

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

March 2016

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

LOCATIONS

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

March 25, 2016
Grace Lutheran Church
3201 Ulloa Street at 33rd Ave
San Francisco, CA 94116

AROUND THE WORLD IN HAWAIIAN VOYAGING CANOE HOKULE'A Navigated by Ancient Traditional Methods Friday, March 25, 2016. Daniel Lin FN'14

Daniel's presentation will focus on the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage aboard renowned Hawaiian voyaging canoe, Hōkūle'a. Since her creation in 1975, Hōkūle'a has brought back a sense of pride and passion for the seafaring culture of Polynesians. The vessel has no motor and is completely held together by over 6 miles of ropes lashed together. Perhaps most notable is the fact that the voyages are carried out using only traditional methods of navigation, meaning they do not use GPS, watches, compasses, or sextants aboard the vessel -- rather, the master navigators rely only on the stars, swells, and other natural cues to guide us across thousands of miles of ocean.

Today, Hōkūle'a is currently in the middle of a 4-year circumnavigating voyage to pro-

mote ocean conservation and environmental stewardship in communities all across the planet. Thus far, crewmembers have had the privilege of sailing with the likes of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Explorers Club members such as Captain Don Walsh and "Her Deepness" Dr. Sylvia Earle.

In his presentation, Daniel will weave together his experiences with voyaging (especially his most recent experience down the "Wild Coast" of southern Africa - the most dangerous leg of the Worldwide Voyage) along with his own travels as a photographer focusing on climate change issues in the Pacific Islands. The presentation, just like the Worldwide Voyage, seeks to address the urgency and reality of our environmen-

tally unsustainable future while simultane-



ously shedding light on the unifying thread of humanity and compassion all around the world.

ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA: 28,000 Miles and "Counting" Rosemarie Twinam, MN '90 and Fred Galan, MN '14 Review of February 26, 2016 meeting presentation

For six years Rosemarie Twinam & Fred Galan have traveled to the Huwange Forest of Zimbabwe to count the animal population around a watering hole. For twenty-four hours they sit patiently in an over-viewing vehicle while the local population of African animals comes to quench their thirst. Others do the same, during the full moon in October or November at all the watering holes near, in fact, widely throughout southern Africa. These population counts are gathered to access the health of the herds and flocks.

Their census reports are provided to Wildlife & Environment Zimbabwe (WEZ) and include not only the number of animals of each major species but their condition and obvious health. These reports have been collected by WEZ for almost 50 years.

Fred and Rosemarie like to return to the same place. They recognize familiar animals, especially the big five. They have come to feel connected to these wild animals in a sense of contributing to their protection. Rosemarie has a deep affection for Africa; her most recent visit was her 35th!

Once the 'work' is over each year, they go on safari with a driver and tented overland vehicle. Through 2015, they have logged some 28,000 miles. (Sounds even more impressive as "approach-



ing 50,000 kilometers"! They shared a wide variety of scenes from the deserts and dunes of Namibia to the rugged shore of South Africa's southern shores and southernmost tip. They have circumnavigated the Kalahari Desert, traveled extensively along the roadways east and west in these southern coun-

tries. Pictures of shy cats hidden in the bush, of large herds of huge elephants and their offspring, rhino and cheetah, zebra and so many more. Visits with indigenous people whose life is unchanged from deep into the past. Campsites where they over-nighted, faux-castles and forts now inns for comfortable stays. They provided an old-fashioned slide show of adventures in far off lands most will never see.

They have already planned for a seventh year of an explorer's census and visiting new places in Africa's vastness. To add to their investigations they are seeking to raise funds to maintain and replace pumping stations at some of the 80 or so waterholes threatened by seasonal drought. LL

JOIN THE CHAPTER MANAGEMENT TEAM

Due to the press of other responsibilities, our Treasurer, Kendra Bolt, has had to resign.. If you have the time and interest in taking on this important responsibility for our chapter, please contact Joan Boothe (hoodooskr@aol.com).

ROBOTIC SURGERY FIELD TRIP

Review and photos by Von Hurson with input from Sirdar Dr. Marion Blumberg and from Jim Hurson MN'10. Photos in sequence: Dr. Myriam Curet, Dr Sherry Wren FN'14, Laproscopic instruments, operating setup with dummy, Lee Langan FN'99 (photo by Keith Kvenvolden), and Joan Boothe and Keith Kvenvolden.

