Chapter member **Don Patterson, MN**, a recognized lepidopterist, became a National Board Member during this time. A tradition of annual Spring Garden Parties hosted by **Carey Baldwin, FN'75** at his home in Fairfax, began late in Finnie's tenure. After Carey died, the always well attended parties were named in his honor as the Annual Carey Baldwin Memorial Spring Garden Party. Carey, a great humorous story-teller, had been the long-time Director of the San Francisco Zoo. Also late in Finnie's tenure, **Don Johanson, PhD, FN'76** became a National Board Member and later an Honorary Director. Don is a noted paleoanthropologist who found and described "Lucy", then the oldest known human female fossil!

Finnie stepped down in 1984 and was succeeded by Skinner. **Ronald T. Reuther, FN'74** became Vice Chairman and Program Chairman. **Harold Chipman, MN'82**, served as Secretary from 1984 to 1985; **Krist Jake, MN'78**, served from 1986 to 1989. **Henry Hotchkiss, MN'80**, was Treasurer from 1984 to 1986. Reuther had earlier been a member of the Philadelphia Chapter. He had been elected Treasurer of our chapter in 1980 and Secretary/Editor/Program Chairman in 1983, succeeding Rychetnik. He was a professional wildlife conservationist who had been Director of several major U.S. zoological parks and a President of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, the national organization of such organizations. A co-founder of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, he also had been an officer in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army, a pilot, and founder of the Western Aerospace Museum at the Oakland International Airport. Chipman had been a career CIA officer who spoke more than 12 languages. He had served in positions all over the world. Hotchkiss was a sailor and professional financial officer. His father had been a long-time member of The Explorers Club. Jake is a serious kayaker; he has spent considerable time kayaking in Alaska and along the U.S. Pacific coast. He was a computer businessman. During Skinner's tenure the Chapter hosted the first Explorers Club Western Annual Meeting, October 24-25, 1986 with a Friday night reception at the Elk's Club, a Saturday afternoon program in the California Academy of Sciences, and Dinner at the Elk's Club, all in San Francisco. Reuther served as Program Chairman. During Skinner's tenure the annual Spring Garden Parties continued at the home of Erna Baldwin. Also chapter-member **Sylvia Earle, PhD, FN'81**, a famous marine biologist and deep-sea diver, became a member of the National Board of Directors and later Honorary Director. She chaired important positions in the Club's leadership.

Skinner served as Chairman until 1989. Reuther succeeded him and **Robert Ogg, LF'80**, was elected Vice Chairman and served through 1991. **Folger (Jerry) Athearn Jr., MN'82**, had become Treasurer in 1986, succeeding Henry Hotchkiss, and served until 1992, when he was succeeded by **Charles Southall, MN'91**, until 1994, followed by **Morton Beebe, FN'78**. **Robert W. Schmieder, PhD**,

**FN'86**, became Secretary in 1989, serving until 1992, when he was succeeded by **Michael F. Diggles, MN'92**. Ogg had been a U.S. Navy intelligence officer in the Pacific in WWII and was an authority in electronic and radio communications, a sailor, and owned a large ship chandlery on the U.S. East Coast. Athearn, whose father was also a member of the Club, had been a U.S. Navy transportation officer and had served in the Antarctic. He owned a transportation data service company. Southhall was a former U.S. Navy pilot and CIA officer in North Africa and other areas. In civilian life he was in finance. Beebe is a professional photographer who was a U.S. Navy pilot and public information officer on several tours in the Antarctic. Schmieder was a physicist serving on the staff of Sandia Laboratory in Livermore, CA. He is also an oceanographer, sailor, and diver and was instrumental in establishing the Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuary. He also has a special interest in ham radio and DX (distant station) expeditions. He has written several books. Diggles was a professional geologist on the staff of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park with strong involvement with the Sierra Nevada and computerization. He became the Chapter Webmaster in 1994 and spearheaded the National Headquarters going on the internet. Under his guidance our chapter became the first to have a web site. During Reuther's tenure a number of successful chapter excursions were made to various Northern California sites including NASA Ames Laboratory, Lake Tahoe, Sacramento, Monterey, and San Simeon, which was a first-time joint meeting with the Southern California Chapter (now divided into the Los Angeles and the San Diego Chapters). The annual Chapter Spring Garden Parties continued at the Baldwin home.

The Explorers Club Annual Dinner (ECAD) in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City has always been a very entertaining and informative event. It is associated with the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the Club held in the Club Headquarters. During Reuther's term the Chapter typically had strong attendance at both. **George McCowan, MN'88**, was then and has been a consistent ECAD Dinner Patron. He is a mountain climber and trekker.

