

THE EXPLORERS CLUB, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

2/24/2020

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2019

General Overview

The Northern California Chapter operates on a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year, with changes in our officers/management team taking place at the last meeting of the fiscal year, normally held at the end of May. Chapter officers are elected for a two-year term and elected directors are elected for a three-year term, with the option to run for one additional three year term. The officers appoint our newsletter editor, web master, field trip coordinator and social media developer. Former Chapter chairs serve as members of the Board of Directors. The Chapter is an IRS 501(c)(3), a California Non-Profit Corporation, and we are now insured through the California Association of Non-Profits.

This report covers the chapter activities for calendar year 2019; however, since our most recent fiscal year ran from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 our fiscal reporting is provided for that period.

Chapter Officers and Board of Directors

Chapter Officers (2019 – 2021 Term)

Chair: Lesley Ewing, Ph.D., FN'93
Vice-Chair: Tom Dolan, MN'14
Treasurer: Anna Freitas, MN'17
Secretary: Joyce Chang, MN'17

Newsletter: Anders F. Jepsen, Ph.D., FN'03
Web Master: Michael F. Diggles, FN'92
Social Media: Jimmy Friedman, MN'19
Field Trip Coordinator: Jimmy Friedman, MN'19

Board of Directors:

Joan Boothe, MN'07	Chair Emeritus
Sandra Cook, Ph.D., MN'16	Elected Director (2018 – 2020)
Lesley C. Ewing, Ph.D., FN'93	Current Chair
Paul Freitas, M.D., MN'10	Elected Director (2018 – 2020)
Jim Hurson, MN'10	Elected Director (2018 – 2020)
Anders F. Jepsen, Ph.D., FN'03	Chair Emeritus
Lee V. Langan, FN'99	Chair Emeritus
Alan Nichols, J.D., FE'84	Chair Emeritus
Capt. Rick Saber, MN'01	Chair Emeritus
Robert Schmieder, Ph.D., FE'86	Chair Emeritus
Stephen E. Smith, Ph.D., FN'96	Chair Emeritus

Note: Under the Chapter Bylaws the current Chair and all former Chapter Chairs are Members of the Board of Directors unless they opt out. Elected Directors are elected by a vote of the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

Financial Report (Fiscal Year Period: 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019)

Type of Account: Chapter Checking Account
Location of Account: Wells Fargo Bank

Beginning Balance: \$21,057.87
Total Income: \$26,280.00
Total Expenses: \$25,690.40
Ending Balance: \$21,647.47

Chapter Website and Instagram

<http://www.explorersnorca.org>
Instagram: Exporersclub_norcal

Details of Chapter Activities

Organized Events: In 2019, the chapter held eight dinner meetings with speakers covering a broad range of topics. Over 430 members and guests attended these eight meetings. The highest attendance occurred at the March meeting that was held at the Aquarium by the Bay. It featured Futurist Paul Saffo and TEC President Richard Wiese as speakers. The exciting location and the special speakers together accounted for the high turnout. Our normal dinner meetings have between 40 and 60 attendees. The typical breakdown of attendees is about 45% members, 35% guests and 20% sirdars¹. In addition to the regular dinner meetings, the Chapter held an end of year holiday party and a summer picnic that were both very well attended.

Additional Member Services: We have a well-read newsletter, with X issues published in 2019. These newsletters not only cover the dinner speakers, but also events that our members are doing through the bay area, and occasionally a short feature story on a new member. Copies of all 2019 newsletters are attached. In 2019 we also started to record the speaker presentations. After a few glitches, we obtained some quality recording equipment and recordings of recent presentations have been posted on our website. In the past we have held one or two field trips each year. Unfortunately we did not have any field trips in 2019. We now have a new field trip coordinator and a long list of possible field trips so we anticipate that this part of our member

¹ The chapter membership category of Sirdar was started about 10 years ago. "Sirdar", originally a Persian and Indian word, means a person of high rank or one holding a responsible position. In expeditions, a Sirdar performs a vital and leadership role in providing support for the expedition, especially in India and the Himalayan regions. Tenzing Norgay was Sir Edmond Hillary's Sirdar. The Chapter has used the category of Sirdar to bring into the chapter people with an interest in exploration as a step toward applying for membership to The Explorers Club. Also, many spouses of members have joined the chapter as Sirdars, echoing the support and often equal role in exploration that they provided to their partners.

services will be revived in 2020. We have established a social media presence with a monitored Instagram account.

Outreach: Our chapter continues to reach out to newly elected members of TEC who are in our area, encouraging them to become active with our chapter. We encourage members to bring guests to our meetings and this has led to our identifying a number of people whom we believed were good candidates for TEC membership. We have actively worked with these candidates, providing sponsors and co-sponsors, and many of them have become TEC members.

