

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

October 2016

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

LOCATIONS

Note venues and dates with care
In Santa Barbara, CA.

October 14-16, 2016

[Santa Barbara, CA 94116](#)

LOWELL THOMAS MEETING IN SANTA BARBARA OCTOBER 12-14, 2016

The Lowell Thomas meeting is the Explorers Club's annual sponsored event that is held each fall in a different Chapter area. The purpose is to honor those members of The Club who have reached an outstanding level of achievement in their chosen field of endeavor. It gives members of the club a chance to meet these individuals under relaxed circumstances, usually in some venue that relates to exploration.

This year's meeting will be held at the Fess Parker Resort under the sponsorship of all three California Chapters. Outstanding local activities are included. Members of the Northern California Chapter are strongly encouraged to attend this event and to get to know the members of our sister west coast chapters.

For more information, contact The Explorers Club at:
Tel: 212-628-8383, or
check out the National website at www.explorers.org.



LOWELL THOMAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Friday, October 14:

- * Evening Reception at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Saturday, October 15

- * Morning: Awardees Symposium
- * Afternoon: VIP Luncheon
- * Evening: Gala reception and Awards Dinner

Sunday: Selected outings

- * Voyage to Santa Cruz Island Nature Reserve
- * Guided Hike through Shangri-La
- * Whale watching
- * VIP Encounter at the Zoo

Editor's Note: The Northern California Chapter received a magnificent gift from one of our Chapter members this September in the form of a field trip to Point Reyes to see the site of Sir Frances Drake's landing in 1578. **Ed Von der Porten FN'80** led us on an exploration of the history of the first discovery of North America by a British navigator who was the first English explorer to sail around the world, and the first to claim North America for Queen Elizabeth I. Where did that momentous event take place? Just 40 miles north of San Francisco!

This landing preceded by 42 years the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620! How many times has this writer visited Point Reyes and Drakes Bay with friends and family, without giving much thought to that major historical event of 400+ years ago! No more!

A review of the field trip, with pictures, is found on Pages 2 and 3.



Artistic impression of the *Golden Hind* careened on Drakes Bay

IN THE STEPS OF AN EXPLORER'S EXPLORER

SUMMER FIELD TRIP TO DRAKE'S BEACH

Review and photos by Von Hurson MN'10

What is it about the excitement of following an explorer that brings out more explorers? Oh yes, because it's what we do. We're curious.

And so, at 10 in the morning on September 10, thirty-six intrepid explorers embarked on an expedition of their own, gathering at the cut-away model of Francis Drake's *Golden Hind* in the Bear Valley Visitors Center for a mood-setting introduction by Explorers Club member Ed Von der Porten (FN80). The question he worked to answer was just where, exactly, did Drake land to repair his ship prior to sailing west across the Pacific and back to England.

The weather was ideal – grey and misty, cool, with a soft breeze, low overcast upon the water, making it perfect to visualize what Drake must have seen as he first came upon the white bluffs of Point Reyes, which he compared to the famous white cliffs of the English Channel, naming them 'New Albion' after the poetic early name for England.

Ed's enthusiasm and passionate conviction that Drake actually stopped here at what's known as Drakes Bay set the stage for our sauntering beach walk along the Bay, leading to a short climb and an overlook of the cove that likely sheltered the *Golden Hind*. Stepping gingerly through grasses and bushes and arriving at the top of the hill, it was easy to imagine what the Miwok Indians might have seen on that day in 1579.

Drake had sailed north along the Pacific Coast after raiding Spanish settlements and Spanish galleons along the west coast of South and Central America. In his wake Drake left damaged Spanish galleons,

their treasure and cargo raided and angry Spaniards ready for revenge. This precluded the possibility of his returning to England by the way he had come.

Per his detailed journal, sorely in need of provisions and in search of a harbor where he and his men could repair his badly leaking ship, on June 17, 1579, he pulled into a cove next to a sand spit. The cove is depicted in an inset of a 16th Century map of Drake's circumnavigation. The inset was copied from a drawing during Drake's 36-day visit to repair his ship. The sand spit that meets Drakes description comes back to Drakes Beach every 53 years or so.

Historians from the 16th century who saw Drake's charts and logs later stated this cove was the location recorded for his June 1579 landing – 38.034 degrees north latitude.

While ashore, the crew repaired the *Golden Hind* by using a hazardous process called careening, laying the 150-ton vessel on its side in order to clean, patch and resurface its undersides. To accomplish this required unloading cannons, supplies and captured treasures.

Ed Von der Porten has worked with some of the top geologists, archaeologists, biologists, zoologists, historians and ship experts in an effort to find evidence that this is where Drake landed his galleon, the *Golden Hind*.

