

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

Summer 2018

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

ANNUAL PICNIC

July 21, 2018, Noon to 5 pm

NOVATO , CALIFORNIA

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EXPLORERS CHAPTER PICNIC

Saturday, July 21st, Noon - 5 pm

The home of Rick and Aldeana Saber, Novato California



OUR PICNIC SONG

sung to the melody of The Teddy Bear's Picnic
(with apologies to John Bratton and Jimmy Kennedy)

*If you go down to Novato today
You're sure of a big surprise
If you go down to the Saber's today
You'd better go in disguise
For every EXPLORER that ever there was
Will gather in costume and hat, because
Today's the day **THE EXPLORERS CLUB** has its picnic*

Rick and Aldeana Saber want to celebrate their new house and new deck by hosting the 2018 Northern California Explorers Club annual picnic on July 21st from noon till 5 PM. Select your favorite **Exploring Outfit** and **picnic haberdashery**, bring some tasty item to share and wear comfortable shoes (high heels discouraged).

Party Particulars: The Club will provide plates, glasses, napkins, and utensils. The Club will also provide some beverages and food, but additional drinks and eatables will be needed. Some oven and stove capacity might be available, but **there will NOT be a grill** so please try to bring food that has already been cooked.

Party Contest: The deck can be sunny. To encourage sun protection, we will have prizes for the best hats, based on audience appreciation.

Parking: The Sabers live at the top of a steep hill and there is limited parking at the top of the hill. If you are fit, consider dropping off your food and carpoolers at the house and then parking at the bottom of the hill, reserving the upper parking for those who need it.

Directions: We need your RSVP to make sure we will have enough supplies. So, we will provide directions only to those who send an RSVP. RSVP to: ricksaber1@gmail.com

THREE TERM MEMBERS AND THEIR RESEARCH

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The May meeting of the Explorers Club Northern California Chapter provided an opportunity for three local Term Members of the Explorers Club who are working with local research communities to advance the science of ocean environments and inhabitants. A brief review of each of these three talks appears below, prepared by ocean-oriented Chapter members with a strong interest in the topic. Readers who wish more information are directed to the May Newsletter that has more details.



Von Hurson

Alexandra McInturf, Jordan Hollarsmith and Elora Lopez

WILDLIFE RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: Elora Lopez TN'17

Elora is studying marine wildlife responses to “two of the most calamitous phenomena developed in the 20th century: the exponential increase of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and the invention and use of nuclear weapons.” All is not entirely a tale of “doom and gloom”. She has also seen cases of recovery, recovery that is difficult, if not impossible, to see by simple visual observation, but can be studied and seen by examination of DNA using geonomics to see adaptation/acclimatization/community structure change and mutations (the last of which can be positive, negative, or neutral).

Elora focused on coral reef systems which are made up of numerous polyps, each an animal living in symbiosis with tiny algae. When a coral becomes white, it has rejected its algae symbiomes. Bleached corals are not necessarily dead, but most across the world do die if they cannot regain their algae symbiomes quickly enough.

In American Samoa, two thermally sensitive species of coral were studied. In 2015, there was a significant bleaching event. By the end of August 2016, nearly all the bleached corals had recovered, but in 2017, there was a second bleaching event, with the same corals as previously. For one species, almost none died, but for the other species, nearly all died. Could the outcome have been predicted?

In the Bikini Atoll, the so-called “Bomb Blast” of 1954 was the largest bomb-explosion ever. Bikini today has a highly diverse ecosystem of corals, fish. . . Why? In some ways, the ecosystem has been very healthy. Elora will be going to Bikini and a nearby atoll where there were no tests to try to understand what is happening to the wildlife in this radioactively impacted ecosystem compared with those from Samoa. She is also examining coconut crabs, an enormous species that climbs trees and eats fruit. On Bikini, the fruit they are consuming is still hugely radioactive, but the crabs seem just fine. How and why?

Review by Joan Boothe MN'07

SHARKS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT: Jordan Hollarsmith TN'17

Jordan Hollarsmith, a Ph.D. candidate at UC Davis' Bodega Marine Laboratory, is enthusiastic about her work in environmental science. She gave a brief overview of her round-the-world experience in science (including work in the Caribbean, South Africa, Australia, Indonesia, Chile, the Salish Sea, and the California coast). She has worked on snapping shrimp, coral, kangaroos, oysters, and kelp. In Australia, the Great Barrier Reef coral was bleaching and dying, and she worked on research that mimics future warming ocean scenarios using aquaria.

Distressed at the sad fate of the coral reefs, she returned to California to study the thriving kelp forests – only to witness big changes when “the blob” of warm seawater disturbed the ecology of the coast during 2013-2015. Kelp did well in southern California, but the northern California kelp forests died off. Sea urchin populations exploded, abalone and sea lions starved, and once again Ms. Hollarsmith was looking at big changes in near-shore ecology.

