



THE EXPLORERS CLUB SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Chapter News and Events

November 2018

Explorers Club News

The Explorers Club is an international multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore. Since its inception in 1904, the Club has served as a meeting point and unifying force for explorers and scientists worldwide.

The 115th Explorers Club Annual Dinner – March 16, 2019

As the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 approaches, the Explorers Club will celebrate the pioneers of the space program. The 115th Explorers Club Annual Dinner will be an extraordinary gathering and fitting toast to all living Apollo Moonwalkers, Astronauts, and Engineers, alongside those they inspired—all in one room, on one night—in Times Square in New York City.

The 2018 Lowell Thomas Awards Dinner was held in Boston on Saturday, October 27, 2018. The Lowell Thomas Awards were first presented on the occasion of The Explorers Club's 75th anniversary, October 17, 1980, to a group of outstanding explorers including Carl Sagan, Isaac Asimov, Sylvia Earle, and Lowell Thomas himself. Since that time, the honor has been bestowed upon Buzz Aldrin, Sir Edmund Hillary, Jim Lovell, Mae Jemison, Sir David Attenborough, Chuck Yeager, and many more. The 2018 Awardees are an incredible group, including deep sea biologist **Peter Girguis**, aerospace biomedical engineer and space suit designer **Dava Newman**, leading scholar in the application of satellite data sets to the mapping and discovery of ancient archaeological sites **Sarah Parcak**, Principal Investigator of NASA's *New Horizons* Pluto mission **Alan Stern**, and Nobel prize-winning physicist **Rainer Weiss**. The San Diego Chapter congratulates all the winners.

Michelle L. Ridgway FN'09: 1963-2018



Photo Above from Left: Honorary Member Dr. Bob Fisher and Medalist Capt. Don Walsh with Michelle Ridgeway at the West Coast Explorers Club Dinner in 2016 at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. This photo by Gene Arias captured the sheer joy and friendship among these three.

The San Diego Chapter contributed \$100 toward a memorial floor tile for Michelle. For those who did not know her, Michelle was a Marine Research Biologist and Ecologist. She was a cutting-edge explorer; she explored the oceans depths from Metlakatla to Barrow, from Nome to Saint Lawrence Island and The Pribilof Islands, to Attu in the Aleutians ... all with passion and focus. Submarine Pilot, ROV operator, SCUBA diver, educator, EMT, Impassioned advocate for marine conservation, hockey player, skijorner, sailor, commercial fisherwoman, Siberian husky-whisperer, softball player, tennis player, fly fisher extraordinaire, surfer, world traveler, photographer, birder, most genial host and gourmet cook, as well as founder and proprietor of Oceanus Alaska, Chair of the Alaska Chapter of the Explorers Club, volunteer firefighter, founding member of the Alaska Marine Conservation Council and other groups ... Michelle lived her 54 years to their absolute fullest with conviction, sincerity and purpose. She 'lived' Carpe Diem!

San Diego Chapter

Exploration, Adventures and News From The Field

Tom Levy, Ph.D FN'09

Norma Kershaw Chair in the Archaeology of Ancient Israel and Neighboring Lands
University of California San Diego

Marine archaeological research in the Eastern Mediterranean has the potential to significantly contribute to the study of deep-time climate, environmental and cultural change. This summer as co-director of the Scripps Center for Marine Archaeology (SCMA), Tom Levy, led a number of projects in Israel, Greece and Cyprus to work on this problem. In July, UC San Diego's SCMA carried out the university's first marine archaeology field school. Tom took eight undergraduates, four graduate students and three faculty members along with two of Scripps Institution of Oceanography science diving team to Israel to carry out an underwater excavation at the Biblical site of Tel Dor on the Mediterranean coast. This is a joint research and teaching project with Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau of the University of Haifa. All the students who joined in the project had to have successfully passed the intensive 100 hour Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Scripps) science diving course directed by Christian McDonald, Scripps Scientific Diving Safety Officer who joined the field school as well as Rich Walsh, Assistant Scientific Safety Officer. In this way, the students 'hit the ground' running as science divers ready to learn the fundamentals of underwater archaeology such as using a pressure water-dredge, mapping and other tasks. The team helped excavate part of an Iron Age (ca 1100 – 900 BC) submerged port.

