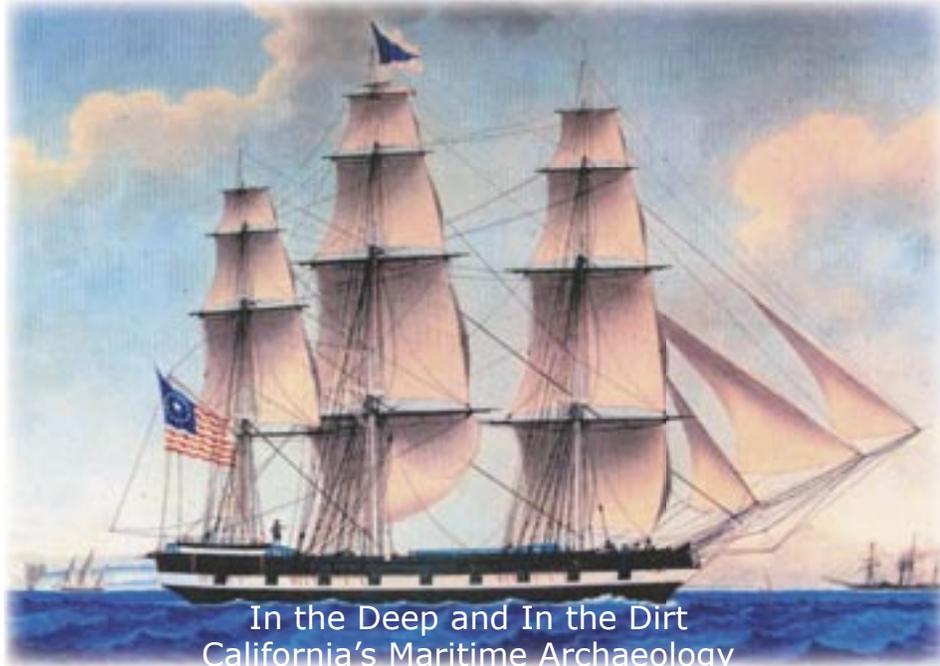


# The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

March 2003

Chair: Stephen E. Smith  
925 934-1051  
nauticos@oceaneearth.org  
Vice-Chair: Lee Langan  
415 567-8089  
lee@langan.net  
Treasurer: Thomas Hall  
415 502-7204 (work)  
thall@epi.ucsf.edu  
Webmaster: Mike Diggles  
Newsletter: Lee Langan  
Database: Kelly Noonan

Web site: <http://www.diggles.com/ec/>



In the Deep and In the Dirt  
California's Maritime Archaeology

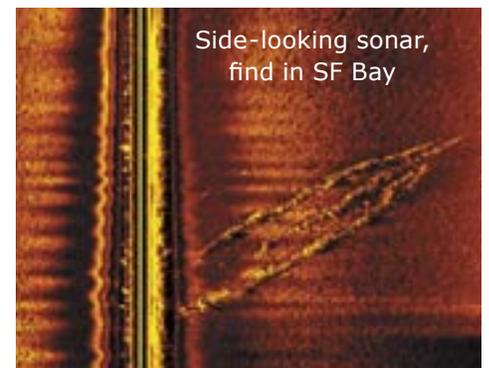
## Ship Rome, Marseilles, 1848

Watercolor by Honoré Pellegrin  
Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

Bay was launched from Tichenor's yard.

Students from Saint Mary's and volunteers, have been conducting remote-sensing and pedestrian surveys along the shoreline of Manchester State Beach in Point Arena, California. They are looking for the remains of the *Il'men*, a Russian-American Company brig that went ashore at Point Arena in 1822. A recently translated diary of one of the passengers has provided tantalizing clues as to the location of one of the earliest known wrecks in California waters; it has eluded detection so far, but the search is on-going.

As part of the seismic retrofit of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, remote-sensing surveys were conducted to identify any submerged cultural resources that might be impacted by construction activities. In the side-scan sonar survey, a wreck was identified lying in shoal waters, buried deep in the mud. Although positive identification of the vessel is still being sought, it appears the hull may be the remains of the *Anna R. Forbes*, a schooner that capsized off Red Rock in 1867, spilling her cargo of railroad iron and coal. The historic record indicates the crew escaped with minor injuries. Research to identify this vessel with certainty is still underway.



Side-looking sonar,  
find in SF Bay

## San Francisco March 28, 2003 James Allan

Dr. James Allan is Vice President and Principal Project Director of William Self Associates, Inc., a historical and archaeological consulting firm, the

Executive Director of the Institute for Western Maritime Archaeology, a non-profit organized to promote research and education in maritime history and archaeology of the Pacific Coast; and he teaches in the Anthropology Department at Saint Mary's College of California. He will speak about projects from each.

In December, 1994, miners tunneling under Justin Herman Plaza during construction of the Muni Metro Turnback Project, encountered the wood hull of a large ship buried some thirty feet below the surface; the hull proved to be that of the ship *Rome*, built in Salem, Massachusetts in 1829, and scuttled in 1852, in Yerba Buena Cove. How do you save this history, and what still lies buried at Market and The Embarcadero?

