

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

September-October 2006

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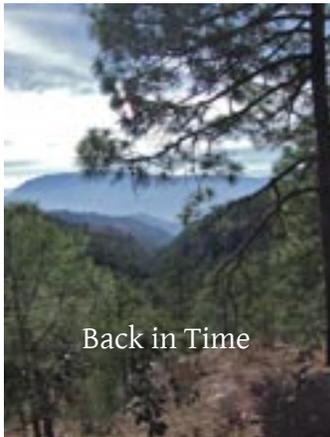
Gene Boudreau
Lee Langan

Tarahumara Expedition

September 17, 2006

Once again we have been invited to enjoy the hospitality of Gene and Sibyl Boudreau at their Sebastopol home. What a nice way to begin our year of meetings! Those who have attended before have enjoyed the opportunity to interact and observe Gene's ever-increasing collection of artifacts.

Lee will present a slide show of the expedition Gene and he made in April of this year into the Sierra Madre.



Back in Time

Jim Moore

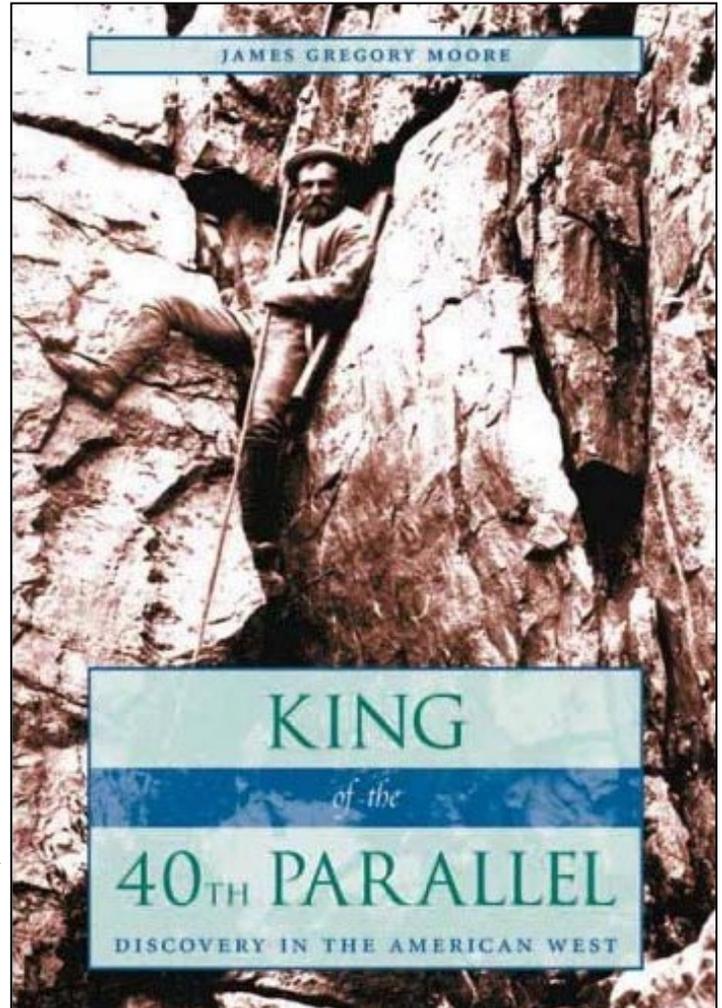
King of the USGS

October 13,
2006

James G. Moore spoke to us in May, 2001, about the High Sierras; he returns to speak about Clarence King, the founder of the U S Geologic Survey and an explorer of the first order. Jim's new book, which will be available, is touted as a captivating account of science and adventure in the early West.

Jim, now retired from the U. S. Geological Survey, received his B.S. in Geology from Stanford University, M.S. from the University of Washington, and Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. He has conducted geologic studies for several decades in the central Sierra Nevada.

Jim also served as Scientist-in-Charge of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory and has investigated about 20 on-going volcanic eruptions worldwide. He has participated in over 25 oceanographic cruises and in 50 dives in research submarines mostly to the submerged flanks of young volcanoes.



