



The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

Also available at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

January Meeting

Friday, January 25, 2019, 6:30pm

The Dolan Law Firm, 1438 Market Street, SF 94102

PROJECT RECOVER'S GLOBAL EXPANSION OF SEARCHES FOR AMERICAN MIAs AND POWs

Patrick J. Scannon, MD, PhD, FN'96, President, Project Recover, Inc., a 501(c)3 Charity (formerly The BentProp Project)

More than 82,000 Americans remain Missing in Action (MIA) either as combat losses or as Prisoners of War (POWs) from World War II and subsequent actions. The 501(c)(3) charity, Project Recover, Inc., is dedicated to searching for and locating these Americans and working with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to repatriate them back to their families and the United States.



Dr. Scannon's efforts began in 1993 after becoming aware of the many American aircraft shot down and lost in and around the Republic of Palau. Thereafter he created a volunteer team called The BentProp Project which encompasses all required aspects from historical/archival searches, logistical planning, conduct of field searches, as well as follow-on documentation and official notifications. BentProp teams have located, documented and reported to authorities numerous American and Japanese aircraft crash sites within Palau – on land and underwater. One successful BentProp finding occurred in 2004 after a ten year scuba search, locating an underwater B-24 crash site, from which DPAA (then JPAC) recovered 8 sets of remains over the next four years. Several repatriation funerals across America resulted, culminating in a funeral ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, attended by numerous dignitaries including the sitting President of the Republic of Palau.



Trained with a PhD in Chemistry (UC Berkeley) and as an Internal Medicine physician (Medical College of Georgia), Dr. Scannon was founder of XOMA Corporation, and spent 35 years as Chief Scientist before retiring in 2016. Since 1996, he has also consulted in matters related to biodefense/bioterrorism for several US federal organizations, including the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA, within DoD), the Biomedical Research and Development Authority (BARDA, within HHS) and the White House. In 1993 after locating and identifying a WWII B-24 bomber shot down in 1944 over the Republic of Palau, Dr. Scannon began and has continued working in search and ultimate recovery of American military Missing In Action (MIA) and missing Prisoners of War (POW). Upon retiring from XOMA, Dr. Scannon helped create Project Recover and, after receiving a generous private donation, expanded searches beyond Palau into a global program. Dr. Scannon was elected to the Explorers Club in 1996.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFgDB1OcEyA> (GoPro filming of BentProp/SIO/UDEL activities in Palau)

Book: *Vanished: the Sixty-Year Search for the Missing Men of World War II* by Wil Hylton – story of BentProp's ten year search for a B24.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/a-forgotten-corner-of-hell-bent-prop-in-palau/>

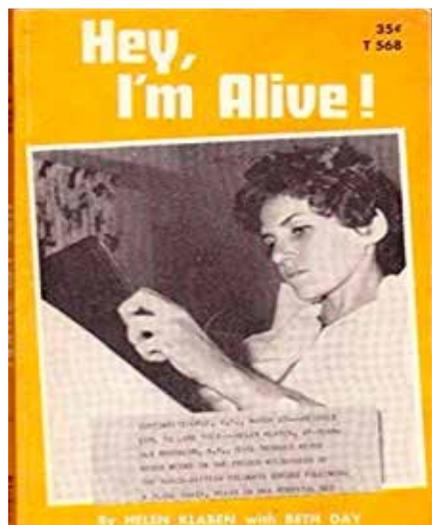
AFGHANISTAN AT PEACE

EDITOR'S NOTE: The wonderful pictures and words presented by Sandy Ross late in 2017 in her talk on Afghanistan before the wars have now made it to a hard copy which is available for purchase. Drs. Ed & Sandy Ross were fortunate to visit Afghanistan in 1970. What the scientists saw was a country at peace, with rough-hewn inhabitants and an unsurpassed tradition of hospitality towards strangers. They took many photographs and cherished their memories of a place of ancient mosques, nomads, steep mountains, deserts, and teahouses. They now offer these images to readers almost 50 years later, during which time Afghanistan has been assaulted again and again by invaders, occupiers, and civil wars.