The first marine railway and drydock in the City, built by Henry B. Tichenor in 1851, lies directly beneath the Paragon Restaurant and Bar, across from PacBell Park. Tichenor's Drydock Company provided repair and refitting services from the gold rush days, when the first of the double-ended, side-wheel ferries that would later dominate the

### LOCATION

**Date:** Friday, 28 March 2003  
**Place:** St. Francis Yacht Club  
San Francisco  
**Time:** 6:30 pm, no-host cocktails  
7:30 pm, dinner  
**Cost:** \$55 (by March 24)  
\$60 (if posted afterwards)

Reach Steve at 925 934-1051  
or, preferably,  
[nauticos@oceaneearth.org](mailto:nauticos@oceaneearth.org)

Reservation Form on page 5  
Please reserve promptly!  
NO MEAL WITHOUT RESERVATION

## Expedition News - Everest

If you thought Mt. Everest gained attention in 1953, during the first successful ascent, then again in 1996, during a tragic climbing season, wait until this May when media attention intensifies for the 50th anniversary of the Hillary/Tenzing feat. Over a dozen expedition teams have applied to climb the mountain on the anniversary. Also:

The first man (1953) and the first woman (1975) to conquer Mount Everest will join the celebration in Nepal to mark the May 29 anniversary. New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary and Japan's Junko Tabei will attract renowned mountaineers from around the world. (Over 1,250 men and women have already scaled the peak, and hundreds trek to Nepal and Tibet every year in an attempt to reach the roof of the world. About 200 people have died on its unpredictable slopes.)

Hillary's son Peter will host at Thangboche, higher in the foothills of Everest.

The irrepressible Seven-Summitteer Dick Bass, 73, plans to return to Everest. If successful, Bass would be the oldest to summit. The team will take the North Col/Northeast Ridge route in May.

The first American, Jim Whittaker, 74, spent only 20 minutes on Everest's barren summit on May 1, 1963. But Whittaker has been recounting that moment for 40 years. He plans to return to Everest Base Camp this May. "I'm going to trek in with my family, have a rum and Coke, and say to the mountain, 'Hello, good friend.' Then I'll climb down."

Sherpa Tsering Gyalzen is setting up what will be the world's highest Internet cafe at the 5,300-meter Everest Base Camp. Besides freezing temperatures and storms, there is no electricity, plumbing or permanent structure. He is building a hut in the Kalapathar area,

about a two-hour trek distant, for the satellite equipment that will transmit signals through radio links to his Internet Cafe. Expect eight laptops, powered by generators and solar-charged batteries for the 19,000-to-50,000 trekkers that come to the Everest region every year.

Photos taken during an aerial reconnaissance of Everest in 1933 are credited with helping Hillary and Tenzing reach the summit 20 years later. This year, Rebecca Stephens, MBE, will lead an international team to re-create the flight in an open-cockpit, single-engine aircraft.

National Geographic Channel plans a two-hour special on Apr. 27 titled, *Surviving Everest*. The Royal Geographical Society Picture Library plans to update and catalog approximately 20,000 images in their Everest Collection.

For details on all these snippets, reprinted with permission, see [www.expeditionnews.com](http://www.expeditionnews.com)

The sense of admiration for Sir Edmund Hillary was evident in nearly every word Anne Keiser spoke to a large attendance of the chapter on Feb 28. Her talk built on the model of her anniversary book dedicated to the celebrated climber and humanitarian. What was added was the reverence, in very human next-door-to-him terms. What else was added were pictures left out of the book and the clarity of slides even seen within these pages.

The beauty of the Sherpa homeland is always dramatic. Her photos were appreciated by the assembled group—a large number volunteered they had been to Nepal. The countryside, the people, the presence of Hillary, the modernization—these were all props to show the work that

## Documenting Good Deeds Anne Keiser in San Francisco

has been accomplished by The Himalayan Trust, started in the 1970's by Sir Edward. He helps raise support; with the Sherpas he helps use the proceeds. They propose the ideas; he helps them figure out how to accomplish the goals.