September LOCATION

Date Sunday, 17 September '06
Place: Boudreau Home
1209 Beattie Lane, Sebastopol
Time: 3:00 pm, drinks
4:00 pm talk/buffet
Cost: FREE to members &
reserved guests of members

Leave message for Sibyl at
707 824-8241
(Anders is travelling)

Reservation Form on page 5
Please reserve promptly!

October LOCATION

Date Friday, 13 October 2006
Place: Golden Gate Yacht Club
The Marina, San Francisco
Time: 6:30 pm, no host drinks
7:15 dinner; 8:00 talk
Cost: \$50

Reach Anders at
ajviking@aol.com
925 254-3079

!

Reservation Form on page 5
Please reserve promptly!

Finding an Old World in the New World

Ed Von der Porten Sheldon Breiner San Francisco

Ed Von der Porten chronicled the exploration that began when his historian's eye caught sight of Chinese porcelain in a display of colonial Spanish ceramics in Mexico in 1997. Where did this come from? He was told the site was secret but in Mexico; he knew immediately that the pieces had to be from a "Manila Galleon."

These ships were the extension of Columbus' dream to reach the Orient. From the late 1500s to the mid-1600s, sailing ships followed the trade winds west to the Far East with silver. They returned using the Pacific's Westerlies laden with Asia's goods. These voyages took three months going and six to return, at best. Many failed the journey, and these pieces indicated the location of one such failure.

With much persuasion and patient perseverance, Ed was finally allowed to join the beach combers; the exact location remains guarded to this day to prevent looting.

There has followed four each-more-complex-than-the-prior expeditions along the shore of Baja California. The search area is vast—yes, vast is a relative term, but if one was plunked down among the dunes along this coast he or she could as well be in the Sahara. The region is barren; the climate is coastal-desert dry; the weather pattern extremely routine. For half each day the winds blow from the same direction causing loose sand to march across the hard pan. Dunes up to forty-feet high, smaller along the immediate shore, shift an inch each day!

What Ed found was a pattern of Ming shards extending for miles! On each expedition the pattern was extended, for the dunes covering the old shoreline would have moved. Old surfaces would be covered; new ones opened. Luck was with the explorers for the beach was building seaward.

Nearly 2000 pieces of porcelain have been found. The diversity of the patterns and shapes has led



Mort Breibe

to the conclusion that this was an early cruise filled with 'samples' to determine what Mexico or Spain might want. Alas, the cargo was never received. The ship became a ghost stranded on a lonely shore for centuries.

Good lab work and the dedication of art historians narrowed the span of years the voyage could have taken place. At one point in his search, Ed came upon "*The History of Micronesia*." This early book contained a list of all Manila Galleons ever built! The wreck was pinpointed; she is the *San Felipe*; her fateful voyage was in 1576. However, only bits of her cargo have been retrieved!

Sheldon Breiner is known about the world for finding the lost relics of civilizations past. He is particularly known in Mexico, where he located a large Olmec head. Early on Sheldon joined the hunt, but his magnetometers found no signals. On the third expeditions, metal detectors located lead remnants from the ship. Several were located and they too extended along the ancient shoreline. Sheldon took to the sea, in the region

Von der Porten, Breiner & Langan at GGYC pointed to by an extension of the pattern; old anchors or last ballast stones might be found.

On expedition four, a very sensitive cesium magnetometer, towed in a small boat, identified a striking anomaly in the earth's magnetic field. Nearby smaller aberrations could be seen. The *San Felipe* surely has to be below the bottom sands! Fortunately these signals are seaward of the surf in about fifteen feet of water. The sand could provide another ten feet of cover.

Now the explorers must verify this geophysical signal. They have to dredge away the sand. The first attempt to do so was not successful; unfortunately the suction device they tried to use buried itself!

And, so, this is the state of the exploration. The ship lies enticingly close. It could still contain cargo almost 450 years old. Careful deduction infers the lower part of the hull may remain in tact. The task at hand is to sweep away the covering sand. Not a simply task. Not inexpensive.



Von der Porten

A Return to Angel Island Aboard Bob Schmieder's *Cordell Explorer* San Francisco Bay



Let the photographs speak for the good times had on June 17th on the cruise to Angel Island, and return for our Annual Chapter Picnic. It was more well attended than in recent years: the word is getting around that the day-on-the-Bay is well worth the relaxation and camaraderie. A highlight this year: our young student member, Kyle Rothschild, entertained with his bagpipes.

