

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

May 2005

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Boudreau

Sebastopol - May 29, 2005 Eugene & Sibyl Boudreau Comments on Northern Kenya & Mexico's Tarahumara

Another chance to visit a home museum! Sibyl and Gene Boudreau (FN02) have invited all members of the chapter to visit the Boudreau home in Sebastopol on Sunday of the Memorial Day weekend. To enjoy the weather, the social meeting will begin at 3 p. m.

With the exception that the Boudreaus have been to northern Kenya since last year's meeting they plan to repeat the fun—cocktails and wine, a great roast-beef dinner, a brief talk about their experience in Africa and an auction of some of their artifacts. Last year's

auction benefited the Chapter nearly \$1000! And, it was a good time.

To be fair to our hosts please be sure to reserve a space! There is no cost, but plans must be made to slack our thirst and fill our hunger. The Boudreaus do well at accomplishing both.

LOCATION

Date Sunday, May 29, 2005
Place: Boudreau Home
1209 Beattie Lane,
Sebastopol
Time: 3:00 pm, host drinks
4:30 dinner, hosted
Cost: We are guests of
Gene & Sibyl Boudreau
PLEASE RESERVE!

Reach Steve at
nauticos@oceanearth.org
or 925 934-1051

Reservation Form on page 5



Langan



Langan

Our hosts
at home

continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

They need to know who is coming! The reservations, by using the form in this newsletter or by phone, are important.

While this is a wonderful opportunity to gather and enjoy each other's company the art, the writings and the native pieces that they have collected give a tactile insight into the cultures the Boudreaus know so well. In particular Gene is a recognized expert

on the Tarahumara Indians of the Sierra Madre Mountains of northern Mexico (see our March 2004 newsletter.)

Come learn and socialize. Enjoy their hospitality. All Chapter members, each with a guest, are welcome. Prospective members are invited, as well. Let them know by use of the reservation form on by contacting Steve.



Langen

The Boudreau Home

Go See Great Aerial Pictures in San Francisco's Presidio

Herb Lingl (FN02) has a great job: he takes aerial pictures. Good ones. A few years back he put together one of the most remarkable evenings ever devoted to this craft: he assembled six giants of the field to talk about what they do and to show their stuff. If you missed it, sorry, for the images and enthusiasm that flowed forth were astounding.

For the past year or so Herb has been flying south of the border over Mexico, D.F. He is delighted to be partnered with the legendary Robert Cameron to help create the newest "Above..." photographic book. The most pleasure is to work with his friend Bob Cameron, twice his age and still working every day. Cameron & Co., located in the newly renamed San Francisco neighborhood of the Barbary Coast, publishes all of those "Above San Francisco," and other places of the world (16 in all, so far,) books. The two aerial photographers developed mutual respect after Herb, who founded *Aerial Archives* more than a decade ago, began dropping in on Bob to get copies of Bob's books signed. The visits became more frequent and the collaborative Mexico City project developed. Their book was published last Summer.

What you do not want to miss now is the grand exhibition currently at the Officers' Club in the Presidio. Many of you have Cameron's books (millions have been sold!), but few see

some of these great photographs so enlarged— 58 are on display! "From Above: A Robert Cameron Retrospective, A Life's Work in Aerial Photography" has been extended through July 31, on Wednesday through Sunday (11 am – 5 pm.) The Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue, is at the 'top' of the parade ground. Oh yes— the exhibit is FREE! Tell your friends.

Just as special, there will be a rare screening of Cameron's 1973 film, narrated by Orson Welles, "Above San Francisco" on Wednesday, May 25, at the Presidio's Golden Gate Club, 135 Fisher Loop. There will be two FREE screenings: 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. The exhibit will be open at the Presidio Officers' Club until 7 pm the night of the screening. The film lasts forty-five minutes and is shown courtesy of the University of California Pacific Film Archive.