On the beautiful Sunday morning of February 21, fourteen Chapter members gathered at Intuitive Surgical in Sunnyvale to be treated to the experience of a life-time, organized for us by Chapter Member



Dr. Sherry Wren FN'14 and Chapter Field Trip Coordinator Rick Blake FN'01. The morning began with a presentation by Dr Myriam Curet, Chief Medical Officer of Intuitive Surgical, on the history of surgical robotics – leading to the development and launch of the da Vinci Surgical System in 1999. Intuitive Surgical has pioneered the development of robotic assistive devices for urological, gynecological, thoracic, and abdominal surgery which allow the surgeon-operator to have better control of surgical instruments when performing



minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery.

After Dr Curet's talk, Explorers Club member Dr Sherry Wren, Professor of Surgery at Stanford University, showed photos and videos of actual procedures to demonstrate the uses of robotic assisted surgery.

From there, we were taken to the Training Laboratory to meet da Vinci Xi and to get the feel of actually using the devices! The surgeon controls the arms while seated at a computer console near the operating table and what he sees in the console, via the inserted camera, is visible on a nearby monitor. Two operational systems and two simulators were set up for us, as well as one standard laparoscopic system so we all



could experience the differences. All of us had a chance to experience all the systems.

Laparoscopic surgery began in the 1980s as a way to avoid the large incisions of open surgery, thereby shortening recovery time and reducing the risk of postoperative



infections. However, the original laparoscopic instruments are straight handled devices with no wrist-like circular movement. This limits the ability of the surgeon to perform more delicate procedures.

The da Vinci Xi, however, changes all this. The four maneuverable arms are boom-mounted making it possible to access from all directions. The arms can be fitted to provide a camera, light and tiny surgical instruments that bend and rotate 180 degrees, giving the surgeon an



enormously enhanced range of motion and flexibility. With the illuminated, magnified vision system the surgeon's hand movements can be translated into smaller ones, allowing the doctor to perform many types of complex procedures with more precision and control. With internal illumination, new possibilities become available to the surgeon. Not only do they have "normal" vision with white light, but also enhanced vision from utilizing specific frequencies of light in combination with fluorescing dyes. Cancer sites and margins, for example, can be identified with much greater precision.

So this is the future of surgery. The Da Vinci system is currently used for



operations that include removing prostates, gallbladders, repairing heart valves and hysterectomies. And there will be more. Robot assisted minimally invasive surgery is the next giant leap in medical technology.

By the time we departed, we completely understood the claim that Robotic Surgery is "the next frontier for minimally invasive surgery." Once again our Explorers Club Chapter has opened doors to places and experiences not generally available. VH

HONOR ROLL OF PAID UP DUES FOR 2016

Members

Jim Alexander
Julia Amaral
Susan Anderson
George Belcher
Bonnie Bibas
Rick Blake
Peter Bogardus
Kendra Bolt
Joan Boothe
Keith Chase
Doug Cheeseman
Ted Cheeseman
Alan Cooper
Thomas Cromwell
Don Dana
Peggy Day
Mike Diggles
Thomas Dolan
Louise Downe
Thomas Durbin
Donald Dvorak
Elaine Dvorak
Scott Ellis
Sue Estey
Robert Eustace
Art Ford
Susan Fox
Paul Freitas
Ron Glantz
Arjun Gupta
Tom Hall
Peter Hemming
Michael Herz
William Heydorn
Robert Higgins
Jim Hurson
Von Hurson
Anders Jepsen
Steven King
Ronald Klein
Suzanne Klotz
Bill Kruse
Keith Kvenvolden
William Lidicker
Peter Overmire
James Prigoff
Edward Ross
Sandra Ross
Rick Saber
Bob Schneider
Sara Shoemaker Lind
Richard Tenaza
Ed Von der Porten
Don Walsh
James Weil
Gordon Wiltsie
Sherry Wren

Sirdars

Linda Alexander
Caryn Anderson
Marion Blumberg
Barry Boothe
Karoli Clever
Sandra Cook
Wendy Crowder
Joe Durighello
Dafne Engstrom
Mats Engstrom
Anna Freitas
Louise Geraci
Gina Glantz
Nancy Isaac
Kathy Jepsen
Kathy Judd
Ellen Lapham
Iyana Christine Leveque
Tim Loew
Bonny O'Keefe
Ingrid Peterson
Laura Phelps
Aldeana Saber
John Schlagheck
Robert Van Austen
Judy Van Austen
Andrew Wegst

FROM THE CHAIR

Joan Boothe MN'07

It is with great regret that I have to advise you that our excellent chapter treasurer, Kendra Bolt, will be resigning her post as of the end of March. Kendra has done a wonderful job for our chapter since she became treasurer last June. Unfortunately, however, unanticipated increasing heavy demands of her day job have made it impossible for her to continue to serve the chapter in the way she feels we deserve. We will miss her, but I very much hope that in the not too distant future, Kendra will once again have time available to be active in our chapter. In the meantime, please join me in thanking Kendra for all she has done for us this chapter year.

