

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

October 2015

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

LOCATIONS

Note venues and dates with care
In San Francisco, CA.

October 23, 2015
Covenant Presbyterian Church
321 Taraval St
San Francisco, CA 94116

THE JOY OF GOOD MAPS

Dave Imus

Many of us as explorers live and work with maps in the natural course of things. We use them, develop data that goes into them, correct them . . . and sometimes just spend our evenings glorying in them. But not all maps are equal. Some are wrong while others are at least more or less accurate but are difficult to read or lacking in information. Our speaker has spent his career developing an understanding of what works and what doesn't on a map. He notes



Dave Imus, began his career in cartography in 1983, only a year after graduating from the University of Oregon with a BA in geography and Spanish. He originally worked under contract for street map publishers but in the late 1980s, he began to strike out on his own, at first focused on making maps of scenic areas in the Oregon mountains. Since then, he has branched out on his subjects, producing maps that have received multiple top national honors in map design competitions. In 2012, *Slate* magazine called his map of the United States, *The Essential Geography of the USA*, the greatest paper map of the United States you'll ever see."

In his talk to us, Dave will use side-by-side comparisons to show how his work differs from the bulk of standard maps, as he lays out



that ". . . well-known US cartographic institutions publish confusing and misleading maps - low-grade information which predisposes Americans to geographic ignorance." He has made it his mission to develop maps that are not only accurate, but beautiful, informative, and educational. Dave feels strongly that to produce the best maps, cartographers must "prepare maps using the same level of artistic expression that is standard in other forms of science-based art, like medical and botanical illustration.

his vision for producing well-prepared and well-conceived maps, maps that are beautiful as well as enlightening. Dave describes himself as a cartographer working as Imus Geographics.

PHOTO CONTEST RETURNS TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY

This is a call for submissions to the Sunday, December 13, Chapter Holiday Party Photo Contest. If you have a couple of favorite photos from past expeditions or adventures please submit them to the editor of the Newsletter, ajviking@aol.com, who will select the ones to be considered in the contest. During the

Holiday Party, the submissions will be continuously displayed. Attendees will vote their choices of the winning photos. The results will be announced at the party and the winners will be featured in future newsletters. Prizes may be awarded.

Tornado Visualization and Doppler Radar Analysis Project

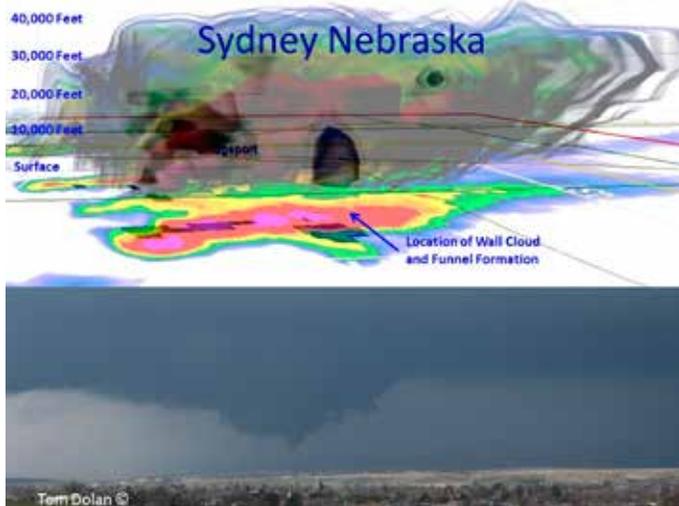
Thomas Dolan, MN14

Chapter member Tom Dolan gave a talk on the data collection and findings obtained during his May-June 2015 Explorers Club flag expedition during which he documented several tornadoes across the central plains of the U.S. The study was possible because NOAA operates a grid of Doppler radar units around the country, and that historical data is available for analysis. The talk presented the latest in Doppler data of those storms, showing the wind speeds in them, and their path across the countryside. These were correlated with their ground tracks as represented by

the mapped areas of tornado damage.

Most memorable was the discussion of the debris cloud in the center of the storm, with winds up to 200 miles per hour. This brought memories of similar references to the destructive power of a debris-laden tsunami.

At the end of his talk, Tom officially returned his expedition flag during a ceremony in which he presented it to Vice President Constance Difede and National Director Lee Langan as representatives of The Explorers Club. AJ



Nancy Nenow, David Dolan, Donald Dolan, speaker Tom Dolan, Helen Dolan, Constance Difede, Kathy Dolan and Lee Langan.

Photos provided by the speaker.

