



# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter APRIL 2022

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

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2022 6:30 PM**  
**GATHER BY ZOOM INVITATION**

---

## **THE HESTER LAKE B-24 WRECK** **To be presented by Bryan Heisinger**

On December 5, 1943 a routine night training mission went bad when a Consolidated B-24E was posted missing over the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. Extensive search missions were flown without result. Two geologists discovered the crash site on July 29, 1960. Two military sponsored expeditions were made to Hester Lake in 1960-61 to recover the remains of the crew. Only partial success was achieved.

In August of 2015 a team of archaeologists and ROV operators packed deep into California's Kings Canyon wilderness to explore the wreckage of a World War II B-24 bomber lying in Hester Lake, at an altitude of over 11,000'. Over a two-day period, multiple dives were conducted to survey the main body of wreckage and to scan the remainder of the lake bottom. The information captured gives new insight into the tragic fate of the bomber and her crew.



LeConte Canyon and high elevation Lake Hester, named after the father of the co-pilot, who spent 17 years searching for the aircraft.



Bryan Heisinger

Bryan Heisinger is the Park Archaeologist for Redwood National Park in Northern California. His participation in the expedition to document the wreckage using portable rovs shed new light on the incident. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Prior to his career in archaeology, Bryan was enlisted in the U.S. Navy for 4 years from 2005-2009, where he worked as a Boatwain's Mate.



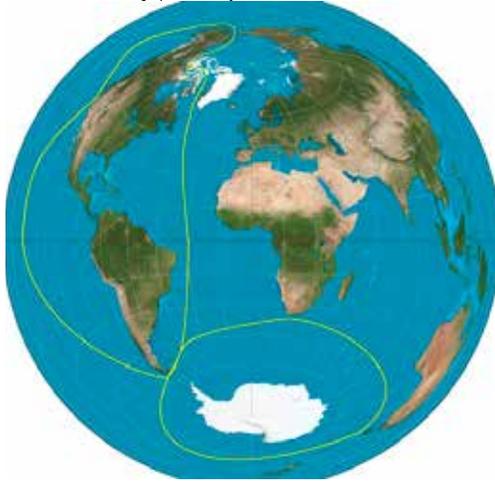
Crewmen of B-24E 41-28463: Pilot, 2nd Lt. Charles W. Turvey; co-pilot, 2nd Lt. Robert M. Hester; navigator, 2nd Lt. William T Cronin; bombardier, 2n Lt. Ellis H. Fish; flight engineer, S/Sgt Robert O. Burse; and radio operator, Sgt. Howard A. Wandtke.

# THE FIGURE 8 VOYAGE

## Randall Reeves, presented 25 March 2022

### Randall Reeves – Intrepid Sailor

At our March 25th virtual meeting Randall Reeves took us on a virtual 384-day sailing voyage, covering 39,048 miles. Randall is an experienced solo ocean sailor. After circumnavigating the Pacific, he was mulling over what he might do next when his wife's advice was GO BIG. For Randall, go big meant trying a solo, non-stop Figure 8 trip around the Ameri-



His first attempt at the Figure 8 began in October 2017 from San Francisco, and ended after 253 days. As they (Randall and his boat, Mo) were sailing south out of the Indian Ocean they came into a gale, a large wave picked up Mo, dropped her on her side and smashed a window. Water poured into the cabin, flooding much of the electronics. He bailed out the water, patched the window and 48 days later pulled into Hobart to repair and regroup. The delay would mean that he would have to over-winter in the Arctic. He returned home to repair Mo and add window protection to his equipment list.



On 30 September 2018, he began Figure 8 2.0, leaving San Francisco with blue skies and gentle winds. On 24 October he crossed the equator and at about 40 degrees South, he ran into his first gale. Based on his first attempt, Randall decided to change his gale strategy and rather than going with the small storm jib, he continued sailing with his larger roller-furling jib and used speed to get stability in the waves. It was so smooth, he started to play music and whistled along with it – a major no-no according to sailor lore. Despite the whistling, they made good time, passing Cape Horn on Day 56, crossing the Prime Meridian on Day 80, completing the circuit of Antarctica on day 167 (20 March 2019), and making his first land stop at Halifax on Day 237.

ice had done no real harm and there was little evidence of the crash. On Day 343, Randall and Mo arrived in Nome.

From there it took 41 more days to complete the Figure 8 Voyage. Despite feeling that he was in 'home waters' off Northern California, there he ran into some of the



biggest seas of the voyage. Before returning to San Francisco Bay, he took a break in the relative calm of Drakes Bay to relax, clean up, and mentally prepare for human interactions.