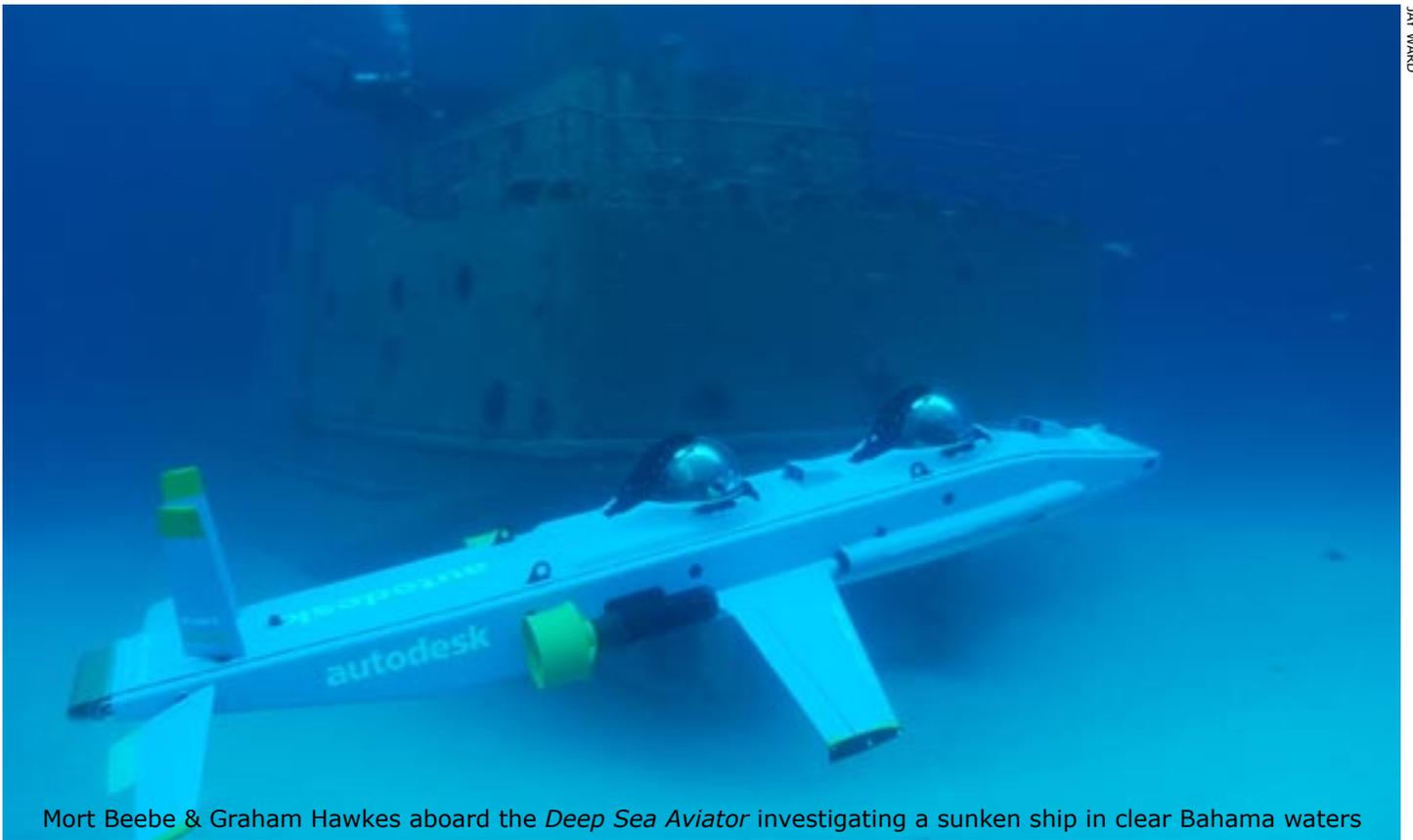
The Trust has been successful with numerous schools, clinics and hospitals and an understanding of how the outside world appreciates the Sherpas home and may try to take advantage of it (and them.) In sum, Hillary has devoted his life to helping the Sherpas maintain their world in modern times. Anne Keiser has captured much of this effort as memorable images.



Sir Edmund Hillary, nearly covered with shawls of appreciation from Sherpas, speaks to a group of children, whose heritage he works to save.



February speaker Keiser signed each of the many books purchased after her talk; proceeds to The Explorers Club.



Mort Beebe & Graham Hawkes aboard the *Deep Sea Aviator* investigating a sunken ship in clear Bahama waters

## Flight School

### Finally and Delightfully

After months of anticipation, we finally flew the *Aviator*. All told, we spent ten days working in and playing with this new ‘seaplane’. Graham Hawkes, lead engineer and flight instructor, was truly in his element: clear blue water, open ocean and enthusiastic pilots in training.

Both Mort and I had heard the discussions about the *Aviator*, but the first-hand experience was far more impressive than all of the talk. The

Lesley Ewing, #007, the first woman to certify for the *Deep Sea Aviator*, with Graham Hawkes, its inventor.



KAREN HAWKES

*Aviator* really does fly through the sea (at 4 to 10 knots!) The main controls are rudder pedals, a joy stick and the throttle—pretty much like an airplane. Therefore Mort’s prior piloting experience came to the fore, and he was handling the *Aviator* like a pro. Lesley had a steeper learning curve, but the *Aviator* is a joy to fly. Most of the time the flying actions are intuitive or easy to learn.

We enjoyed a range of diving experiences. All of Lesley’s dives were from the main marina. She traveled over an area of sandy bottom with an occasional coral head, to deep water, ocean wrecks and a wall that defines the limits between the shelf and the *Tongue of the Ocean*, a deep water canyon. These dives combined practice at the controls with a little bit of sight seeing for the first pass of the wall and, of course, some time for photos and video by Graham’s wife Karen.

