Submersibles have been used for over a hundred years to penetrate the oceans and uncover their secrets. Not until recently has submarine technology advanced far enough to allow a new kind of exploration. Traditional up-and-down subs have allowed for point exploration but not long distance survey. Hawkes Ocean Technologies (HOT) operations team used the Super Falcon submarine to conduct scientific expeditions in the Red Sea and offshore from Guadalupe Island, Mexico. Each of these expeditions are unique in their own way and succeeded in learning more about the oceans.

The Red Sea expedition focused on long, uninterrupted surveys of the sea floor near the coast. Each section was surveyed at a depth of about 50 meters and as deep as 100 meters. The survey provided Jordan with a baseline environmental condition for 2011. It is a visual reference of the bottom. We now know the density of life, diversity of life, topography, light penetration, and a host of other information about the coastline.

In the future, another survey will reveal the impact of various environmental and human factors, such as: How much industrial waste accumulates near a port due to high traffic? How much tourist trash accumulates offshore of a popular beach or hotel? Are marine reserves effective in protecting the life and environment? Do they help replenish populations?

The other expedition, at Guadalupe Island, focused on the minimal influence observation of great white sharks. Our filming goal was to observe the animals acting naturally without baiting, cages or other interferences. Nearly all footage to date of great white sharks has recorded the same behaviors; sharks coming close to a boat looking for food. With the ability to travel at speed underwater we put our cameras in a unique position to record the sharks acting more naturally.

Each of these expeditions was met with success and lessons learned.

Joshua Glovin has been with HOT since early 2009 beginning as an intern to assist in the first expedition featuring the Super Falcon. Subsequently he moved into his current role: throughout it’s 225+ dives he has been at its side. From Monterey to the Red Sea to Mexico and even Lake Tahoe HOT has operated around the world. Currently he is working on ground-breaking ROV technology, primarily in fiber optics.
How do we find some of the most fascinating, intelligent, exciting people for speakers? On January 27, almost fifty members and guests met at our newest venue, City Forest Lodge, enjoyed a fine, tasty banquet, including wine, followed by a fascinating talk covering normal and extraordinary medical challenges faced by all expeditions traveling from Timbuktu to Inner Mongolia.

With both humility and levity, the California Academy of Science’s Dr. Matt Lewin explained everything from resetting dislocated limbs to removing leeches from one’s eyes—which, he stated, was a common occurrence. He went on to say that, initially, his medical kit was akin to a very large suitcase, but as his skills and confidence rose in solving all kinds of medical problems, he now carries nought but a small valise, including paper clips, safety pins and other common objects with which to stabilize those souls who would otherwise curtail or severely hamper a hapless exploration. Our audience was riveted by Matt’s many stories and slides.

Matt Lewin is a cross between a clearly brilliant field and emergency doctor and MacGuyver. It takes a special mind to like dealing with emergencies and to talk about them with such enthusiasm and humor. When asked what he would like to leave with those who attended, and those who unfortunately missed, he said:

“Knowledge of what does and does not constitute a life or limb-threatening illness-injury is a key component of any medically relevant decision in the potential emergency setting. If you know what is likely to kill or harm if left untreated you can answer the questions of greatest practical importance: ‘If I delay or miss the diagnosis, will the patient come to harm?’

“Once you have the answer to that question, you can answer the next question: ‘How much time is there to act and is any immediate action required?’

After an evening of great advice Matt gave all present an extremely useful and easy suggestion for a survival tool—carry a safety pin. Ask anyone who was there for an explanation!

—thanks to Von Hurson & Rick Saber.

In the field
the Gobi "Desert"— flash flood (right)
From the Chair— Our meeting the other Friday was certainly a great success! A good turn out, great appreciation for the food and the venue, and accolades for the speaker, Chapter member. Dr. Matt Lewin FN10. It is, of course, always a pleasure to hear such a qualified speaker on the potential health travails that could occur when far away from civilization.

We propose to continue to use the City Forest Lodge as our primary meeting place, and we’re working to arrange parking at the church next door so that coming there by car will be less of a hassle.

Next month ECAD, the Explorers Club Annual Dinner, is being held on Saturday 17 March at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in NYC. It’s a great excuse to visit the Big Apple, and the weekend is full of TEC events, including the famous exotic canapés served at the cocktail party on Sunday afternoon, definitely an interesting and unique event. Contact Don Dana about sharing a table.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that it’s Chapter Dues time again. The $25 that we receive from each of you helps to cover the printing and delivery of our wonderful newsletter, which past Chapter Chair and current National Club Director Lee Langan puts together each month. Money well spent! Please respond soon. Thanks. –Anders Jepsen PhD FN03

Storied Ice travels by Joan Boothe— January 2012, my 11th trip to the Antarctic regions: 7th time to the Antarctic Peninsula, 6th time to South Georgia and 6th time to the Falkland Islands.

My purpose, in particular, to see and try to understand places that I’ve read about in historic accounts. Officially I’m a paying passanger, but I will be giving two history lectures, supplementing the lectures of the historian on staff, so I’m semi-staff, pro bono.

Precise destination: ah, to Antarctica, this is always an open question. We’re going first to the Falkland Islands, spend three days there, on the outer islands (not going to Stanley, the capital); then to South Georgia, for six days. Then across the Scotia Sea to the Antarctic Peninsula. There we’ll probably be mostly on the west coast, almost certainly all north of the Antarctic Circle.

