

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

May 2010

In color at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

Note venues and dates with care.
Stanford, CA
Our next meeting is at 6:30 on
May 21, a Friday evening,
at the Geology Corner.



Stanford
May 21, 2010

Alan Cooper, Larry Schemel, Julianne Stafford Music and the Antarctic Treaty



The historic music presentation you will experience was created by *Left Bank/Rive Gauche** for the Antarctic Treaty Summit (50th anniversary of the Treaty) in December 2009, Washington, DC. The live music, photographs and text provide links between period-music, science, geopolitics and the explorations of Antarctica. By sharing their

music with the broader community, the trio desires to foster greater appreciation of the intrinsic positive value of music in enhancing peaceful collaborations in Antarctic sciences in accord with tenets of the Antarctic Treaty. Many of the tenets of the Antarctic music presentation apply equally to the historic explorations of other regions and disciplines.

In earth science, Alan and Julianne hold advance degrees in Geophysics (PhD) and Petroleum Geology (MS) from Stanford University, respectively.

Alan is an emeritus scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and a consulting professor at Stanford. He has 25-years experience working in Antarctica and heads the Antarctic Seismic Data Library System for Cooperative Research under the Antarctic Treaty. As a marine geophysicist he has participated in and led science expeditions to Antarctica, Bering Sea, Arctic Ocean, Solomon Islands, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico,

and elsewhere and published more than 250 research papers. Julianne has experience in private industry as founder of a private consulting firm for mineral exploration and is now a volunteer with the USGS. Larry holds an MS degree in Chemistry and Marine Sciences and is also an Emeritus Hydrologist with 40 years experience with the USGS and many years experience conducting field research investigations in San Francisco Bay, in high-altitude mining districts of the Colorado Rocky Mountains, and in Yosemite National Park; he also teaches oceanography at community colleges.

The musicians have long and varied backgrounds in music in addition to their professional experience as earth scientists. Julianne Stafford (accordion) and Alan Cooper (violin) both play with the California Pops Orchestra – Julianne as principal oboist, Alan as concertmaster. They also play in the classical music chamber orchestra *Fiume di Musica*. Julianne has lengthy experience with classical and theater orchestras in the mid-Peninsula area. Larry Schemel (guitar) has over 40 years experience in performing with various popular music groups and has directed and played music at several churches in the Stanford and Palo Alto area, one since 1972.

Our outside dinner and inside talk will be at the Geology Corner of the Quad at Stanford University. May usually provides weather for a splendid evening.

*Left Bank/Rive Gauche (also known as Left Bank Trio) has been playing together for seven years in the mid San Francisco Peninsula area, at public and private events. The trio specializes in French café-style music of the 1920's-1940's, Spanish, Gypsy and other period favorites including music from the American songbook. The trio also does specialty historic music presentations linking music, culture, science and geopolitics.

www.leftbanktrio.com



Listening for Aliens, a Longshot

San Francisco

Seth Shostak knows how to keep an audience alert, amused and educated. With a modicum of slides he scaled the problem of how one might approach finding intelligent life beyond our planet—or even if that possibility exists.

As the senior astronomer of SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) Institute, he is among a small cadre of professionals who dedicate their energy to this exploration. SETI Institute, a cooperative computer effort at UC Berkeley and a group at Harvard—all Americans he noted—are the lot. No other academics in the world are dedicated to this task. This reach into the unknown is an entrepreneurial activity, akin to the technological leaps of Silicon Valley and to the urging early in our country to “Go West Young Man!” Each is privately funded, for the most part, for the sake of exploration, driven by sheer curiosity.

What if these searches succeed? What if, despite the odds? It would be overwhelming and require an understanding we do not even know. Seth argues we would rise to the occasion as we have in the past when confronted with the unknown.

