

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

December 2016

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

LOCATIONS

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

December 11, 2016

Home of Joan and Barry Boothe
2435 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

DON'T FORGET OUR HOLIDAY PARTY!

Date: Sunday, December 11
Time: 5-9 PM

PLACE: The Home of Joan and Barry Boothe
2435 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

If you are coming and haven't already replied, please do so to
Joan Boothe at (hoodoskr@aol.com) or call her at 415-233-1697
Send your Exploration Photos to Anders Jepsen (ajviking@aol.com)

AN EXPLORERS CLUB FLAG RETURNS FROM THE FIELD



Speaker Bob Schmiueder and Chapter Chair Joan Boothe.

Photo by Von Hurson

EDITOR'S NOTE: There are over 100 numbered Explorers Club flags which have been taken along on expeditions ever since the Club's founding. The tradition requires that when the expedition is completed, the numbered flag is returned to the club. The picture on the left shows our speaker, Bob Schmiueder FN'86 presenting his expedition's club flag to Chapter Chair Joan Boothe MN'07.

INSIDE: A review of the 2016 Heard Island talk given by past Chapter Chair Dr. Robert Schmiueder.

WELCOME TO NEWLY ELECTED EXPLORERS CLUB AND NORCA CHAPTER MEMBERS

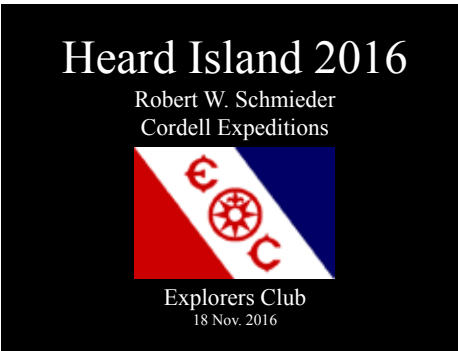
Richard Feachem FN'16
Linda Alexander MN'16
Kim Chambers MN'16
Mary Beth Wilhelm -TM'16
Simon Peter Worden FN'11 (reinstatement)
Nate Fox Hansen Student Member

AN EXPLORER'S REPORT: THE HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION

Regular Friday meeting, November 18, 2016

by **DR. ROBERT SCHMIEDER, FN'88**

On MARCH 11, 2016, a team of 14 avid ham radio operators and scientists loaded their gear onto a 39-meter ocean vessel and set sail for Heard Island. Under the direction of our own Bob Schmieder, these hardy explorers headed for Heard Island, a remote island just north of Antarctica in the Eastern Indian Antarctic basin and exhibiting many of the features of Antarctica, short summer season, high winds, glaciers and an active volcano, and with no human inhabitants. Schmieder's first expedition to Heard Island was in 1997 and for several years thereafter he had wanted to return. The objective was two-fold: to establish a ham radio station to challenge the skills of a global world of ham operators with a state-of-the-art communication station; and to find and bring back natural samples that would perhaps reveal new species of life, or new documentation of natural processes that shape the land forms on the earth's crust - in other words, pure science!



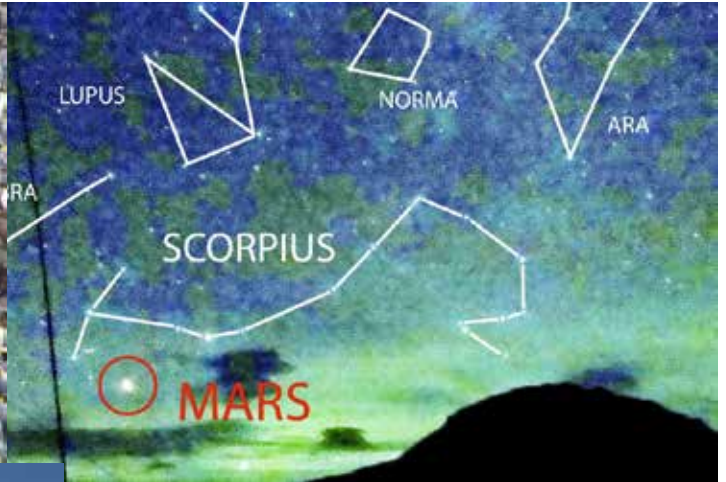
This expedition was 3 years in the making, and Schmieder was involved in all aspects of project design, team member selection, equipment and process design, funding, boat selection and finally, execution. Included among these tasks was the process of getting legal and formal permission from the Australian government, the administrator of Heard Island - not a trivial matter since the island has been declared a World Heritage Site, with all the restrictions you might expect with regard to paying a visit. - where one may or may not go, what must not be touched, and how to treat the animal life that presently lives there.

How to get to Heard Island was the first decision to be made. The ocean research vessel Braveheart, 39 meters (120 ft) long operating out of New Zealand, was selected, based on past performance, crew experience and availability. The capacity of the vessel defined the number on the team. Scheduling was based on the window of summer weather, as well as the time to assemble the equipment and the team. The illustration shows where the various participants came



from to meet in Cape Town. From there, a 12-day sail to Heard Island, 21 days there and 11 days to sail on to Freemantle, Australia, 44 days in all.





