

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter October 2010

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

Expeditions and the Media Josh Bernstein FR-04 San Francisco — October 29, 2010

Josh Bernstein, a Director of The Explorers Club, says “my talk will give members of the Club a sense of the media landscape today as far as exploration goes.”

Josh should know about this—he was the host (2005-07) on the History Channel’s adventure/archaeology program *Digging for the Truth*, which became the highest rated series and season premier ever for this popular television channel. A companion book, subtitled *One Man’s Epic Adventure Exploring the World’s Greatest Archaeological Mysteries*, revealed the trials and challenges he experienced while making the hair-raising episodes.

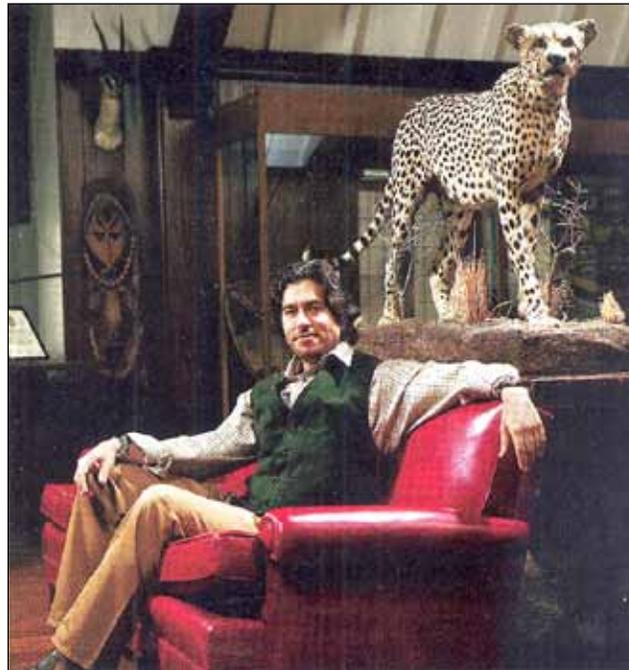
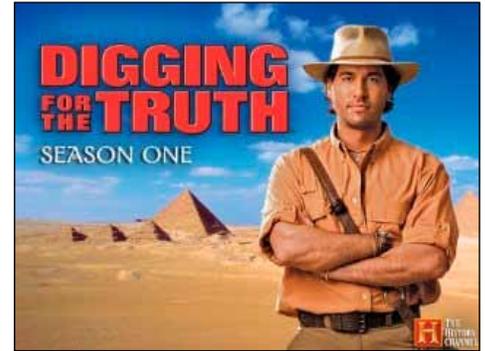
When he departed to the Discovery Channel he starred in *Into the Unknown with Josh Bernstein*, with the same around-the-world focus, but the new series expanded beyond archeology*.

Josh was the master of ceremonies at the Explorers Club Annual Dinner a couple of years ago. In addition to serving the Club, he is also on the board of the Global Heritage Foundation, helping Jeff Morgan’s efforts to protect endangered sites around the world. He is also CEO of BOSS (Boulder Outdoor Survival School), claimed to be the oldest and largest traditional living skills/survival school in the world—teaching people how to do more with less and to appreciate the wilderness and the perspective of traditional cultures.

