



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

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

May Meeting

Friday, May 31, 2019, 6:30pm

The Dolan Law Firm, 1438 Market Street, SF 94102

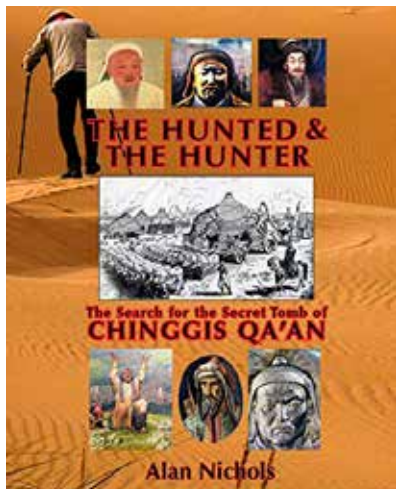
HANNIBAL'S SECRET WEAPON

Patrick Hunt PhD

The great Carthaginian general, Hannibal Barca, was most likely the ancient pioneer of weaponizing nature to expand the power of his typically smaller army in combat engagements. While surprise was almost always one of his greatest assets, especially combined with garnering superb military intelligence and mastering psychological operations, Hannibal's deep knowledge of local environments and topographies allowed him to exploit his enemies' vulnerabilities. He also used Iberian silver to pay his mercenaries and pay spies - Celts and disaffected Italians - to gather information about Roman armies and their leadership. He invariably arrived first before battle and turned the local conditions into advantages. During the Second Punic War, he made a Roman army cross the freezing Trebbia River, hid his army in fog above Lake Trasimene, and had the Romans chasing a herd of cattle with burning sticks disguised as a moving army at night in Campania. He also used an African dust storm at Cannae to blind Roman legions who faced the dusty wind and also employed it to conceal his army units disguised as Romans. In this lecture, award-winning archaeologist Patrick Hunt will discuss the general's genius tactics that demonstrate why he is still relevant and studied worldwide in modern military training.

Dr. Patrick Hunt (Ph.D. Institute of Archaeology, UCL, University of London, 1991) is the author of twenty-one books, including several best sellers: *Hannibal* (Simon and Schuster, 2017) and also *Ten Discoveries That Rewrote History* (Penguin Group 2007). He also authored *When Empires Clash: Twelve Great Battles in Antiquity*, and *Alpine Archaeology*, among others. Hunt

is an elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society since 1989 as well as a newly elected Fellow of the Explorers Club and is a National Lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America. His Alps research has been sponsored by the National Geographic Expeditions Council and he is also a National Geographic Expeditions Expert and NatGeo keynote speaker/explorer for NatGeo Learning. He has been featured in several dozen documentaries, including National Geographic Explorer TV, NOVA, Discovery, among others. He was awarded the Persian Golden Lioness medal in 2008 in London for his contributions to Persian history. Hunt has taught at Stanford University for 28 years.



THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED THE SEARCH FOR THE SECRET TOMB OF CHINGGIS QU'AN

Alan Nichols

A publication based on expeditions of Past Chapter Chair and Past Explorers Club President Alan Nichols FN'84 has appeared last year. It is a complete review of research and expeditions carried out by Alan in search of the burial place of Chinggis Qa'an (Ghengis Khan) in Mongolia. Some of our Chapter members have participated in several of his expeditions. A vast compendium of Alan's research and writings, it is full of photos, data, quotations, poems and interesting sidebars - an ideal bedside reader.

Available from Regent Press, Berkeley (regentpress.net)

DIVING WITH, AND SAVING, THE WEIRD AND WILD SHARKS OF BORNEO

David McGuire, 26 April 2019

Photos by Von Hurson

On Friday, April 26th, David McGuire, founder and director of Shark Stewards, entertained us with his photos of sharks, tales of marine ecosystem protection and a short film about Alice in Borneo's Ocean Wonderland. His talk covered many topics. Borneo, just north of the Wallace Line, is described as a radiation of species with amazingly healthy reefs that are now threatened. The apex predators are sharks, but the area includes much more ranging from Borneo monkeys to the smallest elephant. Along the Sabah River there are many undocumented areas, primary forests as well as both active and restored palm oil farms.