These pictures, all extracted from the Cameron & Co. web site, are examples of both photographers' work. To see more, visit:

<http://abovebooks.com/>



Robert W. Cameron



Biking High Usher, Miller, Moore San Francisco



Three colleagues rode their mountain bikes along the barren beauty of the roof of the world and came to tell us about the experience. In the spirit of the Club they travelled to remote places, gathered important information and reported their findings. They measured the hearts of the group, as exerted by eleven young and older cyclists at altitudes only accessible in this manner. They found important differences in all who had trained for the endurance; for one, those over sixty (our speakers) were initially more greatly stressed at altitude but they recovered more quickly after acclimatization. Details will be available, on line at the Explorers Club, in their Flag 147 Report.



(All photos courtesy the speakers.)

Kirk Usher (MN98) introduced the Indian environment taking us from sea level, and some of the architectural glories of that crowded subcontinent, to the site of the cycling expedition in Leh, Ladakh. This mountain location, bordering on Pakistan, China and Tibet, north of the spine of the Himalayas, is the least populated province of the country with just over 100,000 people. Dan Moore described the adjustments their bodies required, beginning at Delhi at 900', to the 11,500' plateau of the High Indus Valley, and their initial climb to the highest roadway pass in the world at 18,350'. He then took us along the 250-mile ups and downs across a half-dozen other high passes, and numerous military check points, to their destination Manali at only 6000' elevation. Bob Miller (FN05) concluded the talk with a presentation of the scientific findings of their study on the effects of altitude on the heart.



This expedition was a strenuous feat, and it clearly changed the members who participated, bringing them close in respect for the people they met and the stark beauty of the land. From various vistas they could see K2, the second highest peak in the world and Kanchenjunga the world's third in elevation. Camping in the frigid high valleys the stars above were unlike any most people experience, zillions! As quoted from mystic Andrew Harvey, "You must go to Ladakh; it will change your life." *Veritas.*



The Ushers, the Moores, the Millers with bikes packed for home.

**The Explorer's Club of San Francisco
Cordially invites you to an Angel Island Picnic/BBQ
Saturday, June 18th, 2005
10:30 am to 3 pm**

- Join fellow Explorers and Friends for a Tour of Angel Island
- Come for the exercise or the camaraderie at this beautiful location
(also known as the "Ellis Island of the West")
- Tour the Bay with the *Cordell Explorer*

Ferries depart for Angel Island from Alameda, Oakland, San Francisco's Pier 41 and Tiburon. Meet on the Island at the picnic site near the ferry dock from 10:30 am to hike, bike, or go for a tram tour around the island. Charcoal ready at about 12:30 pm for a picnic/BBQ

Again this year, Bob Schmieder (FN86) and his *Cordell Explorer* will be making the trip from the Berkeley Marina, Slip 112, departing at 9:00 am **PROMPTLY**. For those of you who haven't done this before, it's worth the extra effort to come to Berkeley first, and enjoy a morning on the water in the comfort of the 42-foot research vessel that can accommodate up to 30 people in comfort. Let Bob know if you're coming with him.

schmieder@cordell.org or (925) 934-3735

Bring your own picnic lunch or items for grilling, if you wish. Bikes are available for rent. Lots to do, and plenty of time to talk, laugh, sing or just snooze. Maybe even bocce ball! Or take a fascinating tram tour journey into the Island's military history and cultural past. We will provide the basics: hotdogs to cook and chips, etc. to nosh, and we will welcome contributions of gourmet salads and other healthy or otherwise nibblys. Please let us know so we can plan the supplies.

SEE YOU THERE!!!



Contact Anders & Kathy:
ajviking@aol.com
or (925) 254-3079

Cycling the Silk Web

Alan Nichols (MN84), with his wife Becky, are currently biking his fourth and last leg of the complete Silk Route; we will have a lecture next year, but here are excerpts from their email:

"16,000 miles from home to Kashgar, Xinjiang, China, today April 1. This town was the historic Silk Web hub no matter which strand you travelled, outpost for the spies in the Great Game of Central Asia and trade center for every product, idea, and religion of any importance for the last 2500 years and more. But the Chinese are marginalizing the locals and the history. We felt the shrinking of the old system on our walk through Kashgar's oldest mosque and surrounding indigenous culture and peoples.

"May 1st: You haven't heard from us...but we made it the first 1000 miles across the Taklamaton, most of the Western Gobi and the Silk Web historic cities of Kashgar, Yeching, Khotan, Qiemo, Korla, Turpan, Dunhang to the Jade Gate into Han, China.