Reuther stepped down in 1995 and was succeeded by Schmieder as Chairman. Schmieder had become Vice Chairman and Program Chairman in 1992 succeeding Ogg. **William Isherwood, PhD, FN'80**, became Vice Chairman. **Charles L. Geraci, MD, MN'92**, became Secretary. Folger Athearn again became Treasurer in 1996, succeeding Beebe. Isherwood was on the staff of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory as an environmental officer and was an experienced mountain climber (on all seven continents) and polar explorer. He had founded the Rocky Mountain Chapter of The Explorers Club. Geraci was a surgeon. He has explored many areas of the globe with a special interest in Indian culture in Baja California. During Schmieder's tenure, we had the second and larger, more ornate Explorer's Club Western Annual Meeting, called the "Golden Gateway." Venues were the U.S. Maritime Museum and the Stanford Court Hotel, both in San Francisco. A third such event followed two-years later with a reception at the World Trade Club on a Friday night and an elaborate Saturday Dinner and program at the Fairmont Hotel. Both of these events featured notable Explorers from out of town as speakers. During Schmieder's tenure a tradition of an Annual Spring Picnic on Angel Island began, after Erna Baldwin was no longer able to host the Garden Party. The Chapter started a scholarship program honoring prominent Chapter member **Dan Reid, MD, FN'82**, a heart surgeon and distinguished U.S. Army Vietnam combat doctor who as an experienced mountain climber and leader. He was the first person to climb the East Face of Mount Everest; he and his wife were killed in a snow avalanche on Mt. Kenya in the '90s.

Schmieder was succeeded by Isherwood in 1999. **Lesley Ewing, FN'93** became Vice Chairman and Program Chairperson and **Thomas L. Hall, MD, FN'97** became the March 2003 Newsletter Supplement

Treasurer succeeding Athearn. **Sue Estey, PhD, FN'92**, became Secretary/Newsletter Editor. Diggles continued as Webmaster. Ewing is a mechanical engineer and staff member of the California Coastal Commission. She has a special interest in beach erosion and protection and undersea exploration. Hall is a public health epidemiologist on the staff of the University of California in San Francisco. He travels worldwide studying and consulting and is a sailor, pilot, and biker. Estey is a marine biologist with interests in underwater photography, sea kayaking, reef surveys, sailing, and mountaineering. During Isherwood's tenure the Chapter contributed funds to assist a young Tibetan student gain an education. The annual Angel Island Spring Picnics continued.

In 2001, Isherwood was succeeded by Ewing, our first female Chair. **Stephen E. Smith, PhD, FN'96**, became Vice Chairman and Program Chairman. Hall continued as Treasurer, and **Lee Langan, FN'99** became Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Diggles continued as Webmaster. Smith is involved in the energy business developing alternatives to the traditional utility sources of energy. He is a dive instructor and scientific diver with special interests in coral reef protection, heads a non-profit organization studying coral reefs in Micronesia and is the Dive Safety Officer for St. Mary's College of Moraga, CA. Langan is a geophysicist with special interests in archeology, the Mayan culture, and physical measurements. During Ewing's tenure the Angel Island Spring Picnics continued.

In January 2003 Ewing stepped down and was succeeded as Chairman by Steve Smith. Langan was elected Vice Chairman; he continues as Editor, Hall continues as Treasurer, and Diggles continues as Webmaster.

Over the years the Chapter, now numbering from about 150 members, has had many interesting meetings and speakers. Our traditional and favored venue has been the St. Francis Yacht Club, but occasionally we have, and do, meet at other places in Berkeley, San Rafael, and on the Peninsula. In recent years we have regularly had a Spring Reception hosted by **Daniel Liebowitz, MD, MN'66**, and his wife Rusty at their home in Woodside, followed by a dinner in a close-by restaurant. Dan is an internist. He has visited Africa many times and has written several fiction and factual books on Africa and some it's interesting explorers.

The regular meetings have had attendance ranging from 30 to 120 people depending upon the speaker, the location, the weather, and the distance. One meeting featuring Bruce Bolt, PhD, a world famous seismologist and head of the U.C. Berkeley Seismology Department talking about earthquakes, closed unexpectedly with an honest to goodness earthquake! We have had guests from other Explorer Club Chapter members, several International Presidents and Board Members, and National Chapter-Relations Chairmen, a position created partly from Ron Reuther's active involvement in National Board meetings and committee work.

The Chapter has been proud to call two Nobel Prize winners as members: **Charles Townes, PhD, FN'78**, and **Arthur Schawlow, PhD, FN'78**, brothers-in-law and both physics professors and researchers distinguished for their discoveries in laser physics. Other particularly distinguished Chapter members have been **General "Jimmy" Doolittle, MED'42**, and **General "Chuck" Yeager, HON'63**, both highly distinguished aviators.

All together, the Northern California Chapter, now third largest in the Club, is composed of many outstanding and notable Explorers. It continues to thrive under good leadership with good speakers and good fellowship, all enhancing, stimulating, and commemorating the exploration of the world we live in.

Joe died March 5, 2003. He was very pleased with the growth and success of our (and his) Chapter. Charlie and Joe were, deservedly so, proud of their founding efforts.

Ron Reuther, E'74