Many thanks to Dave Moorer for his successful plans. Done so well that he will recap in 2007!



Familiar Chapter faces.

An impromptu oceanographic sampler lesson.

Brooke Rothschild, captain in training.



Note: Remember Don Walsh's observation that the artifacts from the Titanic are on a touring exhibition? It is at the *Metreon* in San Francisco, for a fee!



Better late than Never

David Smith formally recognized almost 40 years after award!

Back in 1969, David Miln Smith (MN83) was inducted into The International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. But the committee couldn't find him. Well, by May 13th this year they did! Smith officially received the reward at the Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He joined the exclusive company of Gertrude Ederle, Florence Chadwick and Johnny "Tarzan" Weismuller.

The award, presented by Dale Petranec, Chairman of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame, was for being the first person to swim from Africa to Europe, among other distance swims. John Evans, noted expert on Leadership, introduced Smith, saying, "Besides being an international marathon swimmer, Dr. David Miln Smith is an international humanitarian. He is an ambassador of good will, an innovator of adventure sports and 'the extreme.' But swimming distances is only one side of David. He's also a writer of books on health and wellness, personal change and overcoming fear. Over the past 27 years, he's led 54 wilderness adventures for schizophrenic patients on the Appalachian Trail and conducted 290 programs in prisons, including San Quentin, on how to 'get a job instead of do a job.'"



<http://www.adventuresmith.net/>

Dale Petranec presents award to David on May 13th actual photo from the Africa swim promo picture for David's 'Overcoming Fear' lectures.

Smith opened his acceptance speech by saying, "More important than this award is the reward international marathon swimming gave me. The challenge of the swims opened my life to new horizons, infinite possibilities and the ability to travel the world in novel, intense, athletic endurance explorations. Marathon swimming turned me into an explorer."

As a keynote speaker in the corporate world, Smith's adventure stories never fail to generate laughter and inspire.

Ed Ross' Bug Pictures

Presidio Exhibition

August 25 - November 19

Curated by the Presidio Trust Public Programs staff, the exhibit presents two contrasting ways photographers look at nature. Robert Buelteman's large color photographs – made without a camera or lens—embody his highly personal way of seeing nature. Edward S. Ross' (FE79) scientific, patiently photographed close-ups alter the viewer's sense of scale and reveal intimate details of the insect world around us.

The Open House was crowded, and the chance to see Ed's 80 pictures was an education—a wonderful insight into bees and ants, bugs and butterflies. His co-exhibitor, Robert Buelteman shows pictures of plants in a manner you will never see elsewhere. And, there is a place for kids to practice what they learn.

The photographs may be seen Wednesday to Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm at the Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue at Arguello. There is plenty of parking, but time flies so go see them soon! You will not regret the time.

On Wednesday, September 13, from 7-8 pm, a lecture (not an Explorers Club event) will be held at the same location:

The Lives of Insects

Around the World in Ninety-One Years.

A rare evening with Entomologist Edward S. Ross.



Larva of western Cecropia moth



Male Dogface Butterfly

LANCASH

Ed Ross

The Chapter Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:

I shall be brief. Welcome to another year of adventure and tales of exploration. What better way to hear Jim Moore speak on the founder of the USGS, much less to speak of the modern-day Sierra Madre. We have more to follow as the schedule is confirmed through Spring.

Good news, we shall return to the Golden Gate Yacht Club for Jim Moore's talk.

This Summer an executive group was formed, consisting of your officers and former Chairs; we are addressing the long-term well-being of the Northern California Chapter. Most importantly we hope to encourage member participation in the tasks to be done and to increase membership.

You will hear more—and be tapped to help!

