

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

November 2015

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

LOCATIONS

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

November 20, 2015
Covenant Presbyterian Church
321 Taraval St
San Francisco, CA 94116

THE THIRD POLE INITIATIVE By Arjun Gupta

Arjun Gupta is a new Fellow of the Explorers Club and an Advanced Leadership Fellow at Harvard University, where he is focusing on climate change and conservation of the Himalayan glaciers. After coming to the United States on a student exchange program, he attended Washington State University where he received his BS and MS in computer science and Stanford University where he received his MBA. Mr. Gupta will speak to us about his work with The Third Pole Initiative and on "Five Decades of Venturing and Adventuring".



The Third Pole Initiative(TPI) is an ongoing effort to study and to work for conservation of the Himalayan glaciers. Figuratively, if the North and South poles are the initial two poles, then the Himalayan icecap is "the third pole" in the z-dimension -- as this area is closest to the sun on the surface of the earth.



Due to global warming and climate change, the Himalayan glaciers could melt with catastrophic effects. These glaciers are the source of ten of the largest rivers in the world, which in turn are the source of fresh water and irrigation for 1.5 billion people across a dozen countries. TPI is a non-governmental working group with representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, and Nepal. For the Himalayan region this is a first-of-a-kind effort, and is patterned on the Arctic Circle, where multiple countries can debate and resolve key issues. Cultural, religious and political tensions in the region make it particularly challenging

to build consensus and implement solutions. Key sponsors and supporters include the President of Iceland, ICIMOD and the Prime Minister of Bhutan.

A passionate outdoorsman, Mr. Gupta was a member of the 100th anniversary ski expeditions to both the North and the South poles. Prior to coming to America, he served as a Liaison Officer with four international Himalayan expeditions to peaks over 20,000 feet for the Indian Mountaineering Federation. Over the last five decades, Arjun has been lucky to participate in a large number of expeditions and fieldwork, and he is deeply involved in finding potential solutions to deal with climate change. In his profession, Arjun runs a venture capital firm and loves building technology companies. He is also a member of the new ownership group of the Sacramento Kings NBA team, and is helping Mayor Kevin Johnson revitalize downtown Sacramento. Arjun is a Trustee of the Aspen Institute and the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC).



LAST

PHOTO CONTEST RETURNS TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY

CALL!

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.

THE JOY OF GOOD MAPS

Dave Imus, Cartographer

Our October meeting included one of the most educational and enlightening talks of the year. Enthusiasm and humor, accompanied by stories and comparative map illustrations, punctuated a fascinating talk by multiple award-winning cartographer Dave Imus. Our speaker, also a geologist, views our planet as a complicated and fascinating place and believes that to be understood, maps need to show important nuances. He creates his maps to show things that people can actually identify and use to illustrate the geography being represented.

Imus' descriptively illustrated maps create an image of what our physical land looks like – the mountains, forests, glacial valleys, watersheds and other terrain. More than just aids to location and navigation, Dave sees maps as a means of enhancing geographic literacy in a way that both educates and presents an accurate visual image of our geographically complex world. His artistically accurate renditions make our country, and our world, visually understandable.

The maps combine topography and geographic location in an art form – illustrated

in a way that makes it easy to see the geography of where you are, where you're going – and why it's important. For example, in Alaska he shows every landing strip on his map, making this map not just something of interest but something for possible survival. Today, the accuracy of his maps is so valued that, in many areas of the country, they have been used for 911 services.

Imus' stated goal is to communicate, in map form, as much as possible while using as simple and clear an image as possible – not too much detail for the mind to comprehend and not too little. His comparative illustrations made this point perfectly – the artistry and clarity of his maps versus the visual chaos of others.

Dedication to both accuracy and to the details he chooses to include in his maps make them what they are. For example, he managed to obtain the first digital aeronautical relief charts for partial inclusion in his maps. Originally they were drawn by hand until the materials to make them became unavailable. Of necessity he evolved from manual to digital relief as that format of data became available.

