

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

June 2017

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

LOCATION

Note venues and dates with care

Saturday, 24 June, 2017

ANGEL ISLAND
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

ANNUAL EXPEDITION TO ANGEL ISLAND SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

WHERE: Picnic Area near the ferry dock at Angel Island

What time: 10 am - ?

ACTIVITIES

Explore the island or just soak up the good company
Bikes can be rented or bring your own

SUSTENANCE

Chapter will provide

picnic supplies - Plates, Napkins, glasses, flatware, etc.
The barbeque will be afire and ready for grilling,
Hot dogs will be supplied

Or bring meat for yourself to cook – steaks, wursts, etc.
Lemonade will be provided

Von and Jim Hurson's Red and White Wines will be provided

WHAT TO BRING / SHARE:

Salad, chips and dip, cheese, crackers, fruit, desserts, beverages

RESERVATIONS: Please email Kathy Jepsen at kjviking@aol.com, or by telephone at 1-925-322-8893



WEEKEND FERRY SCHEDULES (confirm at www.oursausalito.com)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO ANGEL ISLAND AND BACK

DEP PIER 41	ARR ANGEL ISLAND	DEP ANGEL ISLAND	ARR PIER 41
9:45 am	10:10 am	10:20 am	11:05 am
11:15 am	11:45 am	11:55 am	12:35 pm
1:35 pm	1:55 pm	2:05 pm	2:55 pm
		4:25 pm	5:30 pm

FROM TIBURON TO ANGEL ISLAND AND BACK

DEP TIBURON	ARR ANGEL I	DEP ANGEL I	ARR TIBURON
10:00 am	10:15 am	10:20 am	10:35 am
11:00 am	11:15 am	11:20 am	11:35 am
12:00 pm	12:15 pm	12:20 pm	12:35 pm
1:00 pm	1:15 pm	1:20 pm	1:35 pm
2:00 pm	2:15 pm	2:20 pm	2:35 pm



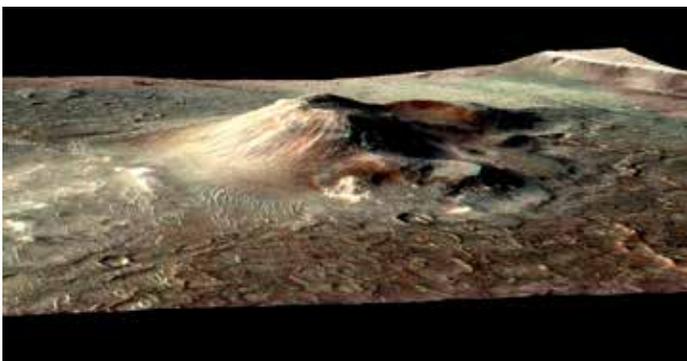
IN SEARCH OF LIFE ON MARS

J. R. SKOK SM'10; May 24, 2017

J.R.Skok began his talk by reviewing the history of Mars exploration, from the first telescope viewings in 1659 and early pictures through to closeups by the Mariner program in 1965 showing a rocky, dirty environment. The Viking landers in 1976 and other programs continue to yield dramatic pictures of the earthlike geology and geomorphology of Mars. The Odyssey orbiting and landing of mobile robots in 2001 has provided much more information but no evidence yet of the existence of past life.

The way the existence of past life is proved is by the finding of fossils. Finding a fossil skull of some past animal is dramatic proof of its past existence. In the case of Mars, since no such fossils have yet been found, it may be that life forms, if they had existed, were from much earlier in the process of evolution. Microbe (the combination of micro- (very small) and bio- (life)) fossils, the earliest form of detectable life on earth, could be the optimum target for proof that there was once life on Mars.

The development of life on Mars requires water, energy and chemicals. In addition, for there to be fossilized traces of micro-



bial life in the rocks, there must be preservation of the specimen. The hot springs associated with terrestrial volcanism can be shown to develop microbes that are preserved in the gravels that surround sinter cones or mounds near a volcano. Such gravels may exist on Mars in mounds similar to those found on earth.

An example of such a hot spring deposit was found at the volcano Gunnhver in Iceland, shown above. The volcanic area Nili Patera on Mars with similar conditions is shown at lower left. Such an area might yield a sample that contains trace evidence of a microbe.



Sending a robot to Mars has already been demonstrated as feasible, and so getting a sample back to analyze can be envisaged. But, that sample is still pretty expensive, and so the decision as to exactly where to sample is a big one. As a result, part of Skok's research is to visit and study similar sites on earth. So far he has spent time at a major desert site in Chile, as well as at several active volcanic areas in Iceland. But, where is the best place on Mars to sample? That is what J.R. is working on.