The balance of the talk included many pictures describing the features of the island. The total expedition cost was around \$500,000, and Schmieder acknowledged the many donors who had contributed to the project, either in cash or in kind. Readers who wish to learn more about the expedition are encouraged to visit the expedition website at www.heardisland.org. AJ

All photos provided by the expedition.

Previous page, mid. L to R: left to right: team origins; MS Braveheart

Previous page, btm. L to R: field camp; shore to camp move-in.

This page, left to right, top to bottom:
 KING Penguins: white (facing camera), black (back to camera), brown (juveniles);
 night sky with aurora australis;
 Big Ben, with new cone just showing at right side of top; Expedition hut abandoned by Australia in 1954;
 Detail of newly built volcanic cone on top of Big Ben; Blue-eyed cormorant
 Bottom right: Snowy Sheathbill



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

Let me begin by wishing Happy Holidays to every one of you. Thanksgiving, that wonderful gathering time for family and friends, is now in our rearview mirror, but the celebrations of December are bearing down on us. I do hope that you will join your fellow NorCa EC Members and Sirdars at our Chapter Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11. My husband, Barry, and I very much look forward to welcoming you to our home.

Since I last wrote, I have returned from my expedition to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, on which I was lecturing on the history of the places we visited. Two aspects of recent history at South Georgia were very much in evidence — one good, one bad. On the positive side, about five years ago, the South Georgia government set out to eradicate the plague of rats that had infested the island since arriving with sealers more than two centuries ago. The project was a daunting one, to kill every single one of the tens (hundreds?) of thousands of rats on a 110-mile long island. Last year, however, the rat-eradication team declared success. The rats are gone. And the evidence we saw — the endemic South Georgia pipit, the most southerly song bird in the world, is now back on the main island, no longer restricted to the sanctuary from rats these birds had found on off-shore

islands. It was so wonderful to hear their song from the dozens I saw flitting about. This was something I had never experienced on my previous trips to South Georgia. The special places of the world can heal if given a chance. But then there's the negative. Nearly all the glaciers on South Georgia are in serious retreat from the effects of climate change. In some cases, glacial terminuses are now miles back from where they were only a few decades ago. This highly visible impact should concern everyone.

You may recall Chapter Vice Chair Steve Smith's report in our last newsletter about our effort to obtain non-profit status for our chapter. This is a quick update. We have now received approval from the IRS, but we're not quite there yet. We still have to complete the process with the state of California, something we could not do until the IRS had approved. Almost there! We'll keep you posted.

Finally, congratulations and welcome to the Northern California Chapter to the five newly elected or reinstated EC members and one student member in our area. Kimberly, Linda, Mary Beth, Richard, Simon, and Nate — we look forward to seeing you at many future NorCa events.

Joan Boothe MN'07

LEE LANGAN WINS SWEENEY MEDAL

We had a special visitor at the November Chapter meeting, with Constance Defide MED'01, Explorers Club Vice President for Special Projects and current Sweeney Medal holder, in attendance. She brought the news that our own Past Chapter Chair Lee Langan FN'99, past Director of The Explorers Club, and continuing editor of the *Explorers Club Log*, has

been named the next winner of the Sweeney Medal in recognition of the many contributions that he has made to the operation of The Club. The medal will be presented at the next ECAD, in New York City in March, 2017.

Congratulations, Lee!



Photo by Von Hurson



Some attendees at the Heard Island Presentation

Photos by Von Hurson

Top: Reg Barrett & Kathy Barrett, Sandra Cook; Ann Hutchinson, Joan Bekins

Row 2: Ellen Lapham, Ingrid Peterson, Constance Defide; Kathy Judd, Karine Langan, Diana Pickworth

Row 3: Paul Freitas, Tom Paterson, Anna Freitas; Tom Dolan, David Hirzel

Bottom: Wendy Crowder, Art Ford, Keith Kvenvolden

December 2016 Issue

Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



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Vice Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96
925-934-1051
ecnca@oceaneearth.org
Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
Trekking@sonic.net
Treasurer: Sandra Cook MN'16
cook_sandra@comcast.net
510-653-3665
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
ajviking@aol.com
925-322-8893

Chapter Calendar of Events

(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

2016

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. Sandy Ross
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 Steve Smith
ecnca@oceaneearth.org

OTHER EVENTS, EXPEDITIONS, etc.

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

KIM CHAMBERS SWIMS THE DEAD SEA

In the last month, our new member Kim Chambers MN'16 participated in a group swim across the Dead Sea from Jordan to Israel to draw attention to the ecological losses which that body of water is experiencing as it dries out. Readers may remember that last year Kim swam from the Farallons to San Francisco and earlier this year attempted to swim from Sacramento to San Francisco. Be sure to ask her about these experiences.

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 HOLIDAY PARTY
Sunday, December 11, 2016**

Home of Joan and Barry Boothe
2435 Divisadero, San Francisco, CA 94116
If coming, respond to Joan Boothe at (hoodooskr@aol.com)
or by telephone (415)-233-1697

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!