



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

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

September 27, 2019
CreoLa Bistro
344 El Camino Real, San Carlos

USE OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AND FORENSIC ENGINEERING IN EXPLORATION

Robert N. Anderson FN'89, Friday, 27 September 2019

The Sept. 27 Explorers Club talk by Robert N. Anderson, Ph.D., P.E., forensic materials and metallurgical engineer, will be an opportunity to enjoy a bit of the engineering science and forensic approach behind not only legal inquiry, but also the thirst we all have to explore our planet, its composition, and the impact of the elements of our Earth that intrigued artisans in our human history.

Dr. Anderson, has been a member since 1989 and will share insight into another level of exploration that affects us all: "failure analysis". He will describe several forensic "exploration" assignments he has been involved with during his career. Included are his work on the analysis of the Indo-European



Robert Anderson and Harry Hicks

Vedic Aryan head artifact with Harry H. Hicks, an Explorers Club Member who recently passed away; his participation in the Smithsonian exploration of Viking presence at Frobisher Bay; his leadership of the pro bono forensic fire investigation team that 70+ years after, analyzed on site the famed 1913 fire destruction of Jack London's Wolf House; his assignment from an India government research lab to examine the cause of marble deterioration of the Taj Mahal; his legal inquiry assignment to investigate and age-date a fatal wreckage on a remote mountain south of Hermosillo, Mexico; and other aspects of forensic exploration.

Harry Hicks, as many know, traveled widely in India and other areas of the world exploring the history of many objects of art,

including one that he and Dr. Anderson investigated together, the age dating of copper zinc alloys, as related to Harry's Indo-European Vedic Aryan Head that was in his Hicks Foundation for Cultural Preservation collection. During his tenure as professor and chairman at San Jose State Department of Materials



Vedic Aryan head artifact

Engineering, Dr. Anderson co-taught a class with an archaeology colleague who had a specialty in Etruscan art analysis. Together, they wrote and presented a paper at an Etruscan art conference in Italy on their research on the city of Veii, an ancient Etruscan city.

Dr. Anderson will discuss several other forensic engineering cases that touched on the commonality of principles of archeology and engineering, as well as involving the exploration of intriguing cultural and historical sites. He is a testifying expert in metallurgical and materials engineering, with 35+ years of experience serving courts in the U.S. and Canada. His specialties include materials and metallurgical failure analysis, corrosion, thermodynamics, engineering design failure, electrical fires, ballistics, and accident analysis. He will be accompanied by his wife and technical partner Dru Anderson.

Material submitted by Dru Anderson.

IN MEMORIUM HARRY H. HICKS MN'87

Harry H. Hicks was born in Oakland, California on September 27, 1920 in his Grandmother Adella Fischer's house at 449 East 59th Street. He was the son of Henry & May Hicks. Harry's father, Harry Sr., was orphaned early in life, had only a 3rd grade education, was credited with helping hundreds of men in their business careers, rose to the Vice-Presidency of New York Life Insurance Company and was both a friend and trusted advisor to President Herbert Hoover. He instilled in his son the ideals of independence and integrity.

From an early age, Harry was an outdoor enthusiast and natural science collector. As an early teen he joined the Sea Scouts, traveling the Bay and Coastal waters of California.. In his teens he made two trips to Mexico, gathering insect specimens several of which are in the California Academy of Sciences collections.

Graduating from Michigan's Gross Point High School in 1939, Harry entered and then graduated from Stanford University in 1943. Being a little short of necessities while in school, Harry had seven jobs, finally running the catering and Coke concessions for all events on the Stanford campus. This was the beginning of his very successful business career, and when later Harry became an investor he made a point of assisting start-up companies and entrepreneurs in socially oriented companies. Upon graduation, Harry enlisted in the military and was trained as a pilot. He survived two plane crashes, one during WWII. At one point, he was trained on a secret project for the OSS that was later cancelled when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan.

With his first wife, Beatrice, Harry had one child, Roland, just before the War. He later married his second wife of 37 years, Cecilia Bergeda, in 1951, and lived first in Menlo Park before designing and building a remarkable home in Portola Valley's Westridge area.

Harry and a partner purchased the Peninsula Lumber Co. where he invented the "H" fence, a double-sided, redwood fence without knots (very popular with sub-divisions) that allowed neighbors to share the cost. His various businesses grew to include full landscaping services, installation of swimming pools and ultimately to the creation of subdivisions and major developments in the state.

