

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

November 2011

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

Nils Otto Nordenskjöld's Saga

Survival in the Antarctic

Joan Boothe

San Francisco — November 18, 2011

Many people are familiar with the amazing story of Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition, but the *Endurance* was not the first ship to be crushed and sunk in Antarctica's Weddell Sea. In February 1903, more than twelve years before the *Endurance* met her fate, twenty men stood on an ice floe and watched as their ship, the *Antarctic*, sank beneath the ice. The loss of their ship marooned not only them, but also nine other men of the expedition — three in one location, six in another — who were waiting for the ship to come and take them back north before winter fell. These 29 men were the members of Nils Otto Nordenskjöld's Swedish Antarctic expedition.



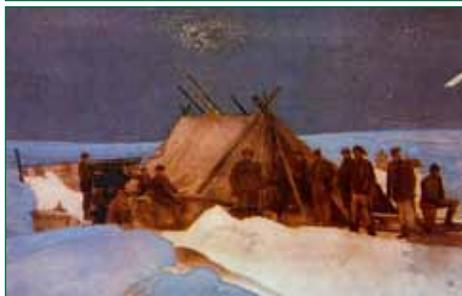
The expedition had first sailed south in late 1901 to establish a scientific base where six men would spend the winter of 1902. It was pioneering work that Nordenskjöld proposed to do, not only the first scientific investigations along the east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula but also the first serious exploration of the area. After leaving the six wintering members of the expedition in a prefab hut on Snow Hill Island, a small bit of land in the far north of the Weddell Sea, the *Antarctic* returned north for the winter. In the meantime, the wintering party set about their business and had what turned out to be a very productive year scientifically. Months later, at the end of 1902, the ship, with 23 men aboard, returned to pick up the wintering party, but the *Antarctic* never reached Snow Hill Island. So began what became a battle for survival through the Antarctic winter of 1903 for 29 men.



In its time, the saga of Nordenskjöld's expedition, the events that led to the men being marooned, how they survived, and how, ultimately, they were rescued, was a famous tale. Today it is not nearly so well known, indeed, not nearly as well known as it deserves to be. Joan Boothe, our speaker, is one person who knows the story well. Enriching her narration of the amazing events of Nordenskjöld's expedition, she will also discuss events related to the expedition — including aspects of the *Endurance* expedition — that took place in later years.

Joan is currently our chapter treasurer, the person who takes your reservations for meetings and usually the one who greets you with your name tag when you arrive. Her exploration interest is in the history of Antarctic exploration and discovery. She has made ten trips to the far south, beginning with her first one in 1995, on which she visited one of the key sites in the Nordenskjöld story. In addition to giving a number of history lectures on Antarctic tourist ships, she has taught an Antarctic History course focused on the 1897–1917 Heroic Age for the Stanford Continuing Studies program. An enthusiastic and entertaining speaker, Joan loves to share her fascination with Antarctic history with anyone willing to listen!

Scenes from Nordenskjöld's saga.



CHANGED LOCATION
Note venues and dates with care.
In Berkeley, CA,
our next meeting is at 6:00 on
November 18, a **FRIDAY** evening,
at the Faculty Club at UC.

THE STORIED ICE

Exploration, Discovery, and Adventure
in Antarctica's Peninsula Region



Joan N. Boothe

Joan's book has just been published by Berkeley's *Regent Press*. This work recounts mankind's dramatic history—from Magellan through the first years of the twenty-first century—in the part of the Antarctic regions below South America and the Atlantic Ocean. Nordenskjöld's epic and Shackleton's *Endurance* are here, in individual dramatic chapters. There is much more, many other less familiar, fascinating adventures—tales of early explorers, sealers, whalers, seven expeditions during Antarctica's 1897–1917 Heroic Age, pioneer aviators and scientists.

Joan weaves all this together into a coherent whole, placing the exciting tales in a historical context that breathes new life into even the best known. Significantly, *The Storied Ice* is unique in the rich literature on Antarctica, the only modern comprehensive Antarctic history work that focuses specifically on the historically exciting Antarctic Peninsula and tells its complete story.