Shostak’s efforts are serious and dedicated; his humor belies the difficulty and sheds light upon critics. Despite the confusion that the imagination of the Hollywood’s of the world have instilled, it is possible to set a stage based upon what we do know about the potential of intelligent life beyond our small blue planet. The scale is vast, beyond comprehension really. Antennas, land observatories and Hubble have visualized billions upon billions of galaxies, each with billions of stars, each with an unknown number of planets. Some of these have the same chemistry as our planet we must assume; there are so many. Beyond the spatial dimension there is time—more billions, of years. How long has it taken to evolve intelligence as we understand it? Some places may well have had longer!

SETI is listening if success in such evolution might try to reach out—or to broadcast as our radios, microwaves and lights do. Would some narrow band of electromagnetic radiation reach use, with some snippet of information we could understand? If you are not listening you will never know.

It is a conundrum, but Seth is among those who are trying to listen. If you get a chance to listen to him, do it!

Seth Shostak’s most recent book is “*Confessions of an Alien Hunter: A Scientist’s Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*” (National Geographic). His most recent article is in *The Explorers Journal*, “*Exploring the Final Frontier, a Quest for Life in the Cosmos.*” (Spring 2010)

SETI Institute activities are discussed on their website:

www.seti.org



Vice Chair Anders Jepsen introduces his guests Coral & Mel Erskine (a long-time friend and active petroleum geologist). A glimpse of our view from the University Club.



Chair Alan Nichols congratulates our speaker with a gift of the NorCA trepkak for his ventures closer to earth. (left) Bill Spicer of MapLink in active conversation with Seth Shostak. (below)



A Visit from *Earth*

It is impressive, It is imposing. It is full of beautiful images and detailed maps. The sixty-three pound publication* *Earth* was displayed at our April meeting. Everyone had a chance to thumb, nay ‘hand’, through its 576 pages. Some looked for details, other enjoyed the pictures; there was not adequate time to read the text. At \$5800, this represents the most complete atlas currently available in print, and it has already found its way to UC Berkeley, Stanford and UC Santa Cruz. It is quite a *tour de force*.

If you know of any individual or institution that would be interested in obtaining one of the limited copies of this document,

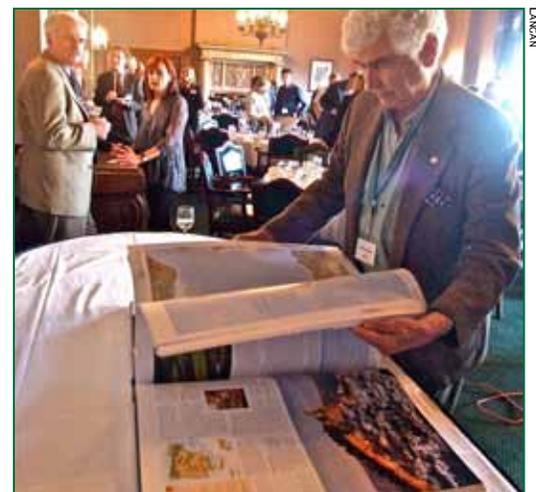
contact Annamarie Kostura at MapLink in Santa Barbara. She and Bill Spicer (Southern California Chapter) brought the atlas to San Francisco—and they hosted the drinks for our reception. Thank you for doing both!

http://catalog.maplink.com/maplink/maplink/earth_atlas.html

Map Link, America’s leading distributor of maps and atlases, has been appointed as the agent for publishers Millennium House in the United States.

* the 18” by 24” book itself is but 40 pounds; the leather-bound silk-lined protective case adds 23 pounds. Each page is elegantly edged in silver gild.

Photographer Mort Beebe studies *Earth*; David Dolan, Chair of Southern California Chapter looks on with *Earth*’s Annamarie Kostura.



Volunteers Needed— A Chapter ‘Science Czar’ to serve on the national Science Committee of the Explorers Club....Anyone want to go to Mongolia or help with the expedition, “Mongolia: Sacred Mountains, Chinggis Khaan, and Roy Chapman Andrews...All Gods of Their Time” Explorers Club Flag 186 Expedition? Contact Alan<nicholsalan9@gmail.com>... To help prospective members with their applications contact Alan, same email.