Mort had more variety in his dive sites since his started out in a beautiful tropical cove (site of the movie *Jaws II*) The area had wonderfully clear water and lots of room to maneuver. It also offered an aerial entry—Graham hired a crane to lift the *Aviator* from the beach into the adjacent boat channel. As Mort said, “We flew through air and then through the water.” Mort was able to

carry a still and a video camera while taking pilot lessons and came back with lots of film that he and Tim Kelly frantically edited for ECAD and a future chapter meeting. (Completed! Our dramatic *Deep Flight* DVD has been shipped to NYC\*—*Mort*)

Twelve pilots have now trained with Graham in the *Aviator*. Most of the support crew and several journalists have also gotten rides. Capt. Fred McLaren was one of the first students, and he and Graham are now Senior Pilots. The rest of the class are Crew Pilots who, with more stick time, will be able to pilot the *Aviator* on their own.

In the meantime, we came away with plenty of ideas for future flights—searching for wrecks, flying with the *Giant Squid*, observing the behavior of deep-water marine mammals, recording deep-water geologic phenomena, and testing the maneuverability and undiscovered capabilities of the *Aviator*.

The year 2003 is the 100th anniversary of flight. It is also the start of a new version of flight: *underwater* flight. The Explorers Club (especially our chapter) was well represented in this nascent endeavor.

—Lesley Ewing, FN’86  
Mort Beebe, FN’78

\* <http://fridaysfilms.com/deepaviator.html>

## RIP Joe Rychetnik [1927-2003]



Joe and Stephanie in October 1998  
at the Golden Gateaway.

Joseph S. Rychetnik, co-founder of our chapter, died on March 5, from multiple medical problems, in San Francisco. In his last days he was in a coma; he had requested no memorial service.

Stephanie Klein, his companion for the past quarter century, cared for him during the difficult recent times. She has handled his illness with affection, verve, aplomb, and refreshing humor.

Joe was born in Chicago, left home in his teens, was a teenage merchant mariner in the Pacific, under Kamikaze attack off Iwo Jima in WWII, logistics manager in the US and Africa for Wendell Phillips and the University of California Expedition from Cairo to Capetown (1946-47), graduate of University of Nevada, Reno in journalism, US Marine aerial photographer in a Marine Night Fighter Squadron in combat in Korea, Time-Life Bureau Chief in Portland and Anchorage, an Alaska State Trooper (bush cop), National Geographic Photographer, co-founder of the Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club, Bell and Howell Co. and Devry Institute Field Representative in the Monterey area, author of three books, staff writer for two magazines, a hunter and fisherman and expert on guns and knives, a raconteur, humorist, father, grandfather, brother, a proud Czech by descent, member of many organizations aligned with his interests, and a good friend.

—Ron Reuther, FN'74

## An Opinion Welcomed

In the January issue of the The Explorers Club, Northern California newsletter, Lee Langan wrote an article entitled *Evolution@The Explorers Club*. In this article the question is raised: "...should the Club take a stand on an issue important to explorers that may be politically charged?" A specific example follows in the article, namely the protection of the Usumacinta River Valley. He asked what members thought. My response is that I am strongly opposed to any such activities. What follows below are some of my reasons.

1) Political activism will have an adverse effect on exploration (certainly mine).

I travel in Micronesia looking for MIA's from WWII where politics are complicated enough without bringing an aura of activism with me. It takes me years to develop a relationship with each Palauan elder. It is critical that I am both actually, and perceived of as, absolutely neutral if I am to have any chance of gaining the confidence of the locals. The same goes when I interview American veterans back home in hopes of finding additional clues— my political neutrality is absolutely essential.

2) Since there is no theme of activ-

ism within the Explorers Club (at least that I am aware of), topic selection will be very difficult, if not impossible.

The Explorers Club is about exploring and, while environmental causes are important (and often a component of exploration), I do not know what line of causes would be most consistent with the aims of this organization. I cannot think of any that would be universally appropriate. Despite the nobility and the need for protecting the many components of our environment, opening the door to multiple causes in this particular club will invoke an inevitable spectrum of responses, inevitable polarization and resultant dissatisfaction. Furthermore, would such decisions be made by chapter or at the headquarters? And, who would make the final decision as to which causes should be supported?

3) I did not join the Explorers Club to become involved in environmental (or other) causes beyond the joys of exploration.

There are many activist organizations— there is only *one* Explorers Club. It is my honor to have been selected into the Explorers Club— an organization with a rich history of exploration around the world (and into space). I joined because I could associate and hopefully

contribute to that heritage. I have carried many Explorers Club flags with me on my expeditions with great pride and feel, in a small way, I have added a little history to each flag I have carried. Were the Explorers Club to initiate interest in supporting causes (activism) beyond its current charter, I would cease carrying flags (out of necessity) and would be forced to consider terminating my involvement (out of necessity). While that may be of small significance to the Explorers Club at large, I do not feel I would be alone in this.

