An Important Policy Change — the Newsletter

Your Chapter newsletter has been provided by mail for as long as the Chapter has been: 46 years. There have been requests in editorials or Chapter Chair essays asking that recipients shift to PDF versions available on our website. Since 2013, PDFs are also available in print-friendly high resolution.

On July 2, 2014, at a Chapter Board Meeting the decision was made to act upon conversion to digital distribution. Members will now have to “opt IN” to receive the printed version. After the July 2014 (this) & September 2014 (next) issues, you will not receive a mailed copy if you do not specifically ask.

Discussion:

1) For those who do not have appropriate internet/email resources, you are welcome to receive the printed newsletter. Just ask.

2) For those who just want a printed copy, you do not have to beg. Just ask

3) For those who want a nice color version, the high-resolution version at www.explorersnorca.org is print friendly.

4) Most simply want the information; a link is emailed as soon as each issue is available. An archive of past meetings back to 1996 is on the web site.

Why do this now?

1) Well over 90% of our members have email addresses.

2) It costs nothing to distribute electronically. Each mailed newsletter costs about $1.

3) The hard-copy newsletter is printed in less-than-optimum black and white quality;

4) Experience has indicated a deadline and option beats a suggested voluntary response.

5) Your chapter board would like to save this expenditure.

What must you do?

1) If you already receive email notifications: nothing is required.

2) If you want email links in the future (and do not currently receive notice from the chapter): send an email to Steve (ecnca@oceanearth.org) saying, “Please add me to the chapter email list”. (Sign your name as shown on this mailing address.)

3) If you want to continue receiving printed newsletters either:
   a) send an email to Steve (ecnca@oceanearth.org) saying, “Please continue the mailed newsletter for (your name as shown on this newsletter)”
   b) mail this news letter to Steve at (402 Via Royal, Walnut Creek, CA 94597) noting, “Please continue”. (Or, just drop a line!)

That’s it! If we do not hear one way or the other by October 1, 2014, we will be confirm your choice to stop receiving the print addition and start receiving the email version.

Chapter Chair Rick Saber, Editor Lee Langan, List Secretary Steve Smith
July 2, 2014, Northern California Chapter Board Meeting
A Life in the Trees, at the Top of Her Game — San Francisco

Drawn to San Francisco by the California Academy of Science, Dr. Margaret Lowman has joined the Northern California Chapter. As the Academy’s Chief of Technology and Research, she was welcomed by a sell-out chapter meeting on May 23. Everyone understood the Academy’s enthusiasm after listening about her evolution as an early arbornaut to a worldwide champion of the Earth’s forests. Meg speaks with authority, knowledge, concern and urgency about the lessons mankind is so slow to learn about the detrimental impact on forest distribution; civilization has largely ignored the continued destruction of this often non-renewable resource. The uneducated, driven by shear subsistence, short-sightedly hack away at the very resource that sustains them. Rain forests are decimated.

Within the canopies of these growths are 50% of all living species, both plant and animal, large and tiny. As the forests disappear, so do many, discovered or not. As forests are reduced, their ability to maintain the rain cycle lessens; it can no longer be sustained; arid lands can no longer maintain agriculture. People starve. Can this be stopped, reversed? That is what she tries to effect.

‘Canopy Meg’ works and studies in that part of the forest where foliage exists. When she began in 1979, few undertook this endeavor for it was not an easy place to reach. An avid tree-climbing child in upstate New York, she took to the rope and harness naturally without fear of heights. She built her academic credentials as a pioneer in the tree tops. Access was a constant constraint, and she has fostered intriguing ways to allow an increasing audience, young and old, participation. A unique way: canopy walk-ways. These are spreading around the world, useful to study and touring alike—one pays for the other. Other unusual ways to the canopy are by aerial ‘boats’ dangled below navigable balloons. In some places construction cranes suit routine investigations. Always a challenge, the field has grown and major discoveries of new species and medicinal plants have been made.

While continuing her research, she has broadened her interests to focus upon how we can save the forests, and this has taken unusual turns. In the Camaroons she has taken part in encouraging the locals to establish an orchid exporting business. Whole families partake and benefit, as they appreciate the immediate value of the forest. In northern Ethiopia, where 95% of the trees are gone, the remaining groves remain surrounding the Coptic churches. Here she has made great progress in forest protection: the priests (as keepers of all God’s creatures) have developed a great idea. They now preach conservation and practice it by involving the locals in building walls around the remaining forests to protect the trees from further dismantling. Can they expand the remaining 5%? It will be slow, but at least now the populace understands the value.

Vietnamese architect Dr. Le-Huu Kha attended Meg’s talk. He spoke about the value of creating a canopy trail in Vietnam through the length of the country and the need to understand the environmental stress on their country being brought about by increasing industrialization. He is seeking the Academy’s cooperation in accomplishing these goals.