PHOTO AND STORY OF THE MONTH

Got a favorite picture from your explorations? How about an interesting personal story? Please submit them to the Newsletter editor (ajviking@aol.com) so the rest of the club can enjoy them - picture, story or both. This issue's pictures and story (page 5) are by one of our past Chapter Chairs, Dr. Lesley Ewing FN93, reporting on spin-off from the 2015 ECAD where she learned about a should-be Fellow.

A WHALE OF A TALE

The Chapter Newsletter editor had the good fortune to go out on a Whale Watch with Captain Nancy Black on the Sea Wolf II a few weeks ago, as a follow up to that magnificent 3-hour special *The Big Blue Live* on PBS. Nancy gave a talk to our Chapter about 4 years ago.

Just off Moss Landing we had everything: up to 80 humpback whales in groups of 20 or more, coming close and sounding for deep dives; humpbacks breaching out of the water and belly flopping with a thunderclap; a family of killer whales cruising by while a

lone sea lion tries not to be noticed by those hunters at the top of the marine food chain; a killer whale doing a "spy hop", popping up halfway out of the water to take a look around; a whale covering the viewers with a fishy smelling cloud as he blows right beside the boat.

All this on a calm deep blue ocean under an almost cloud free sky with blows all around us. We have El Nino to thank for this remarkable summer for whale watchers at the Monterey Marine Sanctuary, the warm currents bringing up vast arrays of ocean nutrients

from the deep canyon just off Moss Landing. I hope that some of you explorers have had a chance to experience it. AJ.



Photos by Beverly Bloch

HONOR ROLE OF PAID UP DUES FOR 2015

- James Allan
- Barbara Berg
- Richard Blake
- Marion Blumberg
- Kendra Bolt
- Joan Boothe
- Barry Boothe
- Ann Chokas
- Karoli Clever
- Nicholas Clinch
- Sandra Cook
- Wendy Crowder
- David Dolan
- Thomas Dolan
- Elaine Dvorak
- Donald Dvorak
- Palmer Dyal
- Sue Estey
- Lesley Ewing
- Eric Follestad
- Susan Fox
- Thomas Hall
- Peter Hemming
- David Hirzel
- William Heydorn
- Louise D. Hose
- Alan Hutchison
- Ann Hutchison
- Anders Jepsen
- Kathy Jepsen
- Fred Johnson
- Kathryn Judd
- James Kelley
- Steven King
- Jonathan Knowles
- Keith Kvenvolden
- Lee Langan
- Karine Langan
- Ellen Lapham
- Iyana Leveque
- Luke Mertens
- Angelina Mertens
- Christopher Michel
- Teresa O’Kane
- Laura Phelps
- James Prigoff
- Sandra Ross
- Edward Ross
- Rick Saber
- Aldeana Saber
- David Serne
- Sara Showmaker-Lind
- Stephen Smith
- Zack Stewart
- Richard Tenaza
- Judy Van Austen
- Robert Van Austen
- Edward Von der Porten
- James Weil
- Mark Weiman
- Sherry Wren

FROM THE CHAIR:

We have now passed the fall equinox and left summer behind us. And with that, our Northern California Chapter Explorers Club season is fully underway. Our first meeting of this Chapter year is now behind us. I find it particularly gratifying that we began with Tom Dolan, a chapter member, as our speaker, telling us about his recent flag expedition and formally returning his expedition flag. Making the evening even more special, we had several TEC officers and board members present, including Constance Difede and David Dolan (Tom’s brother), plus Nancy Nenow, the San Diego Chapter Chair. The Northern California chapter is our home in the EC, but we all benefit from our links to the brother and sisterhood of the full TEC. Elsewhere in this newsletter you’ll find a more complete report on Tom’s talk. I must also mention the flowers that Kay Schmieder supplied for the meeting to dress up our tables in honor of both Tom and of our first meeting of the year. The flowers were lovely, but more than that, they symbolize to me the active involvement of our chapter members.

In my last Newsletter message, I mentioned that we were working to organize a fall field trip. Rick Blake, our Field Trip coordinator has done just that. In a repeat of what was a hugely successful field trip several years back, we’ll be doing another Wilderness Emergency Medicine field trip, again led by Chapter member Dr. Paul Freitas. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Several people have asked me if they can bring guests to meetings. The answer is definitely yes. We welcome anyone who is interested in our talks to join us. And should they want to be involved on a continuing basis, please encourage them to consider signing up as a Sirdar. Information is available on our website (www.diggles.com/ec/). Even better, if that person, or anyone you know for that matter, would be a good candidate for TEC membership, encourage that person to join. We’ll be happy to review membership applications and help in finding sponsors.