NorCA Chapter Contributors

Susan Anderson
 Guitty Azarpay
 Mort Beebe
 Barbara Berg
 Don Bessey
 Marion Blumberg
 Barry Boothe
 Joan Boothe
 Eugene Boudreau
 Cheryl Ione Brown
 Jay Cassell
 H. Keith Chase
 Nonna Cheatham
 Norden "Dan" Cheatham
 A. Roy Cleghorn
 Nicholas Clinch
 Graham Creasey
 Wendy Crowder
 Don Dana
 Mike Diggles
 David Dolan
 Susan Dutcher
 Palmer Dyal
 Gerry Elkus
 Sue Estey
 Lesley Ewing
 Art Ford
 Anna Freitas
 Paul Freitas
 Charles Geraci
 Tom Hall
 William Heydorn
 Don Heyneman
 Louise Heyneman
 Laura Lee Holmes
 Judd Howell
 James Hurson
 Yvonne Hurson
 Alan Hutchison
 Ann Hutchison
 Bill Isherwood
 John Jackson
 Kaye Jackson
 Krist Jake
 Anders Jepsen
 Kathy Jepsen
 Jean Kenyon
 Margot Komarmy
 Bill Kruse
 Dida (Candida) Kutz
 Keith Kvenvolden
 Lee Langan
 Leo LeBon
 Dan Leibowitz
 Elgen Long
 Scot Macbeth
 Milton Matter
 George & Karen McCown
 Brian McPhail
 Charles Merdinger
 Elizabeth Murphy
 Nancy Nenow
 Lisa Marie Newman
 Alan Nichols
 Max Nichols
 Diana Pickworth
 Jim Prigoff
 Elsa Roscoe
 Colonel John Roush
 Becky (Nichols) Rygh
 Charlotte Rygh
 Rick Saber
 Bob Schmieder
 Sara Shoemaker
 Richard Sideman
 Hank Skade
 Mark A. Smith
 Stephen Smith
 Eric Stackpole
 Zach Stewart
 Alan Wayne Tamarelli
 Jennifer Tuck
 Joel Tuttle
 Edward Von der Porten
 Don Walsh
 James Weil

The Corner Chair—Finding ET was an unusual journey at the NorCA Show last Friday—Seth is the scientist's Bob Hope—thanks to Bob Higgins for putting him on to us...We missed **Gerry Elkus**, our hostess with the mostest, but her daughter **Nancy**, also a superhost, says she's stable now and leaving the hospital...Watch the Explorers *Big Game*: **Anders Jepsen**, our Vice Chair, has taken on the joy of creating an explorers group at UC Berkeley to match the terrific group **Elizabeth Rosen** has at Stanford, with the advice of Stanford doctor and a great Member, **Susan Anderson**...Sirdar **Eric Stackpole**, a graduate student at San Jose, will soon be our richest member when his Robot finds that gold this month in the American River...Speaking of making money, lets get rich and win the \$5000 offered—all we have to do is for each of us to bring in one new Member (see separate note)...for the Explorer water-phils, the May 8 field trip will be a big splash, thanks to **Von Hurson** and **Dida Kutz**, and especially **Harry and Dede Hicks** who will host our lunch at their gorgeous home by the sea...The grapevine reports our own Secretary and ex Chair **Steve Smith** is headed for a national committee...Speaking of Chairs emeriti, we're lucky our former chairs don't just fade away like Douglas MacArthur but stay active: **Lesley Ewing** is helping on membership, **Bob Schmieder** and his boat for our June picnic, **Lee Langan** always helpful

—Alan Nichols (FN84)

Note on Membership. We've been offered \$5000 if we can add more members than any other chapter before October this year. **Any Member or Sirdar who brings in the most members before October wins a week at Becky's four bedroom home on Lake Tahoe, Carnelian Bay** during snow season, May or October, time to be mutually worked out. And, for everyone who brings in one new Member they will be invited to a special party at Alan and Becky's home plus the right to name a friend or family member (or even an enemy!) as a Sirdar, and the Chapter will waive the initiation and this years dues. Special prizes to be announced for sponsoring more than one new member As Bob, our-Member-Chair Higgins, who will coordinate our campaign, says, "New members are our survival and our opportunity. We have a 'golden' opportunity with so many qualified prospects in the Bay Area, Northern California, Reno and Hawaii."

