

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

February 2017

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

LOCATIONS

Note venues and dates with care

23 February, 2017

David Rumsey Map Center
4th fl, Bing Wing of Green
Library

557 Escondido Mall, Stanford U.

On Thursday, February 23, 2017, please join us for a visit to the

DAVID RUMSEY MAP CENTER AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

For most explorers, maps are addictive. We make them, study them, learn from them, and sometimes plan our next explorations based on them. Our February meeting — an opportunity to learn about an extraordinary map collection right here in the Bay Area — is a special evening directed to the map-addicted among us. This is not just any map center. The David Rumsey Map Center at Stanford University houses one of the most important map collections in the world. First opened in April, 2016, this

map center is now home to the immensely rich collection of maps assembled over many years by the center's donor, David Rumsey.

It's a place that should be hard to resist for explorers. For our meeting, we'll hear from a speaker or speakers who work with the maps and then have free time to explore the center, to learn about its resources and collections.

To learn more about the map center, go to <https://exhibits.stanford.edu/david-rumsey-map-collection/about/about-the-david-rumsey-map-center>

Following our time at the map center, we will move across the Stanford Campus to the Hartley Conference Center in the Mitchell Earth Sciences Building. There we'll have a chance to talk about at the Map Center and enjoy each other's company over a finger food and beverages including soft drinks, beer and wine.

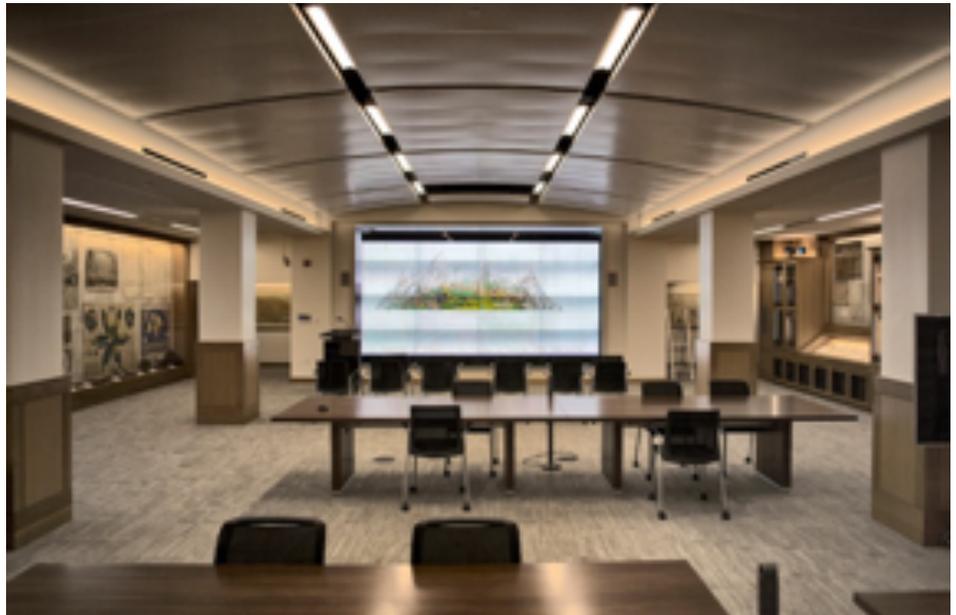
Directions/maps to both the David Rumsey Map Center and to the Hartley Conference Center are available on our chapter website, www.explorersnorca.org.

NOTE: Because of space limitations, the post-Map Center gathering at Hartley Conference Center must be limited to the first 60 people who sign up. Any persons who sign up after that limit is reached will be welcome to attend the meeting at the Map Center at a reduced cost.

Times: Program at David Rumsey Map Center: 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Social Gathering with finger food and beverages at Hartley Conference Center:
7:30 – 9 PM

Price: \$45 in advance; \$55 for reservations received after Monday, Feb. 20
(Students, \$35; \$45 after Feb. 20)

See the last page of the newsletter for how to reserve your place



THE IOFF AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EXPLORERS FILM PROGRAM

ThuleTuvalu

A Film by Matthias Von Guten

2005 INTERNATIONAL OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL COASTAL CULTURE AWARD WINNER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017; 4:30 PM.



Thule is a remote region of Greenland and Tuvalu is a remote Pacific Island. From the IMDb review, “When the ice melts in Thule, Tuvalu drowns in the ocean. A touching portrait of the people whose fates are intimately linked though they live at completely different corners of the world.” Filmed on location.

Use this link to view a trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2e8jbzofFQ

Stanford Yang and Yamazaki Energy & Engineering Building
Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM Stanford, CA
Tickets and more information: <https://ThuleTuvaluFilmScreening.eventbrite.com>

DUES NOTICE

Have you paid your chapter dues? Yes, it’s optional for Explorers Club members, but our chapter depends on these funds for our on-going activity. Please do consider joining our “Honor Roll” of those who do contribute. You’ll find this list on the next-to-last page of the newsletter every month.

