

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

September 2012

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

Return to Garrapata NorCA's Retreat and Talks and More Dr. Laurie Marker Cheetah Conservation Fund September 29, 2012

As Founder and Executive Director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) since 1990, Dr. Laurie Marker pioneered new ideas in cheetah conservation and has formed cooperative alliances on behalf of the cheetah that had never before been possible. She is recognized around the world as one of the leading experts on cheetahs, both in the wild and in captivity, and began her *in situ* research in Namibia, Africa, in 1977, where she conducted ground-breaking activity on the re-introduction into the wild of captive-born cheetahs. During this initial trip she learned about the conflict between livestock farmers and cheetahs that resulted in hundreds of cheetahs being killed annually.

Collaboration in 1982 with Smithsonian Institution and National Cancer Institute researchers resulted in identifying the extremely limited genetic makeup of the cheetah. In 1990, Laurie founded her international not-for-profit organization, CCF, and set up its headquarters in Namibia in 1991. Laurie has led her conservation organi-

zation from humble beginnings in a tiny farmhouse in rural Namibia to an unparalleled model for predator conservation. In the early days, with no one to learn from or lean on, Laurie broke new ground with every new program and effort. Dr. Marker has contributed vital information on cheetah health, reproduction, mortality, evolution, and genetics from her biomedical work on every cheetah that has passed through CCF's hands (almost 1,000). This huge volume of data gathered for two decades has proven invaluable on site as well as for captive management situations.

Laurie completed her doctorate in zoology at the University of Oxford in 2002, has published more than 50 scientific papers, and has been written up in several hundred popular press articles. She has been a member of the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Species Survival Commission's Cat Specialist Group since 1988, as the vice-chair from 1992 to 2001, and currently is one of their core members.

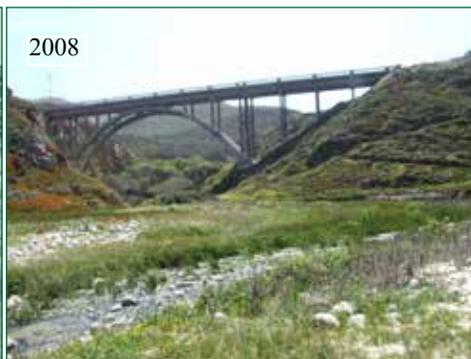
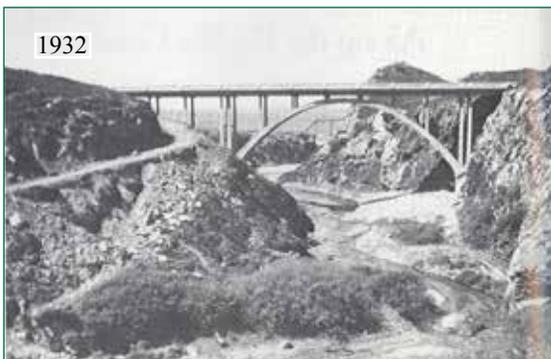


LOCATION
Note venues and dates with care.
In Garrapata, CA,
our next meeting is about 4:00pm
September 29, a **SATURDAY**
at the Hicks' home
south of Carmel, CA.

Join the Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club for one or more of this three-part weekend in Monterey Bay.

- 1) Through a Fish's Eye View: Whale watching Saturday, September 29. (We get 20% off so it is \$40.)
- 2) Light buffet and talk at our hosts, Harry & Dede Hicks' home on Saturday evening (\$20 donation); see above for talk details.
- 3) Discover the Deep, Dark Secrets of Monterey Bay Aquarium! (Sunday, September 30; \$20). For those wishing to prolong the pleasure of the previous day and evening, Barbara Berg has arranged for a personal Behind-the-Scenes group tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. This will be the more detailed 90-minute tour, hosted by one of the Aquarium's expert docents.

For the Whale watching and/or the aquarium, please RSVP to Von Hurson trekking@sonic.net The reservation deadline is September 10, which is the reason an email blast was sent. (Call immediately if you get this later!) Additional details will be sent to those who register.



ERRATA: In our May issue **and** in The Log summary that your Editor submitted there were two errors. Here is the correct information.

When making note that 'all' living members who had chaired the Northern California Chapter were present at Steve Smith's talk, I meant to add 'local' living members. Chair Emeritus Bill Isherwood (1999-2000) is very much alive and now active in the Pacific Northwest Chapter—and he and Dana attend our meetings when in town!