Joan will have a few copies for sale and signing



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JOAN BOOTHE

A NorCA Holiday Reception at the Saber's San Rafael — SUNDAY, December 11, 2011

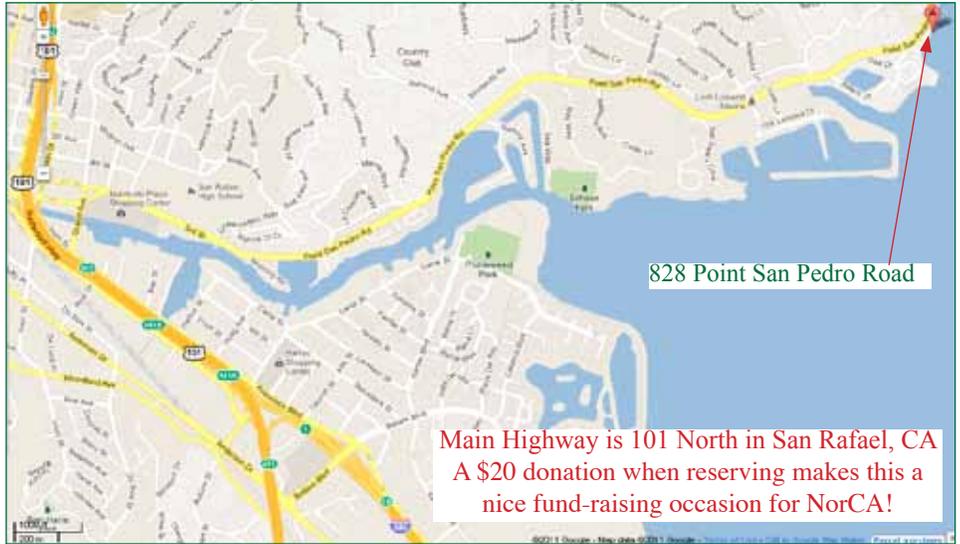
As has become a delightful custom in recent years, as the season of holidays approaches, we gather to trade stories rather than sit to listen. This year we shall be the guests at the home of our Vice Chairman and his charming wife, Rick and Aldeana Saber.

The December meeting of the Northern California Chapter will be held on **Sunday, December 11, from 4 to 8 pm at 828 Point San Pedro Road, San Rafael.** Members, Sir-dars, and their partners, are welcome. Potential members—bring 'em along! It is always fun.

BE SURE to sign up with Joan. The gathering is free, but it is *very* helpful in planning to know how many to expect!

To the right is a map showing the location of the Saber home on the Bay. Find your way onto 3rd Street which becomes Point San Pedro Road. There is easy parking.

The Sabers request guests to wear soft shoes to protect their floor.



Main Highway is 101 North in San Rafael, CA
A \$20 donation when reserving makes this a nice fund-raising occasion for NorCA!

Discovering Bolivia While Offering Help San Francisco — 28 October

Jay Gregory's love for languages and the chance to experience new cultures took him to the land-locked country of Bolivia by chance. A family member suggested he continue his exploration of new lands, after a stint of teaching English in Japan, by participation in a Presbyterian Church NGO, *Joining Hands*. *Joining Hands* is a program that introduces a new strategy for a holistic international hunger ministry. It implements on the international scene the five components of the mandate of the Presbyterian Hunger Program as established in the Common Affirmation on World Hunger: 1) relief of chronic hunger, 2) development assistance, 3) public policy advocacy, 4) lifestyle integrity and 5) hunger education.

Before he knew it he became the link between a host of non-governmental organizations in Bolivia and the San Francisco church. His positive report of this experience, including that of adding Spanish to his vocabulary, was enthusiastically received at our October 28th meeting.

Jay first described his weeks at learning about the *Alto Plano* lying between the east and west ranges of the Andes. He respects the well-educated people; he was surprised by the power of the population's tendency to protest any injustice or grievance they experience. This is a practiced technique; they are not warriors. Their objections are handled by massive protestation against the authorities or institutions they challenge, and they are successful: they have stopped the intrusion of a new highway, the privatization of water supplies, environmental degradation. They have promoted human rights and expanded these to include earth rights, respect for the land.

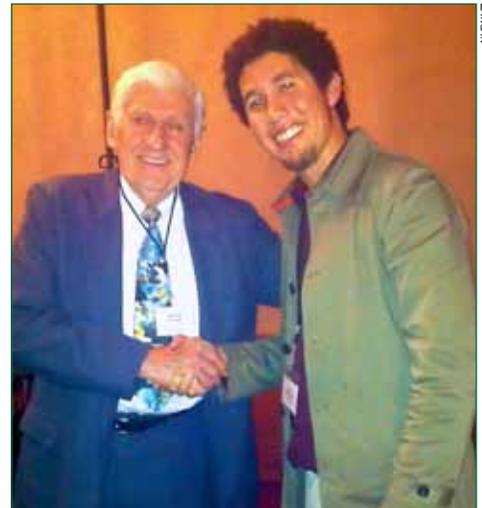
He observed: The people of Bolivia pride themselves in the traditions of festivals for the slightest reason in the smallest village or the

city. The youth maintain the traditional dress with pride. They admire their indigenous president Morales; they feel they have more control of their destiny now than anytime since the arrival of Europeans.

Bolivians also admonish the degradation of the lands in mining sites—a tradition that has been common where foreign companies have taken the vast percentage of the wealth and left little other than poisoned tailings for the residents. They are challenging this status quo, and they are making progress. Once the source of the world's tin, Bolivians now have identified a new wealth from the land: lithium extracted from their dry lake beds.