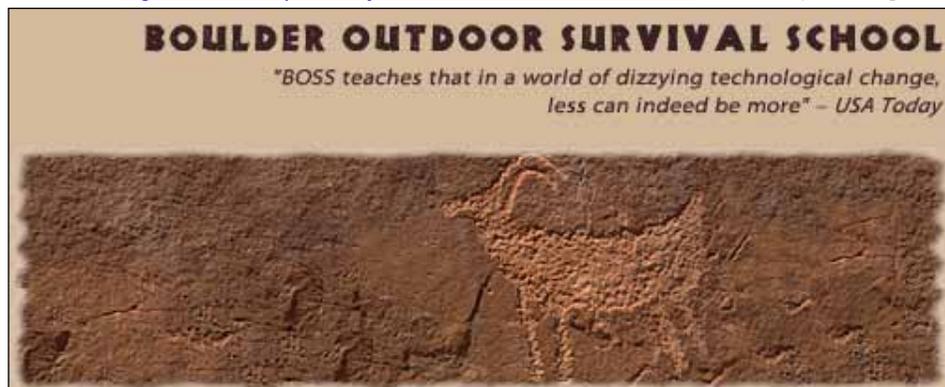
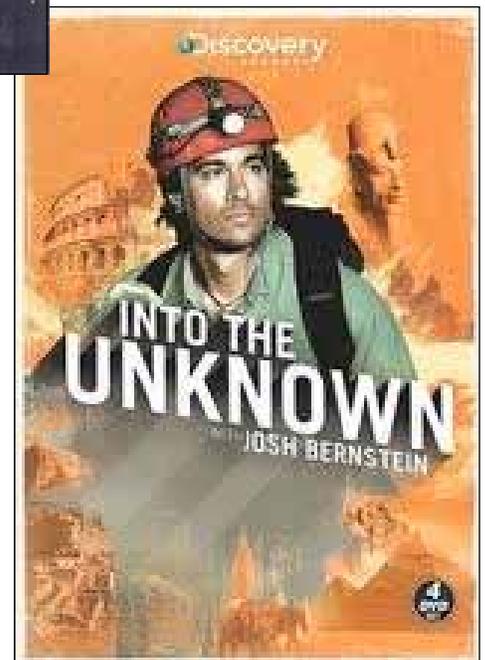
He uses these skills in his adventures. He interacts with the media—television, movies, print—frequently. Come hear how.

* Check out: <http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/josh-bernstein/video/videohub.html> while waiting for new episodes.

Note venues and dates with care.
San Francisco, CA
Our next meeting is at 6:30 on
October 29, a **FRIDAY** evening,
at the University Club.



Josh Bernstein in The Explorers Club Trophy Room, New York



Where Did We Come From?

San Francisco

Don Johanson is an explorer whose name is known well beyond his profession and academic circles. He made a discovery that assured this.

He actually had two good fortunes early in his life that thrust him into a leadership role to delve into the origins of man to seek the answer to, "Where do we come from?" As a young boy he lived next door to a professor who opened the world of anthropology, the study of man, by encouraging full access to an extensive home library. As a young professor, he was in the right place, with the right knowledge, when he stumbled upon an elbow bone protruding from the ground. Thus, in November 1974, *Lucy* discovered Dr. Johanson. Schooled as a paleoanthropologist he named her *Australopithecus afarensis*; to his campmates she became the *Lucy* of Beatles fame as they excavated the impressive 3.2-million-year-old skeleton. Her nickname stuck!

Dr. Johanson is a gifted speaker. He can compress millions of years into a captivating hour. This evening he spoke of how *Lucy* fit into the expanding understanding about the evolution of our species and those species so near. Read *Lucy's Legacy**. The evening's visuals showed crucial bits of evidence that confer the numerous new finds to the 'homo' lineage or to some other hominid: increased cranial size, bone features indicating an erect bearing, the teeth, the pelvis. These are all pieces from the tree of man that help define it's sparse branches.

An audience questioner asked how he deals with those who do not believe in evolution. With patience, with education, with an understanding there are indeed different belief systems, he responded. Paleoanthropology is a science, and as such has theories and hypotheses that derive from what is known: the proliferating depth of findings, the overarching principles deduced by Charles Darwin and Adlus Huxley based upon natural selection, the confirmations provided by DNA understanding. The theories about the origin of man provide a compelling explanation. Dr. Johanson is a working scientist willing to expound upon what he and his colleagues know. One can accept it or not.

What he believes most fervently is that the cradle of man's origin is Africa. This vast land is where we developed. In reality only a few specimens have been found, in the Rift Valleys, in the Transvaal, in Chad. While the

treasure-trove is constantly building, there is much to unfold. The task is daunting. *Lucy's* locale, the Hadar Region of the Afar Depression of Ethiopia north of the Awash River, is rich with fossils. What about across the river? The Ito tribe rules this area; Don Johanson cannot go there because he has befriended their enemy. (Fortunately Ethiopian scientists are making slow inroads, and finds.)

The success of Richard Dart, the Leakey family, Johanson, Tim White, all standing on the shoulders of Darwin and Huxley, have expanded hominid archaeology millions of years into the past. Each discover exposes a small piece of the tree of life. The Explorers Club recognized Dr. Johanson last March by giving him the club's highest honor: *The Explorers Medal*. You can listen to his acceptance (and a Sunday lecture) at the club's website. Don is also a member of our chapter; he spoke to us some twenty years ago too.