The web link for donating to Steve's buoy efforts was also incorrect. Use www.oceaneearth.org. He will appreciate your generosity!

Looking for an Old Cannon San Francisco, May 25

Why would a land surveyor carry a mountain howitzer into the field? The answer lies in earlier times when the U. S. was pushing West in the middle of the 19th century. Loaded with shot pellets such a weapon would be a mighty deterrent to an Indian raid. Might even scare off the Mexican Army, despite the fact that they claimed most of today's California. NorCA's speaker on May 25, John Wilusz, is a modern land surveyor. He spoke to us about a hardy group fascinated with such a cannon brought along on John Chas. Fremont's 2nd Land Expedition.

Fremont was defining the open West. Huge swaths were *terra incognita*—no Google Earth yet.

Surveying was tedious, demanding and the work slowly built a topographic understanding of the ways across the lands previously undefined. Expeditions moved slowly, for months on end, across the plains and mountains. In the winter of 1844, the cannon became too much to carry—probably a detriment to the ability of his party to traverse the wintry pass. It was rolled down the mountain side. An undistinguished end to a valuable piece of military gear in the custody of a non-military project.

Fremont's father-in-law, the powerful Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton and staunch supporter of westward expansion, was not happy.

Only a dozen or so Mountain Howitzer Model 1841 were made. It seemed to a few cannon history buffs that Fremont's should be recovered—the Mountain Howitzer Rescue Team was formed, and its efforts have been rewarded. These explorers have located the valley and in tramping the granite strewn creek bed they have found three iron wheel rims and a trunnion unique to the Model 1841.

But, where is the brass cannon? They are still looking. Was it dumped separately, possibly to eliminate its use by anyone who might recover it? Did the tumultuous storms of the decades push it further downstream like the granite boulders that abound? Is it just underfoot? Will electromagnetics find it? They are sanctioned by the U S Forest Service, assisted by a professional archaeologist, reporting their findings to academia—and seeking any suggestions as to how advanced technology can help. (Some say it is already found and lies in the Nevada State Museum!)

Meanwhile they are enjoying the camaraderie and the Sierras. Around the evening campfires they trade stories and ideas as to how to proceed. They listen to songs and the guitar of our speaker. John gave each attendee a copy of his recent CD: you can listen on iTunes or get a CD yourself on Amazon. As Wilusz sings: "Hey, Johnny, what do you say? The gun gets heavier every day!"

To follow a dream, Erden Eruç's Dream

If you ever want to meet someone who has done something truly phenomenal and amazing then meet Erden Eruç, the man who just finished circumnavigating the entire globe by human power alone and who set a remarkable number of records and firsts. Erden does not give the impression of one who has done the almost unimaginable. Meeting him is like meeting a good friend, even if you've never met him before. It's his energy that's different—energy fueled by the excitement of the dream he just made real.

A technical consultant with an MBA and graduate degrees in engineering, Erden was working in a software development lab when one day in 1997 he found himself standing in front of a large map of the world. Erden recalls: "I slowly traced my finger over that map right to left, to Turkey where he was raised. "What if I could go by human power—and why stop there?" he asked himself. The dream had taken form and like most dreams, the passion behind it grew. This, of course, led to the inevitable questions about how to turn the dream into a reality. Questions like how would he find the time, and how would he obtain the funding? Maybe he wouldn't stop in Turkey but keep going! "As an engineer I was already wired as a problem solver, now I was on familiar turf." he said.

As he shared this idea with others beginning in 1997, Erden discovered he had to judiciously decide with whom he could share his dream. A typical response was: "So, have you done such a thing before?" But Swedish climbing legend Göran Kropp's response to the dream was different. "When are you leaving?" he asked Erden when they first met, and "do you have any sponsors?" Now Erden had goals and went about putting his voyage together, goal by goal, piece by piece. In 2002, Göran tragically fell to his death while rock climbing with Erden. This was a turning point. It was time to act upon his dream, and he added climbing the highest summits on six different continents as a tribute to Göran's memory.

He left from Bodega Bay five years ago and, like so often happens in the pursuit of a dream, additional goals grew out of that quest. One was the goal of creating a definitive and objective definition of "circumnavigation". He didn't theorize it, instead he rowed a boat across three oceans by muscle power and determination alone—just him in his yellow 24-foot ocean-going rowboat, on his bicycle, behind which he towed all of his personal gear on a trailer and, at one point, a borrowed sea kayak. No sails, no engines, no accompanying team to supply him with more food or supplies or bail him out if the unexpected happened. If something on his boat failed or broke he fixed it with the only resources being what he brought along to survive plus careful, meticulous planning and the courage and conviction that it could be done.

