



# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter MARCH 2022

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

**MONTHLY MEETING  
FRIDAY 25 MARCH 2022  
GATHER BY ZOOM INVITATION**

## **THE FIGURE 8 VOYAGE Randall Reeves**

Randall Reeves set out from San Francisco in September 2018 to become the first person to solo sail non-stop around the Americas and Antarctica. The voyage covered 39,000 nautical miles of blue ocean. This successful voyage was his second attempt in his 45-foot vessel **Moli**—aka Mo. He re-entered San Francisco Bay 385 days later having completed the voyage in a single season. This achievement earned him The Blue Water medal of the Cruising Club of America.



In a recent interview, Mr. Reeves described his early interest in sailing as a high school student, learning to sail on the rivers in California. Even then he was “most fond of solo sailing.” In 2000 Mr. Reeves bought a 31-foot vessel built in Japan. The purchase, he recalls, was naïve. It took ten-years of restoration work, but the benefit was he learned how to maintain a boat at sea. In 2010 he completed his first major solo voyage—a two-year circumnavigation of the eastern Pacific: San Francisco to Mexico, French-Polynesia, Hawaii, Alaska, and home.

Mr Reeves purchased Moli in 2016 in Alaska (becoming the vessel’s fourth owner) and began training seriously for his intended Figure 8 voyage. His first try was not a success. He will relate his preparation and highlight the voyage; the challenges and the mishaps, during his more than one-year at sea—alone.



### **Editor’s Note:**

Check out the speaker’s website: [www.randallreeves.live](http://www.randallreeves.live)  
also  
<https://www.sail-world.com/news/235657/Randall-Reeves-on-his-successful-Figure-8-Voyage>

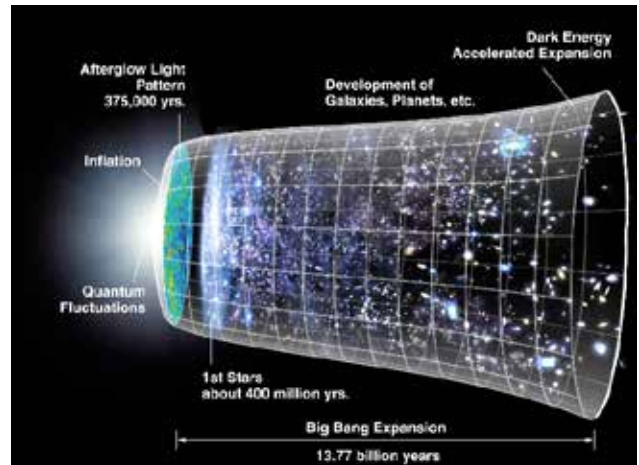
# UNVEILING THE DARK UNIVERSE; LOOKING BACK TO LOOK AHEAD

Satya Gontcho A Gontcho PhD M'21. Presented 25 February 2022

Our February speaker, Dr. Satya Gontcho A Gontcho, is an observational cosmologist, expert at communicating to non-cosmologists a sense of what she is working on –the study of “the Large Scale Structures of the Universe ... to better our understanding of Dark Energy”.

How do we know what we know about our universe, and how do we map the universe and learn its history? Why do we have so many different telescopes, satellites, and facilities dedicated to looking at the night sky? What is the Universe made of? What is its future – and what is our future?

The Milky Way is our home galaxy – and it blocks our view of many galaxies beyond our own. Our galaxy is not very big as galaxies go, and it includes a hundred thousand million stars. Our solar system of a few planets orbiting around one star – our sun – is a tiny part of our galaxy.



