

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

January 2007

Note venues and dates with care.
Our next meeting is at 6:30 on
January 19th, a Friday at the
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco.

In color at our web site: <http://www.diggles.com/ec/>



Dr. Olaf Malver (FN92), veteran expedition sea kayaker and founder of Explorers' Corner, will share slides and stories of his sea kayaking adventures around the world: Siberia, Galapagos, Antarctica and more. Explore the paradise shores in Madagascar, scout Greenland's remote and wild eastern shores where snowcapped peaks tower over deep fjords, and paddle in the remotest part of Laos—plus a few other magic spots where nobody has kayaked before

Dr. Malver has showed slides and shared tales with enthusiastic sea kayaking audiences all over the country for the last 15 years. His infectious appetite for "opening up new frontiers" with paddle in hand—Greenland, Panama, Vietnam Portugal, Andaman Islands, Irian Jaya, Myanmar and others have made him a true sea kayak destination trail breaker and explorer. He

is long-standing Member of the Explorers Club, has helped develop sustainable ecotourism projects worldwide for the United Nations—as well as being an accomplished climber and outdoor photographer.

Olaf has a doctorate in Organic Chemistry and a Masters Degree in International Law and Diplomacy.



San Francisco
January 19, 2007
Olaf Malver

Kayaking the Frontiers
of the Seven Seas!



Bug Details!
Ed Ross
San Francisco

Ed Ross is not resting on his laurels. He is mining his store of field notes and pictures taken over a life of travel and study throughout the world. He has camped for long periods while peering into the lives of insects, and he has met indigenous people at every stop. He comments that curious children will come to see what he has found under an overturned rock. Before you know it (because he is in no hurry) he is with their parents having tea or coffee in a nearby hut. And, his Nikon has always been at the ready.

Ed has camped while traveling over 100,000 miles throughout Africa; he has traveled clockwise along the coast from Western Australia to the southeast; he has crossed India, driven into Afghanistan, driven across the deserts of Chile, the length of Mexico, camped in the upper Amazon—and these are the big trips. All along, with his eagle eyes for little bugs,

he has developed a world-class expertise in etymology. Most of Ed's work was at the California Academy of Science. Most was privately funded. Ocean tramp steamers were almost always cooperative in transporting him and his custom-outfitted trucks abroad (and home again.)

Ed held forth at the Presidio Officers Club exhibition of a small selection of his colorful insect slides. Each photograph was taken in the field, camera in one hand and a hand flash in the other. Patience and stealth allowed these remarkable exposures to be taken without using a telephoto lens. They are crisp and detailed; you don't see these creatures any better. As the group in attendance moved through the gallery, Ed recalled the moment he took each photo and what it showed in particular. These were all slides, some taken more than fifty years earlier—one his first attempt, a wasp sucking the life fluid from a grasshopper

(see left.) They were all digitized in high resolution, printed and mounted by his friend Phil Rasori. The pictures came alive as he embellished the details, pointed out the muscles, the reason for the taxonomy. There were too many details to tell all, but enough were explained to gain insight into the depth of his studies.

The exhibit at the Presidio is over, but it is hoped this splendid collection will find future venues. Meanwhile Ed is busy at work on "more-than-one" book—on insects and those pictures he took of people around the world.

Annual Dues

Each member of the Northern California Chapter is asked to volunteer an annual payment of \$25, as Chapter Dues. This amount is payable in January.

Why chapter dues? Each member already pays 'national' dues. What is going on?

The dues paid to our New York Headquarters cover the privilege and rights of membership and the costs of administrating the Club and maintaining its superb facilities. No chapters have a local drop-in facility, and those members that are 'residential' to New York pay an added fee for this routine privilege. The rest of us are welcome whenever we are in The Big Apple.

Our chapter has approximately ten speakers each year and a picnic. The dinner meetings are priced to cover the costs of each event. In addition we have newsletters mailed to some 350 people and added expenses that seem to crop up. Thus, the Chapter dues. Please respond, one and all.

Non-member newsletter recipients are urged to respond as well!