Member Moment, 27 Jan: Bob Schmieder— Chairman Emeritus Bob Schmieder FN86 took full advantage of his Member’s Moment: He claimed a world’s record! As he described it, back in 1990 he led an expedition to Rocos Aljos, an oceanic volcano 200 miles off the Pacific side of Baja. While the expedition’s purpose was scientific—they were mapping, collecting specimens, and analyzing the water, and so on—Bob was able to carry out the first known ascent to the summit.

There he pulled out a radio and connected with the boat lying a mile away. A radio on the boat connected to the headquarters of the Explorers Club in New York, and then by telephone to the president of the Club. Total cost for the expedition: $68145. Total number of radio contacts: 1. Cost per contact: $68145. “That,” Bob claimed with considerable triumphant gusto, “is a world record!” Judging by the enthusiastic applause, the attendees wholeheartedly agreed.

Charles Geraci M.D., died on January 16; he was 88 and a skilledurgeon. We knew him as a cheerful exploration colleague who attended almost all our meetings with Louise! That is until the harshness of Alzheimer Disease robbed him of his memory.

His family arranged a memorial for Charley at Stanford on February 2nd; that beautiful church held a bounty of friends from his days of service as a clearly beloved practitioner of medical arts. While a surgeon, he was known to attend to the whole needs of his patients. For fifty-five years he was on call, but that hardly diminished his love of life. He was a classical pianist, he built a harpsichord and clavichord—and played them; he crafted grandfather clocks. He hiked the Sierra and skied. He served on the military attaché. He is a 25-year member of the American Outdoor Writers Association who authored twelve books in diverse fields. John has 86 big game trophies in the record books. The reader can identify with the course of the adventure and visualize the scene. The excitement of facing a trophy animal that would likely qualify for entry within the record books must be one of the most thrilling moments of any hunter’s life-time experiences.

The colorful scenes of the sites of Western hunting add visualizations and charm to the experiences. With many decades of hunting experience, as a master measurer for the SCI record books, the author has a wide background of interviewing prominent, successful hunters and has endeavored to incorporate within this book much of the wisdom gained from those highly capable men together with his own.

Col. John Rush Jr. FN80 is a retired Army officer whose last assignment was as a military attaché. He is a 25-year member of the American Outdoor Writers Association who authored twelve books in diverse fields. John has 86 big game trophies in the record books. You can get a copy of the book directly from John: www.colrush.com

From the Board— Your Board worked hard and long on the issues before it in New York on the last weekend in January. It was very productive for each of us (all sixteen directors were in attendance.) It was very productive for the Club. The natty problems and positive committee reports were dispatched over a period of two long days. The voting will result in various communications to members and chapters as details allow. We did our jobs—each director defending their position and a consensus was reached.

New York was Spring-like; the Lowell Thomas Building is beautiful with the scaffolds of recent years removed and the façade gleaming. The repaired leaded glass has tightened the building and it is snug and warm for folks and treasures therein. The extensive repairs managed by President Lorie Karnath are showing; now we are focused on repairing the European colonnades—those shared with the Cloisters—that border our terrace.

Members should have their Ballot, Biographical Material and Position Statement. Twelve candidates are presented, from which up-to-five (and no more) can be selected. I ask that you take the time to read each candidate’s page, make a selection based upon your understanding of the qualifications for a mature, devoted volunteer Director, and VOTE. The By-Laws limit any Director to serve only two consecutive three-year terms, so only three current Directors are asking for your support to return.

—Lee Langan FN99

Dues cover the costs of our newsletter!

Add Your Name by sending $25 to Treasurer Joan Boothe

Tales of Hunting— This volume contains many readable adventures of hunting deer, elk and antelope within the Western States. We are taken afield in authentic stories of the enjoyment of ethical hunting in greater detail than permitted with the ordinary magazine article, to the extent that the reader can identify with the course of the adventure and visualize the scene. The excitement of facing a trophy animal that would likely qualify for entry within the record books must be one of the most thrilling moments of any hunter’s life-time experiences.

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February 2012

Northern California
Calendar of Events
(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

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

February 24, 2012 – HOT Undersea Flying
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
hoodooskr@aol.com
Secretary: Stephen E. Smith

Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Lee Langan

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February 24, 2012

Date: Friday January 27, 2012
Place: City Forest Lodge
254 Laguna Honda Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94116-1409
(415) 753-8326

Time: 6:00 - reception
7:15 - dinner — 8:00 - talk

Cost: $49 in advance; $60 after 20 Feb
Students: $35. (2012 dues $25!)

Please mail information to Joan Boothe,
2435 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115
or email hoodooskr@aol.com or call (415) 346-5934

Reserve __ spaces for February 24, 2012
Cost: $49 (for members and sirdars)
$35 for card-carrying students

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We have an established PayPal account
For those of you who have an account, you can sign up and remit dinner costs to the NorCA
Chapter by transferring money to: explorersnorca@gmail.com

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

SECOND MEETING AT A NEW VENUE FOR THE NorCA CHAPTER

The City Forest Lodge was sought out as a meeting place in the heart of San Francisco;
location details are mapped on page 2 of the newsletter. The Lodge has the catering and space
needs we require, and our January meeting proved it worked!

There is parking, and the location, while unfamiliar to many, is easy to find tucked away
just across from the City’s Laguna Honda Hospital.

Muni access is VERY easy from downtown via the light-rail Taraval ‘L’ Lline and Ocean
View ‘M’ Line. Exit at the Forest Hill station and walk a block north. These lines can be
reached by BART and the Peninsula’s CalTrain. (Forest Hill Station is located deeper under-
ground than any other Muni Metro station; so much so that, unlike other stations, most people
use an elevator to reach the platform at Forest Hill.)