Skok's research is continuing, and he is seeking partners to get involved with him through his company "Made of Mars".

AJ

IN MEMORIAM Thomas L. Hall M.D., Dr. P.H., MN'97

A Multi-Dimensional Explorer: sailor, flyer, biker, mountaineer, global public health pioneer, Tom was a master of each. He was a Treasurer and Secretary of our Chapter, an admired colleague to hundreds of professional co-workers, and a warm and engaging friend to each of us in The Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club.

Tom died at age 84 on May 20, 2017, two years after being diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. His last three weeks were spent in the SF Zen Center Hospice, where he received extraordinary, loving care. His wife Liz, the linch-pin and center of his life who was always present with Tom at our meetings, made this period a fulfilling and acceptable time for him.

Tom's life was a continuing exploration, a full-bore stretching of his limits as he piloted his aircraft solo across much of North America and tried glider flying near Pike's Peak to 31,000'. With Liz he sailed their Downeaster 38 across the Pacific to Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji to New Zealand and made other sails to Cape Horn and Pitcairn Island. Numerous sailing explorations were made along the coasts of Vancouver, British Columbia and Alaska aboard his "Nordhaven 40", "Onward", and "Catamount" boats. Biking thousands of miles in North America was spaced out with rafting, climbing, and adventure travels in Bhutan, China, Southeast Asia, Antarctica, and as far elsewhere on all continents as you care to look. Tom and Liz's explorations are detailed in their website, Bikenfly.org.

Tom's professional life was as widespread and extraordinary as was his personal life, but the emphasis here is on his many adventures and explorations.

Tom's life decisions were neither casual nor passive. His planning was done as long-range and precisely as possible, just as he organized his expeditions—with precision and passion. The result is a life superbly lived.

Don Heyneman FN'78



Editor's note: Dan Akerman AN'14, summited Mount Everest last year. At my request he agreed to write about it. In Part 1, Dan described the experiences that led up to him deciding to attempt to summit Mount Everest. Part 2 took the team to Camp 2. Part 3 took the team to Camp 4. Here is the 4th and final installment.

MY MOUNT EVEREST EXPERIENCE (conclusion) by Dan Akerman

I remember spending the next ten hours at Camp 4 in my tent thinking about everything I had done to get to this point, just a few hours from reaching a five year long goal. The plan was to depart Camp 4 at 10PM and hopefully reach the summit between 6 and 7AM. At 9PM my lead Sherpa Tsering came to my tent and said "Dan all the other expeditions have cancelled due to weather, what would you like to do?"

The thought of ending the expedition this close to the summit after years of work and almost six weeks in tough conditions on the mountain was heart wrenching. I began thinking about plan B which would involve going back down to Camp 2 and regroup, the only problem was that bad weather was coming in the days ahead and I didn't know if I would get another shot. It was simple, I had to make an attempt with or without other expeditions.

The decision was ultimately made that myself, Tsering and my backup Sherpa Furtemba would all make the attempt. We departed Camp 4 at 10:15 and I recall getting hit by wind gusts that felt like sand paper against my face.

Within an hour or so I noticed I had lost all feeling in my toes and began thinking is this the beginning of frost bite, am I ready to lose some of my toes? The answer was simple - I was going to the summit with or without toes.

At 2AM we reached the "Balcony" the final stretch before reaching the summit. This was the point where we changed oxygen bottles for the first time, a task that should have been easy, but as it turned out the first bottle we



View from the summit

tried to change had a different nozzle than the bottle we were replacing, as a result the new bottle was useless. I began thinking "is this how my Everest attempt will end, with a simple mistake like this?!"

Fortunately the first bottle of oxygen was also the only one that had the wrong nozzle and we still had enough oxygen to get us up and down the mountain. Hours later at 05:47AM we took the final steps to the summit where we stood alone without anyone else on the mountain, an experience which not many Everest climbers get to

witness. After spending 34 minutes on the summit I felt like I was slowly freezing to death and it was time to head home. Fortunately all went well on the way down and two days later we were back at Base Camp.

Many people have asked me how tough the final day on Everest is, and the answer is that yes it is tough indeed. However the last day is not what Everest is about or what makes it so difficult. Everest requires a massive commitment of time, money and energy. My journey to Everest took five years with six weeks of sleeping in cold temperatures, fearing deadly avalanches every night and not knowing if my next trip through the Khumbu Icefall would be my last.

So why do it? Every climber you ask will have a different answer, but for me this was about proving to myself that the impossible is possible. That a regular guy with no particular climbing experience, can (with the proper training and preparation) reach the top of the world's highest mountain.



Khumba icefall

FREIGHTENED Presented by International Ocean Film Festival Northern California Explorers Film Program

DATE AND TIME: Sun, June 11, 2017 -- 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM PDT. Doors open at 4 PM; film will start promptly at 4:30.