4) Many organizations exist which can and do support a wide array of environmental, and other, causes.

The bottom line, as I see it, is that the Explorers Club was not created for supporting such causes - rather it was created to encourage exploration in many settings. I believe the club should stay with its founding principles. Environmental issues have many organizations in which they may find a home.

While this view may not be popular, I do thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion. It is to the credit of the Explorers Club that such dialog occurs. Sincerely,

—Patrick J. Scannon, MD, PhD, FN'96  
BentProp Project, San Francisco

# The Chapter Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

Those of you who perused the January newsletter will no doubt remember an interesting question posed by our Vice Chair in his column "Evolution@The Explorers Club". Specifically, "should the club take a stand on an issue important to explorers that may be politically charged?" The example cited was the potential destruction of cultural and biological resources in the Usumacinta River Valley (between Mexico and Guatemala) due to the proposed construction of a hydroelectric project. The Vice Chair reported, as one could anticipate, that "the reaction was divided." In a group such as ours, one could expect no less than three opinions for every two-sided question.

One of our chapter members wrote to express "strong opposition" to any such activities. His opinions are included in this issue. All of these are valid opinions and, as you might expect (see above), I have yet another. But first, as a brief aside, I believe the writer may have misconstrued the intent of the original article. To clarify for other readers, the article was not put forth as an official proposal for a chapter or club policy; rather it was a solicitation of viewpoints. Evidently it worked, for it engendered responses. I appreciate the time and the effort at dialogue.

While I am sympathetic to Pat Scannon's concerns, there is one point that I would disagree with—the view that there is no theme of activism in the Explorers Club. It may be a subtle point, but I believe that most of the individuals I have encountered in the

Explorers Club have been activists of one sort or another. Whether you are promoting improved educational opportunities in remote areas, or supporting research in conservation of rainforest species, dedicating time to conserving marine habitats, or exploring in support of the preservation of cultural or human resources, in my mind you are an activist. The difference that I perceive in the Explorers Club is that our 'activists' generally do not proselytize or attempt to impose their internal beliefs on the rest of us. Explorers seem to let their exploits and accomplishments speak for them.

As our world becomes increasingly polarized, both sociologically and environmentally, it is the explorer who is often poised to observe the dichotomy. Traveling to remote regions often brings one face-to-face with the inequities and mistreatment of our world. Few can remain unaffected in some way or another, and many adopt positions of purposeful involvement that extend beyond their initial exploit.

Although I would never advocate the official adoption of any one particular viewpoint as a representation of the Club's values, I believe that the Explorers Club already embodies an ethos of activism, and I'm pleased to be associated with such a group.

Just don't try to tell me how to vote!  
—Stephen E. Smith, FN'96

Our mailed newsletter is in digitally printed black & white. Yet most of the photos are in color! To experience this, see a 'pdf' version at our web site. For the best printing, a higher-resolution few-mB pdf is available upon request..

# Evolution

@ The Explorers Club

At our last meeting we toasted the chapter's 30th anniversary in the same room where the first meeting was held. I asked Ron Reuther to jot down some notes, which he was kind to do. We decided, just before this issue's deadline, to include them as a supplement to acknowledge this passage of time. Thanks to ex-Chairman Reuther for these memories; it is worthwhile knowing how we have come to be.

Here is a summary of our past chapter leaders:

- Charles Elkus (1973-1976)
- Richard Finnie (1976-1984)
- Carlton Skinner (1985-1989)
- Ronald Reuther (1989-1994)
- Robert Schmieder (1995-1998)
- William Isherwood (1999-2000)
- Lesley Ewing (2001-2002)
- Stephen Smith (2003- )

Read Ron's remembrances to learn about these explorers.

We have met for 30 years and, as Ron notes, there has been involvement by many besides those who sit in the Chair. We shall continue to thrive if members participate. There are several tasks, so step forth and contact Steve or me! Encourage new memberships. Submit an article. With the same spirit, we are developing next year's programs: do you have suggestions?

—Lee Langan, FN'99

## In full and lively color!

Our mailed newsletter is in digitally printed black & white. Yet most of the photos are in color! To experience this, see a 'pdf' version at our web site. For the best printing, a higher-resolution few-mB pdf is available upon request..

