

The Explorers Club

Northern California Chapter

November 2016

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

LOCATIONS

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

November 18, 2016

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: For those Chapter members who are not familiar with exploration, the November meeting will be a great time to find out the level of effort that goes into an expedition of exploration - the planning, the execution and the reporting of results. The Heard Island expedition was put together by our own Dr. Bob Schmieder FN'93, from the initial idea, through the finding of funding, the planning of equipment and team, the execution and to the final report. AJ

THE 2016 HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION

Friday, November 18, 2016

The 2016 Cordell Expedition to Heard Island was the first scientific expedition to this extreme and extremely remote island in almost 15 years. The two-month, half-million-dollar project took nearly 4 years to plan and prepare. The actual voyage started in early March, 2016, in Cape Town, South Africa. After a 12-day sail, the expedition reached Heard Island at 53°S73°E. The onsite team of 14 spent 3 weeks on the island, documenting significant changes in the 2-mile-high volcano, glaciers, lagoons,

and wildlife that have occurred over the past decade, and exploring areas not previously visited by anyone. They were the first to enter and document a two-mile-wide lagoon created in the past ten years by the melting of a major glacier, and collected samples of rocks, sediment, and water. They also carried out an amateur radio operation that logged 75,000 contacts worldwide, and included a number of innovations in radio technology. The return voyage ended in late April in Fremantle, Western Australia.

In addition to the onsite scientific work, the project implemented a large number of infotech innovations, including a live online help desk, the first remote radio operation, the real-time web radio log display, and live Skype interviews with journalists and schools. Through the website, blog, Facebook, Twitter, Newsletter, and numerous interviews and presentations, this expedition significantly raised the standard for outreach and interactivity for remote scientific projects.



Dr. Robert Schmieder has been organizing and leading scientific expeditions for 35 years. He is the founder of the nonprofit oceanic research organization Cordell Expeditions, which has to its credit more than 1000 discoveries, including new species, range and depth extensions, and first observations. His research expeditions were instrumental in the establishment of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, which is the subject of a permanent exhibit in the Oakland Museum. Besides

Cordell Bank, Bob's more significant expeditions include Peter I (Antarctic), Easter Island, a previous expedition to Heard Island (in 1997), San Felix Island (Chile), Kure Atoll (Hawaiian Islands), and Clipperton Island. He is the author of seven expedition books, is honored by four named species and an oceanic site (Schmieder Bank), and is listed in the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.



ANTARCTICA AND THE TOOTH FISH WIN A ROUND

EDITOR'S NOTE: At its April 2015 meeting the Northern California Chapter heard a talk called “**The Toothfish and the Battle for the Antarctic’s Soul**”. This presentation described the effort to have an area in Antarctica’s Ross Sea declared a marine preserve. It included descriptions of the wildlife both on land and sea, the industrial fishing that was occurring there, and the political issues involved. Pictures of Toothfish weighing several hundred pounds being heaved into the factory ships left a very harsh memory. At that meeting, the governments of New Zealand and the U.S. were described as major obstacles.

The article below appeared in the Friday, October 28, 2016 edition of the San Francisco Chronicle and reported that those government agencies have now been the prime movers in successfully getting the Marine Preserve established. It is a pleasure to be able to report on an ecological battle won! **AJ**



LARGEST MARINE PARK APPROVED IN ANTARCTICA

Associated Press;
from the San Francisco Chronicle.

Wellington, New Zealand. October 28, 2016. The countries that decide the fate of Antarctica’s waters reached an historic agreement on Friday to create the world’s largest marine protected area in the ocean next to the frozen continent.

The agreement comes after years of diplomatic wrangling and high level talks between the U.S. and Russia, which has rejected the idea in the past.

Proponents of the reserve say it sets a precedent for multiple countries working together to protect a large swath of ocean, which falls outside any single nation’s jurisdiction.

The agreement covers an area about twice the size of Texas in the Ross Sea.

The deal was clinched after 24 countries and the European Union met in Hobart, Australia, this week. Decisions on Antarc-

tic fishing require a consensus among the 25 members, a hurdle which has confounded past efforts.

The U.S. and New Zealand have been pushing for a marine reserve for years. They first submitted a joint proposal in 2012, but it was rejected five times before Friday’s agreement. Ukraine, China and Russia had expressed concerns in the past, with Russia becoming the final holdout before the deal was made.

The marine protected area covers 617,000 square miles. There will be a blanket ban on commercial fishing across about three-quarters of that area. In the remaining ocean zones, some commercial fishing will be allowed.

A small amount of fishing for research purposes will be allowed throughout the protected area.

Several countries fish in the waters surrounding Antarctica for lucrative toothfish, which are often marketed in North

America as Chilean sea bass.

Evan Bloom, who led the U.S. delegation in Hobart, said that Secretary of State John Kerry has been a passionate advocate for the reserve and has been pushing for it in high-level talks with Russian leaders.

“We’ve been working on this for so many years and had so many disappointments trying to get here,” Bloom said. “This is a real win for marine conservation.”

In a statement, Kerry said the agreement “will safeguard one of the last unspoiled ocean wilderness areas on the planet - home to unparalleled marine biodiversity and thriving communities of penguins, seals, whales, seabirds, and fish.”