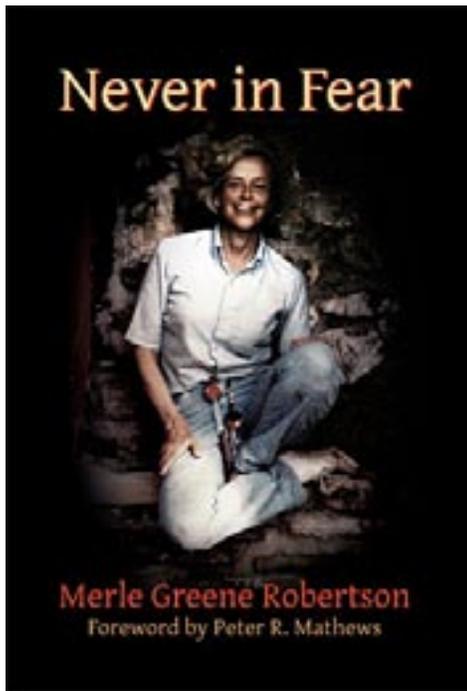
Alan Nichols - New York Cycling the Silk Web

Your Vice Chair, Alan Nichols (FN84), was invited to give his lecture on "Cycling the Silk Web" at the Public Lecture series at the New York City Club Headquarters on December 11th. (He and his wife, Becky, delivered this talk at our March 2006 meeting.)

Alan reports that the evening lecture was well received with a room-full audience to listen to his tale of 10,000 miles on a bike, from Istanbul to Xian! Congratulations.

Alan has been awarded five Explorers Club Flags to advance the world's knowledge of history, travel, architectural spiritual site layering, the Silk Web, sacred mountains and cardiovascular medicine (lipids and bypass effects). He is a Tibetologist and world expert on sacred mountains, a practicing attorney and author of several books on law, religion, sacred mountains, and cycling.





Never in Fear is a fond look back over more than nine decades by a woman who has become a legend in bringing attention to the lost civilization of Central America. It is a recitation acknowledging all of those she has worked with in the pursuit of what is a truly remarkable career; Merle (FN90) honors the grand explorers and Mayan thinkers equally as she does those who have patiently toiled with her in the jungles and vine-infested buried buildings of the Peten and its environs.

In mid life she discovered her talents as a draftsman and artist gave her a different view of the old stone carvings facing erosion upon the hidden pyramids. She experimented with and perfected the ability to create rubbings that highlight the figures and, more importantly, the icons that surround them. The book tells of traveling to nearly all the known Mayan sites to create a body of work that is priceless in its detail. These rubbings are now at the Rare Book and Manuscript Department of the Latin American Library of Tulane University, because of her generosity.

What is clear in this compendium of memories and associated photographs is that Merle urged and cajoled so many to help her focus upon this singular and central craft that has captured the subjects in time. The rubbings are often far better than a photo of the pale rock surfaces, because of the highlighted details—many details enhanced thereafter in her meticulous outline drawings. The whole time she has become a central figure in encouraging studies on the Maya cultures.

Never in Fear places Merle in a far broader context: as a child of the West, a mother and grandmother, indeed a great-grandmother. As an artist who takes palette in hand wherever she travels and

returns with cheerful watercolors rolled into her travel tube. She is busy and always productive. The book is filled with the product of her work. This makes it easy to browse and to grasp her enthusiasm of life as a whole.

In full disclosure I am delighted to be her friend and to have assisted in the preparation of the book by placing her selections into a book format using my computer skills. The photos selected and all the text are pure Merle, created with the same attention to detail she has in everything she approaches. You can obtain a copy at Mesoweb Books:

<http://www.mesoweb.com/books/merle.html>

Never in fear, indeed. —Lee Langan

The Chapter Chair

The optimism of a new year, 2007, is upon us. We have a chance to make the most of it, and we shall start out with a most enthusiastic speaker who has specialized on floating to the far corners of our world. Dr. Olaf Malvar has been escorting others about the world's distant haunts for decades; he recently formed his own venture to do so. We asked him to share some of his pictures and experiences on January 19th.

The end of 2006 found our good friend, Josh Anderson, the manager of the Golden Gate Yacht Club leaving to accept a restaurant management job in his home town of Seattle; we wish him well. This has brought some changes; his assistant, Amy Jackson, will welcome us on the 19th for her version of a buffet dinner.

We begin the new year with a new format for the newsletter. In our attempt to accommodate the changing times where 'on line' versus 'in hand' compete, we are reluctant to select one over the other. Alas, one is essentially free; the other costs. This month we have reduced the pages of the newsletter to four; fiddled with type and tried a new post office service to distribute in an attempt to control our expenses.