More great talks and meetings will be coming your way as the year moves forward. In the meantime, I encourage any of you who have suggestions for chapter activity of any sort to let me know. Or if you have ideas of something you’d like to do to become more actively involved, I also want to hear from you. Our chapter is strengthened by having as many people involved as possible. And to repeat what I said last month, if you ever want to discuss anything with me — pro, con, or otherwise — please do get in touch at hoodooskr@aol.com or 415-233-1697.

Finally, don’t forget the Annual Lowell Thomas meeting which this year is being held in Florida. Check out the notice on page 5.

Joan Boothe MN07

AV HELP WANTED

Join the Chapter AV team to help with video and audio equipment set-up at Chapter meetings. You don’t have to attend every meeting, but if you are interested in doing this from time to time, let Joan Boothe know, and she’ll get you set up for a meeting where you can be trained in what needs to be done.

**MEET THE VICE CHAIR
STEPHEN SMITH**

Dr. Stephen Smith FN96 joined the N. Calif. Chapter in 1996, after participating in a Flag Expedition to Easter Island with then Chapter Chair Capt. Bob Schmieder. Previously having served as our Vice Chair (’01-’02), Chair (’03-’05), Secretary (’06-’13) and Treasurer (’13-’15). He returns as Vice Chair in 2015! Steve holds a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering and consults on energy systems simulation when not managing an NGO supporting reef research (Oceanearth.org), supervising scientific divers as a PADI Master Instructor and AAUS Diving Safety Officer, or finding climbers willing to hike some of California’s big mountains. Steve is also active at the national level, as a member of the National Membership and Student Grants Committees.



From the National Board: The September meeting of your Board focused upon the financial condition of The Explorers Club. The current cash flow needs are draining member-supported resources; we are having to draw on the long term funds which are our reserve. This is brought about by increased demand on the services we sustain in New York and our greater involvement with the membership. To address these issues we are in the process of developing a highly detailed budget and moving the alignment of our fiscal year and calendar-year services. There is no waste; we have simply grown.—Lee Langan FN99

Helen Schreider becomes an EC Fellow

by Lesley Ewing FN93

This is the story of a great explorer who was not allowed to be a member of The Explorers Club because of her gender. With so many women active these days in The Explorers Club, it may be hard to remember when women were not chapter chairs, committee members, board members or the president. But until 1981, when 16 very deserving women were elected for membership, no women were members of our club. Now there are about 750 women out of a total membership of 3000. But who knows how many more distinguished women explorers have not yet been recognized?

At the 2015 ECAD, I learned about one such woman. Helen and Frank Schreider were amazing explorers. Their first expedition took them from Alaska to Patagonia in an amphibious jeep (1954-56). They were then hired by *National Geographic* and took two more amphibious jeep journeys down the Ganges and through the islands of Indonesia, before heading into four more major expeditions throughout the '60s that led them down the Great Rift Valley, across the Middle East following in Alexander the Great's footsteps, throughout the island of Taiwan, and finally rafting down the length of the Amazon on a hand-made boat. Together they documented their tours and discoveries, took photographs, gathered audio tapes, wrote articles for *National Geographic*, wrote books, and gave lectures. But when it came time to give a lecture at the Explorers Club during his induction as a member, Frank was alone. In 1956, Frank enjoyed a membership dinner and gave a presentation; Helen was only allowed to 'join' the dinner from a card table set up for her in the hallway outside the main meeting room.

I learned about Helen and Frank from Richard Coe AI'14. Years earlier, Rick was riffling through a pile of old *National Geographic* magazines looking for reading material, and bought the issue that included one of Helen and Frank's articles on Indonesia. He was enthralled by their travels and quickly became keen to continue in their tracks, planning an amphibious-vehicle trip from London to Sydney. But as he began the trip planning, he went looking for the earlier explorers. Frank is no longer with us, but Rick discovered Helen. Discover is the right word – she is living in Santa Fe and remains a whirlwind of energy and curiosity. And, when Rick and I spoke about Helen at ECAD, we both agreed that we should right the earlier injustice and once and for all enable Helen to sit in the main room as a full

member of The Explorers Club.

I brought past club president Faanya Rose MI'94 into the scheme and Richard brought in Anna Darrah, who is making a film about Helen and had access to many of her articles, photographs and stories. We secretly submitted an application on behalf of Helen and on June 13, 2015 the membership committee approved the unconventional application and Helen Schreider became a Fellow of the club.

