

# The Explorers Club

## Northern California Chapter

October 2012

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

### LOCATION

Note venues and dates with care.

In San Francisco, CA,  
our next meeting is 6:30pm  
October 26, a FRIDAY,  
at the City Forest Lodge  
south, off Seventh AVENUE  
(details on last page)



In June-July 2011 our speaker, Dr. Bill Straka, joined the American Alpine Club sponsored Cordillera Blanca Environmental Expedition to conduct research on environmental changes in this region of the Peruvian Andes. This area contains the greatest concentration of mountains higher than 6,000 meters (19,685 ft.) in the Western Hemisphere. Seventeen mountaineer-scientists, gathered samples of soil, water, air, ice, and snow from twelve mountains in six massifs.

The goal of this expedition was to collect valuable environmental samples from elevations too high and remote for most scientists to

## Peru

Ancient Cities & Modern Changes in the Environment

William C. Straka, PhD  
San Francisco — October 26, 2012

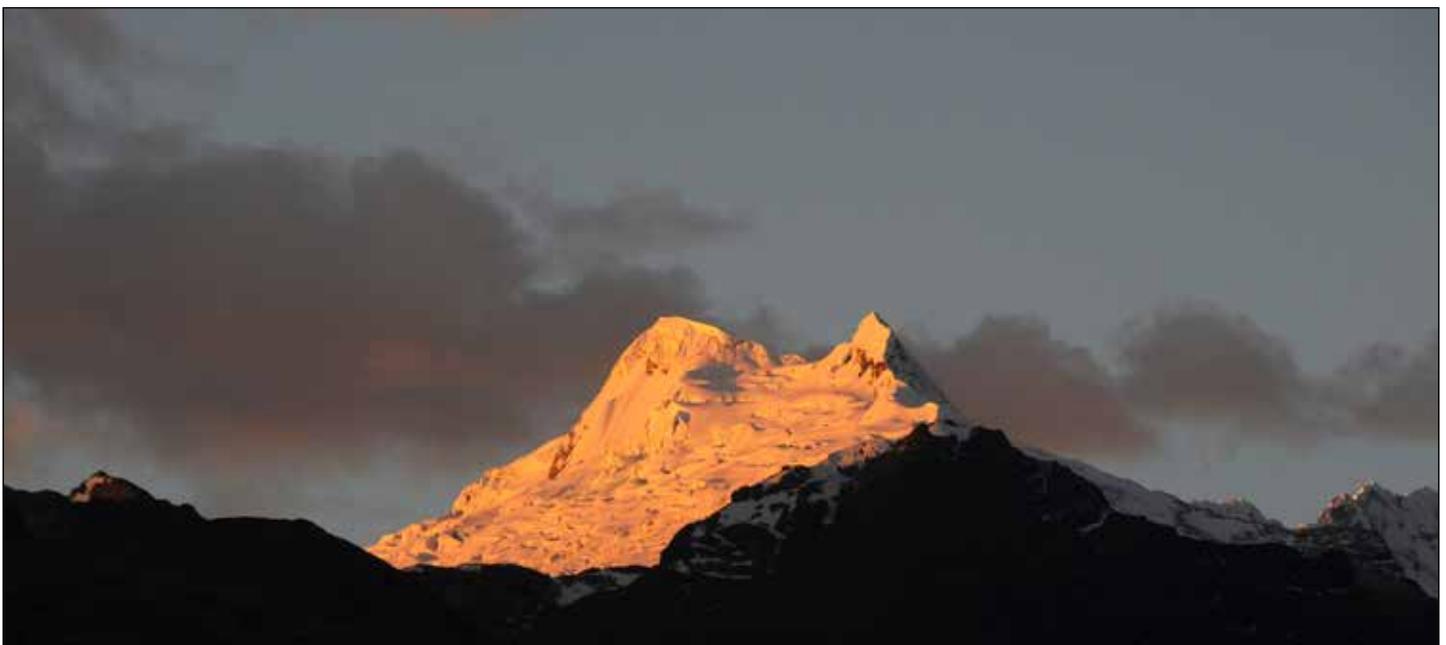
be able to visit. The data were collected to assist local land managers and scientists to determine the environmental impacts of their region as well as global air pollution and global climate change as it affects the Andes Mountains.