He also knew all along that he wanted to inspire children to have dreams and give them tools to turn those dreams into reality. His nonprofit, *Around-n-Over* currently sponsors schools in both Africa and Turkey. And don't be surprised if you find adults hearing his message and taking a second look at the dreams and goals they once thought were out of reach; the passion behind his message is inspiring.

Erden has demonstrated that if you resist saying "I can't" your whole world opens to new opportunities, and by reaching for a goal you'll still go further and climb higher than you ever would have if you hadn't tried.

Erden's dream was to prove that a true circumnavigation around the world by human power alone was possible. He succeeded spectacularly; his historic achievements go beyond remarkable. They include being the first person to have rowed all three oceans and the first to have rowed the Indian Ocean mainland to mainland. There's more. What started out as a plan to row from California to Australia in an expected 8 to 9 months turned into a 10½ month marathon due to stronger-than-normal equatorial winds. This earned him a Guinness World Record for the longest time at sea for a solo rower—312 days.

It's difficult for many of us to wrap our heads around what Erden has accomplished. No sails, no engines. Except for a handheld PDA for emails and dispatches, connected to the internet by way of a satellite phone, he was alone for days and days—876 of them, to be exact—on vast and seemingly endless bodies of water. In addition he summited the highest mountains on three continents. It's a study in human courage, physical endurance and mental focus—pursuing a goal, fueled by a dream.

The circle closed on a windy Saturday at Bodega Bay, July 21, 2012—five years, 11 days, 12 hours and 22 minutes after departing from Bodega Bay, Erden bicycled in and was met by a crowd of excited friends and supporters. But his epic journey wasn't quite over. As we all watched, he grabbed his GPS and headed to the exact slip in the marina where, in 2007, he began his journey. Standing on the dock beside that slip, he entered the coordinates on the device at the same exact spot, then leaned over to touch the waters of Bodega Bay where it all began. "We got 'er done!" Erden shouted, and the voyage was finally over.

So for now Erden's life will be back to whatever "normal" is...at least until he finds himself gazing out the window one day and discovers he's visualizing a snowbound summit in the distance, and a new dream begins to take form again.

—Von Hurson MN11



2007 departure

DON BRINKS

NorCA Chapter 2012 Contributors

Allan, James
 Amaral, Julia
 Anderson, Susan
 Azarpay, Guitty
 Beebe, Mort
 Belcher, George
 Berg, Barbara
 Blake, Richard
 Blumberg, Marion
 Bogardus, Peter
 Boothe, Barry
 Boothe, Joan
 Borroughs, Charles
 Boudreau, Edward
 Cassell, Jay
 Chase, Keith
 Cheatham, Dan
 Chokas, Ann
 Clinch, Nick
 Cook, Sandra
 Cooper, Alan
 Cromwell, Thomas
 Crowder, Wendy
 Diggles, Mike
 Durbin, Thomas
 Dutcher, Susan
 Dyal, Palmer
 Ehrhart, Ken
 Ehrhart, Loretta
 Elkus, Nancy
 Engstrom, Dafne
 Engstrom, Mats
 Estey, Sue
 Ewing, Lesley
 Flynn, Kathey
 Ford, Art
 Freitas, Anna
 Freitas, Paul
 Glacy, Char
 Glantz, Gina
 Glantz, Ron
 Guzy, Michael
 Hall, Tom
 Haringsma, Henry
 Herz, Michael
 Heydorn, William
 Hicks, Harry
 Higgins, R. J.
 Hodges, Eliot
 Hurson, Jim
 Hurson, Von
 Jepsen, Anders
 Jepsen, Kathy
 Kennard, David
 King, Steven
 Kobal, Daniel A.
 Kobal, Lois Z
 Komarmy, Margot
 Kutz, Dida
 Kvenvolden, Keith
 Langan, Karine
 Langan, Lee
 Lidicker, William
 Long, Elgen
 Lukawski, Edward
 McFadden, Ian
 McGann, Mary
 Merdinger, Charles
 Mueller, Neal
 Nichols, Alan
 O'Kane, Teresa
 Perkins, Shelby
 Pickworth, Diana
 Piper, Bob
 Prigoff, Jim
 Ross, Ed
 Ross, Sandra
 Rygh, Becky
 Saber, Aldeana
 Saber, Rick
 Schlagheck, John
 Shoemaker Lind, Sara
 Smith, Mark
 Smith, Ronald
 Smith, Steve
 Soper, Scott
 Taylor, Susan
 Von der Porten, Ed
 Walsh, Don
 Weiman, Mark
 Whiteside, Dede
 Ziegler, Robin