The rarely seen Northern River Shark, like the bullshark, gives birth in freshwater and lives most of its life in salt water. David told about his plans to travel on a raft the length of the Kinabatangan River (in Sabah, Malaysia) with Dr. Gretchen Coffman and a local elder to learn of the local lore and mythology.

China is one of the countries that still allows the sale and purchase of shark fins for sharkfin soup. As part of an effort to educate the youth about marine stewardship, David worked with a Malaysian film company, ScubaZoo, to film a group of Chinese students, including Alice, to

help them understand the importance of the reef ecology and of reef sharks. The students were told about reef ecology, participated in a beach clean-up, taught to scuba dive, shown how to help grow coral, how to restore some vertical relief to some of the damaged reefs using glass bottles and some concrete, and told about the reef ecology of Sabah.

One of Shark Stewards main efforts is to stop the practice of shark finning. Sharkfin soup is a sign of wealth and prestige. When entertaining friends, no feast is complete without shark fin soup as one of the courses. While consumption of fins has decreased in Hong Kong, it has been increasing in Malaysia and Viet Nam where it is prized for its potency value. In the US, shark fin consumption has increased in Las Vegas. Hardly any large sharks still exist in the oceans and, through DNA studies, it has been determined that many of the fins sold now as shark fins are more likely to be from rays, like guitar fish, or smaller predators. For many years the State of Oregon has banned the sale of shark fins and in 2012 AB 376 made the purchase, sale, trade or possession of shark fins within California illegal. The Shark Stewards have worked diligently in support of this ban.



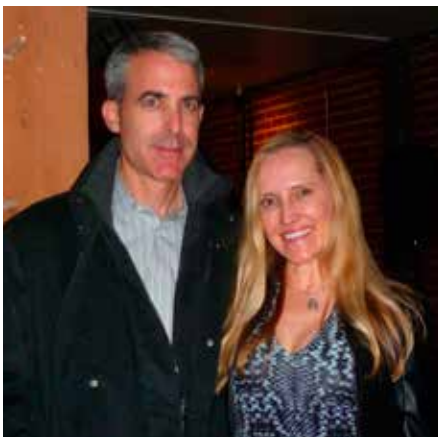
The top predators, like sharks, have a clear role is culling the weak, sick and lame fish from the oceans. The smaller predators, like the bat rays, oxygenate the bottom by burrowing into the bottom sediments. We need the whole system from top to bottom - essentially the roof and floor - to make an eco-house.

If you want to learn more about David's work and about the Shark Stewards, visit his web site, <https://sharkstewards.org/> or join him on dive expeditions to the Farallon Islands.

Lesley Ewing FN'93

Some April Attendees

All photos this page by
Von Hurson



Peter Gorenberg, Tiffany Townsend



Sudha Pennathur, Ed Messerly, Jim Prigoff



Student Member Blake Carter

PICNIC AT TILDEN PARK - 9 June 2019

Summer kicks off with the annual gathering of Northern California explorers, the Chapter expedition. This year the site is in Tilden Park, the wonderful natural beauty just over the hill from UC Berkeley. Members and guests will be gathering from about 10 AM on Saturday 9 June 2019. Keep an eye out for the Picnic Announcement coming next week.

Directions may be found at : https://apm.activecommunities.com/ebparks/facility_search?facility_id=137

HONOR ROLL
Paid Up Dues 2019

MEMBERS

Alexander, Jim
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Amaral, Julia
Bekins, Joan
Berg, Barbara
Bibas, Bonnie
Blake, Rick
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Chang, Joyce
Chase, H. Keith
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Day, Peggy
Dehmel, Rick
Diggles, Mike
Dolan, Tom
Durbin, Thomas
Dutcher, Susan
Elkus, Patty
Elkus, Rick
Ellis, Scott
Estey, Sue
Eustace, Alan
Ewing, Lesley
Ford, Arthur
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Friedman, James
Hemming, Peter
Hermaly, Brenden
Higgins, Robert
Holmes, Robert
Horne, William
Hurson, Jim
Hurson, Von
Hutchison, Alan
Isherwood, William
Jepsen, Anders
Klein, Ronald
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Lidicker, William
Mangus, Rodney
McCown, George
McInturf, Alexandra
Nichols, Alan
Nichols-Rygh, Becky
Prigoff, James
Ross, Sandy
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Robert
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Tarter, Jill
Velivela, Vignan
Weil, James
Winter, Mordechai
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Blake, Maggi
Blumberg, Marion
Boothe, Barry
Brandt, Jim
Cohn, Lawrence
Coolidge, Oliver
Crowder, Wendy
Durighello, Joy
Fish, Sandra
Friedman, Christen
Gorenberg, Peter
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Johnson, Fred
Judd, Kathy
Langan, Karune
Longo-Cohn, Mary
Mani, Cassandra
McLoughlin, Liz
Messerly, Edward
Nikas, Jim
O'Keeffe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Pennathur, Sudha
Saber, Aldeana
Schmieder, Kay
Straka, Barbara
Townsend, Tiffany
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark
Hirzel, David
Yoder, Karl