Dr. Straka was the Expedition Field Director for Team 9; they covered the Quebrada Quilqayhuanca (Quilqayhuanca Valley). He also had the task of preparing the protocols and procedures for documenting the locations of the samples, along with the boundaries of the glaciers and snowfields.

Bill will share his experiences and findings with us on October 26, at the City Forest Lodge.

Dr. Straka received his undergraduate degree in Astronomy in 1962 from the California Institute of Technology and his Masters (1965) and Doctorate (1969) from UCLA in Astrophysics. He was a professor at Boston University (1970-74) and Jackson State University in Mississippi from 1974 through 1984 (the Department Chair of Physics and Atmospheric Science.) He then was a Senior Scientist at Lockheed's Palo Alto Research Laboratory (1984-2001). Among his consulting and visiting fellowships, Dr. Straka has been at the National Science Foundation, Goddard Space Flight Center, IBM's Palo Alto Science Center, and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

He started climbing at age 12 and has climbed in Yosemite, the Sierra Nevada, the Cascades, Colorado Rockies, New England, Tetons, Bugaboos, Alaska (Denali), and Mexico (Orizaba, Ixta), the Matterhorn, Dolomites, in the Andes, Kilimanjaro and Antarctica's Vinson Massif.



# Saving Cheetahs and her Country @ Garrapata, CA, September 29

Dr. Laurie Marker continues the gifted contributions that women have made to saving the endangered species of African wildlife. Like Fossey and Goodall, Dr. Marker is a remarkably clear advocate for one species in particular and all by association. Her passion is the Cheetah; her home for research, understanding and education is in Namibia. On September 29, she enthralled a crowd of Northern California explorers at the Big Sur home of Harry & Dede Hicks.

Laurie presents a clear understanding, based upon scientific detail, of these cats who have been hunted to near extinction over the past century—down 90% from their traditional population. The farmers of Africa have killed in the assumption that the cats are major predators. She has shown just the opposite. A few, normally ill, animals down livestock. The overwhelming population prefer wildlife for sustenance—as it has always been. 97% of the scat shows this; further study of farmer kills show animals crippled in some manner to allow them to down wild prey. These seek, as most predatory animals of livestock do, the youngest calves.

Her teaching—education of Namibian (and elsewhere on the continent) as Future Farmers of Africa—is to protect their herds when the young are present. The older livestock are able to protect themselves for the most part; this is especially so with the help of Anatolian Shepard dogs. By instilling this understanding the herds are safer and the Cheetah are rebounding. Win-win!

Her research publications have established her reputation. She is sought to reintroduce the Cheetah into regions of the world where they have become extinct: in India (none since 1950!), in the Middle East (gone since 1970s), in the former Soviet Union (since the 1990s). Plans are laid to bring the cats back to be part of these natural habitats.

Dr. Marker is a resource for her adopted county beyond her focus upon the Cheetah. She has been called upon to guide the control and utility of the thorn bush which threatens to overrun vast areas of this arid land. (Namibia is not yet a quarter-century old, yet it is a stable safe region of Africa more than double the size of California. She has guided the development of “Bush Bloks” a compressed wood product ([www.bushblok.com](http://www.bushblok.com)), and the use of these ‘renewable’ plants as an electrical-utility fuel source.

Dr. Marker is the Founder and Executive Director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund; follow her efforts at [www.cheetah.com](http://www.cheetah.com); she can use your help. She is a Fellow of The Explorers Club and a recipient of a Lowell Thomas Award in 2010.