From the Chair— Kathy & I are just back from an expedition to the Rogue River in Oregon for a little white-water canoeing where, it turns out, a lot of exploration is taking place. We saw at least 8 self-contained dredging programs carried out by wet-suited divers and small pump- and riffle-equipped zodiacs that were looking for, and finding, that \$1,800-per-ounce gold. One nugget was reported to weigh 4 ounces. No environmental degradation here, but the pumps sometimes drown out the roar of the rapids if you're close to them. Luckily the river is pretty wide where they work.

This summer has been pretty active for the club. Not only that marvelous picnic at Angel Island supported by two boats as well as the Tiburon ferry that got both long-time and new members together for a lot of talk and fun. But also, the completion of the self-powered round-the-world effort of Erden Eruc at Bodega Bay, attended and cheered by Chapter members Joan and Don Bekins, Von and Jim Hurson, and Kathy and myself. And more, the Quicksilver Mine trip to New Almaden south of San Jose where about 20 of our most intrepid members challenged the heat and the hill for a terrific experience. Then there are all the other expeditions and adventures that we hope to hear about during the next few meetings, including Alan Nichols' expedition to China and Mongolia which will happen this month.

Now it's on to the fall season, starting with the September meeting on the 29th at the home of Dede and Harry Hicks in Big Sur to hear about Cheetahs in Zambia, along with options to watch whales, tour the back stage of the Monterey aquarium or otherwise enjoy the gorgeous natural ambiance of the area. The October meeting will feature a report on an expedition to the Andes of Peru which took place this summer and the November meeting will feature a world authority on Shamanism, Dr. Michael Harner who based his work on studies of two villages on the Amazon, both meetings are scheduled for the City Forest Club. —Anders Jepsen PhD FN03

Explorers Club NorCA FIELD TRIP, New Almaden Mercury Mines—

QUICKSILVER! Cinnabar and Gold – inextricably woven together in time.

The story began on a balmy Friday evening in mid-May with a most enlightening and entertaining field trip, created by Rick Saber. Tales about the local geology began at the bar before dinner and carried on late into the evening. Rick and Dr. Robert Chandler brought the history and lives of the miners to life, while Mike Diggles connected us to the earth, as only a geologist can, observing that it all happened “in the shadow of the migrating triple junction” the place where three tectonic plates meet and migrate, converging or diverging, involving complex plate interactions.



NorCA 'mercury' diners

ANGEL ISLAND EXPEDITION — A particularly gorgeous Saturday in June found 34 enthusiastic explorers, family and friends converging on Angel Island—some by ferry, others on Bob Schmieder's *Cordell Explorer* or Rick Saber's *Eagle*—for no other reason than to have time to savor the company of those we never seem to have enough time to talk to at dinner meetings.

After lunch, during which Rick Saber dished up his famous “Six-Gun, 5-Alarm, Singapore-Back-Alley Chili”, it was time for Rick's Six-Foot Scramble—a timed “race”, where four teams of three shameless souls truly walked in someone else's footsteps, in shoes nailed to what resembled fat snow skis. Prizes were awarded with great pomp, circumstance and humor.

As a post script: a little archive-diving revealed that 1997 was the first Angel Island Picnic/Expedition, makes this year the 15th anniversary of this memorable event!

—Von Hurson MN11



NorCA Vice Chair Saber & Chair Jepsen; Captain Schmieder's arrival; game day!



Photos & Field Trip Photos: Von Hurson



Vice Chair/organizer Saber
 Webmaster/geologist Diggles

Saturday began at the museum for a private tour before commencing a 3-mile uphill trek, during which it became quickly apparent what a grueling task it had been to mine the extraordinarily heavy cinnabar that lay embedded in more than 100 miles of snaking tunnels, plunging as deep as 2300 feet underground, and to haul it to furnaces stoked to 1200 degrees to liquify and extract the valuable mercury used in processing gold and silver into pure metal. A remarkable process and remarkable men, in whose footsteps we walked.