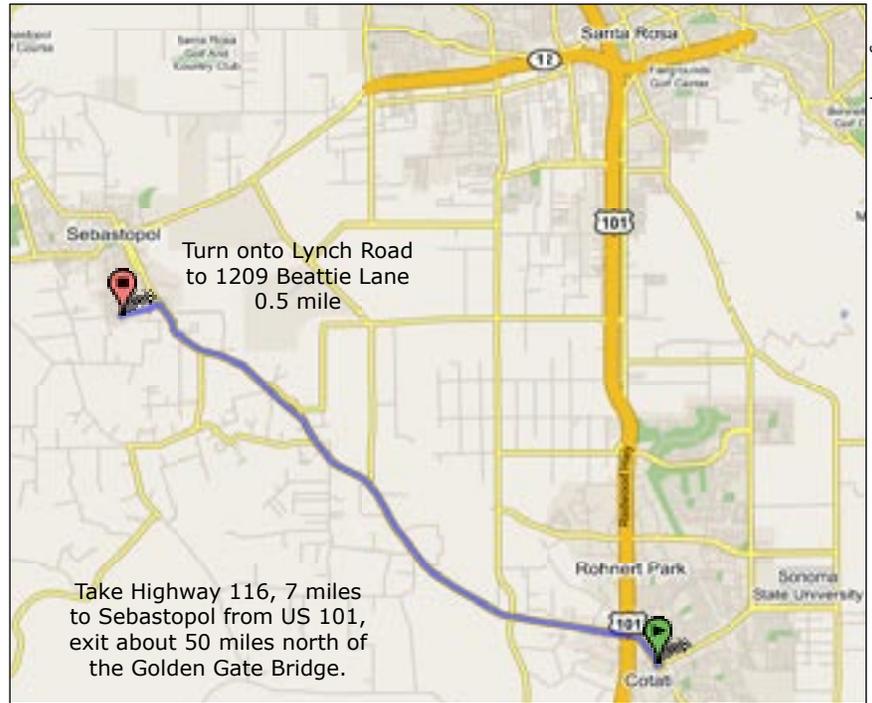
It has become traditional that the

officers of our Chapter hold their position for at least a couple of years—to

allow them to learn the ropes and understand the details that need be done. Nevertheless, we have annual elections so you can throw the administration out!

Those on the mast head of this newsletter have agreed to run again. Any other suggestions can be made to the Nominating Committee lead by Lesley Ewing. A vote will be held at our October meeting. New terms begin in January.

—Lee Langan (FN99)



Google Maps

Please reserve _____ spaces for September 17, 2006, at the Boudreau's, 1209 Beattie Lane, Sebastopol, 95472.

The event is hosted by Gene & Sibyl but we must let her know how many she will feed! Prospective members are welcome.

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Guest(s): _____

Please reserve _____ spaces for October 13, 2006, at the Golden Gate Yacht Club, in San Francisco.

Cost \$50 each (in advance); \$60 at the door.

Dinner Wine is courtesy of Redwood Creek Winery; cocktails are no host.

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Guest(s): _____

meal choice (please circle):
meat - fish - vegetarian

Please mail SEPTEMBER form directly to Sibyl Boudreau or call 707 824-8241.

Please mail OCTOBER form to Dr. Anders Jepsen
23 Dos Posos
Orinda, CA 94563

or email ajviking@aol.com
or call 925 254-3079



Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco

Along the seawall beyond the St. Francis Yacht Club in the Marina District

Northern California 2006-2007 Calendar of Events

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

September 17 (Sunday) Gene & Sibyl Boudreau
Boudreau Home, 1209 Beattie Lane, Sebastopol

Tarahumara Expedition (Lee Langan)

October 13 (Friday) James G. Moore
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco

King of the 40th Parallel, Discovery of the West

November 29 (Wednesday) in discussion
Marines' Memorial Club, San Francisco

will be announced on line soon BUT set the date!

all future meetings will be in 2007 at these estimated dates; speakers are being arranged.

January 19, 2007

February 23, 2007

ECAD, New York City, March 17, 2007

March 23, 2007

April 20, 2007

May 18, 2007

June 16, 2007

Annual Chapter Picnic Angel Island (contact Dave Moorer)

Please note venues and dates with care.

At 3:00 on September 17th. a SUNDAY meeting at the Boudreau home, Sebastopol.

At 6:30 on October 13th. a FRIDAY meeting at Golden Gate Yacht Club

In full and lively color! To experience this newsletter in color, see the PDF version at our web site.

Send address changes and corrections by email to Steve at nauticos@oceanearth.org

September-October 2006

Lee Langan

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

2660 California Street

San Francisco, CA 94115