After creating maps for 32 years, Dave's now-famous map, "The Essential Geography of the USA," was printed in 2002 and received his field's highest honor for map making. It took 6,000 hours and two years of intense "field checking" to create this 4 x 3 foot map – an exquisite example of map as geography, location and science-based art. This effort has been called "the greatest paper map of the United States you'll ever see". At the end of the talk, Imus gave all attendees a signed copy of this beautiful map. VH



VISITING THE REAL WILD HORSES OF MONGOLIA

Susan Fox FN14

For three weeks this past summer I had the honor of carrying Flag 179 on my third WildArt Mongolia Expedition, which I created in 2012 for the purpose of finding ways to use art to support conservation in Mongolia, a country where artists are greatly respected and held in high regard. Every place I went had something special to offer, but the highlight was returning to Khomyn Tal, one of the three locations in Mongolia where takhi/Przewalski's horses have been reintroduced. (The others are Takhiin Tal and Hustai National Park; I've been to them also) I was there for a very short visit in 2006. The project got off the ground in Mongolia with the shipment of 22 horses in 2004 from semi-reserves in the French Alps. Four were shipped in from the Prague Zoo a few years ago. There are now 53, including at least two from the original group. The project, called TAKH and based in France, is the inspiration and work of Dr. Claudia Feh, recipient of the Rolex Award for Enterprise in recognition of the reintroduction. Unfortunately, she was not there during my three-day visit, but I was able to get an update from Florian, a French volunteer "ranger". I went



out with him, and also the Mongol rangers, in the morning and evening at set times to either locate and check on the horses (all of them) or to do behavioral observations, which have been recorded for twenty years now. The highlight was when Florian said I

could walk along with him since he had to follow the horses (two of the three family groups in pre-set combinations) wherever they went. For the next hour I travelled along with the takhi as they moved down the valley. They have been kept human-tolerant so they can be visually health-checked without having to be tranquilized, which meant that my presence was a non-event. During my three days there I took over 1000 photos and video of them, the world's only surviving species of genetically wild horse. It was great to be able to go back to Khomyn Tal again, see the horses and bring back this great conservation success story.

HONOR ROLL OF PAID UP DUES FOR 2015

James Allan
Barbara Berg
Richard Blake
Marion Blumberg
Kendra Bolt
Joan Boothe
Barry Booth
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
Laura Holmes
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: Joan Boothe MN07

Two meetings this NorCa year are now behind us. We've had really good speakers, and more great ones are coming up, including Arjun Gupta this month, a talk that should be really special. And there's more to come. One thing that I'm attempting to do is have a wide variety of topics, and I hope that you agree that this is what you're getting. At this point, we have a full slate of speakers scheduled through next April. May is still open, though I already have a couple of possibilities in the hopper. See the list of the last page of the newsletter for detail. Suggestions for May and for next year continue to be most welcome.

Our first field trip of the year took place on November 1 when Dr. Paul Freitas MN10, splended assisted by Von Hurson MN10, took us to Mt. Diablo to learn about emergency medicine in the field. The December newsletter will have a complete report.

After our meeting this month, next on the calendar for the chapter is our annual Holiday Party. You'll be getting an announcement about it at the beginning of December. I'm mentioning it here because you might want to note it on your calendar now given that it's not

on one of our regular 4th Friday dates. It will be taking place on Sunday, December 13, from 4 PM until the last person leaves. The location is, as traditional, at the Chapter Chair's home, i.e., at my house. All members and Sirdars are invited and welcome to bring a guest. If you would like to help with the party in any way, please let me know.

Looking even more ahead, ECAD is coming up in March, on the weekend of March 11-13. Last March, we had more than 40 people from NorCa attend ECAD. I hope we can do at least that well this year. New York will, of course, be sending out the details, but here in California, we'll be working to put together tables of people from our chapter. Details re that will be coming your way in January.

Finally, on a less positive note, I'm aware that a number of you are not happy with our current meeting location. I understand and am with you on this. We're looking into alternative possibilities, to see what we can find that's better but still meets our criteria. These include not only a cost that allows us to keep our meeting price down, but also a location that has good public transportation available. In the meantime, please understand. We're working on it!