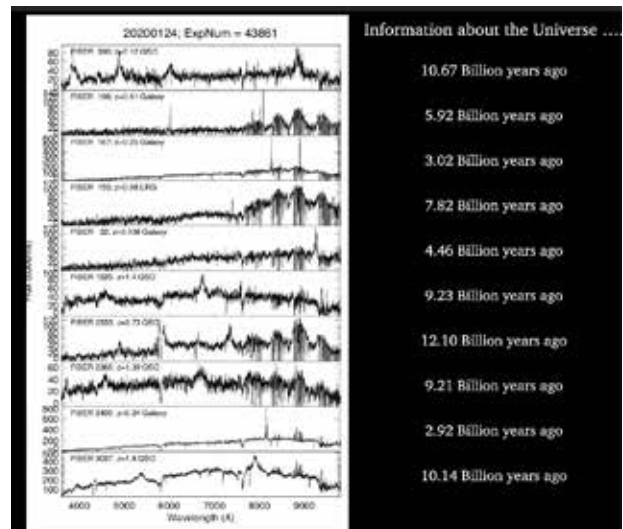
NASA/WMAP (Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe) observed cosmic microwave background, the remnant afterglow of the hot young universe. This established the age of the cosmos as 13.75 billion years. WMAP found that the light we can see is just 5% of the Universe. The rest is Dark Energy (68%) and Dark Matter (27%). The proportion of the 3 components varies over time. Dark Matter has great gravitational force, so it is the invisible cosmic web behind the visible Universe. Dark Energy is the force that counteracts gravity and pushes apart the structures that fall onto the Dark Matter web. The Universe is expanding faster and faster. Dark Energy is now dominating.



There are billions of galaxies in the Universe. For a glimpse, visit <https://www.legacysurvey.org/viewer> and marvel at the myriad dots of many colors in a sliver of the sky. The image was taken by DESI, the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument at Kitt Peak, AZ. Satya works on this project.



Astronomers use spectroscopy to measure distances to the objects we see. That data is used to create a 3D map of that part of the sky. The light we see from distant galaxies was emitted eons ago. SDSS (Sloan Digital Sky Survey) constructed 3D maps of one third of the sky and showed that galaxies are not uniformly distributed in space. There is space between them, and they cluster together.



DESI uses the Mayall 4-meter telescope at Kitt Peak, AZ. 5000 optical fibers controlled by robots target specific galaxies. The fibers collect the light and deliver it to spectrographs to measure redshift and pinpoint the distance to each galaxy. David Schlegel, one of the leads on DESI, says “...we’re just beginning to explore the times when dark energy turned on. If there are surprises lurking out there, we [DESI] expect to find them.”

One of Satya’s goals is to communicate about cosmology to a broader audience. She enjoys doing Indian Odissi dance, and also collaborates with poet Amy Catanzano on performance art with Amy’s poetry and Satya’s dancing.

Sue J. Estey FE’92

**HONOR ROLL**  
**Paid up Dues 2022**

**Members**

Allan, James  
Ballou, Philip  
Bruffet, Leonard  
Bunch, Nick  
Chambers, Kimberley  
Chang, Joyce  
Chase, H. Keith  
Cohn, Francesca  
Cook, Sandra  
Cooper, Alan  
Cromwell, Thomas  
Dietz, Thomas  
Diggles, Michael  
Durbin, Thomas  
Dvorak, Don  
Dvorak, Elaine  
Ellis, Scott  
Estey, Sue  
Ewing, Lesley  
Fadiman, Maria  
Fox, Susan  
Freitas, Anna  
Freitas, Paul  
Friedman, James  
Friedman, Lincoln  
Gontcho A Gontcho, Satya  
Grubbs, Melodie  
Hemming, Peter  
Higgins, Robert J.  
Horne, William (Clif)  
Hutchison, Alan  
Jepsen, Anders  
Kuhns, Matthew  
Langan, Lee  
Lapham, Ellen  
Leonard, Cheryl  
Mercer, Meaghan  
Pedtke, Andrew  
Phillips, William McKinley III  
Ross, Sandra Miller  
Saber, Rick  
Schmieder, Bob  
Schwemmer, Robert  
Smith, Steve  
Tarter, Jill  
Weed, Ryan  
Whiteside, Dede  
Winter, Mordechai  
Wren, Sherry