The Northern California Chapter has created an opportunity for people who are not candidates for membership in TEC to become active with our chapter. Called our sirdar program, we offer a formal chapter affiliation to anyone who wishes to become involved with us. We make it clear to these people that this is not a TEC membership, but we do regard these people as an important part of our chapter community. During the past year, several of our sirdars have successfully applied for membership in TEC.

Membership Information and Roster: We feel that our membership list is one of the Chapter's key assets and our only way to keep in touch with our members. One of our elected directors maintains our chapter member database, but we are well aware that portions of it can be incorrect because many members do not keep us advised of changes. We have worked with Club headquarters to reconcile TEC records of who is in the Northern California Chapter with the records that we have. We have confidence in our current records and will work with Club headquarters to maintain accurate member information. For the past few years, we have provided all members with a copy of a Chapter roster that provides information on all members and sirdars, such as name, club status, address, phone numbers, etc.

Meeting Locations: Everyone has heard about the SF Bay area housing crisis; but less discussed is the scarcity of business and commercial space and the general increase in prices for all services. This has affected our efforts to find meeting locations. We have several criteria that enter into the decision of where to hold our monthly meetings: We want to have a space that is good for a speaker's presentation; that is comfortable for a social gathering before dinner; that will be good for having a dinner that promotes interaction among members; that is has ADA access; that is accessible via public transportation; and that will allow us to hold our normal dinner costs to about \$50 per person. In addition, we want a location that is convenient for as many members as possible — a real challenge for a chapter with members who are widely spread geographically. For the past year, we have been able to meet in the moot court area of a

local law firm. The generous use of this space was arranged for us by one of our sirdars; unfortunately this arrangement cannot continue since the building will soon be leased to a new tenant. We will soon move to a new venue that we hope will prove acceptable to our members.

LIST OF CHAPTER MEMBERS

We are both a large and active chapter, with a currently identified list of 206 active members² and 35 sirdars. Of these, nearly 75 active members and all the sirdars have attended one or more meetings during the past year.

The key members of our leadership group are listed in the officers section below. In summary re our active primary chapter members, our records currently show members in the following categories:

Medalist — 2

FN — 70

FE — 8

LF — 2

MN — 69

ME — 4

LM — 2

SM — 22

TM — 4

AN — 9

MI, CO, Hon — 1 Chapter Member in each of these categories.

Sirdars — 35

Changes in the Chapter Demographics: Like the Club as a whole, we have lost a number of distinguished and well-regarded members in the past year. Both Harry Hicks and Sheldon Breiner were significant losses and we will miss their guidance and humor. We are working to expand our number of younger members and we hope that many of the people who have joined in the past year will remain active in the Club and the chapter for years to come. We do not keep track of the age of our members, but in the past few years, our membership has grown from 10 student members to 22 student members and 4 term members. We are also working to include these new members in club activities. Joyce Chang is a recent Club member who moved last year to the Bay area has already become involved with the chapter as our Secretary and we have plans for several of our new members to present their exploration work at future chapter dinners. Our social media and field trip coordinator, Jimmy Friedman is also a new member who brings very positive energy to his roles within the chapter.

² Active members includes all National Members assigned to our chapter.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

	Date	Event
	Jan. 25, 2019	Dr. Patrick Scannon, FN'96 Project Recover – Expansion of Searches for American MIAs and POWs into a Global Effort
	Feb. 22, 2019	James Nestor In Search of the Secret Language of Sperm Whales
	Mar. 22, 2019	President Richard Wiese, FN'89 Kick Your Bucket List Dr. Paul Saffo The Dynamics of Change
	Apr. 26, 2019	David McGuire Diving with Wild Sharks of Borneo
	May 31, 2019	Annual Meeting and Election of Officers Dr. Patrick Hunt, FN'19 Hannibal
	June 9, 2019	Chapter Picnic at Tilden Park
	Sept. 27, 2019	Dr. Robert Anderson EN'89 Uses of Materials Science and Forensic Engineering in Exploration
	Oct. 25, 2019	Michele Westmorland, FN'95 Headhunters Revisited: With Brush, Canvas and Camera
	Nov. 22, 2019	Dr. Barbara Bekins Windows into Subduction
	Dec. 6, 2019	Holiday Party at the Home of Cap't Rick and Aldeana Saber

SUMMARY

The Northern California Chapter has been very active during the past 12 months, continuing our practice of regular monthly meetings and working to reinvigorate our field trip program. We have become a 501 (c)(3), have coordinated our membership lists with the Club headquarters and have provided annual rosters to our members.

Members of our chapter have successfully sponsored several new EC members and we anticipate these people becoming active participants in our chapter. We have engaged several new and younger members in chapter activities. In addition, our sirdar program of official chapter friends continues to thrive.

Our financial status is solid, with working capital of slightly less than one year's gross revenue.

APPENDIX A. CHAPTER COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Links to all newsletters and meeting videos can be found on the Northern California Chapter website: <http://www.explorersnorca.org/>