Another accomplished presentation to our chapter rounded out a full academic year of exceptional talks. There is little doubt the enthusiasm was infectious, and we shall see new members join.
From the Chair—Take heed of the message on the front. While we do not wish to proclaim that our well-received newsletter be eliminated if you wish a black & white version, we believe that many just have never thought much about the impact.

One further comment: our October Chapter Meeting will be consolidated with the national Lowell Thomas Dinner in southern California. The other west-coast chapters are doing the same to enhance participation in this major event. This will give everyone a chance to plan ahead, for it is perhaps easier to join such a spectacle in California (versus traveling to ECAD in New York!) Details will be forthcoming but, as the notice below indicates there will be events throughout the weekend.

–Capt. Rick Saber MN’01

From the Board

Your Explorers Club Board met in May. Business was important, but most could be classed as within the routine of our activity. We addressed both major galas, because they support the finances of The Explorers Club substantively: David Dolan was appointed Chairman of the Lowell Thomas Dinner to be held on October 11, at the Bowers Museum in Anaheim, as noted elsewhere. For the 2015 ECAD, scheduled for March 21, we appointed a triad of co-Chairs—Catherine Cooke, Vanessa O’Brien & Kellie Gerardie—for this major event. Give any one of them a call to help. On another personnel front (because it is the people who matter the most) four Special Directors were unanimously appointed: Catherine Cooke, David Hempleman-Adams, Ted Janulis and Bill Liss. Each brings a special skill to our deliberations

–Lee Langan FN’99

Gene & Sybil Boudreau — Generous Again

On June 8, 2014, under perfect pre-summer Sonoma County skies, NorCA guests of Sibyl and Eugene started arriving promptly at three in the afternoon. Sibyl’s organizational skills in hosting our annual Picnic were not lost on us as the Boudreau’s were departing for an extended return to France mere days later.

Greeted with champagne and gentle music from a lovely roving violinist, the stage was set upping the water-mark for any future picnic. With the sale of Captain Schmieder’s “Cordell Explorer”, which historically carried a boatload to Angel Island, we have entered a new summer phase. Any Member with a good suggestion for Picnic 2015 will find your Board listening with all ears!

We watched Sibyl’s galley crew place tasty south of the border delicacies before us as a four-piece Mariachi Band brought us deep into a festive South of the Border Village mood. Gene held court in the shade of the trellis section of their chateau, regaling us with vivid tales of the Sierra Madre and his lifelong passion for exploration. We were surrounded by treasures and artifacts he brought back which further anchored his years of explorations of the peoples and cultures he found so interesting.

A table was covered with many books he authored describing adventures and tales experienced by a crusty cadre of early pioneers faced with the usual hardships of taming a wild and lawless territory. Many of these books in which he interpreted the Sierra Madre in colorful language were given to any with an interest. Your Chair is currently engrossed in “Chubasco”, a novel of the 1910 Mexican Revolution. The time flew as the witching hour approached when Sibyl and Gene bid us Adieu. We left Chateau Boudreau with fond and enchanted memories. Merci to them! Where ever it may be, next years picnic will have a difficult time matching this lovely afternoon…or will it? We challenge our fellow chapter explorers to inspire us with your creative ideas.

(from top, clockwise) the Boudreaus and Chair Saber; Kay Schmieder, Kathy Jepsen, Rick Blake; Joan Boothe & Rick Saber, host Gene Boudreau, our violinist; Sybil and the mariachis
September 26, 2014 – Apiary Science

**Our Next Event**

**Date:** FRIDAY, September 26, 2014  
**Place:** City Forest Lodge  
**Address (if changed):** 254 Laguna Honda Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94116-1409  
**(415) 753-8326**  
**Cost:** $49 in advance; $60 after 21 September  
**Students:** $35. (2014 dues: members, $25; Sirdars, $50)

**Time:** 6:30 - reception  
7:15 - dinner — 8:00 - program

*September Meal Options (select your choice)*  
Tri-tip of beef; chicken picatta and veggie: eggplant parmesan

**Reserve** ______ spaces  
**Name:** ___________________________  
**Meal choice:** ___________________________

**Companion:** (if changed): ___________________________  
**Address:** ___________________________

**Payment:**  
Please mail reservation information, checks & dues to Steve Smith,  
ecnca@oceanearth.org, call (925) 934-1051, or  
mail to 402 Via Royal, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

**Locations**  
City Forest Lodge

**Earlier Chapter Events (2013/14)**  
January 31, 2014 Honorary President Don Walsh  
Lunch aboard the Titanic. City Forest Lodge
February 28, 2014 Dr. Lynn Rothchild  
Is there life in space. City Forest Lodge
March 15-16, 2014 Dr. Meg Lowman  
Mountain Building
March 18, 2014 Dr. T. Mark Harrison  
Exploration & Technology Waldorff=Astoria, NYC

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