

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

April 2013

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

Clipperton Expedition

The 2013 Cordell Flag Expedition to Clipperton Island

Robert Schmieder, Ph.D., FN'86, Chair Emeritus
San Francisco—April 26, 2013

Lying 700 miles south of Cabo San Lucas, Clipperton is one of the most isolated islands in the world. It is the only coral atoll in the eastern Pacific, and it lies at the interface between major biological provinces. A possession of France, it has a colorful past, including periods of military, colonial, and mining occupation, shipwrecks, piracy, smuggling, and murder. Clipperton attracts many scientific, fishing, diving, photographic, and amateur radio expeditions.

During February-March, 2013, Bob led a 29-person expedition to Clipperton, using a vessel chartered from San Diego. The team included 24 radio amateurs and five scientists and filmmakers from ten countries, about half from Europe and half from North America. During ten days of occupation, the team set up and operated ten radio stations, making a total of 114,000 individual contacts, new records for such expeditions. A particularly interesting aspect was the development of a “live” website that displayed near-real-time graphic displays of the radio log data, updating automatically every 60 seconds.

The team planned and carried out a variety of scientific observations and collections, including the first specimens of foraminifera, a major taxonomic group of microscopic animals important for the study of global climate. Other observations, including searches for a particular invasive ant and congenitally deformed seabirds, proved negative.

The expedition was carried out within Bob's nonprofit organization, *Cordell Expeditions*. The expedition carried Explorers Club Flag #126, and a Belgian EC member, LouPhi Loncke, was a part of the team.

Bob is completing a book about the project—written in 3 weeks—that will be available at the meeting. For more information, please visit the expedition website www.tx5k.org and the expedition blog at www.ky6r.com. The live website can be seen at www.dxa2.org. Bob can be reached at schmieder@cordell.org or at (925) 934-3735.

LOCATION

Note venues and dates with care.

In San Francisco, CA,
our next meeting is 6:30 pm
April 26, a FRIDAY,
at City Forest Lodge



Clipperton satellite view (above)

Expedition camp site (red circle) from kite



Flag #126 with Loncke & Schmieder

Ground view of expedition camp



NorCA Members, Sirdars, guests are invited to a personal viewing
and tour of the “*SOLAR IMPULSE*” aircraft at Moffett Field

TUESDAY — 23 April 2013 – 1300-1400 at Moffett Field, Mountain View, CA

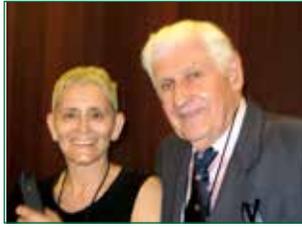
ESSENTIAL: you **MUST** sign up by Noon on April 21 — see details and description on Page 2

Hidden Valleys and Ancient Religions @ San Francisco — March 28



These monuments to the religions of the Himachial Pradesh extend from the 14th Century to the 21st! They are maintained by the local people to this day and have transitioned from fortresses and lookouts to temples.

Suzanne Klotz MN'12 took the Northern California Chapter into the hidden valleys of the Himachial Pradesh of

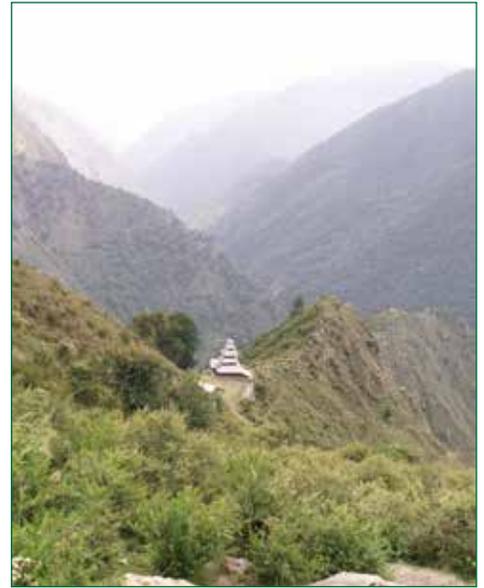


(above center) Speaker Klotz with Chair Anders Jepsen

Northwestern India for a glimpse of the impact of local dieties on the daily life of local peoples, an impact that has existed for centuries. The rugged nature of the lower Himalayas isolates villages and cultures—each has evolved their own impressions of animal gods, often snakes pasts sages and female goddesses. Each village has some building or art devoted to these dieties, and the locals entreat them for the good that the gods bring and to ward off evil that might occur without proper respect. It is a complicated world in these far distant places.