Much of Ed's conviction stems from the physical nature of the cove – which provided easy access and a safe inner harbor within the bay where the difficult work of repairing the *Golden Hind* could be carried out. But the most compelling argument is that the cove allowed for an easy exit – a way to leave – something no

other possible landing site along our coast seemed to provide.

From Ed's point of view, Drake's Bay is the answer to the Drake landing question "until somebody can prove otherwise".

Then there is the reality that Francis Drake is remembered as an explorer. In his most famous ship, the *Golden Hind*, he became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe in an epic expedition of plunder and discovery over four hundred years ago. It was the "moonshot" of its time.

As a postscript, on the voyage west, back to England, only 56 men survived with Drake, returning after three years and 40,000 miles with a vast cargo of treasure worth hundreds of millions of pounds in today's money. Queen Elizabeth I's share alone was more than the country's national debt.

Geology Along the Way The white cliffs that frame the sea side of Drakes Bay are a subject in themselves for another time, however a quick mention is needed for the geologically minded among us.

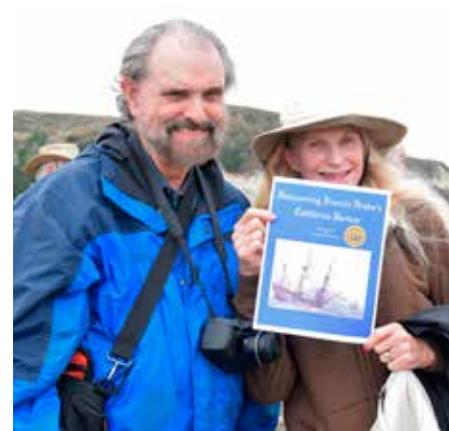
Point Reyes is located in the San Andreas fault zone and at Drakes Bay, while we stood on the Pacific plate, the North American plate is nearby, along with the San Gregorio and San Andreas slip faults.

A walk along the beach provided a wonderful opportunity to examine the white cliffs of marine layer deposits as well as small faults, fractures and joints in the rock exposed in the sea cliffs. With questions from group members, Rick Blake (FN01) paused for a very brief explanation of the surrounding geology. (See faults below.)

Edward Von der Porten is a nautical historian, archaeologist, retired maritime museum director, educator, and writer. He joined the Drake Navigators Guild in 1956 and specializes in the archaeology of the Point Reyes National Seashore and analysis of sixteenth-century Chinese porcelain cargos. He founded the field archaeology program at Santa Rosa Junior College, which took an active role in the Drakes Bay research from 1961 through 1973. His other research has ranged from the archaeology of King Henry VIII's warship *Mary Rose* to the German Navy of World War II. He is President of the Drake Navigators Guild, and a consultant on nautical archaeology for *National Geographic Magazine*.

Ed has generously offered to provide copies of his definitive work of research in support of the Drake's Bay designation as Drake's landing place to members of the Chapter at nominal cost. It makes great reading.. AJ





Photos by Von Hurson, Bob Schmierer and Doug Eng.

**HONOR ROLL OF
PAID UP DUES
FOR 2016**

Members

Jim Alexander
James Allan
Julia Amaral
Susan Anderson
Reginald Barrett
George Belcher
Bonnie Bibas
Rick Blake
Peter Bogardus
Kendra Bolt
Joan Boothe
Keith Chase
Doug Cheeseman
Ted Cheeseman
Sandra Cook
Alan Cooper
Thomas Cromwell
Don Dana
Peggy Day
Rick Dehmel
Mike Diggles
Thomas Dolan
Louise Downe
Thomas Durbin
Susan Dutcher
Donald Dvorak
Elaine Dvorak
Scott Ellis
Sue Estey
Robert Eustace
Art Ford
Susan Fox
Paul Freitas
Lawrence Glacy
Ron Glantz
Arjun Gupta
Tom Hall
Peter Hemming
Michael Herz
William Heydom
Don Heyneman
Robert Higgins
Jim Hurson
Von Hurson
Alan Hutchison
Anders Jepsen
Steven King
Ronald Klein
Suzanne Klotz
Bill Kruse
Keith Kvenvolden
William Lidicker
Pierre de St.J. MacBeth
Marco Meniketti
Teresa O'Kane
Peter Overmire
James Prigoff
Edward Ross
Sandra Ross
Rick Saber
Bob Schmeider
Sara Shoemaker Lind
Steve Smith
William Straka
Susan Taylor
Richard Tenaza
Ed Von der Porten
Don Walsh
James Weil
Gordon Wiltse
Sherry Wren