THE GOLDEN SHORE CALIFORNIA'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE SEA Friday, January 27, 2017

David Helvarg condensed his paean to California's coast, *The Golden Shore**, for the 27 January meeting of the Northern California Chapter. He skipped forward from the dependence that the ancients had upon the abundance of the sea, as recorded in shell mounds and other archaeology finds, through the historic record of fur trading and whale/seal commerce for fine oils (this, up to 1971); fisheries and the discovery of oil off the coast maintained the dependence on the ocean. Over time, the largest cargo depots in the west developed in the Los Angeles/Long Beach and San Francisco/Oakland areas; these grew into essential trade ports.



Photo by Rick Saber

California has always used its 1100-mile coast line, but left most of it alone because it is rugged, wild and inaccessible. Rugged and wild like the ocean itself; due to an upwelling zone along our coast, the adjacent sea is full of animal and plant nutrition and full of ocean life.

Drilling for oil began in the mid-twentieth century after assurances that oil production would be safe and secure from failure. A major oil spill impacted the Santa Barbara coast line in 1969, just three years from the onset of retrieving oil from the Channel Islands. This was the spark that birthed the conservation spirit of coastal California. Organizations in LA, the development of the Sea Ranch Association, and 'Save the Bay' in San Francisco morphed into the

California Coastal Commission, established in 1972 by voter initiative (after a failed attempt to legislate). Its mission: "To protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environment of the California coastline". Significantly this quasi-judicial state agency assures that the coast itself is public and accessible to all. It adjudicates any proposed development or impact upon the coast or its environs.

As a result of the success of this effort, which was originally authorized for only four years but subsequently made permanent, California today has a protected coast which is the envy of the world. It is in good condition which is reflected in the increasing presence of once endangered ocean wildlife and the protected shores.

Author Helvarg's extemporaneous talk ranged widely with antidotes, each supporting the good fortune Californians have in the protection of this natural resource. (LL)

* *The Golden Shore, California's Love Affair with the Sea*; published 2013 (hardback, St. Martin's Press), 2016 (paperback, New World Library).

EXPLORERS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, March 25, 2017 (weekend of March 24-26)

Are you planning to attend ECAD? If so, we hope that you'll join your fellow NorCa Chapter members at special NorCa tables. To do so, please purchase your tickets from Joan Boothe (hoodoskr@aol.com) rather than directly from TEC. We currently have a few tickets available at \$450 each (the least expensive ECAD ticket). If more people indicate interest, we'll buy more tickets for the chapter.

HOLIDAY PARTY EXPLORATION PHOTO CONTEST VOTED THE BEST OF THE REST

The January Chapter Newsletter featured the three leading photos from the 51 submissions to the 2016 Exploration Photo Contest, as voted on by 43 of the attendees to the Holiday Party. Since there were eight more submissions very close behind in the voting, they are all presented here, with their relative standing.

FOURTH PLACE 2-WAY TIE

WHERE IS EVERYBODY? Peter Hemming



GUARDIAN OF HECLA STRAIT Lesley Ewing



SIXTH PLACE THREE-WAY TIE



**OLD KUSHITE
PYRAMIDS**
Sandra Cook



**MOON RISE AND
AURORA BOREALIS**
Richard Dehmel



ICEBERG IN THE SUN
Joan Boothe

MOTHER AND CHILD
Peggy Day



GREENLAND SUNSET
Dana Isherwood



WANGDICHOLING PALACE
Bob Holmes



HONOR ROLL OF PAID UP DUES FOR 2017

Members

Jim Alexander
Linda Alexander
James Allan
Guitty Azarpay
Sheldon Breiner
Joan Boothe
Keith Chase
Doug Cheeseman
Gail Cheeseman
Sandra Cook
Richard Dehmel
Dana Isherwood
Robert Eustace
R J Higgins
Mike Diggles
Tom Dolan
Palmer Dyal
Susan Fox
Anders Jepsen
Jonathan Knowles
Ed von Der Porten
Steve Smith
James Weil
Mordechai Winter

Sirdars

Julia Amaral
Barry Boothe
Karoli Clever
Gerald Griffin
Kathy Jepsen
Fred Johnson
R Stewart
Z Stewart
Mark Weiman

FROM THE CHAIR

February is going to be a very special month for our chapter, one that we hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of.

Coming up first this month, on Sunday, February 12, we will have the kickoff to our exciting new chapter activity — a film festival that former Chapter Chair Lesley Ewing is spearheading for us. You should have received an announcement about this a couple of weeks ago. You can also read more about this elsewhere in the newsletter. But let me add my encouragement to all of you to join us for the festival's inaugural showing. And please join me in thanking Lesley for doing this. It will be a wonderful addition to our chapter activity.