Prof. John Hildebrand directed a terrestrial geophysical survey along the beach at Tel Dor's South Bay to identify architectural remains connected to the submerged port. Prof. Dick Norris oversaw coring in the bay to collect sediments containing proxy paleo-environmental data. Prof. Isabel Rivera-Collazo sampled an Iron Age building complex for geo-archaeological information related to understand the changing function of the building. Dr. Gilad Shtienberg, who is currently doing a Post-Doc with Tom at SCMA UC San Diego, was in charge of a near-shored sediment coring project to document the evolution of the Tel Dor maritime landscape over the past 10,000 years.

After Israel, Tom, Christian and Dick headed to Greece where they met up with Prof. George Papatheodorou and Dr. Maria Garga of the Laboratory of Marine Geology and Physical Oceanography, University of Patras, Greece. Tom and Dick had worked with their Greek counterparts in 2016 to do a marine geophysical survey and coring expedition in the Gulf of Corinth at a Late Bronze Age ca. 1200 BC Mycenaean anchorage. During that survey, the team identified two paleo-shorelines at ca 88 feet and 150 feet below the surface. This summer, the UC San Diego team dove with Greek professional diver, Nikos Nikolopoulos, to obtain samples for dating these ancient beaches.



In September, Tom and Christian traveled to Cyprus to visit SCMA Advisory Council member Prof. Stella Domesticha of the University of Cyprus. Stella leads a very complex deep-water archaeological excavation of the 4th century BC Mazotos wreck. The SCMA team were interested in learning how deep-water excavation – around 150 feet – can be carried out safely and effectively. Christian and Tom dove to this depth (much deeper than Tom's pay-grade) and observed Stella and this magical 'time capsule' that includes hundreds of beautifully preserved ceramic amphorae or wine jars that came from the island of Chios in the Aegean, some 1000 kilometers away before it sunk.

Hovering over a cargo of hundreds of wine jars or amphorae, Tom Levy (FN'09) uses a GoPro to document the 4th century BC wreck submerged in over 140 feet of water off the coast of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

**Marc Andre Meyers
FN'16**

Planning for the completion of the Roosevelt Rondon Centennial Expedition

Marc Meyers and Col. Ivan Angonese of the Brazilian Army returned to the Amazon in August to obtain permission of the Cinta Larga Indians to traverse their territory on the last 150 km left to complete the Roosevelt Rondon Centennial Expedition. The Luxembourg Ambassador Carlo Krieger joined them and they had a successful meeting to complete the River of Doubt descent being planned for July 2019. They tested the new Pakboat kayaks by traveling down the Guapore River, on the border with Bolivia. At the end of the journey they visited the Principe da Beira Fort, built by the Portuguese in the 1770s to define the borders of their prized possession. They visited some mysterious ruins in the region and they plan to return, hopefully with the participation of Dr. Albert Lin. These could be easternmost remains of the Moxi civilization that was centered in the Beni province of Bolivia. They also visited the Surui Indians, whose first contact with Europeans was in the 1970's. The Surui paid a dear price, when disease wiped out a good portion of their tribe. Their territory has now been determined and no further invasions by whites should take place. We heard a passionate plea by Chief Miguel, to protect their land and the forest. He concluded by saying: "If there are no longer Indians, there will be no forest left." We shall endeavor to help them.



*Above: Visiting the Principe da Beira Fort, built by the Portuguese in the 1770s to protect their prized possession, Brazil. This fort was built 3,000 kilometers from the ocean in a totally wild territory. The other side of the river was the beginning of the Spanish colony of Bolivia.
Photo from left: Col. Angonese, Marc Meyers and the captain who commands the frontier platoon.*



*Above: Kayaking down the Guapore River on the border between Brazil and Bolivia.
Photo from Left: The Luxembourg Ambassador Carlo Krieger and Col Angonese with Marc Meyers*

*Right: Visiting the Surui Indians. Their reservation adjoins the Cinta Larga Reservation which covers 200 kilometers of the Roosevelt River. Their first contact with Europeans was in the 1970s with tragic effects on their population, which plummeted due to infectious diseases. The situation is now normalized and the Surui export Brazil nuts, plant coffee, and are developing jungle gardens of medicinal plants. Their chief, Miguel, had a desperate plea to us: "Protect the forest and the Indians. If the Indians disappear, the forest will also be gone."
Photo from left: Ricardo Prado, Col. Angonese, and Marc Meyers with Surui chiefs.*



