

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

January 2015

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

ICE AGE BEHEMOTHS

Dr. Timothy King

San Francisco --- January 30, 2015

In the Summer of 2013, archaeologist Dr. Tim King and paleontologist Trevor Valle travelled 300 miles above the Arctic Circle (through northeastern Siberia) to be the first Western scientists to examine a recent and remarkable paleontological discovery: what is likely to be the most intact frozen woolly mammoth ever discovered. This 43,000-year-old frozen mammoth, discovered by native Siberian “mammoth ivory hunters,” has intact muscle, skin, and hair. Initially, Russian scholars claimed to have even recovered blood from this frozen carcass. This specimen is also the first adult female mammoth ever recovered (she was likely in her mid-50s). She has a number of anatomical features which are by far the most well-preserved examples found: her trunk and mouth are completely intact – revealing a number of anatomical features previously unknown to science. Dr. King and Mr. Valle’s expedition and analysis of this mammoth is documented in the National Geographic Channel show “Mammoth Unearthed” (initial airdate Oct 26th 2014).

Dr. King will also address several topics surrounding this find: current understandings about mammoth evolution, the possibility of cloning a woolly mammoth, and discoveries of a related species in the Bay Area – Dr. King is one of the Principal Investigators of the recovery and analysis of a Columbian Mammoth found (in an artichoke field) in the town of Castroville, California.

Dr. King is an archaeologist and anthropologist, currently teaching at Santa Clara University and at UC Berkeley. Dr. King specializes in ancient Mesoamerican societies, Archaeoastronomy (astronomy of ancient societies), and writing systems of the ancient world. He worked as the Project Coordinator and a Principal Investigator on the Castroville Mammoth Project, in collaboration with Archaeologists Mark Hylkema, Daniel Cearley and Paleontologist Trevor Valle.

Dr. King received a PhD in anthropological sciences from Stanford. His regional focus is ancient Mesoamerica, in particular the ancient and modern Maya and the ancient metropolis of Teotihuacán in central Mexico.



King and Valle exploring in Siberia Their work was recently published in the National Geographic Magazine.

LOCATIONS

Note venues and dates with care.

In San Francisco, CA,
our next meeting is 6:30 pm
January 30, a FRIDAY,
at Pomery Center
207 Skyline, San Francisco



Note: This meeting will be held at a new site, the Pomery Center on Skyline just 0.1 mile south of Sloat Blvd, while the City Forest Club is being refurbished. Check the directions at the top of Page 4.

Battling Cancer

An Exploration in Medicine

by Tony Llang



Chair Rick Saber

Speaker Tony Llang

Tony Llang has been working in the technology of searching out methods to conquer the scourge of cancer since his university graduation in biology. His career has paralleled advances of the last decades to the point where tremendous progress has been made. We know so much more; we have so much to do. Research has exposed the disease to show its complexity, its roots and diversity, its methodology in creating havoc in all animals, humans the more so. Tony took us through the growth of an industry, advances in therapeutic discovery, and the understanding of this killer illness.

Cancer has been known since Egyptian times, but it took centuries to understand that cancer tumors were simply normal human cells run amuck, growing out of control. Looked at through the microscope they appear like the various cells that comprise our body. But, for some reason the controlling mechanisms no longer control. Extended growth rampages beyond what is intended, intrudes on other cells, consumes the individual. The fundamental question to be answered: why? If we know this there is a chance to modify what is happening. That is what medicine is trying to do. It is a grueling process.

Basic research must understand what is going on, an interdisciplinary investigation within the broader specializations of biology. Advances in understanding the role of stem cells and the human genome have created a morass of interactive detail to appreciate. Nature is not simple; the closer one gets, the greater appears its complexity. It is this complexity that confronts those searching for cancer's control, much less cure.