—Von Hurson MN11

From the Board— Your Board has done what they should this Summer, gone exploring in one way or another. Earlier, on a light note, President Nichols introduced his passion for cycling. On Mothers' Day in New York, leaving from the Lowell Thomas Building, he led the way to circumnavigate Manhattan. (Shown being interviewed by The Huffington Post.

Work began this Summer on the historic Medieval Terrace at headquarters. YOU can participate and support this effort, and be remembered in perpetuity, by purchasing a signed paver. See www.explorers.org (Dedicate a Floor Tile). Worth it!

AND: consider The Lowell Thomas Dinner in New York on October 13; it will be a most enjoyable centerpiece to an Explorers trip to Manhattan —Lee Langan FN99



Jim Clash

Dues cover the cost of our newsletter!

Send \$25 to
 Joan Boothe

September 2012



Chair: Anders Jepsen
925 254-3079
ajviking@aol.com
Vice Chair: Rick Saber
415 457-0345
eagle@rsaber.com
Treasurer: Joan Boothe
415 346-5934
hoodoskr@aol.com
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

September 29, 2012 – Return to Garrapata

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

September TBD Return to Garrapata
The Hicks' Big Sur home.

Upcoming Events (2012/13)

October 26 Dr. Bill Straka
The ACC Cordillera Blanca, Peru Exped. 2011.
November 30. Prof. Michael J. Harner
Tribes of the Amazon and Shamanism
December 16. Annual Holiday Party
..best expedition photo contest' . . . Saber home
January 25. TEC Board visit
February TBD Dr David Des Marais
Mars Exploration by NASA, South Bay

Earlier Chapter Events (2011/12)

May 20 Alan Nichols
Dead Men Tell Tales. California Academy
June 11 Angel Island Picnic
September 23 Jim Westerman
The Osireion, Egypt UC Faculty Club
October 28. Jay Gregory
Discovering Bolivia University Club
November Joan Boothe/University Club
Otto Nordenskjöld's 1901-03 Saga of Survival
December 5 Rick & Aldeana Saber
Member Reception Tiburon
January 27, 2012 (Friday). Expedition Medicine
Matthew Lewin, MD City Forest Lodge
February 24 Joshua Glovin
HOT Ocean Exploration City Forest Lodge
March 30 Ed Von Der Porten
New Findings of San Felipe. City Forest Lodge
April 27 Stephen Smith
16 years at Kosrae City Forest Lodge
May 25 John Wilus
Fremont's Canon City Forest Lodge

Send address changes and corrections by email to Steve at nauticos1@oceaneearth.org

USE PAYPAL!

Sept 29, Garrapata, CA

Date Saturday, September 29, 2012 Reserve __ spaces for Sept 29, 2012
Place: Hick's Home, Garrapata, CA Donation: \$20
9.5 miles south of Carmel The event is hosted by the Hicks
right just beyond the bridge
no phone
Time: ~4:00 - reception Name: _____
~8:00 - talk Address (if changed): _____
Companion: _____
Cost: \$20 donation goes to Chapter Entrée Choice (select from below*): _____
(2012 dues \$25!)
Please mail information to Joan Boothe, Please reserve by Sep 26!
2435 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115
or email hoodoskr@aol.com or call (415) 346-5934

We have an established PayPal account.

For those of you who have an account, you can sign up and remit dinner costs to the NorCA Chapter by transferring money to: explorersnorca@gmail.com
There is a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website (www.explorersnorca.org); easy to use!

Directions to the Hicks' Garrapata Home

From the NORTH, Rio Road and Highway One in Carmel, heading south: Set your odometer and drive 9.5 miles south on Highway One. You should arrive at or ON historic Garrapata Bridge. The house is the first driveway past the bridge on the right. It comes up rather quickly, but the driveway turn is about 50 feet past a blue "Vista Point, 1/4 mile" marker. There are three large gates when you turn. The Hicks' is on the right, down a long row of Monterey Cypress trees.

From the SOUTH, Big Sur: While driving North, go past Rocky Point Bridge; shortly Rocky Point Restaurant is on the left. From the restaurant go exactly 1 mile to the Hicks' driveway on the left. If you cross Garrapata Bridge, you have gone too far.

PLEASE NOTE: Cell phones DO NOT WORK past Carmel Highlands.