



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

December 2018

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



FELLOWS, MEMBERS,
SIRDARS & FRIENDS

JOIN US ON DECEMBER 16th FOR OUR 2018 HOLIDAY PARTY

As 2018 winds to a close, we have much to remember, much for which to be thankful and much to anticipate for the years ahead. We hope many of you can join us at the home of Rick and Aldeana Saber for a time of joy and celebration, to enjoy time with those who are present and to remember those who cannot join us.

We will provide food and beverages and some surprises for your general entertainment. Additions to the party bounty will be welcome, but let Joan know what you'll be bringing when you RSVP so we can avoid having too many duplicates.

December 16, 2018, from 4 to 8 PM
150 Indian Hills Drive, Novato, CA

Please RSVP to Joan Boothe, (hoodooskr@aol.com) or (415-233-1697).
We hope to see everyone on December 16th.

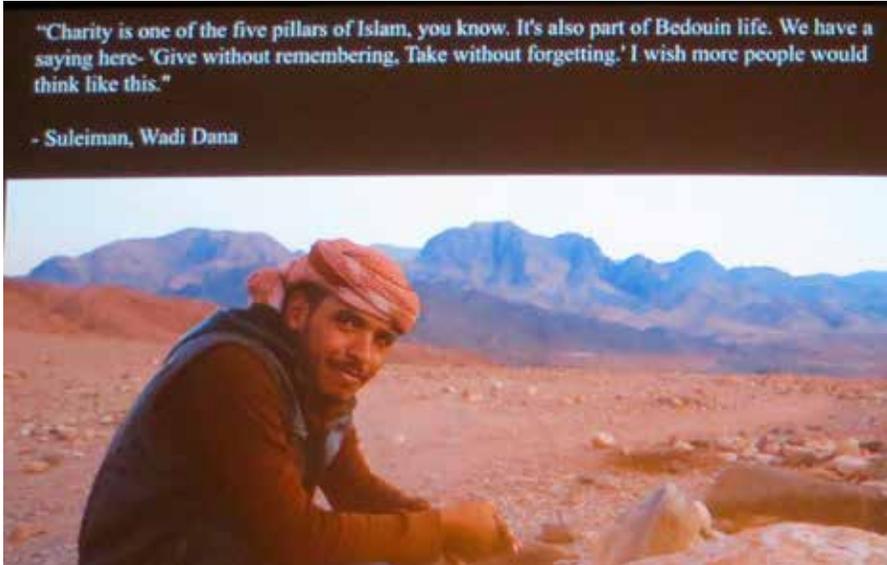
Rick and Aldeana Saber and the Chapter Directors

Steve Smith — Chair
Lesley Ewing — Vice-Chair
Joan Boothe — Treasurer
Von Hurson — Secretary
Anders Jepsen — Newsletter Editor
Mike Diggles — Web Master

Lee Langan, Past Chair
Alan Nichols, Past Chair
Rick Saber, Past Chair
Bob Schmieder, Past Chair
Jim Hurson, Elected Director
Sandra Cook, Elected Director

THE LAND BEYOND: A THOUSAND MILES ON FOOT THROUGH THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Presented at the Friday November 30, 2018 Meeting



There were local Bedouins that walked with McCarron, not just for a few hours but in some cases for several days. The slide that showed a goatherd piping for himself as he rode along the perilous trail on his donkey raised the question of how one speaks to such a local without being able to speak the language - by signs, and smiles, and a desire to communicate. (There was also an interpreter available at times.) And the unfamiliar food of the hospitable Bedouin which was found to be both tasty and nourishing.

The Chapter certainly had an interesting talk last week. Leon McCarron spoke about his 1000-mile walk north to south across Israel, The West Bank and Jordan, describing it not as a place-to-place expedition but as a person-to-person experience. Along the way, of course, the places visited were more than a little interesting; but this walk provided some insight not only into the public culture but also the personal Bedouin society that has had a

place in the area known today as Palestine for thousands of years. At the other end of the age scale, the frenetic pace of today's Israel provided another counterpoint to the slower pace of Bedouin life through which he was passing.

Along McCarron's route, many different images stood out. The oldest of these sites stretching back as far as 2000 BCE was Petra with its major buildings carved out of cliffs that presented sophisticated life on a major trading route. Younger than Petra but still ancient were the remnant Roman pillars from biblical times in Jordan. Against these antiquities was the desolate rocky desert and the challenging mountains over, around and through which the trail wound with the imprints of travellers from ages before through narrow slot canyons that clearly had been in use for centuries.



Leon McCarron is a Northern Irish adventurer, author, and filmmaker. In addition to a recent book about *The Land Beyond*, he is the author of *The Road Headed West*, about his bicycle journey across North America, and director of two films, "Karun", about his adventures in Iran, and the recently released "Nowhere is a Place", about his 2014 trip recreating the Fitzroy/Darwin expedition of the Santa Cruz river across Argentina in 1834. His books may be purchased at www.leonmccarron.com.