SuperExplorers Thanks to our chapter's SuperExplorers, we have a unique, active chapter. Each of them embodies the spirit of exploration (as expressed by famous explorers):

Von Hurson, field trips, "*One thing all explorers have in common. They must get out and smell the flowers.*" (John Muir)

Sue Estey, Treasurer, "*Don't tell me about it, do it.*" (Teddy Roosevelt).

Bob Higgins, Membership, "*The lifeblood of exploration, like any football team, are the new recruits.*" (Tenzing Norgay, the first man to summit Everest after five unsuccessful attempts.)

Steve Smith, Secretary and Editor of the Directory, "*If your expedition becomes an adventure, you screwed up.*" (General George Patton)

Lee Langan, Newsletter Editor and Member of Board of Directors, "*If you fill each unforgiving minute with 60 seconds worth of distance run, then you are an Explorer.*" (Rudyard Kipling)

Don Dana, host with his wife **Jean** for two meetings, "*Deep waters are safer and surer to get you there.*" (Lewis and Clark)

Kay Schmieder, the queen of story nights, "*Your stories have transformed me from a jackal to a lion*" (Sheherazade, Omar Kyam)

Bob Schmeider, "*No explorer is worth his fame, until he can talk to the animals.*" (Jim Fowler, President, Explorers Club, Hon.)

Elizabeth Rosen, Founder Stanford Explorers, "*Exploration, our highest ideal, is a communion of cooperative meditation.*" (Marco Polo)

Harry and Dede Hicks, "*Exploration is no way to Nirvana without service.*" (Xuan Zang, the Columbus of China)

Joan Boothe, Sirdar Chair, "*It's the ice mountain more than the summit, the journey more than the destination, the explorers more than the exploration.*" (Sir Ernest Shackleton)

Paul Freitas, field trip leader, "*You dont need a doctor on an expedition but you do need a healer.*" (Dr. Albert Schweitzer)

Morton Beebe, field trip leader and visuals director, "*In exploration, go for the light.*" (Vincent Van Gogh)

Anders Jepsen, Vice Chair, "*To be an explorer, my son, follow the sun.*" (William Shakespeare)

Mike Diggles, Webmaster, "*Thanks to exploration, we're homo sapiens not dodo birds.*" (Albert Einstein)

Charlotte Rygh, hostess and support, "*In exploration, its the culture, my friend.*" (Margaret Mead)

Becky, everything, "*That freeze dried stuff will kill you.*" (Martha Stewart)

Alan to each one of our SuperExplorers: "*You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din.*" (Rudyard Kipling)

Field Trip for NorCA

It has become custom to visit Angel Island to celebrate the end of our talks and meetings for the season. These jaunts vary in attendance but never in great fun for those who join despite morning fog or unusual heat. Everyone is rewarded with good outdoors fun: hikes, a pot-luck picnic, games (bocce ball this year), and the chatter of explorations past and planned. This year will be June 5!

For those who plan ahead, and reserve with chair-emeritis Capt. Bob Schmieder, and arrive before the *Cordell Explorer* departs Berkeley Harbor at 9 am sharp, they are rewarded with the addition of a bay cruise and after-party glow. (Hint: it is great fun.) Call (925) 934-3735.<schmieder@cordell.org>

The plans can be minimal: bring food for yourselves. Kay Schmieder will bring soft drinks and some dessert. There are grills on the lawn by the cove. We usually stay around from about 10 through 2 or so.