THE CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY -- 30 YEARS

Robert W. Schmieder FE'86

In the mid-1970s, I was a sport diver, one of many thousands worldwide who were discovering the wonderful world of the underwater. My weekends were generally consumed by a trip to the coast with my buddies, including learning the rituals of getting gussied up and celebrating our survival. But I was also a research scientist: what turned me on was learning something that not only did I not know, but something that nobody knew. Within a couple of years, I was becoming bored with just diving for fun, and I began searching for a "project," something I could do that would have the potential for a discovery, or at least a publication.



The "aha" moment came in 1977, when I read an article in the Oakland Tribune about radioactive wastes being dumped in the ocean off the Farallon Islands, 25 miles west of San Francisco. I unrolled a chart of the northern California coast, but it wasn't the Farallons that grabbed my attention; it was a darker blue area labeled "Cordell Bank." "What's this?" I wondered. "It had a single mark of '20' indicated a minimum depth of 20 fathoms (120-feet). "Challenging, but not impossible," I thought. Within a few days I had queried numerous marine scientists about this place; the response was generally "deep, dark, barren, not interesting." "Not true," I thought. It's far offshore where the water is clear and light would penetrate, there is high upwelling carrying nutrients, and as I discovered, no one - no diver - had ever seen it in person. Suddenly the epiphany occurred: I should form an expedition and go there, and find out what was at Cordell Bank.

Assembling an expedition team was easy - divers swarmed to the opportunity to go to a site that was new, and unknown. But doing it

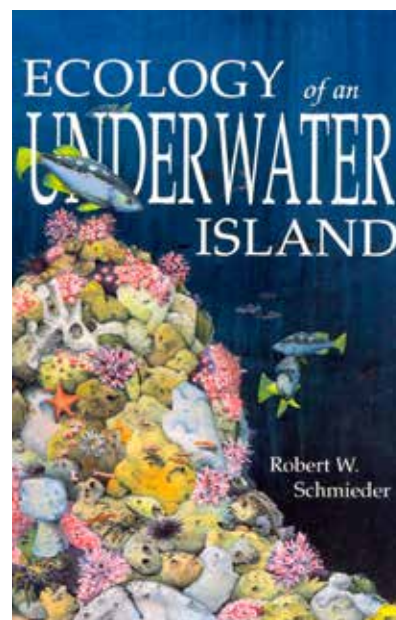
proved far more difficult than we anticipated. It took us a full year of preparation, including endless strategy meetings, practice dives, and arranging for a boat to take us to the Bank. Eighteen times we went up to Bodega Bay, hopefully, but failing to get out to the Bank. Finally, on Oct. 20, 1978, we succeeded in making our first dive. I was the first person to actually see the bottom, and in spite of my expectations, I was overwhelmed with what I saw - a fantasy garden of corals, anemones, algae, crabs, urchins, and fish, fish, fish! I instantly knew with certainty that this would become a full-time obsession that would last for years, and I was right.