LOCATION: Warren Room, Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley. Recommended parking garage: Underhill Field

TICKETS: \$12 (\$5 for students). Available through Eventbrite: <https://FreightenedFilmScreening.eventbrite.com> or at the door.

MOVIE SYNOPSIS: Ninety percent of the goods we consume in the West are manufactured in far-off lands and brought to us by ship. The cargo shipping industry is a key player in the world economy and forms the basis of our model of modern civilization; without it, it would be impossible to fulfill the ever-increasing demands of our societies. Yet this business is obscure to many, and its hidden costs affect us all. Due to their size, freight ships no longer fit in traditional city harbors; they have moved out of the public's eye, behind barriers and check points.

Freightened - The Real Cost of Shipping explores questions such as:

- Who pulls the strings in this multi-billion dollar business?
- To what extent does the industry control our policy makers?
How does it affect the environment above and below the water-line?
- And what's life like for modern seafarers

Written and Directed by Denis Delestrac
(Sand Wars)

Produced by Polar Star Films. Co-produced
by La Compagnie des Taxi-Brousse.
2016 | 52 mins

**HONOR ROLL
PAID UP DUES
FOR 2017**

Members

Jim Alexander
Linda Alexander
James Allan
Julia Amaral
Robert Anderson
Susan Anderson
Guitty Azarpay
Richard Blake
Sheldon Breiner
Joan Boothe
Keith Chase
Doug Cheeseman
Ted Cheeseman
Sandra Cook
Alan Cooper
Thomas Cromwell
Richard Dehmel
Mike Diggles
Tom Dolan
Don Dvorak
Elaine Dvorak
Palmer Dyal
Scott Ellis
Sue Estey
Robert Eustace
Lesley Ewing
Susan Fox
Paul Freitas
Peter Hemming
Mike Herz
Bill Heydom
Don Heyneman
Robert Higgins
Jim Hurson
Von Hurson
Alan Hutchinson
Dana Isherwood
Anders Jepsen
Steven King
Ronald Klein
Jonathan Knowles
William Kruse
Keith Kvenvolden
Lee Langan
Ellen Lapham
James Prigoff
Sandra Ross
Becky Rygh
Rick Saber
Steve Smith
James Weil
Ed Von der Porten
Mordechai Winter

Sirdars

Barry Boothe
Marion Blumberg
Karoli Clever
Wendy Crowder
Joy Durighello
Sandra Fish
Anna Freitas
Louise Geraci
Gerald Griffin
Louise Heyneman
David Hirzel
Ann Hutchinson
Nancy Isaac
Kathy Jepsen
Fred Johnson
Kathy Judd
Margot Komarmy
Christopher LaFranchi
Karine Langan
Liz McLoughlin
Bonny O'Keefe
Tom Patterson
Laura Phelps
Aldeana Saber
Kay Schmieder
R Stewart
Z Stewart
Judy Van Austen
Robert Van Austen
Mark Weiman

From the immediate past Chair

In May, I completed my two-year term as your Northern California Chapter Chair. It has been a great honor to serve in this role, one that I thoroughly enjoyed. Making it so was in large part due to you, the Members and Sirdars of our chapter. My heartfelt thanks to all of you, but especially to the Chapter Officers and Board who served with and so ably supported me. Steve Smith, my Vice Chair, is now taking over as Chair. I am confident that he will do a great job leading our chapter. As for me, although I'll no longer be your chair, I'll still be around and active in Chapter activities as Chapter Treasurer. And once again, thank you. Ours is a fantastic chapter, and all of you are very much a part of that.

Joan Boothe MN' 07

From the incoming Chair

Those of you who remember the Pleistocene may recall that sometime shortly after that, I served as Chair of the Northern California Chapter. Indeed, it has been some 12 years since I had the honor of serving in the role. But now, in the words of our former camera-angle enhanced Governor, I'm back! This is scary in more ways than one (I will leave some of those to you). First, it's hard to believe that 12 years have passed that quickly. It seems like only yesterday that I was working on the Chapter Roster. Well, actually it was, but that's another story.

But it's also scary to think that I have to follow in the footsteps of our just-former Chair Joan Boothe, who went above and beyond during her term. She has set an admirable precedent that I will try my very best to live up to. We all thank her profusely for her direction and support.

The coming year will mark our first full one as a legal non-profit. With that comes new requirements and obligations as well as opportunities. Those of you who attended our meeting in the East Bay experienced our first bylaw-driven elective process. Our new Board of Directors is now populated and I expect great new ideas and contributions from them this year. Our Board meetings are always lively and productive and I encourage all members to reach out to the Officers and Directors of the Chapter to pass on their ideas and concerns for our discussions.