A major question she is asking in her research is: Why do some populations flourish while others die? Her very welcome answer, at this stage, is “I don't know”. So she will work at learning more.

Review By Sue J. Estey FN'92

DO SHARKS ABIDE BY THE TIDE: Alexandra McInturf TN'18

Alexandra McInturf's presentation “Do Sharks Abide by the Tide?” examined how Seven Gilled sharks use tidal currents in San Francisco Bay to reduce energy costs while foraging. The team used active tracking with hydrophones to follow the movements of sharks for three days, then overlapping the biologged data points onto a current chart. Most of the time the sharks did orient themselves with the currents, regardless of tidal phase or strength.

She also gave a brief explanation of her dissertation research (UC Davis) on the fine-scale movements of Basking sharks at Malin Head on the northern coast of Ireland, studying how they associate in a hotspot thought possibly to be a shark mating area. Malin Head is proposed as a marine protected area.

This painstaking research using telemetry is important to pinpoint areas which need to be protected as sharks move in the environment. Alex received support for this work from TEC.

Review by Elaine Dvorak FN'92

Koko has Died

The Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club has had a direct relationship with the American-Sign-Language-using Koko, a western lowland gorilla who died in Woodside, California, on June 19. She was 46 and had been raised by Dr. Francine 'Penny' Patterson for most of her life. Koko was born at the San Francisco Zoo where as a newborn she became sickly when the gorilla troop at the zoo fell ill.

The zoo director took the baby gorilla home where he and his children fed the pneumonia-stricken ape with a baby bottle. Koko lived with the director's family until she was moved to Stanford. The late Ronald Reuther FN'78, our past Chapter Chair (1989-1994), was that zoo director.

Penny Patterson was a graduate student at Stanford who offered to teach Koko. It was Ron who accepted that offer and facilitated Koko's transfer to Stanford; Koko later moved to the Gorilla Foundation, founded by Dr. Patterson. The success of Koko's achievement in communicating with humans, and understanding them, is a remarkable insight into the intelligence of the great apes. Seek 'Koko' on the Internet for the amazing story.

For condolences please email kokolove@koko.org (LL)



WORDS SPOKEN AT A MEMORIAL GATHERING HELD FOR GENE BOUDREAU FN'02+ IN EARLY JUNE

I knew Gene for the last quarter of his exciting life. We were both geologists. He was a Cal man; I am from Stanford. Nevertheless, we got along famously. Early in our careers we were both hard-rock guys: he liked to look for gold and silver. I looked for uranium. We met as anthropologists, another type of explorer. Again, parallel interests: he in the ancient people of Mexico's mountains, me in the ancient peoples of the Colorado Plateau. We like these folks and appreciated their lives. As members of The Explorers Club, our friendship deepened with time. At one meeting when we were swapping stories, he offered to take me back to the Stone Age. I accepted.

We flew to Chihuahua, drove west into the Sierra Madre for eight hours for an overnight in Guachochi...then left for another eight hours along the mountain spine of tuffaceous outcrops. Here we stopped, wandered downslope to a small home and began our collecting. Gene was fluent in Spanish and patient; I watched as he spoke small talk. In time, a storage pot would appear, or a bow and arrow, or a plow. He asked if he might buy each. More words. An offer. A modest negotiation...he respected their needs. We truly visited stone caves with storage bins and sleeping boards, watched a young girl use a mano and metate to grind corn...been this way for thousands of years, long before the Spaniards.

We spent a week, camping beside the road. We left when we had filled a van with our treasures destined for modern museums. Now compañeros. A treasured memory of a true gentleman. **Lee Langan MED'99**

REVIEW OF A BOOK FROM THE CHAPTER LIBRARY

THE LAND BEYOND by Leon McCarron

This is more than a story about a long hike, or even a desert adventure. This is a story about meeting an indigenous people going about their business on their own turf, in the midst of great political tension and cultural upheaval. I was never clear about what to call the different peoples of the desert - the Tuaregs and Berbers of the Sahara, the Sans of the Kalahari, the aborigines of Australia, the Bejas of Namibia and the Bedouins of the Middle East. But I knew that I was interested in Palestine because of current events, and so I borrowed the club's copy of *The Land Beyond*, the book by Leon McCarron. It documents his 1000 mile walk from Jerusalem north to the desert of Beirut and then south along the Jordan river valley all the way to Aqaba and on through the desert to Mount Sinai.

McCarron describes his book as the story of the Holy Land, told by the people who live there. It isn't about politics, the crush of the cities, the tragedy of the refugee camps. It is about the Bedouin who live in the desert, who have lived there for thousands of years, who 2500+ years ago built the rock city of Petra, and who will survive. I used the google earth program to look down from above at the arid country that McCarron was walking over and the people he was talking with, and living with, along the way. It was an explorer's read, wonderfully written.