In Pacific Grove, he built a complex around the large rocks and trees to accommodate the Monarch Butterfly's migration, to assist the butterflies and to connect people with nature. This was before it was "required." For Harry, it was just the right thing to do. He was one of the first "green" builders in California! He also built the last Frank Lloyd Wright/Aaron Green house built while Frank was alive, designed for Harry's Mother and Father, in Oakland. It still stands and is called "The Hicks House."

Harry was an avid polo player; his housing development in Santa Barbara preserved the polo fields where, today, the game is played by teams from all over the world. He himself played polo until he retired from the game shortly after his 75th (!) birthday.

Harry became a Member of the Explorers Club in 1987, traveling the world to remote jungles and outlying places and peoples. He indulged his interest and collected things of cultural, historical and artistic value. His discoveries often illuminated previously unknown or unconnected parts of history. In fact, one discovery, a Vedic Aryan head, literally changed the history books by two thousand years. His paper on this discovery was initially published by the prestigious "Journal of Indio European Studies" and thereafter written up in a number of languages, books and articles in the world. He has accepted various requests to lecture at symposiums of scholars on this subject.

The great British historian and mythologist, Geoffrey Ash, cited Harry

in the Preface to his book *Dawn Behind the Dawn*, writing "...Then a decade ago, things began to happen. Mr. Harry Hicks of Menlo Park, California, introduced me to a strange art object he had acquired in India. If this was as old as it appeared to be, it suggested a radical new insight into a certain ancient society, an insight that could bring some order into the mass of facts I had previously found so confusing ... this book is the result."

Harry and Cecilia served on the boards of the Westridge Company and the Hicks Foundation for Cultural Preservation and were instrumental in the formation of Wildlife Conservation International which later evolved into the African Wildlife Foundation, one of the largest conservation foundations operating in Africa. Harry also owned much of Elkhorn Slough, which he sold to fellow friend and board member David Packard in 1984. David always told Harry it was his favorite piece of land in the world, and his daughter now manages the property as an environmental preserve.

Harry Hicks is survived by two grandchildren, Kristina and Roland Hicks, Jr. and his wife of 17 years, Dede Whiteside. Despite 63 broken bones (from two plane crashes and over 55 years of Polo) he remained to the end a man of great vigor, with an independent creativeness. He was an explorer who cherished Explorers Club and its Northern California Chapter in which he was active. He and wife Dede worked together up to 2013 on his last project investigating an ancient library in the Middle East.

Dede Whiteside-Hicks MN'13



NOTICE: The ashes of Harry Hicks will be interred at the US National Cemetery in San Bruno at 2 PM on Friday 27 September, 2019. All members of the Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club are invited to attend. Those who wish to be picked up at the Milbrae Bart station are asked to so state when responding to the announcement of the Friday 27 September meeting which is also the 99th anniversary of Harry's birthday. See page 4 for transportation instructions.

ATTENDEES at Tilden Park, June 10, 2019
All photos by Von Hurson



Aldeana Saber, Anna & Paul Freitas



Don and Elaine Dvorak



Barbara Berg, Anders Jepsen, Marilyn Boxer_



Peter Hemming, Karin Baye



Lesley Ewing, Joan Boothe



Peter Hemming, Rick Blake, Rick Saber,
Maggie Blake, Jim Hurson



Kathy Jepsen, Barbara Berg, Bonnie O'Keefe



Maggie Blake, Aldeana Saber



Tom Dolan, Velivula Vignan, Joan Boothe

CHAPTER PICNIC AT TILDEN PARK

About 30 stalwart members of the Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club gathered for cooling shade and conversation on Saturday, June 10th, at Tilden Park in Berkeley. Apart from the several varieties of Valiant wine provided by Jim and Von Hurson, there were meats on the sizzling grill, assorted salads, cheeses and other treats, and a feeling of leisure that sent us into summer with a feeling of relaxed ease.

EXPLORER BEN LECOMTE MN'17 SWIMS INTO SAN FRANCISCO BAY

2000 km Expedition included 500 km swim through the Pacific Ocean's plastic vortex to focus the world's attention on the garbage in our oceans

A report by Lee Langan MED'99

On the last day of August, swimmer Ben Lecomte MN'17 greeted his two children at the shore of San Francisco



Bay after being at sea for 80 days, sailing from Hawaii, during which he swam 515 kilometers through the plastic vortex. He and his nine companions took detailed samples of the plastic content from the Pacific for several hours each day which has resulted in a baseline measure of plastic pollution through the debris gyre and in less-contaminated regions. He swam that entire distance allowing a

remarkably slow traverse. This enabled a detailed observation of levels of contamination. In 2018, Ben and his boat mates had traveled from Japan east for some 2400 kilometers; Ben carried an Explorers Flag on both expeditions.