Jay's experience became that of a facilitator, working to help solve the goals of the Bolivian-based organizers as supported by the desire of the USA-based church seeking to better conditions. This effort is focused upon the long-term needs defined within the country as opposed to past mission efforts coming to Bolivia (or elsewhere) to do a project then leave. Proselytizing has given way to attempts to reduce hunger, improve health and plan for the impact of climate change on the country.

He was an explorer in a new land, one often ignored by the larger world.



Chair Anders Jepsen & Jay Gregory
Bolivia's Alto Plano & La Paz
A celebration or protest? (left)



**NorCA Chapter
2011 Contributors**

- Randolph K. Adler Jr.
- James Allan
- Guitty Azarpay
- Barbara Berg
- Josn & Barry Boothe
- Eugene Boudreau
- Tammy Camp
- H. Keith Chase
- Dan Cheatham
- Ann Chokas
- Nicholas Clinch
- Alan Cooper
- Wendy Crowder
- Mike Diggles
- Jack Dumbacher
- Thomas Durbin
- Susan Dutcher
- Don Dvorak
- Elaine Dvorak
- Palmer Dyal
- Sue Estey
- Joann Franklin-Knox
- Charlene Glacy
- Gina Glantz
- Ron Glantz
- Michael Guzy
- Henry Haringsma
- Peter Hemming
- Don Heyneman
- Harry Hicks
- Robert Higgins
- Ken Howery
- Jim & Von Hurson
- Alan Hutchison
- Anders Jepsen
- Kathy Jepsen
- Fred O. Johnson
- Barbara Kanowick
- David Kennard
- Margot Komarmy
- Dorothy Koo
- Dan & Lois Kobal
- Candida Kutz
- Keith Kvenvolden
- Joan Mary Lamphier
- Lee & Karine Langan
- Matthew Lewin
- Sara Shoemaker Lind
- Elgen Long
- Scott Macbeth
- Ian McFadden
- Mary McGann
- Charles Merdinger
- David Moorer
- Marguerite Moriarty
- David Moyer
- Neal Mueller
- Linda-Lee Myers
- Nancy Nenow
- Michael Powers
- James Prigoff
- John Richardson
- Ed & Sandra Ross
- Peter Rundquist
- Carina Trowbridge
- Sabharwal
- Rick Saber
- Bob Schmieder
- Kay Schmieder
- Hank Skade
- Mark A. Smith
- Ron Smith
- Stephen Smith
- Patti Stack
- Phil Trowbridge
- Ed Von der Porten
- Saryl Von der Porten
- James Weil
- Dede Whiteside
- Robin Ziegler

Add Your Name to the above list by sending \$25!

From the Chair— October's Bolivian talk produced some very interesting questions and discussion, which shows that our members are as interested in environmental issues as they are in the cultural and adventure issues involved in exploration. Thank you, Jay. Next meeting we will return to the UC Faculty Club to mark the publication of our treasurer, Joan Boothe's book on Antarctic adventure. The talk should be a good one, and I know Joan will have copies of her book available that she will be willing to autograph.

Following that, our annual Christmas party will be held on Sunday, 11 December,, 4-8pm, at Vice Chair Rick and Aldeana Saber's home on the water in San Raphael. At the end of January, we'll have six of the Club's National Directors giving ten-minute tales of adventure—note that this will be on a Saturday, not Friday evening. Then we will slide into our winter schedule of talks on exploration, travel and adventure. A couple of field trips are in the works too; more about them later.

I welcome our new chapter member approved by the Board in October: Naveen Jain MN11. Naveen is very much involved with *Moon Express*, and the *X-Prize* (Bob Richards gave a talk on *Odyssey Moon* in March 2010, about this project.)

Last March, Kathy and I attended our first ECAD (E C Annual Dinner) in New York, at the Waldorf Astoria. Kathy got all gussied up, and I wore my old family heirloom tails, an interesting contrast to the field jackets and native garb worn by more than a few. We had a blast, and I heartily recommend it to any of you that can afford the time (and the \$ nut) to schedule it. We'll be reserving a table or two for Northern California members, which will make it even more fun.

—Anders Jepsen, PhD FN03

Member Moment, 28 Oct: Rick Saber—Rick Saber, Captain UAL (ret) and a decade-long member of The Explorers Club was elected Vice-Chair of our Chapter for the current slate. Rick was a Navy pilot, then flew for United Airlines for over 35 years, retiring in 1998 as Commander on the 747-400, the heaviest metal in their fleet! His last run included Singapore to Hong Kong (a notorious air field for large planes). Rick has been active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for the past nine years as Flotilla Commander and most recently supervised Auxiliaries during Fleet Week.