You will note the announcement requesting Chapter dues. I urge you to respond; this modest amount will allow us to continue a positive cash flow. Indeed, we are a humble venture and strive to maintain our sometimes extraordinary presentations with limited resources. The annual request provides a very needed cushion! It also supports the newsletter. Do not forget it is also time for renewal of your Club membership.

One example of an unexpected cost was the requirement that we forego a deposit for our December meeting that was cancelled. Our speaker was excellent and was gracious when we advised him of the need to withdraw. I apologize to those who were able and interested. It should have been more clear when the deadline to commit to a minimum was: two weeks in advance! By then several staunch attendees had advised of travel plans and only a half dozen had reserved. We could not assemble the minimum. Too bad. (Jeff Morgan has agreed to a future talk!)

Think new members; think attendance; think participation.

See you on the 19th! —Lee Langan



Krist Jake (FN78) founded the San Francisco Film Festival (SFOFF) in 2003. This will be its fourth year and it is bigger and better than ever. It has become our tradition to hold a meeting as the festival begins, and we continue doing so in 2007 with our January 19th evening. The festival itself begins seven programs of films related to the sea on Saturday and Sunday, January 20/21, at Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Tickets may be purchased on line:

<http://www.oceanfilmfest.org/index.html>

The San Francisco Ocean Film Festival celebrates the sea with inspirational films that increase our appreciation of the oceans that surround us. View the beauty and mysteries of the ocean, experience the thrill of saltwater sports, explore coastal cultures, and pause to reflect on the importance of this vital ecosystem.

SFOFFI is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization. The annual Festival provides the public with the opportunity to see beneath the surface of the waves, understand how closely we depend on the ocean for survival, realize the importance of preserving ocean biodiversity, and become better ocean stewards. It was the first film festival of its kind in North America and the second in the world, behind a well-established ocean festival in Toulon, France.

The SFOFF web site quotes an anonymous attendee: "Everyone who came expected to learn a lot about the sea, but I doubt anyone understood just how deeply we'd be touched—how it would open our minds and feed our soul."

Well stated. Your Chair was equally impacted. A great way to spend a wintry weekend.



© Phil Frank

(If you are in New York that weekend, attend The Explorers Club Documentary Film Festival at Club Headquarters! It is in its fifth year featuring the subjects of Adventure, Conservation & Environment, Scientific Exploration, People & Culture, and Wildlife.)

January 2007

Lee Langan
The Explorers Club
Northern California Chapter
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Webmaster: Mike Diggles
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**Northern California
2006-2007 Calendar of Events**
(Venues will be identified at time of event.)

Our next Meeting
January 19, 2007 (Friday) Olaf Malver
Kayaking the Frontiers of the Seven Seas
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco

Future Meeting Schedule
February 23, 2007 (Friday) OPEN

March 17, 2007 (Saturday) ECAD
The Importance of Polar Places
New York City, Waldorf Astoria

March 23, 2007 (Friday) Craig Childs
Tracking Vanished Peoples Across Southwest

April 20, 2007 (Friday) Phil Rasori
Ceremonial Dress in New Guinea

May 18, 2007 (Friday) OPEN

June 16, 2007 (Saturday) Annual Picnic
Angel Island (contact Dave Moorer)

Meetings earlier this Season
September 17 Gene & Sibyl Boudreau
Tarahumara Expedition (Lee Langan)
Boudreau Home, Sebastopol

October 13 James G. Moore
King, 40th Parallel, Discovery of the West
Golden Gate Yacht Club, San Francisco

November 8 Ed Ross
The Lives of Insects (Exhibition)
Presidio Officers Club, San Francisco

December 8 Jeff Morgan
Global Heritage Fund in El Mirador, Petén
Marines' Memorial Club, San Francisco

January LOCATION

Date: Friday, 19 January 2007
Place: Golden Gate Yacht Club
1 Yacht Road, San Francisco
Time: 6:30 pm, no-host drinks
7:15 dinner; 8:00 talk
Cost: \$50

Reach Lee at
lee@langan.net
415 567-8089
Reservation Form ---->
Please reserve promptly!

Please mail information below, with payment,
to Lee Langan
2660 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
or email lee@langan.net
or call 415 567-8089

Reserve ___ spaces for **January 19, 2007**, at Golden Gate Yacht
Club, San Francisco.
Cost \$50 each.
Prospective members are welcome.
Drinks are no host for the evening! Wine hosted at table.

Name: _____
Address (if changed): _____
Guest(s): _____

INCLUDE ANNUAL DUES!