Ben was welcomed by the media brought together at the Golden Gate Yacht Club by his 2019 sponsors, Icebreaker



Sports Goods of New Zealand as well as by Texas Chapter Chair Emeritus Ben Edelstein MN'09. The Icebreaker folks are serious about using natural materials in their products and see the value in Ben's achievements to bring attention to the damage done to the environment by improperly disposed plastics. Whether tossed away on land or at sea, too much makes its way into the ocean where it slowly decomposes over long periods. In the end the plastic becomes minuscule in size, is consumed by sea life and too frequently also gets consumed by humans who eat sea food. The contamination also entangles sea life, too often mortally.

Ben swims not just because he loves to do so, but because his long-distance achievements can and do bring attention to the problem. As an individual he is effective at discussing his endurance, the team it takes to accomplish long periods at sea, the benefits derived from such an unusual long-time and close presence in the water and observing the top layer of the ocean. Attending to data gathering and the scientific assessment of materials they come across, and published findings and speaking engagements all bring awareness of the real problems resulting from the use of single-use petrochemical proliferation.



Ben Lecomte and Ben Edelstein

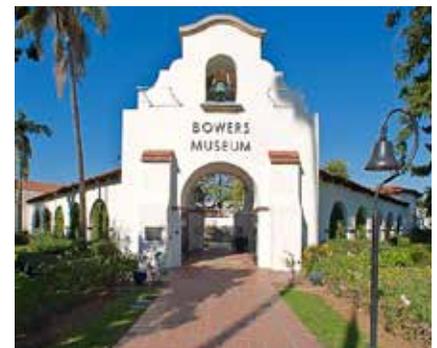
Here is a man doing what he can to have an impact, an explorer. Among the more than 100 who greeted Ben on his reaching landfall in our fair city were members of The Explorers Club's Northern California Chapter. Welcome Ben!

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EXPLORERS GO SOUTH TO WECAD

For a weekend in LA, nothing could be better than catching the West Coast Explorers Club Annual Dinner at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Sponsored by the Los Angeles Chapter, and with Don Walsh there to present Jean-Michel Cousteau with the "Ocean Exploration and Conservation of the Seas Award, it was an uplifting evening. There was the Explorers Club Flag Return Ceremony for Tom Dolan's tornado tracking flag; and the awarding of the first "Alan Rabinowitz Memorial Award for Wildlife Conservation" to Joseph Rodhe. There was also a great talk by Jim Williams (*Path of the Puma*) on the value of predators in supporting natural life all along the food chain..

Among the personal interactions, there were the social encounters with Jo Ann Van Tilburg ("Queen of Rapa Nui"), and with Richard Wiese, President of The Explorers Club and various club officials as well as the morning-after get togethers at breakfast with the likes of honoree Jean-Michel Cousteau and wife Nan, and Northwest Chapter Chair Emeritus Lynn Danaher who's now busy building a theater company in Kauai.

The Northern California Chapter was represented by Sue Estey, Tom and Kathy Dolan, Bob and Kay Schmieder, and Anders and Kathy Jepsen.



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
Dvorak, Don
Dvorak, Elaine
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
MacDonald, Robert
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

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

FROM THE CHAIR (temporarily located on the shore of an Adirondaks lake)

Welcome to a new season of Chapter gatherings. Over the summer our good friend Harry Hicks MN'87 went on to higher exploration. Since he and Dede Whiteside Hicks moved to Whitby Island and then Mexico, we've not seen him as regularly at meetings. Still many of us will miss his cheerful smile and understated chuckle.

As a youngster I learned the Yay-Boo song.
Yay-Boo, Yay-Boo, it's lots of fun to do
If you like it holler Yay, if you don't you holler Boo.

It's not iambic pentameter or high prose, but it gets the point across. Plus I was about 8 when I learned it.

The **Yay** of this message is that we are starting with two great events and several more in development. Our schedule has been shuffled a bit from what was planned earlier. We will start the year with a science talk from Dr. Robert Anderson, FN'89, speaking in September at Creola Bistro in San Carlos; it's specifically about forensic science and its roles in exploration to help us to better understand our discoveries and to sort truth from expectation (remember the Pilttdown man?).

Then in October Michele Westmoreland, originally scheduled for September, will show portions of her movie, *Headhunters Revisited*, and talk about her many visits to Papua New Guinea, retracing the steps of Caroline Mytinger. The October meeting will be back for the last time at the Dolan Law Center, and Michele's presentation will be able to take advantage of their wonderful audio/visual system.