The author has offered a 30% discount on the purchase price for members of the Chapter. I heartily recommend getting it. **AJ**

**PAID DUES
HONOR ROLL**

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Amaral, Julia
Beer, Michael
Bekins, Joan
Blake, Rick
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Chase, H. Keith
Cheeseman, Ted
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Day, Peggy
Dehmel, Rick
Diggles, Mike
Dolan, Daniel
Dolan, Tom
Durbin, Thom
Dutcher, Susan
Dvorak, Don
Dvorak, Elaine
Dyal, Palmer
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Ford, Art
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Graber, David
Griffith, Jerry
Hemming, Peter
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Hicks, Harry
Higgins, Robert
Hurson, Jim
Hurson, Von
Hutchison, Alan
Isherwood, William
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Klein, Ronald
Klotz, Suzanne
Kvenvolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
LeBonte, Alison
Lidicker, William Jr.
Lingl, Herb
Macbeth, Pierre de St. J.
Mason, William
McMillan, Peter H.
Menketti, Marco
Miller, Gregory
Nichols, Alan
Prigoff, James
Rygh, Rebecca L.
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Robert
Skade, William
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Tarter, Jill
Von der Porten, Ed
Wagner, Hugo
Weil, James
Whiteside, Dede
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Barnes, James
Boothe, Barry
Cohn, Lawrence
Cooper, William Scott Jr.
Crowder, Wendy
Durighello, Joy
Elkus, Nancy
Engstrom, Dafne
Heyneman, Louise
Hirzel, David
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Judd, Kathy
Kidd, Joe
Langan, Karine
Loew, Tim
Longo-Cohn, Mary
McLoughlin, Liz
Nikas, A. James III
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Phelps, Laura
Saber, Aldeana
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark

FROM THE CHAIR

May 25th was our final dinner gathering of the lecture season and what a great meeting it was - a fitting conclusion to a nine month series of informative and inspiring speakers and presentations. Three impressive young women, all Term National members of the Explorers Club, presented on their current projects supporting their Ph.D. research. Details on their presentations are presented elsewhere in this newsletter and I will not repeat them here. But I will say that the audience was very impressed and heartened by the quality of both their on-going research efforts and the individuals themselves who, without doubt, represent the future of the club. Their command of and enthusiasm for their subjects connotes the best of the exploration ethic.

Your chapter continues to move forward and innovate. Our new Logo is done and has been approved by the Directors. We hope to have the final approval for its use before the upcoming Chapter Picnic in July. We have also created new email addresses to simplify your ability to contact the officers as well as send information to the editor of the newsletter and comments and suggestions to our field trip coordinator and webmaster. Please note the very important new chapter phone number that will facilitate late access to dinner meetings at the Dolan Law Center.

For those of you who have kidnapped one of the chapter's library books, it's time to think about handing them forward to the next reader. And also note the announcement of a great opportunity to bag the third highest peak in California while contributing to some important exploration related research. What could be better? Lastly, I want to express my thanks for your support and participation in the Chapter this season. It is through the involvement of our local members that our chapter remains vibrant and continues in its role as one of the most important in the national organization. On behalf of our Board and Officers I wish you a great summer field break with safe explorations and hope to see you at the picnic in July.

Stephen E. Smith, FN'96, Chair.

A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FLAG EXPEDITIONS

The process is well underway to produce a new printed Chapter Roster. We will be including a list of all members who have been awarded an Explorers Club Flag for a Flag Expedition. The National records are still in paper and compiling the list has been a challenge. We don't want to leave anyone out. The table below shows the list of all Chapter members that we have been able to identify and the total number of flags that they have carried. Please take look and let us know if we have left you out or if the total number of identified flags is incorrect. The list will include all the expeditions along with their titles and dates. Thanks for you help!

Morton P. Beebe FN'78 (1)
Nicole L. Crane, FN'97 (1)
Michael F. Diggles, FN'92 (1)
Thomas Dolan, MN'14 (2)
Sylvia A. Earle, Ph.D., MED'81 (5)
Susan L. Fox, FN'14 (1)
Alan H. Nichols, FN'84 (9)

Patrick J. Scannon, FN'96 (1)
Robert W. Schmieder, Ph.D., FN'86 (9)
Jeff Shea, MN'92 (3)
Stephen E. Smith, Ph.D. FN'96 (1)
Andrew A. Urbanczyk FN'02 (2)
Kirk Usher, Jr MN'98 (1)
Edward P. Von der Porten, FN'80 (1)