LEE LANCAN



RICK SABER

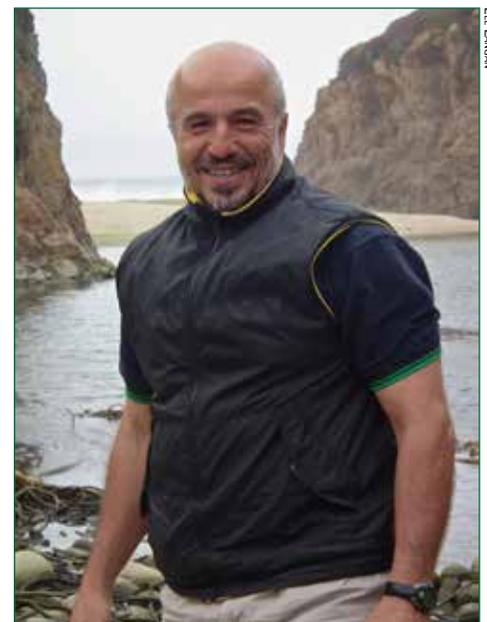
With “Royals’ Style” hospitality, Harry and Dede Hicks once again opened up their spectacular home, nestled high above the crashing surf south of Carmel, as base-camp for an extraordinary Explorers weekend. We were once again their appreciative guests at Garrapata Cove. (The surf was particularly forceful under the evening fog this visit; an engorged creek filled across the cove preventing a beach walk, but the spectacle was easily viewed from the cliffs.) The home, with treasures from decades of travel, is very welcoming to explorers; the meal was prepared by our Chapter Chair’s wife Kathy and friends; the whole as exciting as we have enjoyed before. How generous.

The Member Moment extended a bit longer than normal as we were pleased to welcome Erden Eruç, the intrepid human who self-powered himself around the world (as outlined in our September newsletter.) Erden is a most engaging person and he engaged the crowd with a brief recount of his five-year accomplishment. His mantra: “never consider ‘can’t’”. Beyond the desire to go still further by summiting the remaining three continental mountain ceilings he has yet to climb (Everest, Aconcagua, and Vinson Massif), he is now faced with returning to the world’s workforce. What a remarkable vibrant explorer (MN04).

To confirm his accomplishment and that of all others who circumnavigate the world, he has asked The Explorers Club to join the Royal Geographic Society, The Guinness Book of World Records, AdventureStats and the Ocean Rowing Society in supporting the formal definition of such a feat:

*A circumnavigation of the world consists of a journey which begins and ends at the same point, traveling in one general direction and passes through at least one antipodal pair\* of locations. (\* two diametrically opposite places on Earth.)*

His travels passed twelve such pairs! Normally this defines an averaged ‘great circle’ route, it must cross the equator at least twice, it crosses all latitudes, and it covers a minimum of 40,000 km (21600 nautical miles.) (Consider the feat of flying from pole to pole across the Pacific both ways? It passes the antipodal test but does not encompass the globe. Not a circumnavigation.)



LEE LANCAN

- Amaral, Julia
- Anderson, Susan
- Azarpay, Guitty
- Beebe, Mort
- Belcher, George
- Berg, Barbara
- Blake, Richard
- Blumberg, Marion
- Bogardus, Peter
- Boothe, Barry
- Boothe, Joan
- Borroughs, Charles
- Boudreau, Edward
- Cassell, Jay
- Chase, Keith
- Cheatham, Dan
- Chokas, Ann
- Clinch, Nick
- Cook, Sandra
- Cooper, Alan
- Cromwell, Thomas
- Crowder, Wendy
- Diggles, Mike
- Durbin, Thomas
- Dutcher, Susan
- Dyal, Palmer
- Ehrhart, Ken
- Ehrhart, Loretta
- Elkus, Nancy
- Engstrom, Dafne
- Engstrom, Mats
- Estey, Sue
- Ewing, Lesley
- Faggioli
- Flynn, Kathey
- Ford, Art
- Freitas, Anna
- Freitas, Paul
- Glacy, Char
- Glantz, Gina
- Glantz, Ron
- Guzy, Michael
- Hall, Tom
- Haringsma, Henry
- Herz, Michael
- Heydorn, William
- Hicks, Harry
- Higgins, R. J.
- Hodges, Eliot
- Hurson, Jim
- Hurson, Von
- Jepsen, Anders
- Jepsen, Kathy
- Kennard, David
- King, Steven
- Kobal, Daniel A.
- Kobal, Lois Z
- Komarmy, Margot
- Kutz, Dida
- Kvenvolden, Keith
- Langan, Karine
- Langan, Lee
- Lidicker, William
- Long, Elgen
- Lukawski, Edward
- McFadden, Ian
- McGann, Mary
- Merdinger, Charles
- Mueller, Neal
- Nichols, Alan
- O'Kane, Teresa
- Perkins, Shelby
- Pickworth, Diana
- Piper, Bob
- Prigoff, Jim
- Ross, Ed
- Ross, Sandra
- Rygh, Becky
- Saber, Aldeana
- Saber, Rick
- Schlagheck, John
- Shoemaker Lind, Sara
- Smith, Mark
- Smith, Ronald
- Smith, Steve
- Soper, Scott
- Taylor, Susan
- Von der Porten, Ed
- Walsh, Don
- Weiman, Mark
- Whiteside, Dede
- Ziegler, Robin