As Tony deftly presented, the steps forward in this endeavor are paved with failures. Yet, even failures bring understanding, so progress is being made. It is slow progress not just because we are trying to understand the science, it is slow because we are, in the end, trying to cure humans. There are a number of hurdles, world-wide, in using human beings in experimental medical procedures, drug tests and statistical studies. Before an antibody can even be considered for a human trial it must be shown to have some merit with animals in the laboratory. Three broad methods are used: in vitro, in vivo, in silico—living cells manipulated outside a complete body, within a living animal (eventually a human), and computer virtualization. Researchers use tiny organisms initially because, with brief lifespans, generational effects can be observed. Tony highlighted that wondrous little tardigrade, the water bear, as a prime species for understanding molecular growth processes. Ranging around one millimeter in size, this eight-legged animal can be observed readily.

The process of cancer research is basically in academia; the process of developing antibody drugs stands upon this research and is continued in industry. Government grants fuel the basics; successful prescription drugs fuel applied development. It is a costly process, but an alternative is not obvious if we are to conquer cancer. In conclusion, Tony Ling noted he has recently joined the Buck Institute on Aging and turned his attention to separating the time line of one's life span from one's health span. Interesting work. LL

NorCA Holiday Party

Chair Rick Saber and his ebullient wife hosted some 80 members and guests at the annual Holiday Party at their bayside home on December 7. Despite the memory of that day that lives in infamy, (a moment was reflected upon), the friendliness of the assembled crowd was infectious. The evening was ideal, recent rains cleansed the air and the bay waters were still; lights reflected from the distance and open doors welcomed guests outside. Inside, of particular note were the servings of a large variety of cheese to explore, with wine to accompany. Ample finger food, followed by home-made desserts filled all appetites.

Members from the Monterey Peninsula in the south to the Geysers north and Sacramento east enjoyed each other's stories. A few new faces reminded those who had been to Chapter parties before that explorers revel in a special way with conversation well beyond the small talk of many holiday gatherings. This evening did not disappoint. Three far-flung expeditions were announced: Dr. Nicole Crane's trip to Ulithi Atoll, to expand upon sustainable fishing (folks can join!), Dr. Bob Schmieder's extended travel to Heard Island in the fall 2015, and Dr. Steve Smith's 17-year project in the coral reefs of Kosrae.

The decision a few years back to hold a party instead of a lecture in December has proven a good one. We clearly have an active chapter. LL.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

This month the Chapter Newsletter begins a new feature, the Chapter Member photo of the month. The intention is to include one "exploration" picture from among those submitted by Chapter members, along with up to about 250 characters of text describing where the picture was taken, and what it is about. Submissions are requested along with all information about what, when and where. To get started I am including one of my own favorites. Anders Jepsen

MIDNIGHT SUN AT MIDNIGHT

Taken looking north toward the Norwegian Sea from a beach near Tromsø, Norway on June 23, 1983. at Lat 69 45N; Long 19 00E, 2400 local time. Even many Norwegians who live this far north have never seen the midnight sun because they live inland and the mountains stand in the way. At this time of night the sun appears to be moving horizontally from west to east, left to right. My farthest north.



EDITOR'S NOTE: On July 2, 2014, at a Chapter Board Meeting, the decision was made to act upon conversion to digital distribution. Members now have to "opt IN" to receive the printed version. As of the October-December 2014 issue (this), you will not receive a mailed copy if you do not specifically ask. Contact Steve Smith to submit your email if not already receiving notices OR for a b&w print. Pass the word!

From the Chair Welcome to a New Year of Exploration opportunities, shared knowledge from the wealth of experience of our coming Speakers, Field Trips and Mystery events still in the planning stages. With at least two Chapter Flag Expeditions already scheduled, possibly three, we are not treading water as a Chapter.

With warmest wishes, Aldeana and I hope your Holidays were spent in the warmth of friends and family. Our annual Chapter Party here at our home certainly kicked off the season for us as well as the eighty who attended. We were especially delighted that the party felt more like a gathering of good friends.

The only negative in this banner year for our Club were the untimely actions of the "Conveners." This small group sent emails titled "called Special Meeting in New York JAN 5, 2015" to many but not all members. With their agenda not yet fully understood and filled with controversies diametrically opposite to almost all Members, Chairs and Board Members with whom I have spoken, is confusing and requests highly questionable proxies. It is hoped that you did not sign or return these proxies. For good reason, our Chapter Board does not support the "Conveners" nor did we agree to pass on their petition and proxies to you.