Suzanne has spent nearly two decades visiting this rugged isolated part of the vast complex that is India. Over time she has taken it upon herself to study and understand how religion fits into the everyday life of the locals. The picture she has developed is one of an evolution from intra-valley conflict to a still-ancient animism subculture of the Hindu faith. This everyday impact is evident, as is the impact of religions throughout the world, in the buildings and icons at the villages and places of 'origin'.

She has captured, in her photography, the essence of the complexity of indiginous peoples evident in these deep valleys and so common around our world.

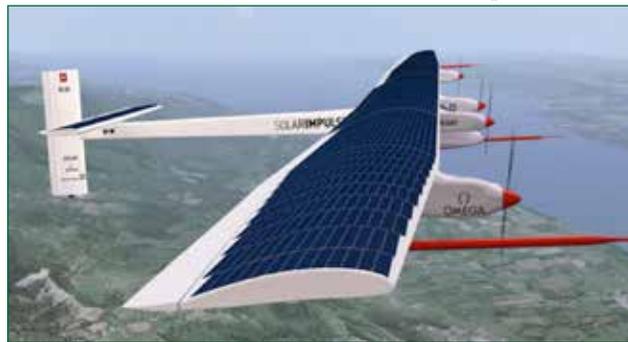


Solar Impulse is a delicate featherweight aircraft made mostly of carbon fiber with 11,826 photovoltaics cells on its horizontal stabilizer and the upper surface of it's 208-foot wing, just 3 feet less than that of a Boeing 747-400. Under the wing are four nacelles, each with a set of lithium-polymer batteries that generate 10 hp and a twin-bladed propeller that uses the solar energy equivalent of a small motorcycle. The entire aircraft weighs a mere 3527 pounds, less than the average family car, and has a cruising speed of 43 mph, the average speed of a scooter

The concept born in Switzerland by Bertrand Picard and Andre Borschberg (photo above) has been described as a "beautifully simple airplane" known by its Swiss aircraft identification as HB-SIA.

His mission is a voyage to see what man can do and what lies around the next corner of man's knowledge exploring what solar technology can really do and just how far it will take us—literally and figuratively.

After three years of flight tests from Switzerland to Spain and Morocco, weather permitting the *Solar Impulse* is scheduled to begin a



transcontinental flight departing on May 1, with planned stops en route. Theoretically it is possible to fly nonstop, but as a single-pilot aircraft it is limited by human endurance.

Bertrand Piccard was the keynote speaker at the 2012 Lowell Thomas Dinner and copilot of the first nonstop balloon navigation around the globe for which he received the Lowell Thomas Award in 1999.

DETAILS / SIGN-UP—read carefully, Questions?? Call Rick Saber 415-457-0345 **Any participants MUST be pre-registered** no later than 48 hours prior to entry onto the Moffet Field where the plane is staged in a hangar. No ticket, no entry due to security. **Required Pre-Registration & request for free tickets. can be accomplished by accessing**

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6248849477>

(I printed out tickets for myself and wife with no hassles /Rick Saber)

after printing your tickets, you MUST ALSO contact our Treasurer to be added to the list of participants:

Joan Boothe hoodooskr@aol.com / or call her direct at 415.346.5934

The cost will be minimal, only a modest charge for the shuttle bus. A Solar Impulse representative will be available to share further details of the Cross Country Flight as well as answer questions following the visit to Solar Impulse

Meet at Exploration Center Main Entrance for shuttle busses which will convey you onto the airfield. **Directions** To NASA-Ames Exploration Center (where we held the Mars Rover talk in February) **From Highway 101:** Exit at 'Moffett Blvd / NASA Parkway', then turn right onto Moffett Blvd. and proceed to the four way stop sign at the Main Gate. **From Highway 85:** 85 Northbound, exit at 'Moffett Blvd' and then turn right onto Moffett Blvd. and proceed to the four way stop sign at the Main Gate. Look for the large white tent (Exploration Center) immediately on right, drive around to the back for parking. Shuttle pickup will be at main entrance of Exploration Center