Filled with our largest attendance in some time it was a warm room, not the normal San Francisco evening, by the time Chair Alan Nichols thanked Dr. Johanson with a trek kit.

Club Medalist Johanson delivered his address using a roving microphone and a series of informative graphics.

Travel to Africa with Don Johanson Two separate tours are scheduled for South and East Africa and a few spaces were available at the time of this talk:

Human Origins: South Africa to Tanzania — Walk in the footsteps of early humans, from the Eden of South Africa's Western Cape to the savannas of the Great Rift Valley. 15 days in February OR June OR October. A *National Geographic Expedition*, call 888-966-8687.

Tanzania: Human Origins and the Great Migration (February 17-27, 2011) — San Francisco, Amsterdam, Kilimanjaro, Norongoro, Serengeti National Park, including Oulduvai Gorge. *Explorer Inc. Expedition*, call 970 871-0065

Your editor has PDF brochures on both trips; if interested email for a copy.

* *Lucy's Legacy: The Quest for Human Origins*

Dr. Donald Johanson & Kate Wong... available at Amazon in hardcover, paperback or as an electronic book. (Don suggested the paperback edition as he has added an epilog to discuss Tim White's recent publication about the discovery of "Ardi", *Ardipithecus ramidus*)

NorCA Chapter Contributors

Susan Anderson
 Guitty Azarpay
 Mort Beebe
 Barbara Berg
 Don Bessey
 Marion Blumberg
 Barry Boothe
 Joan Boothe
 Eugene Boudreau
 Cheryl Ione Brown
 Jay Cassell
 H. Keith Chase
 Nonna Cheatham
 Norden "Dan" Cheatham
 A. Roy Cleghorn
 Nicholas Clinch
 Graham Creasey
 Wendy Crowder
 Don Dana
 Mike Diggles
 David Dolan
 Susan Dutcher
 Palmer Dyal
 Gerry Elkus
 Sue Estey
 Lesley Ewing
 Art Ford
 Anna Freitas
 Paul Freitas
 Charles Geraci
 Tom Hall
 William Heydorn
 Don Heyneman
 Louise Heyneman
 Laura Lee Holmes
 Judd Howell
 James Hurson
 Yvonne Hurson
 Alan Hutchison
 Ann Hutchison
 Bill Isherwood
 John Jackson
 Kaye Jackson
 Krist Jake
 Anders Jepsen
 Kathy Jepsen
 Jean Kenyon
 Margot Komarmy
 Bill Kruse
 Dida (Candida) Kutz
 Keith Kvenvolden
 Lee Langan
 Leo LeBon
 Dan Leibowitz
 Elgen Long
 Scot Macbeth
 Milton Mather
 George & Karen McCown
 Brian McPhail
 Charles Merdinger
 Elizabeth Murphy
 Nancy Nenow
 Lisa Marie Newman
 Alan Nichols
 Max Nichols
 Diana Pickworth
 Jim Prigoff
 Elsa Roscoe
 Colonel John Roush
 Becky (Nichols) Rygh
 Charlotte Rygh
 Rick Saber
 Bob Schmieder
 Sara Shoemaker
 Richard Sideman
 Hank Skade
 Mark A. Smith
 Stephen Smith
 Eric Stackpole
 Zach Stewart
 Alan Wayne Tamarelli
 Jennifer Tuck
 Joel Tuttle
 Edward Von der Porten
 Don Walsh
 James Weil

The Corner Chair— Member **Don**

Johanson is a model of translating complex scientific concepts into clear, exciting, and understandable truths even to DNA Evolution Dummies like myself...his was great talk to us...

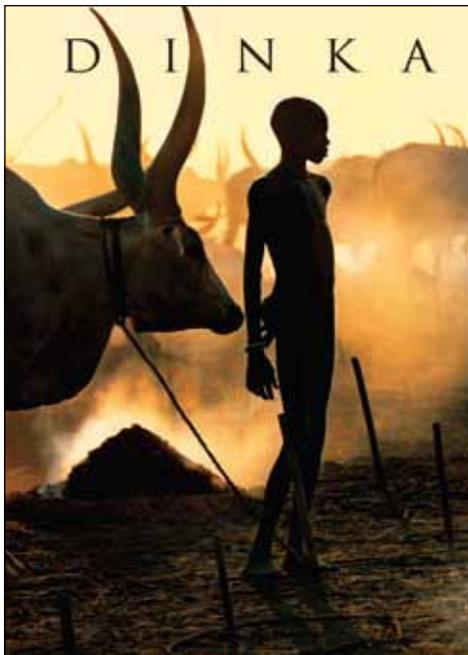
Cam McNaughton has booked the Pacific Club in Honolulu for our first-ever meeting in Hawaii (now part of our Chapter); with some new members we're helping them to form their own chapter. Hooray! (That was originally the battle cry of Genghis Khan's army)... **Bob Schmieder** survived a very serious battle of his own in the hospital and looked great at our last meeting.