"We've sent three advisor reports, but it must have been bad poetry. Our emails are blocked since police interrupted the report. We'll keep cycling southeast."

To be continued...

Evolution @ The Explorers Club

There just is not adequate time to create a new newsletter after the May meeting and before the June picnic outing. SO, I urge you not to miss the picnic on Sunday, June 18th, at Angel Island. Former Chair Bob Schmieder's boating offer is a great way to go. Travel from Tiburon is also easy. The island is a special oasis. The outing is a restful occasion. Come one; come all. Plan on it! Also try not to miss the Sonoma County meeting. The Boudreaux are generously hospitable and Sibyl's food is great! Besides you can see the rewards of their field efforts in a most congenial environment.

Details for the Fall election are not complete in time for this issue. However, included in the first newsletter in September will be your ballot. As previously discussed, the Chapter will elect at our first meeting, and the new officers will take over on January 1st.

The initiative opening between The Explorers Club and the Eagle Scouts is one of unique opportunity. Quite by coincidence, one of our last speakers (Kirk Usher) has deep ties with scouting: he is an Eagle Scout, been on the Executive Board of the BSA SF Bay Area Council for over fifteen years and is related to the current National President. Kirk has volunteered to help in any way he can. Do we have other scouts who will step forward? Contact Kirk, Dave Moorer or any officer.

While it is early, I wish you all a splendid Summer, good field experiences, and the hope for finding something new as you explore.

—Lee Langan (FN99)

The Chapter Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

Time flies when you are having great time and this year has been no exception. "All of a sudden" we find ourselves at the last lecture meeting of the season, with a great deal to do to prepare for the balance of the year.

After much anticipation we have finally received the Chapter briefing on the new National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) initiative. The new membership drive launches this month with the publication of an article and an invitation to apply for membership in the NESA Journal, the *Eagletter*. The *Eagletter* has a subscriber base of over 170,000. Assuming an expected two to three percent rate of response, the club could anticipate three to five thousand applications! Obviously, this would be an avalanche as compared to our typical application rate, and national headquarters has designed a special process to facilitate review and response. The Northern California Chapter will receive the applications of potential members after they have been pre-screened by national. It will then be up to us to vet and find sponsors for each Northern California area applicant. Be forewarned that we will be calling on a number of you to be involved in the sponsorship process. We look forward to what should be an interesting and rewarding experience.

Last month's lecture meeting was a great success from a number of standpoints. First, the turnout was exceptional, a salute to the topic and to the speakers. Second, we recruited two new volunteers to help in the club operations. Kathy Jepsen will be now be handling meeting nametags, a task that has been woefully neglected recently. Also, member Dave Moorer has volunteered to take part in the NESA initiative, which could easily overwhelm our

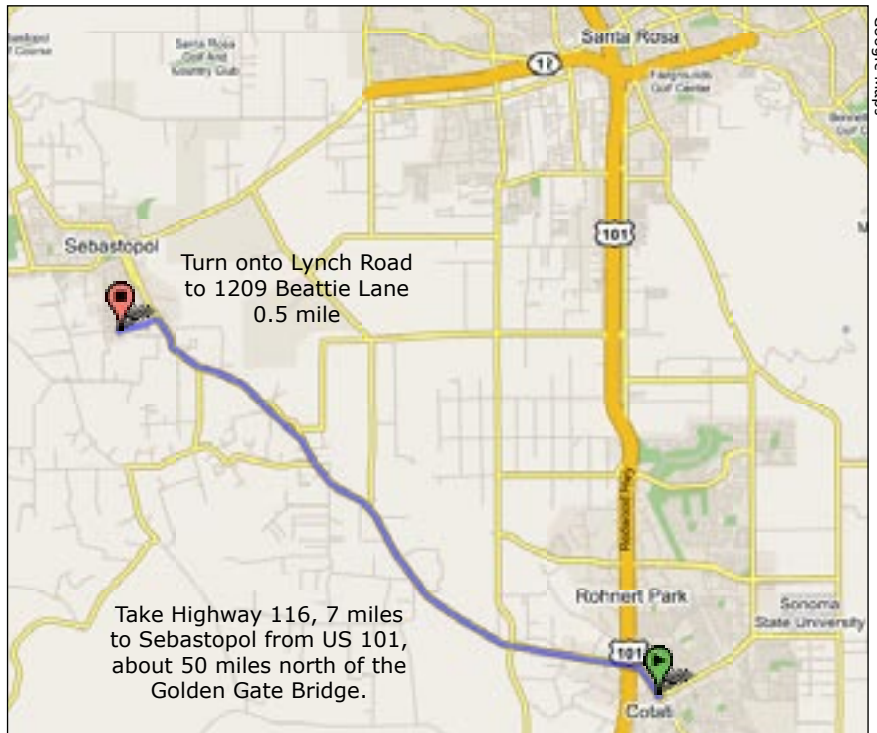
time resources. Profuse thanks to each of these individuals for stepping up to the plate. We still have other areas in which we need help – in particular the Newsletter. So, once again, if you have an editorial or reporter's nature, consider volunteering for a season of edifying the membership.