The plight of Afghanistan has aroused the sympathy and concern of the entire civilized world, and the beautiful pages that unfold here are a tribute to a lost paradise and its remarkable people. It can be ordered at <https://rare-bird-books.myshopify.com/products/afghanistan-at-peace> with a \$15 discount off the \$50 price.

IN MEMORIAM HELEN KLABEN KHAN

Helen Klaben Khan, a member of our chapter, died in Palo Alto in December. Helen was one of the most remarkable



people I have ever met. I invite you to go to our chapter website and read the announcement for her February 2007 talk and the subsequent review in the March 2007 newsletter. Hers was a story of gumption.

An inexperienced pilot she had hired in 1963 to fly her from wintry Fairbanks to San Francisco made a foolish decision to leave Whitehorse with a storm looming. They were foolish not to carry survivor gear and ample food. Flying over the Yukon wilderness they crashed near the Alberta border in the trees of a low hill. It was the depth of winter, harsh weather and deeply freezing temperatures. He was knocked unconscious; she broke bones; they had little more than the clothes they wore and snacks brought for the day's flight. Forty-nine days later they were rescued after surviving on melted snow, her optimism, and his Mormon faith

urging him to save her.

It was a very personal heroic effort to live despite so many odds. Helen was only 21; she became a celebrity of sorts, visiting John Kennedy's White House, writing a book and having a movie made about her experience. When she spoke to our chapter it was invigorating. She knew her experience could help many survive seeming insurmountable odds.

Helen was one of the most optimistic persons I have met and a vibrant personality. Those who met her are lucky people, for she was willing to share a glance with death, under explorer's conditions one might say, as a very positive learning experience to the benefit of those who need survival knowledge...all of us.

Lee Langan MED'99

COLIN O'BRADY SOLOS ACROSS ANTARCTICA

Explorers Club member Colin O'Brady has made the first solo, unsupported trek across Antarctica, an epic feat of endurance that took nearly two months and ended with an extraordinary sprint. Colin O'Brady covered the final 77.54 miles over 32 hours without sleep, a trek he described as an Antarctic ultramarathon. "Something overcame me," O'Brady said in a telephone interview with the *New York Times*. "I didn't listen to any music – just locked in, like I'm going until I'm done. It was profound, it was beautiful and it was an amazing way to finish."

He had covered 932 miles in 54 days in conditions that pushed his body to its limit, battling hunger, cold and solitude, often trekking almost blind through driving snow, struggling over treacherous terrain and pulling weeks' worth of supplies on a sled. Dragging along enough food for the journey contributed to the difficulty of the trip. O'Brady took 280 personally tailored "Colin bars", drawn up after tests by a nutrition company looking for the smallest allergies, that supplied more than 1,100 calories each, *Outside* magazine reported.

O'Brady, 33, had called his trek "the impossible first". In 2016, Briton Henry Worsley died after calling off the same trek only 30 miles from the end. Another explorer gave up the quest at the south pole last year. Adding to the pressure, O'Brady was racing Briton Louis Rudd – a friend of Worsley – across Antarctica, in a competition with echoes of the famous contest to reach the South Pole more than a century ago. The two men set off together, with Rudd taking an early lead, but by Christmas Day he was more than 80 miles behind his American rival.

Thus the Explorers Club can add the feat of Colin O'Brady to its list of Members' Famous Firsts: first to the North and South Poles, first to the summit of Mt. Everest, first to the greatest ocean depth, first to the surface of the moon. The list of Famous Firsts is honored by Explorers Club members in the form of a giving campaign: the Famous Firsts. Even though we are early in the year, now would be a good time to make your tax free contribution to the Famous Firsts funds for 2019.

