Story Night

Six Tales Told by Members of The Explorers Club Board of Directors
San Francisco—January 25, 2013

In a tradition begun by now-President, then-Chapter Chair, Alan Nichols, the Northern California Chapter will hold another Story Night for our first meeting in 2013. As before, the speakers are organized by the capable Kay Schmieder; 10-12 minutes start to finish for each of the hook! It will prove to be most interesting (as have those that have preceded) with a unique twist—one not to be missed. Six Directors of The Explorers Club will each spin a tale about an experience that has made an impression upon them. We could announce their topics but believe it will be more interesting for you to come and hear! Six of the following will hold forth:

- **Bob Atwater**, Class of 2015, has carried several EC flags and led numerous scientific investigations; he is a former active US Marine and has been honored and active in as a Federal law enforcement officer.
- **Norm Baker**, Class of 2014, a sea captain, civil engineer and navigator for Thor Heyerdahl on the Atlantic reed voyages has experience from many adventures.
- **Catherine Nixon Cooke**, Class of 2013, a Sweeney Medalist, Texas Chapter activist, and prior Board member; has led three flag expeditions and served as President of The Mountain Institute among other posts.
- **Mark Fowler**, Class of 2015, is a wildlife documentarian, exposed to the animal kingdom over his entire life as the son of our Honorary Chairman, his father Jim.
- **Richard Garriott**, Special Director, is an astronaut by virtue of his personal drive and good fortune—and the example and mentoring of his father, NASA Astronaut Owen Garriott.
- **Scott Hamilton**, Class of 2014 (and before), is an explorer who has focused upon the Himalayas and contributed to the welfare of their inhabitants.
- **Lee Langan**, Class of 2013 (and running again!), has participated in Story Night before; he has a different story to reveal from his archaeological investigations.

The Explorers Club Board of Directors will all be present for their quarterly meeting in San Francisco, so this is an opportunity to meet and mingle with those individuals who have won your support to lead our venerable Club. You will find each anxious to meet our active chapter members and sirdars.

A venue new to our meetings has been selected: the headquarter ferryboat of the Hornblower organization. It is docked at Pier 3, along The Embarcadero; there is ample parking and the Muni F Line stops in front. Even a pleasant walk from the California 1 or the cable car terminus. While the evening’s cost is above our norm, it is a very special occasion and your chapter officers have worked hard to achieve a good value.

In addition to this meeting there will be a forum on the subject of “What Should be The Explorers Club Policy on Deaccessing Finds from Marine Archaeology?” It will be on the afternoon of January 25, and at this writing it will be at the Maritime Museum in Aquatic Park; final details will be sent by email. The forum will be led by Dr. Lee Talbot MED’08, a distinguished member and former scientific advisor to two presidents. On the forum will be Dr. James P. Delgado, the Director of Maritime Heritage in the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for NOAA and Jerry Ostermiller, Executive Director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum and former President Council of American Maritime Museums. You are welcome, from 2-4 pm.
Michael Harner knows shamans; he is a convert. An academic who appreciates the skills of these ancient indigenous cultural healers. Michael has spent his career speaking on their behalf and understanding their skills. He has entered into their worlds and knows of what they speak. As an advocate for the powers of these mystical individuals he offers the reality of their effectiveness. He knows how well they can make people well.

His research is pragmatic. The well-being that the shaman can bring depends upon the spiritual understanding they have learned and experienced. This is not in conflict with traditional western medicine; it is complementary. The healing impact extends from the mystical and beyond the knowledge-based practice of modern medicine. Where it is of benefit, it results from the achieved knowledge of the indigenous ‘wisdom keepers’; the shaman culture has developed over man’s eons.

It is difficult to understand the why and how of the practicing shaman; these skills are achieved by entering into a ‘world’ beyond what most people experience daily—an upper or lower place brought about by some hallucinogens and, by mature practitioners, with the unique rhythm of a drum beat. Harner uses the drums, yet his introduction to this experience was through plants in the Upper Amazon, years ago.

To be healed by a shaman, one does not have to enter into their worlds—they have that knowledge. The client needs only to be respectfully accepting. While the individual shaman’s capabilities can ebb and flow, when they work it is magical.

Dr. Harner’s The Way of the Shaman is the classic on this subject. His Foundation for Shamanic Studies has as its mission the study, preservation and transmission of ancient shamanic knowledge: <www.shamanism.org>.

For her Member’s Moment Suzanne Klotz MN’12 described her explorations over the last 20 years, which began with self directed walking tours in the Himachal Pradesh of the Western India Himalayas, morphed to leading treks along that route and led to the recording of her observations of the indigenous peoples and their cultures for the San Francisco Asian Art Museum. She showed the people, their religious habits, icons and festivals. Her photographs left us wanting more.

NorCA Photo Contest Thanks to all of you who participated in the contest; it was a delight to have such good pictures to choose from. There were a total of 27 photos from 15 contestants. With a time-interval setting of 5 seconds per picture folks at the Holiday Party could take several repeated views to decide which ones deserved their three choices. Thus, all the pictures got good exposure.

The single photo with the most votes: Avenue of the Baobabs, by Teresa O’Kane.

Tied for runner up were Huaroni Indigenous Healer Gathering Medicinal Bark by Steven King and Zebras Spooked by a Stalking Lion by Rick Saber. The prize for best picture was a gift certificate at Amazon.
From the Chair— As 2012 comes to a close, I am grateful for the terrific year that we have completed. Nine interesting talks, a great Holiday party with its successful photo contest, an expedition to the New Almaden Mercury mine and, of course, our annual expedition picnic on Angel Island. The attendance at meetings managed to increase as the year went on, and the interesting stories that emerged from some members highlighted the regular Member Moments. The City Forest Club, while not overly endowed with parking, has turned out to be a very comfortable venue for our dinner meetings, and their staff has been exceptionally helpful at our meetings.