**Sirdars**

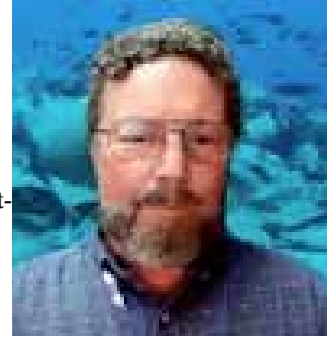
Brandt, James  
Clever, Karoli  
Cohn, Lawrence  
Crowder, Wendy  
Durighello, Joy  
Friedman, Christen  
Hutchison, Ann  
Isaac, Nancy  
Jepsen, Kathy  
Langan, Karine  
Longo-Cohn, Mary  
Mani, Cassandra (Cassie)  
Miskiv, Rick  
O'Keeffe, Bonny  
Patterson, Tom  
Rolandson, Matthew  
Saber, Aldeana  
Schmieder, Kay (Kathleen)  
Walker, Nigel  
Weiman, Mark  
Yoder, Karl

**Words From the Acting Chair:**

Spring has arrived. As we approach summer and our final meetings until the fall, we are pleased to report that we will be meeting in-person once again in May. There are still details to work out but the situation is promising. The Chapter is also planning to have a summer picnic and field trip. One important issue discussed by the Board in our recent meeting was finding suitable venues for our meetings and how to equitably distribute meetings around the Bay Area. Costs are rising.

Finally, we have several strong speakers lined up for our Speaker Series, please join us by zoom **this month and next.**

**Marco Meniketti FN'10**



**19th Annual International Ocean Film Festival -- April 7th - 10th.**



Photo Credit Joe Platko Faka'apa'apa, 2021

The 2022 Ocean Film Festival on April 7th - 10th, will show films at three venues - the Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason, the Roxie in San Francisco, and the Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael. This year's Festival includes 13 World Premieres, 9 U.S. Premieres and 7 Bay Area Premieres. Films have been received from 30 countries and 17 filmmakers will be in attendance. In addition to films, the Festival will host lively Q&A panels with film directors, marine scientists, and industry experts, as they discuss the films and share insights into ocean conservation, preservation, and legislation.

After the in-person events, virtual presentations will be offered April 11 – 24. Tickets to the entire festival can be purchased online at: [www.intloceanfilmfest.org](http://www.intloceanfilmfest.org) which also has a link for VOLUNTEERS to help at the festival.

The International Ocean Film Festival encourages its patrons, supporters and partners to follow the most current advice from the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization for preventing the further spread of the COVID-19 in Northern California and beyond, and to stay tuned for announcements about International Ocean Film Festival events once the **threat level is reduced.**



March 2022 Issue  
Northern California Chapter  
Established 1973



**CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM**

Chair: Tom Dolan MN'14  
tdolan@outdoorstorms.com  
Vice Chair: Marco Meniketti FN'10  
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

**2022**

March 25 . . . . . Randall Reeves  
Sailing round the Americas and Antarctica  
April 23 . . . . . ECAD  
April 29 . . . . . TBD  
May 20 . . . . . TBA  
Return to In-Person Chapter Meeting

**2020**

January 24 . . . . . Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg  
Easter Island . . . . . Dolan  
February 28 . . . . . Dr. Robert Griffith  
Endangered Rhinos . . . . . Dolan  
March 27 . . . . . Cheryl Leonard  
Found Objects and Music . . . . . RESCHEDULED  
April 24 . . . . . Dr. Paul Auerbach  
Enviromedics . . . . . RESCHEDULED  
May 24 . . . . . Dr. Sandra Cook  
Foreign Devils on Silk Rd . . . . . RESCHEDULED  
May 22, 9:30 AM: . . . . . Roz Savage  
The Gift of Solitude . . . . . ZOOM Presentation  
May 29, 7:30 PM . . . . . ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING  
June 5, 8 PM. . . . . Eliot Jessup  
24 hr Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim. . . . . Zoom  
September 20 . . . . . Explorers Club Chapter VP  
Intro to Northern California Chapter . . . . . Zoom  
September 25 . . . . . Liz Taylor and Sylvia Earle  
Mission Blue- Hope Spots. . . . . Zoom  
October 30 . . . . . Mimi George  
Vaka Taumako Project . . . . . Zoom  
November 20 . . . . . Cheryl Leonard  
Found Objects and Music. . . . . Zoom  
December 13. . . . . Holiday Party