Excerpted from *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, and *Outside Magazine* by **Sandra Cook MN'16**



HOLIDAY PARTY

photos by Von Hurson



Holiday Treats



Maggi and Rick Blake & Hosts Rick and Aldeana Saber



Krist Jake, Rick Saber & Lee Langan



Joan Boothe, Joy Durighello, Sandy Fish & Sandra Cook



Jim Hurson & Maggi Blake
"He said there is No Santa Claus"



Exploration conversations everywhere

On Sunday, December 16, nearly 60 Chapter Members, Sirdars, and their guests gathered for our annual Holiday party at the Novato home of past Chapter Chair Rick Saber and his wife Aldeana. Outside, it was a stormy, rainy afternoon and evening, but inside, the Sabers' wonderfully decorated great room was warm and perfect for our party. Groaning tables offered a rich feast wherever one looked. Wine, beer, soft drinks, ham, stuffed mushrooms, salmon, shrimp, cheeses, breads, cakes, cookies. Mid-way through the gathering, Chapter Chair Steve Smith spoke about our past several months and announced that large Chapter Logo decals were for sale on the spot and Chapter Logo cups would be available shortly. And then it was back to the party, with festivities that went on for hours

Joan Boothe MN'07

MEMBERS

Alexander, Jim
Alexander, Linda
Allen, James
Amaral, Julia
Bekins, Joan
Berg, Barbara
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Chang, Joyce
Cook, Sandra
Diggles, Mike
Dolan, Tom
Durbin, Thomas
Estey, Sue
Eustace, Alan
Ford, Arthur
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Hemming, Peter
Higgins, Robert
Holmes, Robert
Hudson, Jim
Hudson, Von
Jepsen, Anders
Klein, Ronald
Lidicker, William
McCown, George
Nichols, Alan
Nichols-Rygh,
Becky
Prigoff, James
Ross, Sandy
Saber, Rick
Smith, Steve
Tarter, Jill
Weil, James
Winter, Mordechai
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Blumberg, Marion
Boothe, Barry
Crowder, Wendy
Fish, Sandra
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Mani, Cassandra
Nikas, Jim
O'Keeffe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Saber, Aldeana

FROM THE CHAIR

A heartfelt thank you from all of us is owed to our December Holiday Party hosts Capt. Rick and Aldeana Saber. We had a wonderful gathering of a large contingent of our chapter at their beautiful home in Novato. The food was excellent, fine wine flowed, the attendees engaged in lively discussions, and we even recruited two new prospective members whose applications are already in the hands of headquarters. It was a great way to end the 2018 season and prepare for a new year of engaging and enlightening meetings.

We start 2019 with a presentation by our own long-time chapter member Dr. Patrick Scannon, FN'96. Patrick's endeavor, the BentProp Project, is one that I have followed for many years. The project is focused in the Republic of Palau, in Micronesia, an area of the Pacific that I have spent an extensive amount of underwater time in. Most probably don't realize that many of the islands in Micronesia still maintain 'compacts of free association' with the United States, use our currency and postage (along with our zip codes), and continue to receive U.S. financial support, a legacy of their capture from the Japanese at the end of WWII and their continuing role as strategic partners in the Pacific region. Dr. Scannon and his team endeavor to locate and repatriate the remains of U.S. service members lost in action in Palau during WWII. The project was begun in 1993 and continues to this day. We are honored to have Patrick share his recent research.

As described on page 2 of this newsletter, EC member Colin O'Brady's successfully completed the first solo unsupported trek across the Antarctic. He carried Flag #109 the 921 miles from start to finish. He's a remarkable individual and one that we hope to have as a speaker in the future. It reminds us that there are still challenges in the world to be met and excitement to be had. It makes one proud to be a member of this group. A great reason to send in your 2019 dues!!



Stephen E. Smith FN'96

URBAN ART PART 5 The urban art of Lima, Peru

Jim Prigoff writes:

“ This example is one of a set of 11 images from Lima, Peru, published by *Brooklyn Street Art* in 2013.”
For scale, check out the people at the bottom of the photograph.



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Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



CHAPTER OFFICERS & TEAM

Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96
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Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
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hoodoskr@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.)