The human interest episodes were of a different character. In one particular town the women had taken over the running of their town from the procrastinating males, and proudly showed off the newly paved street and other community improvements.



Below are some of the 45 attendees who came to hear Leon McCarron

Photos by Von Hurson



Speaker McCarron & Chair Steve Smith



James Barnes & Joan Boothe



Diana Pickworth and Lee Langan



Karine Langan & Sandra Cook



Aldeana Saber & Tiffany Townsend



Joan & Don Bekins



Jim Hurson & Sue Estey



Anna Freitas



2 guests & Anders Jepsen

vonH 10/17

**PAID DUES
HONOR ROLL**

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Amaral, Julia
Beer, Michael
Berg, Barbara
Bekins, Joan
Blake, Rick
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Cheeseman, Ted
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Day, Peggy
Dehmel, Rick
Diggles, Mike
Dolan, Daniel
Dolan, Tom
Durbin, Thom
Dutcher, Susan
Dvorak, Don
Dvorak, Elaine
Dyal, Palmer
Estey, Sue
Eustace, Alan
Ewing, Lesley
Ford, Art
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Graber, David
Griffith, Jerry
Hemming, Peter
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Hicks, Harry
Higgins, Robert
Holmes, Robert
Hurson, Jim
Hurson, Von
Hutchison, Alan
Isherwood, William
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Klein, Ronald
Klotz, Suzanne
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
LeBonte, Alison
Lidicker, William Jr.
Lingl, Herb
Macbeth, Pierre de St. J.
Mangus, Rodney
Mason, William
McMillan, Peter H.
Meniketti, Marco
Miller, Gregory
Nichols, Alan
Prigoff, James
Rygh, Rebecca L.
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Robert
Skade, William
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Tarter, Jill
Von der Porten, Ed
Wagner, Hugo
Weil, James
Whiteside, Dede
Wiltzie, Gordon
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Barnes, James
Blumberg, Marion
Boothe, Barry
Clever, Karoli
Cohn, Lawrence
Cooper, William Scott Jr.
Crowder, Wendy
Durigheello, Joy
Elkus, Nancy
Engstrom, Dafne
Gorenberg, Pete
Heyneman, Louise
Hirzel, David
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Judd, Kathy
Kidd, Joe
Langan, Karine
Loew, Tim
Longo-Cohn, Mary
McLoughlin, Liz
Nikas, A. James III
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Peterson, Ingrid
Phelps, Laura
Saber, Aldeana
Schmieder, Kay
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Townsend, Tiffany
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark

FROM THE CHAIR

We enjoyed yet another well-attended presentation in November, as we were both entertained and inspired by the adventures of our speaker Leon McCarron. Leon recounted his walking exploration of the Holy Land and the many characters he encountered along the path. I know that those of us who have worked in remote areas could identify with the one-to-one hospitality that in most cases is offered to such travelers. It's one of the most gratifying aspects of the exploration experience. We thank Leon for sharing and wish him well on his next adventure. He is currently traveling by train to New Orleans, and chronicling his experiences along the way for a future movie. I asked him to take care - I'm concerned that he might not find parts of this country as welcoming as the Middle East.

We take a break from our speaker series this month to instead gather at the lovely home of Capt. Rick and Aldeana Saber on December 16th. Our Holiday Party is always a highlight of the year, with good fun, good food, and good cheer. There will be ample time to converse and exchange tall tales and plans for future expeditions. No 'cover charge' for this gathering, but if you can bring something to share it would be most appreciated. Please send you RSVP to Treasurer Joan Boothe so we can plan accordingly.

Looking ahead to January of 2019, we will have a most interesting presentation by Chapter member Dr. Patrick Scannon FN'96, founder, team leader, and President of The BentProp Project, an endeavor to locate and repatriate the remains of U.S. service members lost in action in Palau during WWII. This noble project was begun in 1993 and continues to this day. The efforts of BentProp are really quite remarkable and we are honored to have Patrick share his recent research. You won't want to miss it.

To those of you who will miss the Holiday Party, on behalf of your Chapter Officers and Directors, I wish you a safe and merry time closing out 2018 and look forward to seeing you and your designated driver in the New Year. Happy Holidays!

Stephen E. Smith FN'96



CALL FOR SPEAKERS

The Explorers Club has partnered with Fjallraven to present speakers on exploration related topics at special store events. If you would like to speak at one of our local stores (San Francisco, San Jose) please contact Steve at chair@explorersnorca.org for topic areas and more information.

URBAN ART PART 4

**The Art of Rigel Juratovic
Photo by Jim Prigoff**

Jim Prigoff writes:

“ This remarkable spray can mural was recently painted on the house at the northwest corner of 22nd and Mission Street in San Francisco.