By now, you have heard directly from the Explorers Executive Committee twice on this matter. The Explorers Club Annual Dinner, called ECAD, takes place in less than three months. You will shortly be receiving Board approved notice of Director Candidates as well as by-laws changes. Please! Read these carefully and, if you are a current "voting Member," vote wisely. Should you have any questions on either

important issue before us, contact any of us on our Chapter Board for explanations or guidance. We who govern in any leadership capacity have but one goal: Excellence for visions and met projects into the future for our proud and historic Club.

Of other interest, your Chapter has plans for another stellar year. Do come to our "NEW" meeting place in San Francisco. City Forest Lodge was sold in November. Ron Dumont and the staff we know so well have moved to the "Pomeroy Center" western part of the City out near the beach. Our January meeting may have minor challenges, but what the heck? We're Explorers and look forward to changing conditions. Our lead Speaker for 2015, Dr. Tim King, will take us high above the Arctic circle to Siberia and breathe life into a 43,000 year old frozen mammoth. Though approaching mid-Winter, we promise lively discussion in a warm environment. Dr. Steve Smith, FN'96 will also bring us up to date on a much warmer topic, his recent return from Kosrae, to brief us on his long term project assisting that culture. Following in February will be Nicole Crane FN'97 and her husband Giacomo. Their "Warm" topic will be love and romance found beneath a remote reef, or something like that. Come share our camaraderie and discover the Pomeroy Center.

ECAD seating, NYC 21 March. We are pleased to report the largest showing of NorCA participants ever! Four tables of 10 are paid and coming. Contact Rick or Joan Boothe for your space. Onwards and Upwards....

With warmest wishes for your New Year,
Capt. Rick Saber

Lee Langan ends his term as Editor of the Newsletter

It is with an element of enthusiasm and pleasure that I pass the duties of publishing our Chapter Newsletter into the capable hands of my longtime good friend Anders Jepsen FN03. I took on the reporting duties from Sue Estey in January 2001. Fourteen years have stepped by, month by 'academic' month, as I honed my listening ability. It was such a rewarding assignment, and I am sure Anders will find it so. My duties with The Explorers' Log have urged me to move along. It is time. It is not fair to hoard such an assignment so long. Others need such fun. Godspeed Dr. Jepsen!

Lee Langan

From the New Editor

This issue of the EC Northern California Chapter Newsletter marks a passing of the editor's mantle from Lee Langan, the creative genius who has worn it for the past 14 years. With Lee's help I have put this issue together, thereby learning just what a major creation the Newsletter has become. The Chapter owes a huge Thank You to Lee for the years of effort and the artistic work that he has developed for us. Lee will continue to write reviews of talks as they occur and of course continue to keep us abreast of the National Club's activities and issues in his role as a Director of National through articles that will appear from time to time. Thank you, thank you Lee. AJ

EXPLORERS ON THE MOVE

(If you have news of a Chapter member's impending expeditionary activity, please send the information to the editor.)

Suzanne Klotz MN12 leaves for India and the Himalayas early in February for her annual expedition to study the goddesses of several mountain villages.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMING TERM 2015-

Per Chapter guidelines, a Nominating Committee has been appointed to select and provide a slate of candidates for the term 2015-2016. The Committee Members are Lee Langan FN'99, Captain Robert Schmieder FE'66 and Dr. Steven Smith FN'96. All are former Chairs of our Chapter. Should you wish to run for either Chapter Chair or Vice-Chapter Chair, please contact the Committee Members. Announcement of those nominees running (office effective June 2015) will be noticed in our March Newsletter and at our March Meeting. Both elected positions will be voted on at our April Meeting provided a quorum is present.

It should be pointed out that all the tasks performed to keep our Chapter going are performed by volunteers. If you have an interested in getting involved, talk to any of officers. You will not regret it

From the Board: Your Board has been busy through various committees over the holidays; our next meeting is at the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M's Corpus Christi campus in mid-January. We are attending an Ocean Symposium, hosted by the Texas Chapter. Among motions to be resolved are approving nominations for new directors and the other ballot items, importantly new Bylaws. In addition we will approve the largest Club-sponsor expedition ever, funded by the Mammoth Foundation. The Explorers Club completed 2014 in excellent financial condition with a remarkable array of activities building for the future.