2019

January 25 Pat Scannon
Recent Discoveries Dolan
February 22 James Nestor
Outdoor adventure. Dolan
March 22. Paul Saffo
Dynamics of Change. Dolan
April 26 TBA
May 31 Dr. Patrick Hunt
Hannibal". Dolan

Earlier Chapter Events

2017

October 27 Dirk Rosen
Save Deep Sea Corals Grace Lutheran Ch
November 17 Jordan Fisher Smith
Engineering Eden Grace Lutheran Ch
December 17 Holiday Party
. Home of Joan and Barry Boothe

2018

January 26 Dr. John All
Climate Change on Mt. Everest. Dolan
February 23 Dr. Sherry Wren
Surgical Approaches in the Ebola Crisis Dolan
March 30 Kimberley Chambers
Swimming With Sharks Before Breakfast . Dolan
April 27 Alan Eustace
The Stratospheric Jump Dolan
May 25 3 Term EC Members
Term Members Research/Annual mtg Dolan
July 21 Chapter Picnic in Novato
September 21. Michelle Trautwein
Meet Your Face Mites: Dolan
October 26 Sir Richard Feachem
Shrinking the World Malaria Map Dolan
November 30 Leon McCarron
Exploration by Walking Dolan
December 16. Holiday Party
. Home of Rick and Aldeana Saber

CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Directors (Past Chairs)

Joan Boothe
Lesley Ewing
Lee Langan
Anders Jepsen

Alan Nichols
Bob Schmieder
Rick Saber
Stephen Smith

Elected Directors

Jim Hurson
Sandra Cook
Paul Freitas

Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number

chair@explorersnorca.org
vicechair@explorersnorca.org

treasurer@explorersnorca.org
secretary@explorersnorca.org

webmaster@explorersnorca.org
fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org

Late arrival phone number for Monthly meeting at the Dolan Law Center
The door will be locked and unattended after 7:15 p.m.
Chapter Phone: 415.236.3459 (for message or locked door entry).

CHAPTER DUES

On January 1, 2019, Chapter Treasurer Joan Boothe sent emails to all chapter Members who had not already paid 2019 dues encouraging them to pay their optional chapter dues of \$25. She also sent emails to Sirdars – for whom dues are not optional – reminding them to pay their dues if they wish to retain their Sirdar status. Sirdar dues are \$50/year except for Sirdars who are spouses/partners of TEC members. For them, Sirdar dues are \$25/year. Many Members and Sirdars have already responded, and they will see their names on the Honor Roll in this newsletter. If you have not yet paid your dues, you can do so by going to the chapter website [www.explorersnorca.org] and using the appropriate Paypal button there. Alternatively, mail your dues to Joan Boothe / 2435 Divisadero St. / San Francisco CA 94115. In you have questions, email Joan at hoodoskr@aol.com or call her at 415-233-1697.

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

The Explorers Club has partnered with Fjallraven to present speakers on exploration related topics at special store events. If you would like to speak at one of our local stores (San Francisco, San Jose) please contact Steve at chair@explorersnorca.org for topic areas and more information.

CHAPTER LIBRARY

As you know, the Chapter maintains a selection of books on exploration that are brought to meetings and available for borrowing. Chapter Librarian Richard Dehmel (mapdayrcd@gmail.com) has issued a call for suggestions of titles to be added to the array of volumes available for borrowing.

CHAPTER MEETING
Friday, January 25, 2019

Place: The Dolan Law Firm
1438 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner; 8:00 - program

Meal Options: Chicken picatta or stuffed pork tenderloin
veggies option - pasta primavera

Cost: \$49 in advance, \$60 after 22, 2019; Students: \$35.
(2019 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)

Please mail reservations, checks to Joan Boothe
2435 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

Or email Joan [hoodoskr@aol.com]
or call Joan at 415-233-1697

or mail to 2435 Divisadero St. San Francisco CA 94115
You can also sign up and remit your meal costs online.

Go to the website (www.explorersnorca.org) and use the convenient payment buttons there.