Now, for the **Boo**. The Dolan Law Center will be leased out for the next 7 years to a new occupant and October will be our final meeting there. Once again we are looking for meeting space. Our own space would be ideal; nothing as grand as the Lowell Thomas Building in NYC, perhaps just a small, rent-free suite with room for a 60- to 80-person gathering, kitchen, 2 bathrooms and a small bedroom and office for an explorer in residence. Yes, a gal can dream!! The practical engineer, however, realizes the value in not letting the perfect get in the way of the good. So, the Board and Officers welcome all suggestions. The minimal requirements are space for 60 or more people, an A/V system or room for us to set up our own system, room for our caterers or else an affordable on-site food option, and some parking. Somewhere near a BART station would be good. Our dinners have been on Friday evenings for as long as I have been part of the chapter, but maybe we'll need to consider other workdays or some other weekend options. All options are on the proverbial table.

I'm sure some of you have incredible stories from your summer fieldwork. I'll try to keep my portion of the meeting short for both September and October to leave time for a few **SHORT** accounts. Let me know if you have a 3-minute (or less) story that you want to share. I'll plan for 2 or 3 such stories for the next two meetings and I will keep a close eye on the time. If you need more than 3 minutes, get in touch with Anders Jepsen about providing a short article for the Newsletter or talk with me if you think you could provide a full dinner presentation and you've not presented previously. I especially would like to hear from our newer members and use these short stories or a presentation to get to know you better.

I hope to see many of you in the coming months. And as a final reminder, please give me your suggestions for locations or ideas for **SHORT** story moments.

Lesley Ewing, FN'93



**LIMOUSINE SERVICE TO HARRY'S INTERMENT
AND SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING**

Anyone wishing to use the offered limousine service should contact Dede Whiteside-Hicks by e-mail (hoppy33@me.com), no later than Friday September 13th. To help Dede with logistics, please provide the following information:

1. Your name
2. Number of people in your party
3. Will you attend the service for Harry
4. Will you want to go to the service from the Westin SFO or from Milbrae BART?
5. For the hotel option, be there before the 1:15 departure time.
6. For the BART option, be there before the 1:40 departure time.
7. Will you want to return to Milbrae BART or the Hotel after the service? Which one?
8. Will you want to use the limousine service to get from the Hotel to the restaurant?
9. Will you want to use the limousine service to get back to either Milbrae BART or the Hotel? Which one?

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Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
chair@explorersnorca.org
Vice Chair: Tom Dolan MN'14
tdolan@outdoorstorms.com
Secretary: Joyce Chang MN'17
Treasurer: Anna Freitas MN'17
Treasurer@explorersnorca.org
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

September 27 Dr. Robert Anderson
Forensic engineering for exploration . . . Creola
October 25 Michele Westmorland
Headhunters Revisited Dolan
November 22 TBD

Earlier Chapter Events
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 JumpDolan
May 253 Term EC Members
Term Members Research/Annual mtg . . .Dolan
July 21Chapter Picnic in Novato
September 21. Michelle Trautwein
Meet Your Face Mites: Dolan
October 26 Sir Richard Feachem
Shrinking the World Malaria Map . . . Dolan
November 30Leon 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
May 31 ANNUAL MEEETING plus . . Dr. Paul Hunt
Hannibal". Dolan
June 9:. Picnic inTilden Park

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 Freitas 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 meetings 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).

The 2019 Lowell Thomas Awards Weekend,

hosted by The Explorers Club Washington Group in Washington D.C.
October 11, 12 & 13. Columbus Day Holiday Weekend.
<http://www.explorersclubdc.org/2019-lowell-thomas-awards-weekend/>

CHAPTER DUES

For those of you who wonder why your name is not on the Honor Roll of paid-up Chapter members, check with Anna Freitas to see if your dues payment was lost.

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 now records all of our dinner meetings. Videos of the March, April and May speakers' presentations are available on the Chapter Website.

CHAPTER MEETING
Friday, September 27, 2019

Place: Creola Bistro, 344 El Camino Real, San Carlos

Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner; 8:00 - program
Meal Options: Sunday Chicken
Blakened Catfish with BBQ Shrimp
Mushroom Jambalaya (veggie)

Cost: \$60; after Tuesday 24 September \$100.

Please mail reservations, checks to Anna Freitas
161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.
Or email Treasurer@explorersnorca.org
or call Anna at 925-457-6424
(You can also sign up and remit your meal costs online)