Doc White FN'95
Baja to Bering
The 12,000 NM Whale Migrations
Baja California to the Bering Sea, Alaska

Doc and Ceci White are currently collaborating on a project that will use photos and video documentation to delve into the (coastal) Eastern Pacific marine ecosystem, tracking the 12,000-nautical mile migration route of the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and the gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), culminating in the longest migration of any mammal on earth. The journey will document diverse and ecologically important ecosystems and marine life that whales migrate through while in transit. The project will produce a multi-dimensional narrative that will allow viewers to look beneath the surface of the sea and observe the intricate design of the underwater world, while recognizing how easily it can become unbalanced. Over the expanse of the whale migration, the viewer will be exposed to an array of marine life, that are all inextricably linked to the sea and its seasonal cycles.

Making up two-thirds of the earth's surface, our oceans offer oxygen, food, water, medicine and energy – precious resources that are crucial to humans, yet the fragile ecosystem is in jeopardy because of the imbalances created by human activities. The goal of this ambitious project hopes to raise awareness, engage, delight and educate people of all ages, about the rich and mysterious underwater world, through the emblematic journey of the whale migration. By learning about these magnificent animals, their lives and their environment, people of all ages will care about their survival, and, ultimately, the survival of our shared environment.

The dangers encountered on this twice yearly migration – sharks, shipping, pollution (both noise and biological) and entrapment in fishing gear, will also be documented, as will their prey and feeding techniques.

The vast majority of the estimated 60 million people living along the Pacific coastal regions, from the southeastern tip of Baja California to Alaska's Bering Sea, have little or no interaction or understanding of the majestic whales migrating twice yearly within view. The average whale spends up to six months a year traveling. Over the span of its life, it commutes up to 400,000 sea miles – an impressive feat by any standard.



Whales have captured the imagination since earliest times, whether in artistic renderings, stories or historical literature. Native peoples revere them, creating totems acknowledging their central importance in their lives. For centuries, the whaling industry extracted their worth in oil, meat and blubber, nearly hunting them to extinction. The whale embodies the grandest of sea creatures and, now protected, it has become a symbol of preservation and survival.

By learning about these magnificent animals, their lives and their environment, people of all ages will care about their survival, and, ultimately, the survival of our shared environment.

Above: Gray Whale bubble-netting. Photo by Doc White.

Recent San Diego Chapter Events

Bruce Haggerty, our Vice-chair of Programs planned an extraordinary October BBQ and dinner by the pool. Our featured speaker was Dr. David Plourd, presenting "Most Mysterious & Misunderstood Creatures of the Deep".



Our November 13 dinner meeting featured a wonderfully illustrated presentation by Steve Freers on the Native American Rock Art in the Grand Canyon Region. Steve gave us a overview of over 5000 years of Native American rock art painted and engraved on the canyon walls and boulders in the Greater Grand Canyon area.



Upcoming Events

December 16 Holiday Social	At the home of Tim and Judy Radke
January 8, 2019 Dinner Meeting	Kevin Hardy presenting, "Exploring the Peru-Chile Trench"
February 12, 2019 Dinner Meeting	Erez Ben-Yosef, Ph.D presenting, In search of King Solomon's mines. Archaeological Discoveries Behind the Biblical Legend.
March 16, 2019	Explorers Club Annual Dinner, New York.
April 9, 2019 Dinner Meeting	Joseph Dituri Ph.D presenting, "Planetary Biodiversity"

To our chapter supporters, thank you for attending our functions and for helping us sustain the high quality of our programs. I encourage you to check the www.explorers.org website for membership information or ask a member at one of our upcoming events if you are interested in learning more about the club.

Over 112 Years Promoting Exploration

The Explorers Club, is a multidisciplinary, professional society dedicated to advancement of field research, scientific exploration, and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore. The Club's goals in research, education, and public service include the orientation of young people toward careers in field science and engineering, and the encouragement of scientific exploration of land, sea, the air, and space, with the emphasis on the physical, natural, and biological sciences. As the "World Center for Exploration" we serve as a common bond and meeting point for explorers and field scientists worldwide, thus continuing the early goals laid down by our founders in 1904.

To submit items for the next newsletter, contact Char Glacy MN'09, Chapter Secretary and Newsletter Editor at cglacy@yahoo.com.