Allan, Jim
Barrett, Reginald
Blumberg, Marion
Bogardus, Peter
Boothe, Barry
Breed, George
Cantini, Mary
Chase, H. Keith
Cheatham, Nonna
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Crowder, Wendy
Day, Peggy
Dutcher, Susan
Esley, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Faggioli, Richard E.
Ford, Art
Glantz, Gina
Glantz, Ron
Guzy, Michael
Guzy, Michael
Hamer, Michael
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Hicks, Harry
Higgins, Bob
Hirzel, David
Hodges, Eliot
Hurson, Jim
Hurson, Von
Hutchison, Alan
Hutchison, Ann
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Jepsen, Kathy
Klotz, Suzanne
Klotz, Suzanne
Komarmy, Margot
Komarmy, Margot
Kutz, Dida
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Karine
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
Libowitz, Dan
Long, Elgen
Maroney, Robert
McGann, Mary
McPhail, Brian
Meniketti, Marco
Merdinger, Charles
Moyer, David
Nichols, Peter
O'Kane, Teresa
Perkins, Shelby
Prigoff, James
Ross, Sandy
Roush, John
Rygh, Char
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Bob
Schmieder, Kay
Smith, Mark
Smith, Steve
Taylor, Susan
Van Austen, Judy
Van Austen, Robert
Von der Porten, Ed
Walsh, Don
Weil, James
Whiteside, Dede

From the Chair— Well, the program last month was pretty intense, what with the ECAD report, talk of upcoming field trips (not even including the now impending solar airplane trip to Moffet Field next week) and the great member talks. The Member Moment with Peggy Day's story about her Tibetan orphanage was certainly dramatic, as was the presentation of Himalayan culture from Northern India by Suzanne Klotz. I am awed by the depth of interests which gets revealed by our members. We're certainly fortunate to have all you active explorers as part of our Chapter.

Our Chapter also benefits from the relationships that President Alan Nichols and Director Lee Langan have with prominent members of The Explorers Club, as exemplified by the availability of the latest solar-powered demonstration which we will have at Moffet Field on Tuesday, the 23rd. Vice Chair Rick Saber has taken on the role of coordinator for that event and for all Explorers Club Chapters where the plane will visit. Thanks Rick, Alan and Lee.

As an active solar-power proponent myself, as well as having had a long-ago relationship with the initial developer of the human powered and solar powered airplane, Paul MacCready, I certainly plan to attend to see the latest solar version which is scheduled to take off from San Francisco for the East Coast around May 1. That aircraft has already flown from Europe to Africa, and it's a great chance to speak with the two explorer pilots, one of whom is a 3rd generation member of the Explorers Club. I hope to see you all there.

The latest example of the depth of our resources is the up-coming talk by past Chair Dr. Robert Schmieder on his most recent expedition to Clipperton Island back in February. I am sure there are other exploration stories within our ranks as well that we'd love to hear. Please tell me!

—Anders Jepsen PhD FN'03



(l-r) Chair Anders Jepsen, Karine Langan, renewed Director Lee Langan, Kathy Jepsen, Vice Chair Rick Saber (Aldeana, behind the lens!)



From the Board The most exciting news for two members of the Northern California Chapter is that, at the Annual Meeting of the Club's members, the election results confirmed that they will continue on the Board of Directors. President Alan Nichols FN'84 and Lee Langan FN'99 were elected to the Class of 2016 together with incumbents Jim Clash FR'99 and Don Morley MN'90. Dr. James Delgado FN'97, a maritime archaeologist, was the fifth successful candidate—also a native of the San Francisco Bay Area! There was a sense of appreciation that the policies and team that have guided The Explorers Club for the past year are maintaining our venerable organization with responsibility. I thank each of you who gave me your confidence.

—Lee Langan FN'99

Member Moment— Peggy Day, MN'90.

In more than 25 years of travel to the Himalayas, Peggy has trekked with Sherpa Tenzin Norgay, and she counts the Dalai Lama as a friend and mentor. None other than Sir Edmund Hillary was her sponsor for membership in the Explorers Club. Her primary focus over these years has been on Tibet, Bhutan and Mongolia – three Buddhist cultures in transition. Exploring, guiding and completing projects with Himalayan communities have been her trademark.