I've been spending a lot of time on our Chapter "Share the Club" project lately. (We could use the \$5000 from New York.) "Grow or perish," and we are growing. However I realize more than ever that hard science is the easiest path to membership, especially in business and academic fields. Why? Because participants are paid to explore, lecture, and publish. Especially in space and deep ocean work, they have huge technical and qualified personnel support. The old models are disappearing—Charles Darwin, John Muir, Xuan Zang, Kit Carson--those who did it on their own. Exploration in the "soft" sciences, religion, sociology, psychology, dont get the coverage or even apply for flags....

Its easy to overlook the efforts of those who are the life of this Chapter, all SuperExplorers: **Joan Boothe**, "Chair of Sirdars and "Goddess of the Name Tags"; she's the first person you meet when you arrive. **Lee Langan**, Editor of the Newsletter and "Lord of The Sound System"; our member of the Board of Directors and savior of the Explorers Journal. **Mort Beebe** "King of the Projector"; about to take a flag to the Antarctic. **Sue Estey**, Treasurer and "Holy Guardian of the Balance Sheet"; its a huge job every month to collect dues and dinner payments and pay the bills).

Speaking of gratitude, thank you to **Gerry Elkus**, our Chief Hostess, who was such a joy to work with at all our meetings. She translated to another state of consciousness after spending her last days at home thanks to the care of her beautiful daughter **Nancy**. With courage and grace like her mother, Nancy was with us at our last meeting shortly after Gerry passed on. I hope you can feel our loving support for you, Nancy.

—Alan Nichols FN84



Visiting Explorers—You may have received your Fall 2010 *Explorers Journal* by now and viewed the cover story by Carol Beckworth & Angela Fisher. Amazing work by these explorers—some of which you can see at the Modernbook Gallery, 49 Geary Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, from October 7 through November 27. Sorry you have missed the local book signings and receptions. MoAD welcomed back both author/photographers for the release of their latest volume of work *DINKA Legendary Cattle Keepers of Sudan*. This seminal volume on the indigenous African Dinka group is a landmark documentation of a vanishing people in war-torn Sudan.



The chapter's founding mother has died. Gerry Elkus left us in September. What a wonderful gal, loyal and supportive of the Northern California Chapter throughout its existence. Her role, the distaff support of our first Chairman, Charles de Young Elkus, Jr. After Charlie's death, Gerry married our late great Chairman Ron Reuther (both frequently joined us, witness at the 2005 picnic on Angel Island, above.) By that time The Explorers Club in New York took example from our chapter to broaden membership to include women explorers. I strongly suspect Gerry had an influence on then President Charles Brush. When Ron died, Alan Nichols encouraged Gerry to stay; she became the first Sirdar and took it upon herself to welcome members and guests alike. Oh, how we will miss her.

SHARE THE OPPORTUNITY -- An Explorers Call to Arms

The Bay Area, Hawaii, and Northern California overflow with qualified explorers: "Fellows," published and usually academic; "Members," with actual field experiences; "Students" and "Sirdars," those who need only be interested in exploration.

Our Chapter will be awarded \$5,000 if we submit more qualified applicants than any other Chapter. You as the Sponsor, and your new member applicant, will be invited to the lagoon home of the Chair for a celebration this fall prepared by Becky, "The Martha Stewart of the Silk Web." One fortunate Explorer (it could be you) will win a week at a lakeside Tahoe home (at a mutually convenient time.)

Just send our Membership Chair, Bob Higgins (higgins@paralleladvisors.com), the name, email address, and why the person might be interested. We'll take it from there to decide what category of membership best fits, prepare the appropriate application, obtain other Sponsors if needed, and forward the package to New York.