Sirdars

Linda Alexander
Caryn Anderson
Marion Blumberg
Barry Boothe
Karoli Clever
Wendy Crowder
Joy Durighello
Dafine Engstrom
Mats Engstrom
Sandra Fish
Eric Follestad
Anna Freitas
Louise Geraci
Gina Glantz
Jerry Griffith
Louise Heyneman
David Hirzel
Nancy Isaac
Kathy Jepsen
Fred Johnson
Kathy Judd
Margot Komarmy
Ellen Lapham
Iyana Christine Leveque
Tim Loew
Liz McLoughlin
Bonny O'Keefe
Ingrid Peterson
Laura Phelps
Aldeana Saber
John Schlagheck
Kay Schmieder
Scott Soper
Robert Van Austen
Judy Van Austen
Andrew Wegst
Mark Weiman
Thomas Yohannan
Robin Ziegler

FROM THE CHAIR

Joan Boothe MN'07

Fall is upon us and our Northern California Chapter 2016-17 year is well launched. We began with a wonderful field trip to Drakes Bay at Point Reyes, led by chapter member Ed Von der Porten. Two weeks later, we had our first regular meeting, enjoying a fascinating talk by Susan Middleton. Reports of both these events appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Usually we march on through the Fall with meetings in September, October, and November before we have our holiday party in December. September is now behind us, but for this year there is a change. After discussion, your Chapter board has decided to skip the October meeting because we wish to encourage our chapter members to attend the Explorers Club annual Lowell Thomas Dinner. This year, it is being held in Santa Barbara, only a few hours drive from the Bay Area, on a weekend near when we would ordinarily hold our October meeting. As one of the three California chapters, NorCa is one of the official sponsors of this dinner. If you have not already signed up and want to go, you can find all the relevant information at TEC's website (www.explorers.org).

We'll be back to our regular schedule in November, with a meeting on Friday, November 18, when chapter member Bob Schmieder will speak to us about his Heard Island flag expedition that took place late last spring. Watch for the meeting announcement in late October. Following that, we'll have the holiday party at my home on Sunday, December 11.

What else is going on? We're putting together a list of great speakers, working on organizing more field trips, and, probably most exciting of all, have nailed down a very special meeting in February. On Thursday evening, February 23, our meeting will be at the David Rumsey map center at Stanford University. More details will be coming your way nearer to the date, but if you're not already familiar with this incredible place, check out the website (www.library.stanford.edu/rumsey). This is an amazing place, a real "candy store" for explorers.

As for me, on a personal level, I'll be in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia Island in late October/early November. Back to the seals, penguins, and all that incredible history of these amazing places that so fascinate me.

Joan

PORTRAITS OF MARINE INVERTEBRATES - A REVIEW

At our September meeting, Susan Middleton presented what was a remarkable display of unusual animals recovered from deep water exploration programs carried out by NOAA and the Friday Harbor research Lab of the University of Washington to depths of 1000 feet. The illustrations were presented as portraits, rather than as technical descriptions, and her care in all aspects of taking and producing the finished pictures resulted in a remarkable introduction to marine life that most of us have never seen before. In her presentation, Ms. Middleton chose to emphasize the portraiture and not mention the scale of each photo. Some of that information is found in her publication *Spineless: Portraits of Marine Invertebrates, the Backbone of Life*, several copies of which she had brought along for sale; the two illustrations below contain some size information obtained from that publication. The experience of seeing these most unusual forms of life - mostly tiny but a widely varied part of the bio-system of the ocean at depth - was most remarkable.

Shown below are two examples of the photos of animals which are taken from the publication. An approximate size scale for each of these animals is drawn below each illustration. AJ



Tiger Cowry. 3.1 inches



Creeping Pedal Sea Cucumber: 2.4 inches

Some photos from the September meeting

October 2016 Issue

Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



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

2016
September 23. Susan Middleton
Marine Invertebrates in the Pacific Grace Luth Ch
October 14-16Lowell Thomas Awards Dinner
.Fess Parker Resort, Santa Barbara, CA
November 18 Bob Schmider
Heard Island Expedition Grace Luth Church
December 11. Holiday Party
Home of Chapter Chair Joan Boothe
2017
January 27 David Helvarg
The Blue Ocean Grace Luth Church
February 23 speakerTBA
David Rumsey Map Center . Stanford University
March 31. TBA
April 21. TBA
May 26. TBA

Earlier Chapter Events 2015

November 7-8Lowell 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
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 Anne Sanquini

Send address changes and
corrections by email to Sandra Cook
sandra_cook@comcast.net



Top: Joan Boothe, Susan Middleton (speaker); Bob Higgins, Morton Beebe
Bottom: Tom Hall, Liz McLoughlin, Don & Louise Heyneneman, Lucy Arnold; Aldeana Saber, Sandra Cook

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING CANCELLED in lieu of Lowell Thomas Meeting in Santa Barbara

OTHER EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS, etc.

October 14-16, 2016: Lowell Thomas Awards Dinner
Fess Parker Resort, Santa Barbara, California. See www.explorers.org for details

Holiday Party on December 11, 2016.

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..

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

* Join the Chapter AV team to help with video and audio equipment set-up at Chapter meetings. A little training session and you're ready to help out.

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!