“ I have been documenting Rigel Juratovic – ‘Cray-one’ - for 33 years. He appears in *Spraycan Art*. He painted this with a few other artists – a real masterpiece.

“ I suspect the prime real estate lot that has been cleared in front of it will soon see a new building arise and the mural may well disappear from view.”

Editor's Note:

Jim assures me that the price of the urban art museum piece referred to in last month's newsletter was \$110,000,000 dollars, not yen.



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Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96
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 Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
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Chapter Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

2018

December 16. Holiday Party
 Home of Rick and Aldeana Saber

2019

January 25 Pat Scannon
 Recent Discoveries Dolan
 February 22 James Nestor
 Outdoor adventure. Dolan
 March 22. Paul Saffo
 Dynamics of Change. TBA

Earlier Chapter Events

2017

October 27 Dirk Rosen
 Save Deep Sea Corals Grace Lutheran Ch
 November 17 Jordan Fisher Smith
 Engineering Eden Grace Lutheran Ch
 December 17 Holiday Party
 Home of Joan and Barry Boothe

2018

January 26 Dr. John All
 Climate Change on Mt. Everest. Dolan
 February 23 Dr. Sherry Wren
 Surgical Approaches in the Ebola Crisis Dolan
 March 30 Kimberley Chambers
 Swimming With Sharks Before Breakfast . Dolan
 April 27 Alan Eustace
 The Stratospheric Jump Dolan
 May 25 3 Term EC Members
 Term Members Research/Annual mtg Dolan
 July 21 Chapter Picnic in Novato
 September 21. Michelle Trautwein
 Meet Your Face Mites: Dolan
 October 26 Sir Richard Feachem
 Shrinking the World Malaria Map Dolan
 November 30 Leon McCarron
 Exploration by Walking Dolan

CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Directors (Past Chairs)

Joan Boothe
 Lesley Ewing
 Lee Langan
 Anders Jepsen

Alan Nichols
 Bob Schmieder
 Rick Saber
 Stephen Smith

Elected Directors

Jim Hurson
 Sandra Cook
 Paul Freitas

Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number

chair@explorersnorca.org
 vicechair@explorersnorca.org

treasurer@explorersnorca.org
 secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@explorersnorca.org
 fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

Late arrival phone number for Monthly meeting at the Dolan Law Center
 The door will be locked and unattended after 7:15 p.m.
 Chapter Phone: 415.236.3459 (for message or locked door entry).

DO YOU YELP? (Revised)

No, we don't mean when you are pinched. Yelp (yelp.com) is a social media site that publishes reviews by its users of the businesses that they patronize. Yelp reviews are a very popular and easy way to gain insight to other's experiences of a particular service, be it a restaurant, a service provider, or an accommodation. 58 million users employ Yelp to pass on their reviews. As a way of expressing our appreciation for our use of the Dolan Law Center/ Dolan Center for Social Justice, your Chapter officers would like to encourage you to share your experience of our new venue. Yelp is one way to do it. Your comments will help support the continued use of Dolan by non-profits and will help other organizations consider it as a potential resource for their own use. If you are more familiar with Twitter, Facebook, or Google Plus, those sites will work as well. It just takes a moment. Ask one of us if you need help.

AN EXPEDITION TO FOLLOW

Some of you may be following the exploits of two individuals currently attempting to become the first to perform a solo, unsupported 1000 mile crossing of Antarctica. Colin O'Brady, a 33-year-old tri-athlete (photo) is competing with 49-year-old British Army Captain Louis Rudd for the title. This unintentional race is reminiscent of times gone by. You can follow it almost real-time at the websites of the two explorers. It's worth a look. <https://www.colinobradyc.com/thempossiblefirst/> <https://lourudd.com/spiritofendurance/>

Read a great overview here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/11/sports/antarctica-race.html>

CHAPTER LIBRARY

As you know, the Chapter maintains a selection of books on exploration that are brought to meetings and available for borrowing. Chapter Librarian Richard Dehmel has issued a call for suggestions of titles to be added to the array of volumes available for borrowing.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEW CHAPTER ROSTER

At long last our new Chapter Roster (2018 Edition) has been completed. The Roster has just been mailed to each Chapter Member and Sirdar who has already paid his or her 2018 Annual Chapter dues. (The honor roll in this newsletter has a listing of all these people.) The Roster will also be provided to new Explorers Club members who pay Chapter dues when assigned to our chapter until our supplies are exhausted. If you are an Explorers Club member in good standing but have not yet paid your 2018 Northern California Chapter dues, you can still get a copy of the roster by paying your 2018 dues before the end of 2018. Alternatively, those who have not paid 2018 dues can purchase a copy of the roster for \$10. Treasurer Joan Boothe has already been in communication with all Chapter members and Sirdars on our mailing list advising them of their status with regard to Roster distribution. If you have any questions, email Joan at treasurer@explorersnorca.org.