In all of 1978 and 1979, we made only two dives, one each year. But gradually we figured out how to do it, and I had no trouble assembling as many as 20 divers for each of our week-end expeditions. The collection of specimens, the list of species, and the photograph and video library grew fast: 1980, 1981, and 1982 produced a large, and all new, body of data about the Bank. We appeared at meetings, wrote articles for magazines, and did everything else we could to share what we were learning. As the picture of the Bank emerged, its uniqueness became apparent, and I wrote a letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) nominating the Bank to be designated a national marine sanctuary (there were 6 others at the time). The letter triggered hearings, but during both terms of the Reagan administration, not a single sanctuary was designated. Finally, in 1989, an impatient Congress passed a bill designating the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and President Bush signed it. Today, 30 years later, there is a permanent

staff, research program, visitor center, website, and extensive scientific information about the Bank. You probably will never see it in person, but you can easily get a feeling for it by going to the Oakland Museum or the Pt. Reyes National Seashore visitor center office in Olema (Pt. Reyes).

June 2019 is the 150-year anniversary of the discovery of Cordell Bank, and the 30-year anniversary of the Sanctuary.

Robert Schmieder has had a 35-year career of exploration, focused on very remote islands and underwater islands. His book *Ecology of an Underwater Island* describes Cordell Bank, and *Edward Cordell and the Discovery of Cordell Bank* is a serious biography of the marine surveyor who discovered the Bank in 1869. Bob's other books describe his expeditions to Rocas Alijos, Easter Island, Clipperton Island, San Felix Island (Chile), Kure Atoll, Clipperton Island, and Heard Island (twice). He is an emeritus member of the Explorers Club (FE'86).



FROM THE CHAIR

Our April event was another great one, in spite of the technical gremlins that seemed to abound. Thanks to our attendees for their patience. David McGuire gave us an insightful and passionate look at the role of sharks in the ecosystem and the trophic pyramid. The fact that sharks are a threatened species in large part due to finning that serves not much more than a way to impress your dinner guests is obviously tragic and myopic. David's focus on educating the next generation is probably our best hope for these magnificent animals. Sadly, convincing the current generation is most likely a lost cause.

The days grow longer, warmer, and full of pollen as we approach the wrap-up of our current lecture season. For our final meeting before our break, Stanford professor and well-known archaeologist Dr. Patrick Hunt, FN'19 will be presenting on his recent book Hannibal, a biography of one of history's greatest military commanders, a clever and cunning tactician. I am in the middle of the book now and I highly recommend it. The May meeting will be preceded by our Annual Business Meeting that will include the election of new chapter officers for the 2019/2021 term. This is an important meeting and I urge you to attend. We are still accepting nominations for Officer positions (you can self-nominate), so if you are interested in serving the Chapter in a very rewarding way, step up and notify our Secretary. And don't forget to mark your calendar for the Chapter picnic – June 9th – it will be a grand day out!

Stephen E. Smith FN'96

Northern California Explorers Club Chapter Annual Business Meeting

When: May 31, 2019, starting at 6:30 PM

Where: Dolan Law Center, 1438 Market Street, SF, CA

The Annual Business Meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club will occur just prior to our May 31, 2019 dinner meeting. The Annual Business Meeting shall be held for the election of Officers and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the members. For purposes of the election and as specified in the By-Laws, nominations and voting is limited to The Explorers Club Members; Sirdars and guests may attend the meeting, but they cannot propose nominations, propose a business matter, or vote on officers or any business matter.

Members, as defined above and in the By-Laws, are invited to submit nominations for all officer positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer); all nominees should be members of The Explorers Club, and all nominations should be sent to the Chapter Secretary (email address below). All Elected Directors are currently in the second year of their three-year term and no nominations for Elected Directors will be accepted at this time. The current officers and their interest in remaining in their current positions are provided below. The complete current Board is listed on Page 6.

- Stephen Smith, FN'96, Chapter Chair
- Lesley Ewing, FN'93, Chapter Vice-Chair
- Joan Boothe, MN'07 Chapter Treasurer
- Von Hurson, MN'10 Chapter Secretary; trekking@sonic.net; PO Box 5500, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Chair: Stephen Smith has served as Chapter Chair for a two-year term. The Chapter By-Laws allow for the Chair to be re-elected for one additional year beyond the normal term; however, Steve has said that he would prefer to step down from this position and not serve an additional year. Therefore, members are invited to provide nominations for the Chapter Chair position to the Chapter Secretary. Such nominations can be provided any time up to the commencement of the Annual Business Meeting.

Vice-Chair: Lesley Ewing has served as Vice-Chair for a two-year term. The By-Laws allow for all officers except the Chair to run for multiple terms; however, Lesley has expressed an interest in running for the office of Chair, transitioning out of her current position as Vice-Chair.