New Zealand’s Foreign Minister Murray McCully said the final agreement included some concessions to Russia, including adjusting the reserve’s boundaries and allowing a little more commercial fishing outside the no-take zone.

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 Schmieder
Sara Shoemaker Lind
Steve Smith
William Straka
Susan Taylor
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
Wendy Crowder
Joy Durighello
Dafne 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

I'm writing this as I sit in a room in Santiago, Chile, preparing to fly to the Falkland Islands in several days where I'll board a ship and head to South Georgia Island. For me, as a historian of Antarctic exploration, to be in these places where so many seminal events took place is an inspiration as well as, always, a learning experience. My appreciation of the remarkable men and women who wrote their names into the history of the Antarctic grows every time I find myself in this part of the world. (And note, among those men and women are several members of our own chapter!)

For many of our chapter members, summer is the time to be off in the field exploring. That's no problem for our chapter calendar if the "field" in question is in the Northern Hemisphere. But for me and others who head south of the equator, the relevant summer comes right in the heart of our chapter year. That can be a serious problem for a chapter chair, especially one going to a part of the world where internet connections are spotty at best. Or it would be if I didn't have solid back up. Fortunately, I do. Vice-chair Steve Smith, Newsletter Editor Anders Jepsen, and webmaster Mike Diggles have all stepped up this

month to keep things going in my absence. Treasurer Sandra Cook will also be on the job, ready to take your reservations for the November meeting. She too is out there in the field, but she's figured out how to make it work for you. I am hugely grateful to all of them. As for me, I'll be back in early November, very much looking forward to our next meeting when Dr. Robert Schmieder will be speaking to us about his recent flag expedition to Heard Island. (See the meeting description on page 1).

As you can infer from the above, the role our officers play can go beyond their official job descriptions. Do you want to become more involved in our chapter? I am currently having conversations with a couple of chapter member who may be heading in that direction. But if you are not one of them and *would* like to play a more active role, please do let me know. As a chapter, we will be stronger for the future with people participating in planning and doing.

Now, off to the seals, penguins, glaciers, icebergs, mountains . . . and my personal fascination, the places where historic Antarctic region events took place so many years ago. On my return, I look forward to seeing many of you in November.

Joan Boothe MN'07

NON-PROFIT STATUS REPORT

Your chapter, first organized in 1973, has operated since as a chapter of the international club under Articles of Procedures written by our California founders. Since then, we have grown and flourished as a relatively loose (bureaucratically speaking) association of like-minded individuals with a common purpose. But, after more than 40 years of successful camaraderie, your officers believe that we have reached the point where it has become necessary to undertake a move to the next structural level. I am pleased to report that we are well on our way.

Recently, the state accepted our filing for incorporation as a non-profit entity, with a new set of bylaws replacing our former articles of procedure. We are now awaiting a letter of determination from the IRS granting us status as a 501c3 charitable organization. Many of you will recognize the benefits of being a non-profit. For the chapter, it means access to certain venues at reduced cost, access to venue insurance at reduced rates, tax deductibility of donations made

to the chapter, and more. At the same time, running a corporation requires a higher level of operational responsibility from its officers and directors and creates the requirement to observe more formal financial accountability and record keeping standards. I am confident that we are up to the task.

This note is intended to let you know where we are in the current process. In the future I will be sending you some additional information concerning our new operating procedures that I hope you will find informative. In the meantime, if you would like a copy of our new chapter bylaws (which I encourage all of our members to read), please contact me and I will forward them to you. This is an exciting transition for us and one that I am confident positions us to continue as one of the most outstanding of The Explorers Club's regional chapters.

Steve Smith FN'96, Vice Chair.

Northern California Chapter
Established 1973

June 22-July 8, 2017: Expedition to Mongolia with a member of our Chapter. Susan Fox, FN'14 will be leading a 2-week of examination of areas that she has been studying for the past several years. For information, contact Susan Fox at sfox@foxstudio.biz or at 707 496 1246



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CURACAO REEF ACOUSTICS FLAG EXPEDITION



Chapter member Barbara Berg MN'08 (3rd from left, with flag) just back from Curacao

Chapter Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

2016

November 18, 2016 Dr. Bob Schmieder
2016 Heard Island Expedition . . . Grace Luth Ch
December 11 Holiday Party
Home of Chapter Chair Joan Boothe

2017

January 27 David Helvarg
The Blue Ocean Grace Luth Ch
February 23 David Rumsey
Rumsey Map Center Stanford University
March 31. Eric Weiss
Expedition Medicine Grace Luth Ch
April 28. Sandra Cook
Afghanistan pre-Taliban Grace Luth Ch
May 26 J.R. Skok
Seeking Signs of Life on Mars TBA

Earlier Chapter 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
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
Surviving the 2015 Earthquake in Nepal GLChurch

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

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.

CHAPTER MEETING Friday, November 18, 2016

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

Date: Friday, 18 November 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 loin, chicken teriyaki, or veggie (pasta primavera)
NOTE: veggie request must be in by prior Sunday
Cost: \$49 in advance, \$60 after 15 November; Students: \$35.
(2016 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)
Please mail reservations, meal choice, checks & dues to Sandra Cook
email: cook_sandra@comcast.net Call 510-653-3665 or
mail to 1550 Oakland Ave., Piedmont CA 94611

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!