Join these folks who each have already taken on the responsibility to find a new member: Dita Kutz, Mort Beebe, Cameron MacNaughton, Bob Schmieder, Don Dana, Alan Nichols, Aldeana and Rick Saber, Jonas Vibelle, Elizabeth Finney, Lee Langan, Elizabeth Rosen, Ken Howery, Peter Hemmings, Barbera Berg, Don Johanson, Carrol Kenyon, Sara Shoemaker, Diana Pickworth, Bonnie Bibas, as well as Bob Higgins.

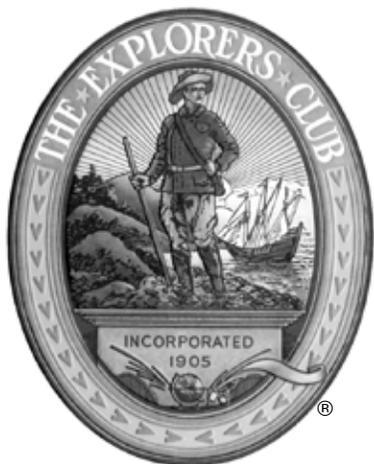
ISN'T IT TIME WE SHARED THE CHANCE WE'VE HAD TO BE AN EXPLORER!

Mark Your Calendar for the busy balance of 2010!— It will be a tight schedule to publish before our November 19 meeting at the University Club featuring Jack Dumbacher speaking about New Guinea birds. Another excellent evening; make note. (Your editor will be traveling.)

In December we have two meetings! On December 5 a reception at Chair & Becky Nichols' home. December 13, at the Pacific Club in Honolulu.

Then January's *Story Night*, featuring chapter member's tales, is on the 21st.

October 2010



Chair: Alan Nichols
415 789-9348
nicholsalan9@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Anders Jepsen
925 254-3079
ajviking@aol.com
Treasurer: Sue Estey
510 526-2216
sestey@earthlink.net
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

Exploration Media — 29 October — University Club

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues will be identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

October 29. Expeditions and the Media
Josh Bernstein University Club

Future Events

November 19. Poison Birds of New Guinea
Jack Dumbacher University Club
December 5 Alan & Becky Nichols
Chair's Member Reception Nichols home, Tiburon
December 13. Hawaiian sub-Chapter
Island members. Honolulu
January 21, 2011. Story Night
member tales. University Club
February 11 Adventures with a Purpose
Richard Bang University Club
March 19 ECAD
Maya Prophecies Waldorf-Astoria
March 25 Medical Exploration in Iraq
Tom Cromwell, MD University Club
April 22 The Storied Ice
Joan Boothe University Club
May 20 Dead Men Tell Tales
Alan Nichols University Club
June 18 Angel Island Picnic

Earlier Events (2010)

April 30 Seth Shostak
Are We Alone in Space? University Club
May 8-9 Seashore Field Trip/lunch
Point Lobos, Monterey Peninsula, Hick's home
May 21 Left Bank/Rive Gauche
Music of the Antarctic Expeditions Stanford
June 5 Angel Island Picnic
July 1 Marcel Robischon
'Discovering the Redwoods. University Club
September 17 Don Johanson
Lucy and Our African Origins University Club

Send address changes and corrections by email to Steve at nauticos@oceanearth.org

USE PAYPAL!

October 29: University Club, San Francisco

Date: Friday October 29, 2010
Place: University Club
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner
8:00 - talk
Cost: \$49 in advance; \$60 on the 29th
Students: \$33. (Dues still \$25!)
Please mail information to Dr. Sue Estey, 216 Carmel Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or email sestey@earthlink.net or call (510) 526-2216
Reserve ___ spaces for October 29, 2010
Exploration and the Media
Cost: only \$49 (for members and sirdars) \$33 for card-carrying students
Name: _____
Address (if changed): _____
Companion: _____
Please reserve by Oct 26!

We have established a PayPal account.

For those of you who have these accounts, you can sign up and remit dinner costs to the NorCA Chapter by transferring money to:

explorersnorca@gmail.com

There is also a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website (www.explorersnorca.org): easy to use!



University Club, Atop Nob Hill where the cable cars cross

The University Club has Valet Parking for \$20; the Brocklebank Garage on Sacramento is only \$10! Other nearby garages are expensive. Some street parking. Muni (cable cars OR Sacramento #1) is very near; BART & CalTrans connections are easy. Car pool! The University Club is wheel-chair accessible.