On Day 384 and after 39,048 miles, Randall sailed into San Francisco Bay, the first person ever to complete this solo sail. He was awarded the Cruising Club of America's 2020 Blue Water Medal and recently finished a book about his adventures with Mo.



The Southern Ocean was physically challenging. He typically grabbed a 90 minute nap, then checked the boat and sea conditions. Sometimes he could take another 90 minute nap and other times he was back at work for a few hours. He had to check lines regularly for chafing and replace them before they failed. He was never dry, and it took its toll on his hands.

The Arctic leg of the voyage brought new challenges of navigating through ice. In the late summer, the Arctic is fairly calm, so most travel is by motor. According to Randall, no yacht has sailed all the way through the Northwest Passage; motoring is essential. For this leg, he had to hand-steer rather than rely on the autopilot. After 20 hours of dodging ice, he came to an open, blue-water area and thought he could grab 5 minutes of shuteye. Four minutes into the nap, Mo slammed into ice and came to a dead stop. Randall reversed away from the ice and realized that it was safer to take his naps while Mo drifted. When he found a safe spot to check out the bow, he saw that the



One question several people asked was about spending so much time alone and how he transitioned from being alone to dealing again with crowds of people. He stayed busy with sailing, checking the weather, posting daily updates, photos, and videos to his blog, fixing equipment, checking lines, and all the other things to keep Mo ship-shape. And while he wasn't often around other ships, he was surrounded by incredible views and joined in part of his travels by albatross.

To learn more about Mr. Reeves, check out his website: [www.randallreeves.com](http://www.randallreeves.com).

Lesley Ewing FN'93

## IN MEMORIUM

### Chapter Chair Thomas Dolan, MN'14 -- Hail and Farewell

Our friend, colleague and Chapter Chair, Tom Dolan, passed away April 7th after extended complications from a double lung transplant. During his times going between the hospital and the ICU, he was always upbeat and cheerful. He would refer to all his follow-up treatments as getting a minor tune-up. His bravery and optimism throughout the time of his declining lung capacity as well as in the hospital were an inspiration.

Tom's exploration passions were spending time in the wilderness and in the study of extreme weather events, primarily tornadoes. He would regularly pack his truck and head to the mountains with his brother Don, or he would drive to a storm site to make atmospheric measurements. Since 2009 he traveled frequently to the Central Plains tracking severe weather and modeling the storms using the available Doppler radar data. By using this radar data, he built 3D views of the tornado structure and compiled them into videos to further improve the visualization of the tornado genesis and the tornado life cycle. These annual trips also provided the data to analyze tornado damage paths and compare the modeled damage paths to the actual radar data, the storm photos, and tornado videos of the event. Tom led three Explorer Flag Expeditions in 2015, 2018 and 2019. The theme of the expeditions: "Tornado Visualization and Doppler Radar Analysis." Work has been presented at two American Meteorological Conferences, six annual meteorological conferences as well as an extended presentation at a storm chasers conference.



## HEARD ISLAND

Another publication by DR. ROBERT SCHMIEDER FE'86

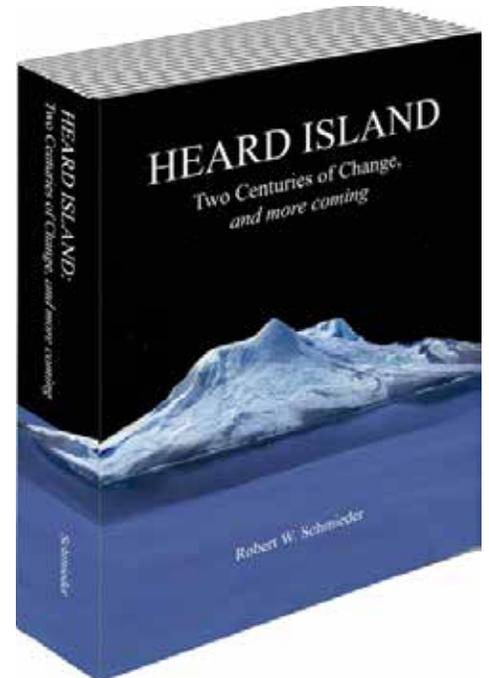
Based on the data gathered from his two expeditions to Heard Island, the first in 1997 and the second in 2016, Chapter Chair Emeritus Dr. Robert Schmieder FN'87 has finally released his latest book for publication. Lying about 1000 miles from the edge of Antarctica, in the extreme southern limit of the Indian Ocean, the island is 2880 miles from Africa, 2403 miles from Australia, and 2545 miles from the South Pole. A territory of Australia since 1947, it is seldom visited, and it is not on any regular maritime routes. It has the distinction of having no known human-imported alien species, and partially for that reason is of interest primarily to researchers.