**From the Chair—** Well, I'm finally calming down after that remarkable weekend in Monterey and Big Sur. Whale watching, backstage at the Aquarium, and a great party! More than 45 members and guests truly had a blast at the Harry and Dede Hicks' lovely home on the cliff overlooking the Pacific. Great venue, great Cheetah talk, great people, great food! Our guest speaker didn't leave until close to 11 pm and has since expressed her appreciation to me about the interesting members she was able to speak with. I loved it that her Mom felt comfortable enough to engage with everyone there too.

October's talk is shaping up to be equally interesting as Professor Bill Straka reports on a study of the environmental effects of climate change on natural and cultural assets of the Peruvian Andes. Mountain climbing with another purpose.

Don't forget to look over your photos for a few entries to our BEST EXPLORATION PICTURE contest and exhibition, to be held at the Chapter Christmas Holiday party. The rules are simple: up to three submissions per member, in .jpg format, with location and date picture was taken. The winning selections will be shown continuously by power point during the party, and guests will vote to select the best-in-show. Contact me for more information. There will be prizes.

—Anders Jepsen PhD FN03

**Monterey Aquarium –** How could you bypass such opportunity? Barbara Berg arranged two groups with exceptional docents for a behind-the-scenes tour of this world class display of sea creatures, and who conducted and mentored us on just how unique our gem on the Pacific truly is. Fourteen of us are now far better informed on the not so secret sex life of moon-jellies or just how important are Coccolithophores to our well-being. The latter, or "Cocco's" produce organic carbon, are unicellular exo-skeletons constituting fine grained pelagic sediments, and who for the past 230 million years has been the base of the marine food chain.

This aquarium succeeded in what was considered impossible, the ongoing production of living thirty foot seaweed, growing at 4-6" per day, which gives an intense, "swaying" balance and beauty to the largest tank of living sea creatures in the world. Do you know that Sea-horses are and can be intense sex dependent upon shortage of the opposite sex? Check this Aquarium out, you'll not be disappointed.

—Rick Saber MN01



**From the Board—** The Board does not meet during the 'expedition season' so there is little to report. Our next meeting is mid-October, after this newsletter.

I am pleased that the Chapter was enthusiastic in supporting the 'paver' program at the New York headquarters. If you ever have a chance to visit our building it is a treat and the staff is most welcoming. It may well be that individuals want to buy their own paver. Have your name and message engraved long into the future. Check [www.explorers.org](http://www.explorers.org) for details.

In June the Board met in Houston to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Scott Carpenter's Mercury flight. The Texas Chapter held a grand banquet filled with astronauts; Scott was most appreciative and gracious. Your Board made a good showing. —Lee Langan FN99



Rick Saber



Dvorak & Jepsen at work

**Whale Watch-** Nine hearty explorers, with a couple dozen others boarded *Sea-Wolf* from Monterey's famed pier with high-spirited hopes in seeing the rare leviathans breach furiously from the over two mile depths of Monterey Canyon. Typical marine low-visibility fog of less than ¼ mile, and chill temps did not deter our motley crew from the mission at hand. An outstanding naturalist, Kate Spencer, regaled us with the rich sea life abounding all around us for the four-hour voyage; Kate, we discovered, is in process of joining the Explorers Club. Though we saw but one Humpback, he or she cavorted in many typical high-five flipper descents for our viewing. We also observed, close-by, dozens of Risso's Dolphins tending and training their calves. We returned enlightened by these close encounters.