**2021**

January 22 . . . . . Diana Pickworth & John Wilken  
Explorations (2) . . . . . Zoom  
February 26 . . . . . Kent Lightfoot  
Fires & indigenous land use practices . . . . . Zoom  
March 26 . . . . . Deana Weibel  
Motivations for robotic space exploration . . . . . Zoom  
April 23 . . . . . Brandi DiCarli & Scott Thompson  
Farms from a box . . . . . Zoom  
May 21 . . . . . ANNUAL MEETING  
May 21 . . . . . Alison Fundis  
Deep Sea Exploration. . . . . Zoom  
September 24. . . . . Ashley Lemke  
Archaeology Below the Surface. . . . . Zoom  
October 15 . . . . . Dr. Craig Clements  
Wildfire in the West . . . . . Zoom  
November 19 . . . . . Dr Roberto Junco  
Caribbean Archaeology . . . . . Zoom  
January 28 . . . . . Scott Warnasch.  
Iron coffins  
February 25 . . . . . Satya Gontcho a Gontcho  
Astro physics and Cosmology

**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**

Paul Freitas MN'10  
Jimmy Friedman MN'19  
Kimberly Chambers MN'16

**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

**MEETING VIDEOS**

“Our Chapter has been recording our zoom meetings and the previous in-person meeting. Please go to our Chapter website explorersnorca.org and click on “Videos of Past Presentations”. Currently, presentation videos on the website go back to 3/22/2019.”

**Annual Meeting, New Vice-Chair and Elected Directors**

Our annual meeting will be held on May 20th prior to the presentation by Aaron Singer. The Board is now soliciting interest from Members or Fellows of the Explorers Club ( designated as Members of the Northern California Chapter by the Explorers Club) who would like to get involved with the Chapter’s operation. We will also be soliciting interest from all Chapter members in helping with events and activities as we begin to develop in-person events for the summer and fall.

All Members and Fellows who want to be considered for elected positions (Vice-Chair or Director) should notify Joyce Chang (treasurer@explorersnorca.org) of interest, include what position (or positions) you’re interested in, and a short statement (less than 300 words) describing what you’d like to bring to the Chapter.

All chapter Members, Sirdars and guests are invited to attend the annual meeting and subsequent presentation. However, only Members or Fellows of the Explorers Club who are designated by New York as members of the Northern California Chapter will be eligible to vote Members are asked to submit topics for discussion at the meeting.

**Lesley Ewing FN'93**

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER DUES**

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. A new year started on January 2st. Member dues are \$25 annually; sirdar dues are \$50 annually.

The Honor Roll is a listing of individuals who have paid their dues. As of March 19th, 2/3 of our club members and sirdars have paid their 2022 dues. To verify whether you have paid your dues, just check the Honor Roll list on page 3.

Dues can be paid on-line by clicking on the paypal link on the website. If you prefer to pay by check, please make the check payable to Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club. Mail the check to Anna Freitas, 161 Camino Posada, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Please note that Northern California Chapter dues can be tax-deductible.  
**Anna Freitas MN'17, Treasurer**

**POSSIBLE CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS**

\* **Pinnacles National Park:** Early 2022, possible 2-day expedition.

**For more information or suggestions, contact:**  
**Jimmy Friedman MN' 19 - sfaikido@gmail.com.**