Schmieder has organized and led two research expeditions to Heard Island, in 1997 and 2016, both financed largely by donations by the amateur radio community. Now he has completed a major scientific work: *Heard Island: Two Centuries of Change, and more coming.*

Heard Island is about 20 miles long, 12 miles wide, with a live volcano in the center that is two miles high. At one time it was home to huge populations of elephant seals, penguins, an indigenous cormorant, and various seabirds, but in the mid-19th Century sealers reduced many of these species to near extinction. There are no humans on the island, except for infrequent research projects, which must satisfy very strict conditions. Planning for such expeditions generally takes several years: Schmieder's 2016 project took 3 years and about \$0.5M. The team of 14, plus chartered vessel crew of 5, were on the island for two weeks. They came back with more than 25,000 photographs and hundreds of scientific specimens.

Numerous scientific discoveries are described in the book. For instance, the flow of oceanic water past the island was discovered to exhibit a major hydrodynamic instability, known as the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability). Unstable flow was also discovered on a flat plain subject to repeated inundations by storm-driven seawater. Multiple ice-slicks were observed on the apron of the volcano, apparently for the first time. A break in a surf barrier that occurred in 2015 was documented for the first time; it will eventually cut off a peninsula to form a smaller satellite island, eventually destroying it completely. In the last chapter, plausible predictions are made for Heard Island in future years: 2031, 2051, 2121, 3021, and 1,002,021.

The nearly 900-page book is being published by Springer Nature and covers all aspects of this remarkable island. It is divided into five Parts: (1) Two Centuries of Change, (2) Rocks, (3) Water, (4) Ecosystem, and (5) More Coming. The 36 Chapters are spread roughly equally among these Parts and contains more than 1500 photos, diagrams, and tables. It is full color throughout. The release date for the book has not yet been set, but it should be in mid-2022.



## 19th Annual International Ocean Film Festival

In person viewing April 7th - 10th  
On-line viewing April 11th - 24th

The 19th Annual Ocean Film Festival was held on April 7th - 10th., 2022. This year's Festival includes 13 World Premieres, 9 U.S. Premieres and 7 Bay Area Premieres.

Even though the in-person events are finished, virtual presentations are being offered April 11 – 24. Tickets to the entire festival can be purchased at:

<http://www.intloceanfilmfest.org>

**HONOR ROLL**  
Paid up Dues for 2022

**MEMBERS**

Allan, James  
Ballou, Philip  
Berg, Barbara  
Boothe, Joan  
Bruffet, Leonard  
Bunch, Nick  
Chambers, Kimberley  
Chang, Joyce  
Chase, H. Keith  
Chirurg, J. Thom  
Cohn, Francesca  
Cook, Sandra  
Cooper, Alan  
Cromwell, Thomas  
Dana, Don  
Dietz, Thomas  
Diggles, Michael  
Durbin, Thomas  
Dvorak, Don  
Dvorak, Elaine  
Ellis, Scott  
Estey, Sue  
Eustace, (Robert) Alan  
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  
Lee (Akey), Katherine  
Leonard, Cheryl  
Mangus, Rodney  
Meniketti, Marco  
Mercer, Meaghan  
Pedtke, Andrew  
Phillips, William McKinley III  
Ross, Sandra Miller  
Saber, Rick  
Schmieder, Bob  
Schwemmer, Robert  
Smith, Ronald  
Smith, Steve  
Tarter, Jill  
Weed, Ryan  
Whiteside, Dede  
Winter, Mordechai  
Wren, Sherry

**SIRDARS**

Sirdars  
Arroz, Linda  
Boothe, Barry  
Brandt, James  
Clever, Karoli  
Cohn, Lawrence  
Crowder, Wendy  
Durighello, Joy  
Friedman, Christen  
Hutchison, Ann  
Isaac, Nancy  
Jepsen, Kathy  
Kidd, Joe  
Langan, Karine  
Longo-Cohn, Mary  
Mani, Cassandra (Cassie)  
Messerly, Ed  
Miskiv, Rick  
Nikas, A. James III  
O'Keeffe, Bonny  
Patterson, Tom  
Pennathur, Sudha  
Reddy, Shridhar  
Rolandson, Matthew  
Saber, Aldeana  
Schmieder, Kay (Kathleen)  
Van Austen, Bob  
Van Austen, Judy  
Walker, Nigel  
Weiman, Mark  
Yoder, Karl