-Lee Langan FN'99

DIRECTIONS TO THE POMEROY CENTER:

From the South Bay

Take Highway 101 north to John Daly Blvd. Turn left onto John Daly Blvd and drive west until you reach Skyline Blvd. Turn left onto Skyline and continue to Herbst Road (approximately 2 miles.) Turn left onto Herbst Road (or Zoo Road, both are correct), at the stoplight, and drive approximately one-tenth mile to reach the Pomeroy Center. Park only in the lit-up area along Herbst Road, along the side of the Pomeroy Center.

From the North Bay

Cross the Golden Gate Bridge and take Park Presidio, through Golden Gate Park to 19th Avenue. Continue on 19th Avenue south to Sloat Blvd, where you turn right onto Sloat. Continue on Sloat to Skyline Blvd/Highway 35. Turn left onto Skyline and go approximately one-tenth mile, to Herbst Road (the first road on the right, at the first stoplight). Turn right onto Herbst Road. The Pomeroy Center is approximately one-tenth mile after the turn. Park only in the lit-up area along Herbst Road, along the side of the Pomeroy Center.

From the East Bay

Cross the Bay Bridge and take the Golden Gate Bridge exit, onto Octavia Street. Turn left onto Fell Street. Follow Fell Street into Golden Gate Park, keeping to the left (as you did going to City Forest Lodge), following the road through the park until you come out onto Lincoln Blvd. Since you cannot make a left turn onto 19th Avenue, follow Lincoln Blvd westward to Sunset Blvd (about 37th street). Turn left onto Sunset Blvd and follow it south to Sloat Blvd. Turn right onto Sloat. Then follow the directions above, from "From the North Bay."

From Within San Francisco

Make your way to 19th Avenue or Sloat Blvd and follow the directions for "From the North Bay."

January 2015



Chair: Rick Saber
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925 934-1051
ecna@oceaneearth.org
Secretary: Dede Whiteside Hicks
Webmaster: Mike Diggles
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen

Northern California Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Our Next Event

- January 30... Tim King
Ice Age Behemoths... Pomeroy Center
Upcoming Events (2015)
February 27... Nicole Crane & Giacomo Bernardi
Romance & Discovery Under the Sea... Pomeroy
March 21... ECAD
American Museum of Natural History New York
March 27... Dr. T. Mark Harrison
Pomeroy
April 24... Dr. Ainley
Antarctic Science (& NorCA election)... Pomeroy
May 21 (Thursday)... Meg Lowman
Underground Tour, CA Academy of Science
June 13... Chapter Picnic
Angel Island

Earlier Chapter Events (2014)

- April 25, 2014... Dr. T. Mark Harrison
Mountain Building... City Forest Lodge
April 26, 2014... FIELD TRIP
Geyser's Field trip... Richard Blake
May 23... Dr. Meg Lowman
Forest Canopies... City Forest Lodge
June 8... Summer Gathering
Gene & Sybil Boudreau's home, Sebastapol
June 20... FIELD TRIP
USS Hornet... Oakland
September 26... M.E.A McNeill
Apiary Science... City Forest Lodge
October 11... Lowell Thomas Award Dinner
Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA
October 24... Dylan Burge
Botany Field Trip... Golden Gate Park
November 21... Tony Liang
An exploration into cancer... City Forest Lodge



January 30, San Francisco @ Pomeroy Center

Date FRIDAY, January 30, 2015
Place: Pomeroy Center
207 Skyline Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94132
Reserve ___ spaces
Name: _____
Address (if changed): _____
Companion: _____
Meal choice*: _____
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner — 8:00 - program
Cost: \$49 in advance; \$60 after 27 January
Students: \$35. (2015 dues: members, \$25; Sirdars, \$50)
Please mail reservation information, checks & dues to Steve Smith,
email ecna@oceaneearth.org, call (925) 934-1051, or
mail to 402 Via Royal, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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!
(There is a slight extra fee of \$2 for this service.)

*January Meal Options (select your choice)
Beef tri-tip, salmon, veggie option: eggplant parmesan

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