You can also arrive from Tiburon or San Francisco: check the web for current schedules. There is no fee for this fun, but register with Kay to come from Berkeley or tell Sue Estey so we have a guess as to how many will enjoy our Saturday, June 5th, fun.

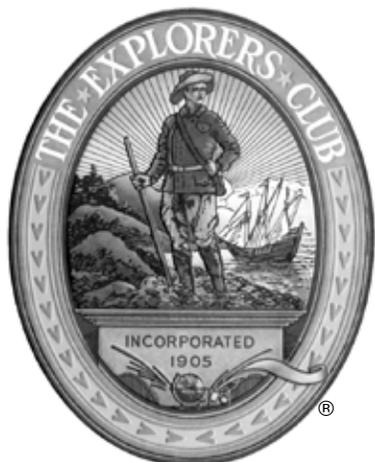


Schmieder's *Cordell Explorer* at Angel Island, 2009



Kyle Rothschild-Mancinelli (SM04) caught in the spirit of the 2010 ECAD at the Waldorf where he was the featured bagpiper (for the 2nd year!) He garnered rave reviews anew. Congratulations Kyle!

May 2010



Chair: Alan Nichols
415 789-9348
nicholsalan9@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Anders Jepsen
925 254-3079
ajviking@aol.com
Treasurer: Sue Estey
510 526-2216
sestey@earthlink.net
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

Antarctic Music 21 May – Stanford Geology Corner

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues will be identified as soon as known.)

Our next Events

- May 8-9 Seashore Field Trip/lunch
Point Lobos, Monterey Peninsula, Hick's home
- May 21 (Friday) Music of the Antarctic Expeditions
Left Bank/Rive GaucheStanford Geology Corner
- June 5 (Saturday) Angel Island Picnic
option: ride with Capt. Schmieder from Berkeley
- Future Events
- July 1 . Joint Meeting with Dendrology Society
Marcel Robinson. University Club
- September 17 Lucy and Our African Origins
Don Johanson. University Club
- October 29. Expeditions and the Media
Josh Bernstein University Club
- November 19. planning
December 5 Alan & Becky Nichols
Chair's Member Reception Nichols home, Tiburon
- January Expedition Tales
member stories University Club
- Earlier Events (2009-10)
- September 25 Jim Sano
Retracing Shackleton, GGYC
- October 30 Diana Pickworth
Yemen Archaeology, GGYC
- November 20. Nathaniel J Dominy
Tsavo Lions of yore, Dana home, Tiburon
- December 5 Fofo Gonzales
Cave Field Expedition
- December 12. Alan & Becky Nichols
Chair's Member Reception Nichols home, Tiburon
- January 29, 2010.several
Story Night University Club
- February 26Reginald Barrett
The Elusive Fisher. University Club
- March 26Bob Richards
Odyssey Moon University Club
- April 30Seth Shostak
Are We Alone in Space? University Club

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

USE PAYPAL!

May: Stanford University, Geology Corner 320

Date: Friday, May 21, 2010
Place: Stanford University
Geology Corner Room 320
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner
8:00 - talk
Cost: \$42 in advance; \$60 on the 21st
Students: \$17. (Dues still \$25!)
Please mail information to Dr. Sue Estey,
216 Carmel Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530
or email sestey@earthlink.net
or call (510) 526-2216

Reserve spaces for
May 21, 2010
Antarctic Music
at Stanford University
Cost: is \$42 (for members and sirdars)
\$17 for card-carrying students

Name: _____
Address (if changed): _____
Companion: _____

Please reserve by May 19!

We have established a PayPal account.

For those of you who have
these accounts, you can sign
up and remit dinner costs to
the NorCA Chapter by trans-
ferring money to:
explorersnorca@gmail.com

There is also a **PAYPAL
BUTTON** on our website
(www.explorersnorca.org):
easy to use!