Please make your checks out to The Explorers Club, Northern California Chapter,

and mail with this form to:

**Dr. Stephen E. Smith**  
402 Via Royal  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces for March 28, 2003, at the St. Francis Yacht Club.  
Cost: \$55 each by Mar 24; \$60 if postmarked thereafter (contact Steve at [nauticos@oceanearth.org](mailto:nauticos@oceanearth.org) or 924 934-1051 to assure a reservation).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if changed): \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

meal choice (please circle):

meat

fish

vegetarian

## **Northern California 2002-2003 Event Calendar**

(Mark the dates! Future venues to be determined)

September 27, 2002 St Francis Yacht Club	Ugo Conti	"Outer Adventure, Inner Journey"
October 25, 2002 St Francis Yacht Club	Reid Dennis	"Chasing the Ghost of Amelia Earhart"
December 6, 2002 UCSF, Laurel Heights	Chris McKay	"From Antarctica to Mars: The Search for Life"
January 31, 2003 St. Francis Yacht Club	Tom Joyce	"Hajj - The Journey of a Lifetime"
February 28, 2003 St. Francis Yacht Club	Anne Keiser	"Sir Edmund Hillary and the People of Everest"

**March 28, 2003**      **Jim Allan**  
**St. Francis Yacht Club**

**"In the Deep and In the Dirt:  
A Look at California's Maritime Archaeology"**

April 25, 2003	Martin A. Pomerantz	"Astrophysics in Antarctica: Observing the Universe from the South Pole"
May 30, 2003	Terry O'Brien	"Fair God and Feathered Serpents".
June, 2003	Chapter Picnic	

Please note venues with care. The March 28 meeting is at  
St. Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco.

(When copying the URL addresses be sure to keep them all on one line; most are also available as links on our Chapter web site.)

### *March 2003*

Dr. Stephen E. Smith  
The Explorers Club  
Northern California Chapter  
402 Via Royal  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



## THIRTY YEARS OF EXPLORATION

### Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club, Founded February 12, 1973

**Joseph S. Rychetnik, FN'67**, had recently arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area, having become a member of the Club while he was in Alaska. His sponsor was **Lowell Thomas**, Honorary President of the Club, and his co-sponsor was **Wendell Phillips, FN'51**, noted Explorer in Africa and the Middle-East. Joe, a humorous raconteur, had been a staff member of the U.C. Berkeley Expedition from Cairo to Capetown, '46-47, the Time-Life Bureau Chief in Portland, Oregon, and Anchorage, a National Geographic photographer, a hunter and fisherman and expert in guns and knives, and most recently an Alaskan State Trooper. He also was a former teenage Merchant Marine seaman under Kamikaze attack in the Pacific in WWII and a U.S. Marine Corps aerial ordinance man and combat infantryman in the Korean War. Finding there was no existing chapter in the area, Joe approached **Charles de Young Elkus, Jr, FN'54**, a partner in a large San Francisco law firm, about forming a chapter.

Charlie was a member of a prominent San Francisco family and, along with his family, was heavily involved in promoting and protecting the rights, culture, and well-being of Southwestern American Indians. He explored much of the homeland of the Southwestern Indians and was a past Director of the Intertribal Indian Ceremonial Association of Gallup, NM. He was instrumental in forming an extensive collection of Indian art and artifacts which is now in the California Academy of Sciences. The collection is so large that only portions of it can be exhibited at any one time.

Charlie, a natural and humorous leader, was agreeable to establishing a local chapter and assisted and allowed Joe to use his office, secretarial help, and phones. They contacted local members of the Club and encouraged them to assist in forming the Northern California chapter. From the start the concept included Explorers living from San Luis Obispo and Fresno north to the Oregon border plus those in Northern Nevada.

The first meeting occurred on February 12, 1973, at the St. Francis Yacht Club on the shore of our glorious and historical San Francisco Bay. Charlie was a member of the Club and sponsored the meeting. He had contacted the New York Headquarters to determine what was required to establish a Chapter and was elected the Chapter's first Chairman. **Richard "Klondike Dick" S. Finnie, E'38**, historian for the Bechtel Corporation, author, and north-Canadian explorer, was elected Vice Chairman. Joe Rychetnik was elected Secretary/Editor and Program Chairman, and **Richard "Dick" Fullerton, MN**, a professional financial executive, was elected Treasurer. The Chapter began to grow.

The pattern then established was to hold monthly Friday dinner meetings with a break in the summer months of June, July, and August and with the November and December meetings combined in early December. There was no formal incorporation, and from the start women were invited as guests. This made the Northern California Chapter unique, as all other Chapters excluded women from their meetings. Thus our Chapter led the way; it was not until about 1984 that the Club as a whole included woman members under the leadership of then National President **Charles Brush, PhD, MED'50** (who later shared membership in our Chapter and in the New York headquarters.) Chapter meetings were, from the start, informal; they feature a cocktail hour, dinner, comments from members, and a formal presentation by an Explorer. One particularly outstanding meeting during Charlie's tenure was a two-day event with a Friday dinner meeting at the Stanford Faculty Club and a Saturday tour of NASA's Ames Laboratory with some of the astronauts.

Charlie Elkus became a member of the National Board of Directors of the Club, was a member of the Legal Committee, and participated in the formulation of procedural rules for the Chapters. Charlie died on May 25, 1976.