**Stanford Wilderness Medicine
High Altitude Research Study
White Mountain Research Station**

Stanford Wilderness Medicine, in cooperation with the Wilderness Medical Society, is seeking volunteers to participate in a double-blind trial of a drug for the prevention of acute mountain sickness. An invitation has been extended to our members to take part in the study. The study will include spending a weekend at the White Mountain Research Station and the Barcroft High Altitude Lodge. In addition to contributing to potentially valuable research, participants will be given access to the Barcroft Lodge, which is normally closed to the public. Participants will also have the option to summit White Mountain Peak (14,252 ft.), the third highest peak in California. Using Barcroft as the 'trail-head' reduces the round trip distance to the peak by 4 miles. There are four weekend dates available:

August 3rd – August 5th
August 10th – August 12th

September 21st – September 23rd
September 28th – September 30th

These dates are filling fast, and one is full at the moment with a waiting list. If you are interested in taking part you should register soon. A flyer is available on request and the actual registration form can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAaAY4xGNaoej5AYaMY--8HIU68401sywSXdAsnze5f8Y-Dow/viewform>

Should you choose to take part in the study or if you need the flyer please let Steve know at chair@explorersnorca.org, perhaps we can coordinate some participants.

Summer 2018 Issue
Northern California Chapter
 Established 1973



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 Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
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 Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
 Trekking@sonic.net
 Treasurer: Joan Boothe MN'07
 hoodooskr@aol.com
 415-233-1697
 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.)
 2018

July 21Chapter Picnic in Novato
 September 21.TBA
 October 26TBA
 November 30TBA
 DecemberTBA

Earlier Chapter Events
 2017

February 23David Rumsey
 Rumsey Map Center Stanford University
 March 31.Eric Weiss
 Expedition Medicine Grace Luth Ch
 April 28.Sandy Ross
 Afghanistan pre-TalibanGrace Luth Ch
 May 26J.R. Skok
 Seeking Life Signs on Mars Spengers, Berkeley
 June 24Chapter Picnic
Angel Island
 September 22Dr. Anders Jepsen
 Drones to map landminesGrace Luth Ch
 October 27Dirk Rosen
 Save Deep Sea Corals Grace Lutheran Ch
 November 17Jordan Fisher Smith
 Engineering EdenGrace Lutheran Ch
 December 17Holiday Party
Home of Joan and Barry Boothe
 2018

January 26Dr. John All
 Climate Change on Mt. Everest.Dolan
 February 23Dr. Sherry Wren
 Surgical Approaches in the Ebola Crisis . .Dolan
 March 30Kimberley Chambers
 April 27Alan Eustace
 The Stratospheric JumpDolan
 May 253 Term EC Members
 Term Members Research/Annual mtg . . .Dolan

Send address changes and
 corrections by email to
 chair@explorersnorca.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER LIBRARY

The Chapter Library currently has the following books in circulation, but unfortunately we seem to have lost track of some of them. If you have one, please notify Steve at chair@explorersnorca.org. Books should be returned at the forthcoming picnic if at all possible. They are intended to be checked out for one month.

<u>Title*</u>	<u>Author</u>
Ice Fall	John All
The Storied Ice	Joan Boothe
The Golden Shore	David Helvarg
When Your Life Depends On It	David Hirzel
Muddy Boots	Margaret Lowman
The Land Beyond	Leon McCarron
Spineless	Susan Middleton
The Hunted and the Hunter	Alan Nichols
Vivid Memories	John Roush
Engineering Eden	Jordan Fisher Smith
Nature Noir	Jordan Fisher Smith
Operation Ebola	Sherry Wren

*Some titles are abbreviated

A Memorial for Edward Von der Porten

Saturday, July 28, 2018
 Hiller Aviation Museum
 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos, CA 94070
 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
 Presentations, Conversation, Refreshments
 RSVP: <http://www.vonderporten.com>
 Information: Michael Von der Porten
 mikevdpc@aim.com or 707.525.1625
www.winepi.com/EdVdp.html

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE INNER WORKINGS
 OF THE CHAPTER?**

There are lots of tasks that come up during the course of a year: speakers, meetings, field trips, membership, newsletter, etc. A good place to get started is by volunteering to serve on a committee. Talk to any of the Chapter Officers or Directors for more information.

Leon McCarron, who spoke to a meeting in Emeryville at which 19 members of this Chapter attended, has offered to sell his book, *The Land Beyond* at a 30% discount to Chapter Members. If interested in purchasing a copy of this remarkable book at discount, email Steve Smith at ecnca@oceaneearth.

CHAPTER ANNUAL PICNIC
Saturday, July 21, 2018

Place: The home of Rick and AldeanaSaber
 Novato, CA

Time: Noon to 5PM

Please email reservations to Rick Saber
 ricksaber1@mail.com

You can sign up and remit your meal costs (and dues) online.
 Go to the chapter website and use the convenient payment buttons there.
www.explorersnorca.org