My primary goal this year will be to enhance both our membership ranks and individual participation. I currently serve on the National organization's Membership committee so I can personally attest to the outstanding credentials of our newest members. Remember that joining this group means more than just carrying a cool membership card. Maintaining our position as a leading chapter of The Explorers Club will require contributions from both longstanding and new members. Time to step up!

Steve Smith FN'96

Book Review:

**WHEN YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT
Extreme Decision-Making Lessons from the Antarctic
By Brad Borkan & David Hirzel (Sirdar)**

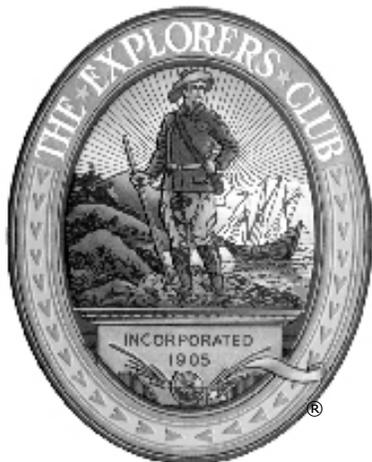
This book is a study of decisions made by the great explorers of Antarctica's heroic age of exploration at the beginning of the 20th Century. Hirzel, with his co-author Brad Borkan, examines several crisis situations encountered by Robert Scott, Ernest Shackleton, Roald Amundsen, and Douglas Mawson in the course of their expeditions into the great Antarctic unknown. They then try to imagine present-day explorers encountering crises in their own experiences in life and how their decisions might exhibit the strength of character and physical fortitude exhibited by the early explorers.

For this reader, the particular details of the actual Antarctic crises were the most interesting parts of this book. Images were created in the reader's mind about the actual conditions experienced by those heroes. Despite the most careful planning, not all things went the way they were supposed to go and change-in-plan decisions were required. Some members of the explorer teams lost their lives, perhaps as a direct result of those decisions.

The strength of character and of physical fortitude exhibited by these explorers were remarkable, as shown by their abilities to confront obstacles while in the field.. Certainly the conditions for physical survival in Antarctica were thought to be known at that time, and were planned for. However, like explorations everywhere, the unknown and the unanticipated, which draw the explorers represent both the challenge and the reward. And the decisions required by particular life-threatening conditions, was what make this book interesting.

AJ

June 2017 Issue
Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



Chair: Steve Smith FN'96
925-934-1051
ecna@oceaneearth.org
Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
lewing@coastal.ca.gov
Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
Trekking@sonic.net
Treasurer: Joan Boothe MN'07
hoodoskr@aol.com
415-346-5934
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
June 24 Chapter Picnic
. Angel Island
September 29 TBA

Earlier Chapter Events
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
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. Sandy Ross
Afghanistan pre-Taliban Grace Luth Ch
May 26 J.R. Skok
Seeking Life Signs on Mars Spengers, Berkeley

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

2017-2018 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

At the Annual Meeting of the Chapter held on 26 May 2017, the following
were elected as Officers of the Northern California Chapter of The Explorers
Club:

Chair (and Director): Stephen Smith
Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing
Secretary: Yvonne Hurson
Treasurer: Joan Boothe

The following were elected to a 2-year term on the Board of Directors

Member Elected Director 1: Jim Hurson
Member Elected Director 2: Sandra Cook
Member Elected Director 3: Paul Freitas

Past Chapter Chairs, who serve on the Board unless they specifically decline,
are:

Bob Schmieder	Alan Nichols
Lee Langan	Anders Jepsen
Rick Saber	Lesley Ewing
Joan Boothe	

BOOK NOOK

(RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CHAPTER MEMBERS)

Operation Ebola: Surgical Care During the West African Outbreak.
Ed. by Sherry Wren and Adam Kushner. 2017, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

When Your Life Depends On It. Extreme Decision Making Lessons From The Arctic.
Brad Borkan & David Hirzel, 2017, Terra Nova Press, PO Box 1808, Pacifica, CA 94044

Vivid Memories of an Interesting Life
Col. John H. Roush, Jr. Self Published, 2017, Marketing Services @xlibris.com

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.

ANNUAL EXPEDITION/PICNIC TO ANGEL ISLAND
Saturday, June 24, 2017

Date Saturday, 24 June, 2017
Place: Angel Island
Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Cost: No charge, but donations welcome
Reservations: Email Kathy Jepsen at kjviking@aol.com
or Tel: 1-925-322-8893

We have an established PayPal account.

With an account, you can sign up and remit your meal costs, dues, etc. to the NorCA Chapter
There is a PAYPAL BUTTON on our website (www.explorersnorca.org); easy to use!