After Elkus' death Dick Finnie was elected Chairman in September 1976. **Carleton Skinner, FN'62** was elected Vice Chairman, and Joe Rychetnik was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer and Program Chairman. (Joe had assumed the position of Chapter Treasurer in addition to Secretary in 1975.) Skinner was a former U.S. Coast Guard officer in WWII, former Governor-General of Guam and an authority on the Pacific Ocean islands, Honorary Consul of Nauru, and business man. Chapter member **Don Patterson, MN**, a recognized lepidopterist, became a National Board Member during this time. A tradition of annual Spring Garden Parties hosted by **Carey Baldwin, FN'75** at his home in Fairfax, began late in Finnie's tenure. After Carey died, the always well attended parties were named in his honor as the Annual Carey Baldwin Memorial Spring Garden Party. Carey, a great humorous story-teller, had been the long-time Director of the San Francisco Zoo. Also late in Finnie's tenure, **Don Johanson, PhD, FN'76** became a National Board Member and later an Honorary Director. Don is a noted paleoanthropologist who found and described "Lucy", then the oldest known human female fossil!

Finnie stepped down in 1984 and was succeeded by Skinner. **Ronald T. Reuther, FN'74** became Vice Chairman and Program Chairman. **Harold Chipman, MN'82**, served as Secretary from 1984 to 1985; **Krist Jake, MN'78**, served from 1986 to 1989. **Henry Hotchkiss, MN'80**, was Treasurer from 1984 to 1986. Reuther had earlier been a member of the Philadelphia Chapter. He had been elected Treasurer of our chapter in 1980 and Secretary/Editor/Program Chairman in 1983, succeeding Rychetnik. He was a professional wildlife conservationist who had been Director of several major U.S. zoological parks and a President of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, the national organization of such organizations. A co-founder of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, he also had been an officer in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army, a pilot, and founder of the Western Aerospace Museum at the Oakland International Airport. Chipman had been a career CIA officer who spoke more than 12 languages. He had served in positions all over the world. Hotchkiss was a sailor and professional financial officer. His father had been a long-time member of The Explorers Club. Jake is a serious kayaker; he has spent considerable time kayaking in Alaska and along the U.S. Pacific coast. He was a computer businessman. During Skinner's tenure the Chapter hosted the first Explorers Club Western Annual Meeting, October 24-25, 1986 with a Friday night reception at the Elk's Club, a Saturday afternoon program in the California Academy of Sciences, and Dinner at the Elk's Club, all in San Francisco. Reuther served as Program Chairman. During Skinner's tenure the annual Spring Garden Parties continued at the home of Erna Baldwin. Also chapter-member **Sylvia Earle, PhD, FN'81**, a famous marine biologist and deep-sea diver, became a member of the National Board of Directors and later Honorary Director. She chaired important positions in the Club's leadership.

Skinner served as Chairman until 1989. Reuther succeeded him and **Robert Ogg, LF'80**, was elected Vice Chairman and served through 1991. **Folger (Jerry) Athearn Jr., MN'82**, had become Treasurer in 1986, succeeding Henry Hotchkiss, and served until 1992, when he was succeeded by **Charles Southall, MN'91**, until 1994, followed by **Morton Beebe, FN'78**. **Robert W. Schmieder, PhD**,

**FN'86**, became Secretary in 1989, serving until 1992, when he was succeeded by **Michael F. Diggles, MN'92**. Ogg had been a U.S. Navy intelligence officer in the Pacific in WWII and was an authority in electronic and radio communications, a sailor, and owned a large ship chandlery on the U.S. East Coast. Athearn, whose father was also a member of the Club, had been a U.S. Navy transportation officer and had served in the Antarctic. He owned a transportation data service company. Southhall was a former U.S. Navy pilot and CIA officer in North Africa and other areas. In civilian life he was in finance. Beebe is a professional photographer who was a U.S. Navy pilot and public information officer on several tours in the Antarctic. Schmieder was a physicist serving on the staff of Sandia Laboratory in Livermore, CA. He is also an oceanographer, sailor, and diver and was instrumental in establishing the Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuary. He also has a special interest in ham radio and DX (distant station) expeditions. He has written several books. Diggles was a professional geologist on the staff of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park with strong involvement with the Sierra Nevada and computerization. He became the Chapter Webmaster in 1994 and spearheaded the National Headquarters going on the internet. Under his guidance our chapter became the first to have a web site. During Reuther's tenure a number of successful chapter excursions were made to various Northern California sites including NASA Ames Laboratory, Lake Tahoe, Sacramento, Monterey, and San Simeon, which was a first-time joint meeting with the Southern California Chapter (now divided into the Los Angeles and the San Diego Chapters). The annual Chapter Spring Garden Parties continued at the Baldwin home.

The Explorers Club Annual Dinner (ECAD) in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City has always been a very entertaining and informative event. It is associated with the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the Club held in the Club Headquarters. During Reuther's term the Chapter typically had strong attendance at both. **George McCowan, MN'88**, was then and has been a consistent ECAD Dinner Patron. He is a mountain climber and trekker.