Treasurer: Joan Boothe has expressed an interest in transitioning out of her current position as Treasurer, remaining for such time as may be needed to train the new Treasurer.

Secretary: Von Hurson has expressed an interest in transitioning out of her current position as Secretary, remaining for such time as may be needed to train the new Secretary.

An agenda for the Annual Business Meeting will be distributed at least 15 days prior to the meeting. All nominations received prior to the preparation of the agenda will be listed on the agenda. Members wishing to bring matters for discussion at the Business Meeting, other than the election, must notify the Secretary of this intent at least 15 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The preferred method is e-mail at trekking@sonic.net. If e-mail is not possible, you can phone the Secretary at 707-545-6680. When communicating by phone, please speak clearly and leave your name and a call-back number in case there is any confusion in your message.

May 2019 Issue
Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96
925-934-1051(messages only)
chair@explorersnorca.org
Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
lesleycoastal@gmail.com
Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
Trekking@sonic.net
Treasurer: Joan Boothe MN'07
hoodooskr@aol.com
415-233-1697
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
ajviking@aol.com
925-322-8893

Chapter Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

2019

May 31 ANNUAL MEETING plus . . . Dr. Paul Hunt
Hannibal? . . . Dolan
June 9: . . . Picnic
. . . Tilden Park

Earlier Chapter Events

2017

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
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/Richard Weise
Dynamics of Change. . . Aquarium of the Bay
April 26 . . . David McGuire
Swimming with Sharks. . . Dolan

CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Directors (Past Chairs)

Joan Boothe MN'07
Lesley Ewing FN'93
Lee Langan FN'99'
Anders Jepsen FN'03

Alan Nichols FN'84
Bob Schmieder FE'86
Rick Saber MN'01
Stephen Smith FN'96

Elected Directors

Jim Hurson MN'10
Sandra Cook MN'16
Paul Freita MN'10

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).

CHAPTER DUES

At the beginning of each year, the Chapter Treasurer sends emails to all chapter Members and Sirdars encouraging them to pay their chapter dues. For Explorers Club members, the dues are optional, with a suggested amount of \$25. Sirdar dues are \$50/year except for Sirdars who are spouses/partners of TEC members. For them, Sirdar dues are \$25/year. These dues are important to us, since the chapter receives no financial support from the parent TEC. Thus we rely on our member dues for many aspects of running our chapter, including financing our annual Holiday Party and Picnic.

By now, in May, many of you have already responded, for which we are very grateful. We recognize this by publishing the names of all who pay dues in the "Honor Roll" in the newsletter. If you don't find your name on the honor roll and believe you have in fact paid, please let us know. But if you have not already joined the many who have paid, it's not too late to pitch in. You can do so by going to the chapter website [www.explorersnorca.org] and using the appropriate PayPal button there. Alternatively, mail your dues to Joan Boothe, 2435 Divisadero St. San Francisco CA 94115. In you have questions, email Joan at hoodooskr@aol.com or call her at 415-233-1697.

CHAPTER GOODIES

A few of our Official Chapter Mugs are still available. Also, we will be ordering Chapter hats. To order either of these, send \$15.00 to Treasurer Joan Boothe.

2019-2020 ROSTER

The preparation of the 2019-2020 Chapter roster will start soon. If you would like to work with Paul Freitas on the roster project, please contact at pmfreitas@pacbell.net.

MEETING VIDEOS

Our Chapter recording videos of all our dinner meetings. Videos of the March and April speakers' presentations are now available on the Chapter Website.

**CHAPTER MEETING
Friday, May 31, 2019**

Place: The Dolan Law Firm
1438 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:00 - dinner; 7:15 - Annual Meeting; 8:00 - program
Meal Options: Grilled salmon or chicken marsala
Veggie option - pasta primavera
Cost: \$49 in advance, \$60 after May 28, 2019; Students: \$35.

Please mail reservations, checks to Joan Boothe
2435 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.
Or email Joan [hoodooskr@aol.com]
or call Joan at 415-233-1697

You can also sign up and remit your meal costs online.

Go to the website (www.explorersnorca.org) and use the convenient payment buttons there.