Just over a week and a half after the film festival, we'll have our regular monthly meeting — on Thursday, February 23. This meeting, however will be different. Organized jointly with the Peninsula Geological Society, this event will be sort of like a combination field trip and monthly meeting rolled into one. For February, we'll be at Stanford University for a visit to the David Rumsey Map Center, located in the Bing Wing of Stanford's Green Library. Following our time in the map center, we'll have a social gathering for finger food and beverages in the Hartley Conference Center, only a few minute walk from Green Library on the Stanford campus. See the front page of the newsletter for details, expanding on the announcement of this event that has already been sent to you. [Do take careful note that this

meeting will be on Thursday rather than our regular Friday.]

As I hope you all took note of, last week we sent a reminder about dues to all chapter Explorers Club members and Sirdars. Dues of \$25/year for Explorers Club members are optional, but strongly encouraged because these are an important source of funds for our chapter. For Sirdars, annual dues of \$50/year are required to maintain your place on our distribution list. For all of you, both members and Sirdars, don't forget that dues are now tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Finally, don't forget that we are getting closer and closer to ECAD. This year it will take place on the weekend of March 24-26. An exciting new venue at Ellis Island, our former Chapter Chair Lee Langan being honored with the Sweeney medal, and the traditional blowout of exotic foods, great company, etc. It should be a terrific weekend. We hope that many of you will be there. If you do decide to go and wish to be seated with fellow NorCa people, let me know. We still have a few tickets left for the NorCa tables. If there is a large demand, we can get more.

That's it for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at both the Film Festival on Sunday, February 12th, and at the David Rumsey Map Center on Thursday, February 23.

Joan Boothe MN'07

A SWIM TO SAVE THE DEAD SEA

Story and photos by Kim Chambers MN'16

In November 2016, I joined an international delegation of open water swimmers from around the world in an unprecedented swim across the Dead Sea. At 40 miles long, and 11 miles across at its widest point, the Dead Sea is strategically situated on the border of Israel and Jordan. A region that is often brought to our attention for political, rather than environmental reasons.

Because 95% of the water from the Jordan River Basin is now diverted to agriculture in Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the Dead Sea is at serious risk of disappearing in our lifetime. The Sea is shrinking at a rate of 1 meter of depth per year, with the shoreline receding by a further 5 meters per year.

This swim was planned to draw the world's attention to this impending environmental disaster. It had never been attempted before for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the 34% concentration of salinity making it 10 times more saline than the ocean. The risks are potentially fatal if the water is ingested which is why we all wore specialized face masks and were accompanied by an experienced team of medics.

As one of 28 swimmers from South Africa, England, America, Jordan, Israel, and New Zealand, I was but one small component of this massive undertaking. We received diplomatic approval from both the Israelis and Jordanians at the 11th hour, and began our swim shortly after dawn on November 15th 2016. There was a flotilla of seven support boats, which traveled together to accommodate the needs and abilities of each swimmer. As swimmers we encountered many challenges, not the least of which was taking the mask off every 30 minutes to hydrate (the water was very warm, a very balmy 78 degrees) while risking the severe pain caused by even the smallest drop of Dead Sea water in our eyes.

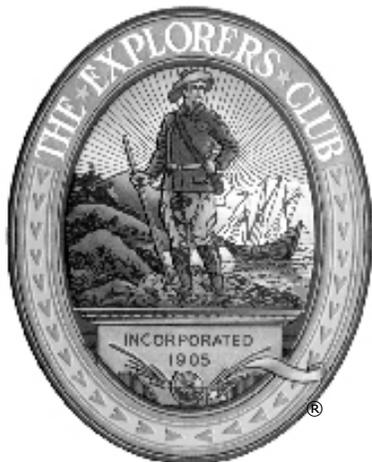
It was with a strong sense of purpose that we chose to use our skills as open water swimmers to give this critical body of water the international significance and public awareness that it rightly deserves. Two more pictures on Page 5.

The swim took us 7 hours to complete, creating a new world record, and supporting the real possibility of saving the Dead Sea..



February 2017 Issue

Northern California Chapter Established 1973



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Trekking@sonic.net
Treasurer: Sandra Cook MN'16
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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.)

2017

January 27 David Helvag
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

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
June Crissie Field
September Drakes Bay Field Trip
September ?????
November 18, 2016 Dr. Bob Schmieder
2016 Heard Island Expedition Grace Luth Ch
December 11 Holiday Party
Home of Chapter Chair Joan Boothe

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

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

March 24-26, 2017: Explorers Club Annual Dinner (ECAD), Ellis Island, NYC



Wearing the Tee with Pride



All gear ready to go.

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 Thursday, February 23, 2017

David Rumsey Map Center
Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305

Date Thursday, 23 February 2017

Place: David Rumsey Map Center
4th Floor, Bing Wing of Green Library
557 Escondido Mall, StanfordUniversity 94305

Time: 6:00-7:30 PM - Program
7:30 - 9 PM Social gathering with finger food and beverages

Cost: \$45 in advance, \$55 after 20 Feb; Stud:\$35; 45 after 20 Feb
(2016 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)

Please mail reservations, 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!