—Rick Saber MN01

Whale & otters & penguin (Don Dvorak); dolphins & Aquarium shark (Rick Saber)



Rick Saber

**GRATITUDE—** Experiencing a dog-induced fall that resulted in a fracture no Explorer would wish upon themselves, I found I had some very special friends in our Chapter. Recovery wishes came in the form of some lovely blooms that carried an aromatic expression of the spirit of the club and it's amazing members – a remarkable combination of spice, sweet and incense that I savored for weeks!

Thanks to Chairman Anders, the Committee and, all of the Chapter who were included in the recovery wishes. The flowers, and your thoughts worked! I'll see you, if limpingly, at the next meeting!

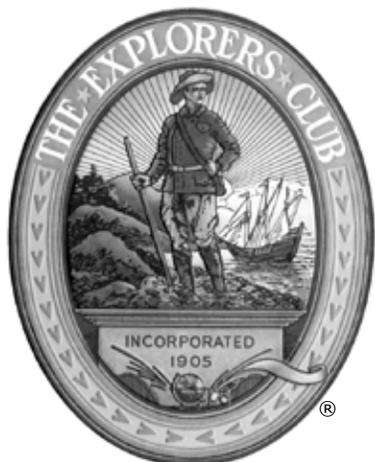
—Gratefully, Von Hurson



Langan

Dues cover the cost of our newsletter!  
Send \$25 to  
Joan Boothe

October 2012



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

October 26, 2012 – Return to Garrapata

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

October 26. . . . . Dr. Bill Straka
The ACC Cordillera Blanca, Peru Exped. 2011.

Upcoming Events (2012/13)

November 30. . . . . Prof. Michael J. Harner
Tribes of the Amazon and Shamanism
December 16. . . . . Annual Holiday Party
..best expedition photo contest' . . . Saber home
January 25. . . . . TEC Board visit
Board Story Night
February TBD . . . . . Dr David Des Marais
Mars Exploration by NASA, . . . . South Bay

Earlier Chapter Events (2011/12)

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
November . . . . . Joan Boothe/University Club
Otto Nordenskjöld's 1901-03 Saga of Survival
December 5 . . . . . Rick & Aldeana Saber
Member Reception . . . . . Tiburon
January 27, 2012 (Friday). Expedition Medicine
Matthew Lewin, MD . . . . . City Forest Lodge
February 24 . . . . . Joshua Glovin
HOT Ocean Exploration . . . . . City Forest Lodge
March 30 . . . . . Ed Von Der Porten
New Findings of San Felipe. . . . . City Forest Lodge
April 27 . . . . . Stephen Smith
16 years at Kosrae . . . . . City Forest Lodge
May 25 . . . . . John Wilus
Fremont's Canon . . . . . City Forest Lodge
September 29 . . . . . Return to Garrapata
The Hicks' Big Sur home.

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

USE PAYPAL!

Oct 26, San Francisco, City Forest Lodge

Date: Friday, October 26, 2012
Place: City Forest Lodge
254 Laguna Honda Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94116-1409
(415) 753-8326
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner — 8:00 - talk
Cost: \$49 in advance; \$60 after 23 Oct
Students: \$35. (2012 dues \$25!)
Reserve \_\_ spaces for Oct 26, 2012
Cost: \$49 (for members and sirdars)
\$35 for card-carrying studentsName:
Address (if changed):
Companion:
Entrée Choice (select from below\*):
Please reserve by Oct 23!
Please mail information to Joan Boothe,
2435 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115
or email hoodooskr@aol.com or call (415) 346-5934

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!

\*October Meal Options (select your choice)

Chicken Picatta, Spiral Baked Ham or (vegetarian) Vegetable Ravioli

Last January, the City Forest Lodge was sought out as a meeting place in the heart of San Francisco. Location details should be researched in advance as the lodge is hidden in a driveway just south along Seventh Avenue as it turns into Laguna Honda Boulevard. The Lodge has the catering and space needs we require, and our meetings this year have proved it is working!

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. Once the lot is full, park within the neighborhood, just uphill to the west.

Muni access is VERY easy from downtown via the light-rail Taraval 'L' Line 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 underground 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.)