I am most grateful for the terrific support I have received from Vice Chair Rick Saber, Treasurer Joan Boothe, Field Trip Organizer Von Hurson, the communications team of Mike Diggles, Steve Smith and Lee Langan, and the back room efforts of our Board of past Chairs who are always ready to pitch in when something needs their input.

The months ahead look to be equally stimulating, starting with the January Director’s Story Night, going on in February to NASA for a report on Mars and Curiosity, and continuing from there.

I am looking forward to being able to greet everyone in the coming months and wish you a Happy New Year!

—Anders Jepsen PhD FN’03

Chapter Elections At our November meeting the current slate of officers for the Northern California Chapter were reelected to continue their splendid effort on our behalf for the Calendar Year 2013! We are fortunate to have their dedication and seek other members and sirdars within the chapter to step forth to aid in the progress that has been made over the years. Northern California is one of the most active chapters in The Explorers Club, worldwide. The success is the result of the continuity we have enjoyed since our establishment in 1973. This fact was evident when all living local past Chairs joined in the festivities at Rick Saber’s—as they often do.

2013 will be our 40th year, and this anniversary will be celebrated on the occasion of our January Story Night aboard the Santa Rosa Ferryboat! Be sure to be there.

HOLIDAY MAGIC it came upon a wet and wild 16th of December—an evening that offered proof that, for sixty-plus Holiday-spirited Explorers, nothing would stop an expedition to Rick and Aldeana Saber’s exquisitely beautiful home in San Rafael for the annual Explorers Club Holiday Party. The evening was truly merry as guests were treated to a lavish and extravagant Scandinavian buffet/feast—theme-planned in honor of our Chapter Chair, Anders Jepsen. Kathy Jepsen and Aldeana put together some of the most amazing Scandinavian delicacies—from homemade herring to Swedish meatballs and an elegant cor-nucapia cake created by Eric Jepsen—while wine and Glögg kept everyone’s spirits bright.

There was also an impressive attendance of current and past Chapter Chairs – Lesley Ewing, Steve Smith, Lee Langan, Bob Schmieder, Alan Nichols (past Chair and current National EC President), and Anders, of course – all adding to the scintillating conversation that rippled through the house.

Special gratitude to our hosts and to all who came to make this such a joy-filled, amazingly special evening to be long-remembered, and perhaps just a hint of what 2013 will bring!

When the Going gets Tough, Professionals Improvise! Let it never be said that City Forest Lodge would let us down! Not only are their fine staff of Ron, Margaret, Cindy and Chef Rick the easiest group to work with for our meetings, their food spectacular and affordable, but they proved to be innovative and resourceful in solving a major PG&E gas-line problem. The morning preceding our November meeting, their gas feed line failed. Ron Dumont, Manager; and Chef Rick immediately went to plan “B”: cooking all day on a heavy propane-fired stove they hauled in just for our dinner. City Forest deserves expedition-like recognition for going the extra mile….a quality consistently seen by our Chapter.

From the Board There has been no meeting since our last newsletter, but the activities of the Directors have hardly ceased; this is a period of intense behind the scene activity by all TEC committees. Most important, perhaps, is that of the Nominating Committee chaired by an outgoing Director—this year Dan Kobal. He and four experienced members, not directors, will review all requests to be nominated that were received by mid-December. At a special meeting in January, the Board will vote upon those chosen to be presented to the membership, Ballots will be mailed in late January, and those returned will be tallied and announced at the Annual Meeting, the day after March’s ECAD (Explorers Club Annual Dinner.) Members in good standing who are current with their dues may vote. Directors may serve two three-year terms; I have requested to be nominated for my second term.

—Lee Langan FN’99

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

NorCA Chapter
2013 Contributors
Boothé, Barry
Boothé, Joan
Cantini, Mary
Cook, Sandra
Crowder, Wendy
Ewing, Lesley
Faggioni, Richard E.
Ford, Art
Hodges, Eliot
Hutchinson, Alan
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Klotz, Suzanne
Jepsen, Kathy
Jepsen, Anders
Klorz, Suzanne
Langan, Karine
Langan, Lee
Libowitz, Dan
Nichols, Peter
Saber, Rick
Smith, Mark
Smith, Steve
Von der Porten, Ed
Weil, James

The list is shorter as we begin a new year. Add your name!
**January 25, 2013 – Story Night**

**Jan 25, San Francisco @ Pier 3, San Francisco**

**Date:** Friday, January 25, 2013  
**Place:** Ferryboat “Santa Rosa”  
Pier 3, The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Reserve __ spaces for Jan 25, 2013  
**Cost:** $75

(2013 dues due: $25!)

Use PayPal!

**Name:** ____________________________  
**Address (if changed):** ____________

**Companion:** ________________________

**Entrée Choice (select from below*):** ____________________________

Please reserve by January 20 or ASAP

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!

*January Meal Options (select your choice)  
Chicken / Grilled Fish / Vegetarian

On Pier 3, along The Embarcadero, just north of the Ferry Building, enter onto the pier. There is parking available for $10 for the evening. Tied along the pier is the Ferryboat Santa Rosa; the meeting will be held on the main deck at the stern; two planks are available to board.

Muni access is VERY easy. The old-car ‘F’ line stops by the pier; this line can be accessed along Market Street or the northern Embarcadero, with easy connections to BART and CalTrains.

This is a special event for the Northern California Chapter, thus the higher cost and early need for a reservation. You are welcome to attend and urged to bring friends and potential members.

It is a splendid opportunity to meet members of the Board from throughout the country.