MEET THE SECRETARY VON HURSON

After hearing unforgettable presentations given by Diana Pickworth and Joan Boothe some years ago, Von Hurson, MN10, became convinced she had to pursue Explorers Club membership. The Sirdar program had just been created and Von was drafted as Field Trip Coordinator. In mid June, 2010, she participated in a Flag Expedition led by then Chapter Chair, Alan Nichols, to the ancestral home of Genghis Khan. Offer Von a chance to head back to Mongolia and she'll shoot off to pack. She's fallen in love with the land, its people and their reverence for the man whose face adorns Mongolian currency but whose burial site has never been found.

So now it's time for Von to publish. Besides her research on Genghis Khan, she can draw on her 25 years of airline travel to 28 different countries, observing and studying many people and cultures.

Von is also a wine judge, photojournalist, avid skier and former ski patrol, First Aid/CPR/AED instructor. She plans to become scuba certified.



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 month's story is by Susan Fox FN14. You can read more about her EC Flag Expedition to Khomyn Tal and see more photos at <http://foxstudio.biz/2015/09/24/the-wildart-mongolia-expedition-part-3-khomyn-tal/>. For more about TAKH: <http://www.takh.org/en/>. Takhi have been in the science news lately because eleven horses have been gene-sequenced. Dr. Feh is one of the co-authors of the paper. More here: <http://www.sci-news.com/genetics/science-przewalskis-horse-genome-03276.html>

From the National Board: The next national Explorers Club Board of Directors' meeting is to be held on 6 November. Lee Langan will report on its activities in the December issue of this Newsletter. AJ

November 2015 Issue

Northern California Chapter Established 1973



Chair: Joan Boothe MN07
415-346-5934
hoodoskr@aol.com
Vice Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN96
925-934-1051
ecnca@oceaneearth.org
Treasurer: Kendra Bolt FN14
731-327-2658
NorCalExplorers@gmail.com
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)

November 7-8 Lowell Thomas Meeting
November 20.. Arjun Gupta
Third Pole Initiative . Covenant Presbyterian Ch
December 13. Holiday Party
. Home of Joan Boothe

2016

January 22. Ted Cheeseman
Humpback Whales (?) TBA
February 26 Rosemarie Twinan
Game Counting in Africa TBA
March 11-13. ECAD New York
March 25 Daniel Lin
Navigation on Polynesian Voyages TBA
April 21 Special Event at Autodesk
May 27 TBA

Earlier Chapter Events (2014)

November 21. Tony Liang
An exploration into cancer. . City Forest Lodge
December 6 Holiday Party

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
October 23. David Imus
Art of Cartography . Covenant Presbyterian Ch

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

UPCOMING EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS & FIELD TRIPS

November 6-8, 2015: Lowell Thomas Dinner, Melbourne, Florida.
Check www.explorers.org for more details

December 13: Holiday Party at the home of Chair Joan Boothe.

February 21, 2016: Chapter Field Trip: Observing Robotic Surgery

March, 2016: Bhutan expedition, room for up to 8 individuals.
For more information, contact Peggy Day at mizday@me.com

March 11-13 2016: ECAD, New York City

March, 2016: Dr. Bob Schmieder reports that the Heard Island expedition is on track and on budget to depart Cape Town on March 10.
For more information, email him at schmieder@cordell.org

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.

ROBOTIC SURGERY FIELD TRIP

To be held February 21, 2016
Details, time and place to be announced in January

CHAPTER MEETING Friday, November 20, 2015

Covenant Presbyterian Church
321 Taraval Street, San Francisco, 94116

Date	Friday, 20 November, 2015	Reserve	_____ spaces
Place:	Covenant Presbyterian Church 321 Taraval Street San Francisco, CA 94116	Name:	_____
Time:	6:30 - reception 7:15 - dinner ---8:00 - program Meal Options (reserve your choice) Stuffed Chicken breast, Salmon or Veggie (Stuffed peppers)	Address (if changed):	_____
Cost:	\$49 in advance \$60 after 17 November Students: \$35. (2015 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)	Companion:	_____
	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	Meal choice:	_____

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!