Since Helen had already waited over 4 decades to become a member of The Explorers Club, we decided to keep it a secret for a while longer so that all of us could be together to give Helen the news. On August 10th, Faanya, Richard and I gathered at Anna's house for the surprise announcement. Those who have known Helen for many years claim that it was the first time she has been speechless, but the photo with Helen in the foreground shows her joy. (That's Lesley behind Helen. Ed.)

Helen Schreider is very special, but she is not alone. Who



Photo by Jen Peres

else is long overdue to become an EC member? Our younger members provide energy and a view of the future; but our mature members add a special richness to the club's fabric and history. I wish all of you the joy of having some people who inspire you. And, as we look for new members, let's not overlook the Helens of the world.

Editor's Note: Dr. Lesley Ewing FN93 has been active in the Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club for more than 20 years and was Chapter Chair in 2001-2002.

October 2015 Issue

Northern California Chapter Established 1973



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Secretary: Von Hurson MN10
Trekking@sonic.net
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN92
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN03
ajviking@aol.com
925-322-8893

Chapter Calendar of Events (Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Upcoming Events (2015)

October 23. David Imus
Art of Cartography . . . Covenant Presbyterian Ch
November 7-8 Lowell Thomas Meeting
November 20.. . . . Arjun Gupta
TBA Covenant Presbyterian Ch
December 13. HolidayParty
Home of Joan Boothe
March 11-13. ECAD New York

2016

January 22. Ted Cheeseman
Humpback Whales (?) TBA
February 26 Rosemarie Twinan
Game Counting in Africa TBA

Earlier Chapter Events (2014)

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
December 6 HolidayParty

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
Earth's Geochronology. Pomeroy
April 24 Dr. David Ainley
Last Ocean (& NorCA election) Pomeroy
May 21 (Thursday) Meg Lowman
Underground Tour, CA Academy of Sciences
June 13 Chapter Picnic
Angel Island
September 25 Tom Dolan
Studying Tornadoes . .Covenant Presbyterian Ch

Send address changes and
corrections by email to Steve Smith
ecnca@oceaneearth.org

UPCOMING EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS & FIELD TRIPS

November 1, 2016: Chapter Field Trip

Expedition Medicine on Mount Diablo. See notice below

November 6-8, 2015: Lowell Thomas Dinner, Melbourne, Florida.

Check www.explorers.org for more details

January, 2016: Bhutan expedition, room for up to 8 individuals.

For more information, contact Peggy Day at mizday@me.com

January or February 2016: Chapter Field Trip: Observing Robotic Surgery; date TBA

March 11-13 2016: ECAD, New York City

March, 2016: Dr. Bob Schmieder reports a change in size of ship and timing of the Heard Island expedition.. The revised travel date is around March 2016. For more information, email him at schmieder@cordell.org

WANTED: MEDIC FOR BAJA CALIFORNIA EXPEDITION THERE IS STILL TIME TO VOLUNTEER

A volunteer medic (EMT or above) is needed for an expedition to the site of a sixteenth-century Manila galleon wreck in Baja California which has produced dramatic finds during the past fifteen years.

The expedition leaves San Diego by car on 20 October and returns on 4 November. There will be land and sea work. On site, the crew will be camping most of the time.

For information, contact Peter Von der Porten at 650-483-1457 or Septempvonderporten@gmail.com.

Expedition Medicine Hike on Mount Diablo 11:00 am Sunday, November 1, 2015

Dr. Paul Freitas, Explorers Club Member and
Board Certified Emergency Physician

With Von Hurson, Wilderness Emergency Responder

Limit of 20 attendees, so respond quickly if you have interest.

RSVP to: Rick Blake, blake2@llnl.gov

CHAPTER MEETING Friday, October 23, 2015

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Date	Friday, 23 October, 2015	Reserve _____ spaces
Place:	Covenant Presbyterian Church 321 Taraval Street San Francisco, CA 94116	Name: _____ Address (if changed): _____ Companion: _____ Meal choice*: _____
Time:	6:30 - reception 7:15 - dinner ---8:00 - program Meal Options (reserve your choice) Stuffed Chicken breast, Tri-tip or veggie (Eggplant Parmesan) NOTE: veggie request must be in by prior Sunday	
Cost:	\$49 in advance \$60 after 22 September Students: \$35. (2015 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)	
	Please mail reservations, meal choice, checks & dues to Kendra Bolt email: NorCalExplorers@gmail.com Call 731-327-2658 or mail to 1800 Bryant Street #114, San Francisco, CA 94110	

We have an established PayPal account.

With an account, you can sign up and remit your meal costs, dues, etc 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!