During the March 2005 Chapter Chairs' meeting in New York we discussed a number of ideas which various chapters have implemented, both for their present membership, and to encourage new members. One that I found particularly interesting was the recording the chapter's monthly lectures for posterity. We have outstanding individuals presenting each month, and many of our members are unable to attend due to timing, distance considerations, or physical limitations. I would like to propose that we begin recording our lectures and making them available for loan to Chapter members. The state of today's technology makes this fairly straightforward.

However, we would need to identify one or more "videographers" to man a camera and facilitate the process. Budding George Lucas's who might be interested in providing such a service are invited to contact one of your officers so that we can investigate feasibility and approaches.

To close out our season we have a very special meeting planned, hosted by Gene and Sibyl Boudreau at their lovely home in Sebastopol. Last year we had a highly spirited auction to benefit of the club, as well as an expanded time to socialize, not normally characteristic of our more formal meetings. The Boudreau's will also be discussing their explorations in Northern Kenya. I strongly encourage you to attend and get to know your fellow explorers a bit better. I'll look forward to seeing you on May 29th. (p.s. Don't forget to mark your calendar for June 18th, the date of the annual Angel Island picnic.)

—Stephen E. Smith, FN96



Google Maps

Please reserve _____ spaces for May 29, 2005, at the Boudreau home.

There is no cost for members and their partner.

The meeting is hosted by the Boudreaus

Annual Chapter dues are payable: just \$20!

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Guest(s): _____

Please mail this form to
Dr. Stephen E. Smith
402 Via Royal
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
or, preferably, email
nauticos@oceanearth.org
or call 925 934-1051

Northern California 2004-2005 Event Calendar

(Mark the dates! Venues will be identified at time of event.)

October 19, 2004	Peter Pyle	"Birds on the Farallons & Across the Pacific"
The City Club, San Francisco		
November 19, 2004	Cagan Sekercioglu	"Angolan Ornithological Expedition 2004"
Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco		
December 19, 2004	James Chester	"Extreme Digital Photography"
Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco		
January 28, 2005	Duane Silverstein	"Saving Ocean Islands"
Dolphin Club, San Francisco		
February 25, 2005	David Moyer	"Operation Deep Freeze"
Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco		
March 19, 2005	ECAD	"101 Years of The Explorers Club"
Waldorf Astoria, New York		
March 25, 2005	Andrew Urbanczyk	"Transpacific Raft Expedition (A Guinness World Record)"
Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco		
April 22, 2005	Kirk Usher	"Biking Performance Physiology in the Himalayas"
Sinbad's Restaurant, San Francisco		

May 29, 2005 Gene & Sibyl Boudreau Northern Kenya Exploring plus Tarahumara Artifacts
Sebastopol

June 18, 2005 Chapter Picnic Contact Anders Jepsen to help: <ajviking@aol.com>
Angel Island

Please note venues and dates with care.

**May 29th is a SUNDAY meeting at
the Boudreau home in Sebastopol**

In full and lively color!

To experience this newsletter in color,
see the PDF version at our web site.

(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.)

May 2005

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