Reuther stepped down in 1995 and was succeeded by Schmieder as Chairman. Schmieder had become Vice Chairman and Program Chairman in 1992 succeeding Ogg. **William Isherwood, PhD, FN'80**, became Vice Chairman. **Charles L. Geraci, MD, MN'92**, became Secretary. Folger Athearn again became Treasurer in 1996, succeeding Beebe. Isherwood was on the staff of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory as an environmental officer and was an experienced mountain climber (on all seven continents) and polar explorer. He had founded the Rocky Mountain Chapter of The Explorers Club. Geraci was a surgeon. He has explored many areas of the globe with a special interest in Indian culture in Baja California. During Schmieder's tenure, we had the second and larger, more ornate Explorer's Club Western Annual Meeting, called the "Golden Gateway." Venues were the U.S. Maritime Museum and the Stanford Court Hotel, both in San Francisco. A third such event followed two-years later with a reception at the World Trade Club on a Friday night and an elaborate Saturday Dinner and program at the Fairmont Hotel. Both of these events featured notable Explorers from out of town as speakers. During Schmieder's tenure a tradition of an Annual Spring Picnic on Angel Island began, after Erna Baldwin was no longer able to host the Garden Party. The Chapter started a scholarship program honoring prominent Chapter member **Dan Reid, MD, FN'82**, a heart surgeon and distinguished U.S. Army Vietnam combat doctor who as an experienced mountain climber and leader. He was the first person to climb the East Face of Mount Everest; he and his wife were killed in a snow avalanche on Mt. Kenya in the '90s.

Schmieder was succeeded by Isherwood in 1999. **Lesley Ewing, FN'93** became Vice Chairman and Program Chairperson and **Thomas L. Hall, MD, FN'97** became the March 2003 Newsletter Supplement

Treasurer succeeding Athearn. **Sue Estey, PhD, FN'92**, became Secretary/Newsletter Editor. Diggles continued as Webmaster. Ewing is a mechanical engineer and staff member of the California Coastal Commission. She has a special interest in beach erosion and protection and undersea exploration. Hall is a public health epidemiologist on the staff of the University of California in San Francisco. He travels worldwide studying and consulting and is a sailor, pilot, and biker. Estey is a marine biologist with interests in underwater photography, sea kayaking, reef surveys, sailing, and mountaineering. During Isherwood's tenure the Chapter contributed funds to assist a young Tibetan student gain an education. The annual Angel Island Spring Picnics continued.

In 2001, Isherwood was succeeded by Ewing, our first female Chair. **Stephen E. Smith, PhD, FN'96**, became Vice Chairman and Program Chairman. Hall continued as Treasurer, and **Lee Langan, FN'99** became Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Diggles continued as Webmaster. Smith is involved in the energy business developing alternatives to the traditional utility sources of energy. He is a dive instructor and scientific diver with special interests in coral reef protection, heads a non-profit organization studying coral reefs in Micronesia and is the Dive Safety Officer for St. Mary's College of Moraga, CA. Langan is a geophysicist with special interests in archeology, the Mayan culture, and physical measurements. During Ewing's tenure the Angel Island Spring Picnics continued.

In January 2003 Ewing stepped down and was succeeded as Chairman by Steve Smith. Langan was elected Vice Chairman; he continues as Editor, Hall continues as Treasurer, and Diggles continues as Webmaster.

Over the years the Chapter, now numbering from about 150 members, has had many interesting meetings and speakers. Our traditional and favored venue has been the St. Francis Yacht Club, but occasionally we have, and do, meet at other places in Berkeley, San Rafael, and on the Peninsula. In recent years we have regularly had a Spring Reception hosted by **Daniel Liebowitz, MD, MN'66**, and his wife Rusty at their home in Woodside, followed by a dinner in a close-by restaurant. Dan is an internist. He has visited Africa many times and has written several fiction and factual books on Africa and some it's interesting explorers.

The regular meetings have had attendance ranging from 30 to 120 people depending upon the speaker, the location, the weather, and the distance. One meeting featuring Bruce Bolt, PhD, a world famous seismologist and head of the U.C. Berkeley Seismology Department talking about earthquakes, closed unexpectedly with an honest to goodness earthquake! We have had guests from other Explorer Club Chapter members, several International Presidents and Board Members, and National Chapter-Relations Chairmen, a position created partly from Ron Reuther's active involvement in National Board meetings and committee work.

The Chapter has been proud to call two Nobel Prize winners as members: **Charles Townes, PhD, FN'78**, and **Arthur Schawlow, PhD, FN'78**, brothers-in-law and both physics professors and researchers distinguished for their discoveries in laser physics. Other particularly distinguished Chapter members have been **General "Jimmy" Doolittle, MED'42**, and **General "Chuck" Yeager, HON'63**, both highly distinguished aviators.

All together, the Northern California Chapter, now third largest in the Club, is composed of many outstanding and notable Explorers. It continues to thrive under good leadership with good speakers and good fellowship, all enhancing, stimulating, and commemorating the exploration of the world we live in.

Joe died March 5, 2003. He was very pleased with the growth and success of our (and his) Chapter. Charlie and Joe were, deservedly so, proud of their founding efforts.

Ron Reuther, E'74