Rick has explored the undersea with over 1,000 dives. His first ascent was Mount Rainier in '74. He climbed in Yosemite including the Salathe Wall on El Capitan, also summited the Grand Tetons. His love of climbing led to leading three climbing expeditions in the Himalayas. Rick has maintained his love of the culture and pPeople of Nepal.



Recently, trips with his anthropologist wife, Aldeana, have taken them to the Antarctic Peninsula, and they joined Dr. Don Johanson and others on a Nat'l Geo. trip to Africa and the Olduvai Gorge.

One other passion for Rick is the Big Brother Program where he has a 30-year relationship with his little Brother Dr. David Shuster, an Associate Professor at UC in the Earth & Planetary Science Department, as well as an Isotope Geochemist. Rick participates fully in all he supports, and now the Northern California Chapter will benefit from this native San Franciscan.

November's Member—Dan Cheatham LF89

Photo Expeditions—Chapter Member Amos Nachoum FN04 <amos@biganimals.com> is featured in the November issue of *Popular Photography*. If you would like to improve your photographic skills (he gives private photo coaching), while experiencing an adrenalin rush, choose any of his upcoming BigAnimals expeditions that fits your spirit best. Check out www.biganimals.com, especially "trips at a glance", now! There are only a few spaces open, and don't let this close up from the magazine cover make you hesitate!

From the Board—The Lowell Thomas Dinner in St. Louis, held in the entry hall of Missouri History Museum in Forest Park, was the first time this annual event was organized outside of New York. It was a great success and foretells that President Karnath's vision of bringing our Club closer to its chapters and members has merit. Not only were the awardees distinguished, and the scientific symposium featuring their achievements worth attending, the event itself was a successful fund raiser. I participated in bidding on the last of the live auction items—and won! Meet "Louis", named after the French king and namesake of the Gateway City along the Mississippi. He was a founding puppy from the Animal Protective Association of Missouri who now resides in the Langan home!



The Board met as part of this gala weekend to attend to our business. In addition there were field trips and sight seeing—while the St. Louis *Cardinals* played to win the National League Pennant, which led to their World Series win. The town was jumping.

—Lee Langan, FN99

November 2011



Chair: Anders Jepsen
925 254-3079
ajviking@aol.com
Vice Chair: Rick Saber
415 457-0345
eagle@rsaber.com
Treasurer: Joan Boothe
415 346-5934
hoodoskr@aol.com
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

November 18 — Boothe's Antarctica

**Northern California
Calendar of Events**

(Venues will be identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

November 18 (Friday) Joan Boothe
Otto Nordenskjöld's 1901-03 Saga of Survival
UC Faculty Club
December 11 (Sunday) . . Rick & Aldeana Saber
Member Reception San Rafael

Upcoming Events

January 28, 2012 (Saturday) Story Night
Board Member tales TBD
February 24, 2012 (Friday) . Matthew Lewin, MD
Travel and Expedition Medicine UC Faculty Club
March 30, 2012 TBD
April 27, 2012 (Friday) Steve Smith
16 Years on the Kosrae reef . UC Faculty Club
June 1, 2012 TBD
June 22, 2012 Angel Island Picnic

Earlier Chapter Events (2011)

February 25 Don Dana
Ethiopian Research Expedition University Club
March 25 Tom Cromwell, MD
Medical Disasters University Club
April 22 Robin Ziegler
Google Earth University Club
May 20 Alan Nichols
Dead Men Tell Tales. California Academy
June 11 Angel Island Picnic
September 23 Jim Westerman
The Osireion, Egypt UC Faculty Club
October 28 Jay Gregory
Discovering Bolivia University Club

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

Send address changes and
corrections by email to Steve at
nauticos1@oceanearth.org

USE PAYPAL!

November 18, San Francisco

Date: Friday November 18, 2011
Place: UC Faculty Club
Berkeley
Time: 6:00 - reception
7:15 - dinner
8:00 - talk
Cost: \$55 in advance; \$60 on the 18th
Students: \$35. (2011 dues \$25!)
Please mail information to Joan Boothe,
2435 Divisadero St, San Francisco, CA
94115 or email hoodoskr@aol.com
or call (415) 346-5934

Reserve ___ spaces for
November 18, 2011
Cost: \$55 (for members and sirdars)
\$35 for card-carrying students
Name: _____
Address (if changed): _____
Companion: _____

Please reserve by Nov 15!

In a quiet, wooded glade on the Berkeley campus—close to everything but removed from the crowds and chatter—is a treasure most people know little about, the Faculty Club. Make your way to the campus; parking is available off Bancroft Way. Stroll to the Faculty Club as shown to the right. Parking reservations (for \$10) can be made a week in advance (call Joan Boothe), but it should be readily available without this need.