Building and maintaining a home for 28 orphaned children within Tibet has been her dream come true. Over 14 years, six have graduated – a nurse, a beautician, a sous-chef, two waiters and a carpenter. Two girls have been accepted into medical colleges. All are doing well in school. Although the real success of this place is that the children had a sense of family and security, the government has decided to close it and others and to move the children into large institutions. With a lockdown in place, Peggy has been unable to communicate with friends in Tibet, but she will be there as soon as that changes.

In his sponsorship letter for Peggy's EC membership, Sir Edmund Hillary described truly remarkable woman as full of enthusiasm and devoted to the welfare of the Himalayan people. Of this there is no doubt.



Story and photos by Von Hurson



(l-r) Aldeana Saber, Diana Pickworth, Von Hurson, Dida Kurtz, Barbera Berg, Lesley Ewing; the lady explorers from NorCA well represented – well.

RICK SABER

ECAD 2013—The Waldorf Grand Ballroom was filled to the rafters for the first Explorers Club Annual Dinner officiated by President Nichols. It was a success by all measurements. The Northern California Chapter was well represented with more than thirty in attendance, three adjacent tables overlooking the stage plus a scattering of others throughout the 1200 attendees.

The evening ceremonies opened with President Alan Nichols reflecting on the impact of sacred places acknowledged by man throughout the ages in all cultures and with all individuals...think about it. Awardees were eloquent and delightfully brief; many celebrants stayed to dance into the night.

The several days included a series of special interviews, *Explorer Legends* (organized by Director Jim Clash). They were special: Jim Whittaker, John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, James Cameron. Sunday featured talks about a half-dozen expeditions; the weekend ended with a *Safari Tea* in the Trophy Room

No one imagined Alan Nichols was recovering less than a month from his bicycle experience.



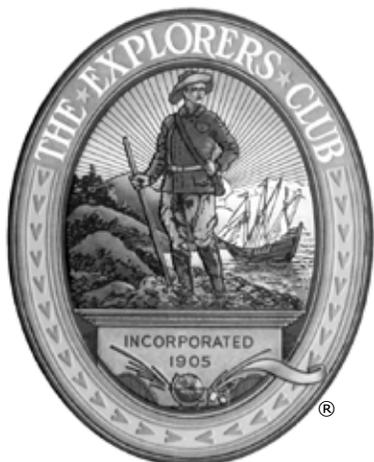
Flag 161 is being 'retired' to hang at the Lowell Thomas Building; it was carried to the top of Everest and the bottom of the Marianas Trench. Here are two who had this flag: Jim Cameron and Mike Diggles.

The list is building.
Add your name!

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



April 2013



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

April 26, 2013 – Clipperton Isle

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

April 26 Bob Schmieder
Clipperton Isle City Forest Lodge

Upcoming Events (2013)

May 2, 2013 non-NorCA Klotz lecture
Asian Art Museum. San Francisco
May 11, 2013 NorCA Field Trip
Black Diamond Coal Mine, Contra Costa
May 31, 2013 Nicole L. Crane
Conserving Ocean Resources City Forest Lodge
June 9, 2013 NorCA Picnic
Angel Island "Expedition"

Earlier Chapter Events (2012/13)

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.
October 26. City Forest Lodge
Cordilleran Blanca. Dr. Bill Straka
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, 2013. TEC Board visit
Board's Story Night Ferryboat, Pier 3, SF
February 22, 2013 Dr David Des Marais
Mars Exploration by NASA, Moffett Field
March 28,2013 Susan Klotz
Northeast Nepal. City Forest Lodge

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

USE PAYPAL!

April 26, San Francisco @ City Forest Lodge

Date FRIDAY, April 26, 2013 Reserve __ spaces for 26 April 2013
Place: City Forest Lodge
254 Laguna Honda Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94116-1409
(415) 753-8326
Cost: \$49 in advance; \$60 after 24 Apr
Students: \$35. (2013 dues \$25!)
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner — 8:00 - talk
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!

*APRIL Meal Options (select your choice)
Salmon, Chicken Teriyaki or vegetarian cheese ravioli

In 2012, the City Forest Lodge was sought out as a meeting place in the heart of San Francisco. 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!

Location details should be researched in advance

There is parking, and the location, while unfamiliar to some, 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 Peninsu-
la'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.)