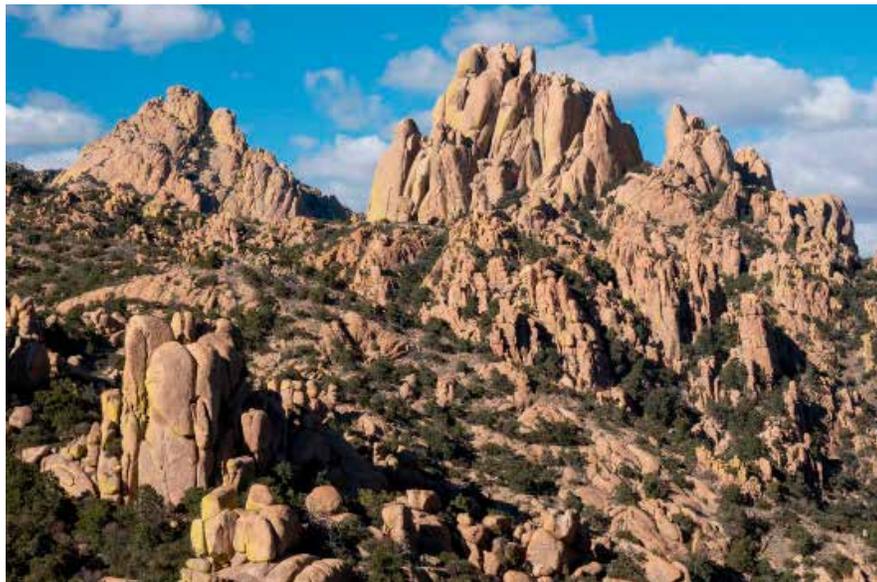
**A FEW WORDS FROM THE ACTING CHAIR**

It is with a heavy heart that the Chapter will meet this month. After a valiant fight our Chair, Tom Dolan, has passed way. We have devoted space in the newsletter to remember the Chair and commemorate his accomplishments. Tom will be missed. The Chapter will be conducting elections next month for new board members and officers. The club remains strong and is moving to a new phase with in-person meetings once again. However, we have yet to locate a steady venue and will be moving about from month to month until the issue is settled.

Marco Meniketti FN'10



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This submission from **Cheryle Leonard MN'2020** is a good format for interesting notes from Chapter Explorers on the move. All submissions will be considered for inclusion in upcoming editions of the Newsletter.



**Echoes, Cochise Stronghold, Coronado National Forest, AZ, 2/17/22, Cheryl E. Leonard**

Driving back to San Francisco from Big Bend National Park, Arizona's Dragoon Mountains were a convenient spot to camp for the night and I was eager to see the rugged granite ramparts which were once a refuge for Chiricahua Apache Chief Cochise and his people. Late in the day, as all the other visitors were headed down, I hiked up into the heart of the Stronghold. At the high point of the trail the wind was still, and from all directions the calls of doves echoed off cliffs and domes, an invitation to reflect on the history of this wild sanctuary. I wanted to record this exquisite soundscape, but my microphones were back at the trailhead, left behind because I was just going for a "quick hike" before dinner. I plan to return with recording equipment and climbing gear for a longer stay and deeper listening.

**Editor's Note:**

There are several opportunities available for participation in the operation of the Chapter. If you are interested, please contact any of the Directors or Officers of the Chapter for more information.

April 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

April 22 . . . . . ECAD  
April 29 . . . . . TBD  
May 20 . . . . . TBA  
Return to In-Person Chapter Meeting  
June 12 . . . . . Chapter Picnic

2020

February 28 . . . . . Dr. RobeJune rt  
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 . . . . . Zoom  
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](http://explorersnorca.org) and click on “Videos of Past Presentations”. Presentation videos on the website go back to 3/22/2019.”

Annual Meeting and Request for Interest for Chair,  
Vice-Chair and Elected Director positions

Our annual meeting will be held on May 20th prior to the evening presentation. The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting, with options to participate either in person or on Zoom. See the May 20th Meeting Preview for more details.

The Board is now soliciting interest from Members or Fellows of the Explorers Club (who are designated by New York as members of the Northern California Chapter) in being considered for Chapter Chair, Chapter Vice Chair or as an elected director. Duties and responsibilities for each position are posted on our website and all interested members should review the relevant Duties and Responsibilities to understand what is expected of persons interested in these positions. 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 would like to be considered for elected positions (Chair, Vice-Chair or Director) should notify Joyce Chang of interest, include what position (or positions) you're interested in, with a short statement (less than 300 words) describing what you'd like to bring to the Chapter.

**Joyce Chang:** [secretary@explorersnorca.org](mailto:secretary@explorersnorca.org)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER DUES

The Northern California Chapter dues are paid for the calendar year. A new year started on January 1st. Member dues are \$25 annually; sirdar dues are \$50 annually.

The Honor Roll is a listing of individuals who have paid their dues. To verify whether you have paid your dues, just check the Honor Roll list on page 5.

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](mailto:sfaikido@gmail.com).**