Kendra's departure, obviously, leaves an opening in our chapter officer group. We have posted a notice about this on the first page of this newsletter, but I wish to repeat it here. If you are interested in joining our "inner circle" as treasurer, please do contact me. It's a great opportunity to become actively involved in our chapter.

Now, on to the positive . . . As I write this, ECAD is next week. It looks as if we will have four full

Northern California Chapter tables — a terrific representation for our chapter. It should be an exciting weekend, full of events focused on the fascinating oceans of our world. Next month's newsletter will have a full report of NorCa at ECAD.

Finally, here's the news on a couple of current chapter activities. First, your response to our dues notices has been most encouraging. Many, many of our EC chapter members have responded with a check or paypal payment, and a large proportion of our Sirdars have renewed their chapter affiliation. And second, our roster update project is now moving into high gear. Vice Chair Steve Smith has been working hard reviewing the information we have in our database in preparation for our contacting members to check the accuracy of that information. Believe me, it's been a huge task! You should be hearing from members of our roster committee in the not too distant future.

Don't forget to vote for your choice for new EC directors. If you would like our thoughts on who would serve the club well, contact me, Lee)lee@langan.net), or Rick (rick.saber.@gmail.com).

Joan

Heard Island Expedition Progress Report.

The 14-man team is gathering at Cape Town, South Africa, and preparing for a March 10th departure for Heard Island with an anticipated arrival there on March 20. The plan is to operate on Heard Island until April 10, scheduling a return arrival in Melbourne, Australia on April 20. Under the direction of our own Dr. Bob Schmieder FN'86, the team will be operating a ham radio station, studying the land forms and gathering specimens of fauna and flora. A real time satellite connection to update the website's data base and other information will be operated on an continuous basis.

Chapter members who are interested may visit the expedition website at www.heardisland.org.

CORRECTION: The volcano in the winning photo shown in last month's newsletter and the National Explorers Log was erroneously identified as Guatamalan Volcan Fuego. An alert National Fellow identified it as Volcan Agua.

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..

From the National Board: - There have been no new Board meetings since January, but we are in the midst of our election. If you have yet to vote, do so now! It is very easy for most. If headquarters has your email, you have been provided with a unique identity and password allowing a quick electronic vote. If you are not sure for whom to vote, feel free to ask a friend. Our current Chair and each of those who formerly held this position can give you their thoughts. —Lee Langan FN'99

March 2016 Issue

Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



Chair: Joan Boothe MN'07
415-346-5934
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Vice Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96
925-934-1051
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NorCalExplorers@gmail.com
Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
Trekking@sonic.net
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
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925-322-8893

Chapter Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

Upcoming Events (2016)

2016

- March 11-13. ECAD New York
March 25 Daniel Lin
Navigation on Polynesian Voyages Grace Luth Ch
April 21 (Thursday). Autodesk
Technology in exploration. Gallery, 1 Market, SF
May 27 Ann Sanquini
Surviving the 2015 Earthquake in Nepal GLChurch
June 19, 2016 Chapter Picnic at Angel Island

Earlier Chapter Events

2015

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

2016

- January 22 Ted Cheeseman
Modern Ocean Exploration Grace Lutheran Ch
February 26 Rosemarie Twinam
Game Counting in Africa Grace Lutheran Ch

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

OTHER EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS, etc.

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 in early March. For more information, email him at schmieder@cordell.org

March 30, 2016; Dan Ackerman AN'14 and his expedition to climb Mount Everest sets off from Kathmandu. Everest summit window: May 6 - 28, 2016. Follow his progress at http://www.absoluteverest.com/

May 1-11, 2016: Explore Easter Island with 2 World Class Experts
Explore the hidden maps of the Cosmos on Easter Island
For more info, contact Lynn Danaher; 4islandexplorer@gmail.com; 360-472-1050

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.

CHAPTER MEETING Friday, March 25, 2016

Grace Lutheran Church
3201 Ulloa Street, at 33rd Ave., San Francisco, 94116

Date: Friday, 25 March, 2016
Place: Grace Lutheran Church
3201 Ulloa Street, at 33rd Ave
San Francisco, CA 94116
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner ---8:00 - program
Meal Options (reserve your choice)
Stuffed pork tenderloin, Salmon or Veggie
(Pasta primavera)
NOTE: veggie request must be in by prior Sunday
Cost: \$49 in advance \$60 after 22 March; Students: \$35.
(2016 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)
Please mail reservations, meal choice, checks & dues to Joan Boothe
email: hoodooskr@aol.com Call 415-346-5934 or
mail to 2435 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

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!