

# The Explorers Club

## Northern California Chapter

April 2001

Website: <<http://caldera.wr.usgs.gov/mdiggles/EC.html>>



© Dave Rossum

*"Humans build things with straight lines and square corners," Marc says, "Nature suggests graceful curves but doesn't enforce them. Flexibility is paramount. The living Ocean is indescribably beautiful: it demands to be seen. I hope my photographs will communicate some of that beauty, and motivate people to preserve it."*

### San Francisco

Marc Shargel

April 27, 2001

An Underwater Swim  
Across the Pacific

Photographer Marc Shargel will show spectacular underwater views from many islands, near and far: the Farallons, Southern California's Channel Islands, Galapagos, Revillagigedos off Mexico, and Palau, and Yap in the Carolinas!

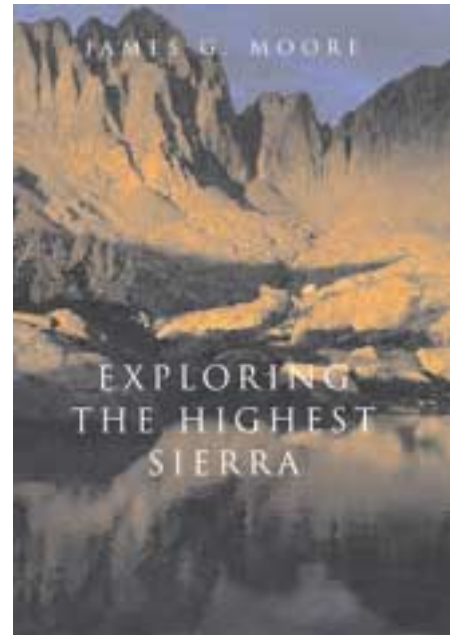
Marc grew up near Cleveland where, as a teenager, he learned the techniques of developing and enlarging photographs. When he attended Stan-

ford University, he learned to scuba dive and studied marine biology at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. He began diving along the Central California coast and has continued. The images he encountered underwater motivated him to return to photography.

He has dived and photographed in California's kelp forests and on coral reefs in Mexico, Hawaii, the South Pacific, the Caribbean, the Red Sea and the Pacific's eastern islands. His prize-winning photographs have been exhibited at galleries and art shows throughout the San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas. Marc is also a talented photographic illusionist; his digitally crafted images, based on underwater photos, are consistently popular.

In 1998, he was the Monterey Peninsula Underwater Photographers' "Photographer of the Year". His work has been published in national magazines, commercial publications (such as Dan Gotshall's authoritative book *SEA OF CORTEZ MARINE ANIMALS*, Jan 99), and via electronic media. His fine art prints are shown annually at major art fairs in Santa Cruz County (since 1984, his home.) He operates *Lumigenic Media*; visit:

<<http://www.lumigenic.com/photo>>.



Peninsula  
James C. Moore  
May 18, 2001

James G. Moore is a Senior Research Geologist Emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California. His new book is on the rocks and history of California's highland. Mark your calendar. Location TBA!

**Date:** Friday, 27 April 2001

**Place:** Officer's Club (Building 1)  
Fort Mason  
San Francisco

**Time:** 6:30 pm cocktails  
7:30 pm dinner  
8:30 pm lecture

**Cost:** \$45, or  
\$50, posted after April 15

(call Steve @ 925-934-1051 if  
check mailed after April 15)

# Live from New York, It's Saturday Night! and Friday and Sunday too.

Members pose at the Explorers Club— 1945  
Can you name anyone?

ECAD is a full three-day effort. I only participated in the first two days, but was rather overwhelmed by that. Friday, for me, started with a break-of-dawn train from Washington, DC to New York to attend the Chapter Chair's meeting. We had good representation from around the country, and from several of the international chapters. The agenda for the meeting was focused on having the various headquarters committee reports: current finances; buildings and operations; membership; member services; member events; the recent strategy session and a report on the activities of the Polish Chapter. Everyone has been very active, and it was very encouraging.

There was a lively discussion on the Explorers Club mission, our image and what we offer to both individual and corporate members. The average age of the EC member is 65! It has been stated, and was repeated: we need younger members for growth and vitality and corporate members for financial stability. (Perhaps we can assume that association with the Club is a secret "Fountain of Youth" since we are certainly a lively and active group of "average 65 year olds".) We have 1,267 Fellows (a drop of 16% from last year) 1,003 Members (up by 3%), 270 Emeritus and 325 others (such as Student, Corresponding, Honorary, Medallist). Approximately 2,270 dues-paying individual members now provide about 40 to 45% of the overall operating expenses of the club.

The major theme of the day was money: cutting expenses and raising membership, while maintaining the existing or better level of member services. A modest plan for continued club solvency seeks to increase individual membership growth to 5% (currently at 1%) and to add several corporate members and patrons of exploration.

To assist with getting new members and fellows, several of the directors have developed some "marketing" items. For the first time ever, the club



has a membership brochure that we can use to solicit new members. (I have some copies that I can give to anyone who wants them.) These were funded by a generous contribution from two members.

The second marketing item is an informational 'kiosk', a tri-fold display. The kiosk will have information on the club that we can take to conferences and conventions to advertise the club and recruit members. The Membership Committee has created one prototype kiosk that can be sent anywhere in the world. They hope to get a corporate sponsor to fund four or five kiosks that can be shared by the various chapters. (If you know of any good venues for the kiosk, let me or Peter Hess know about the event and who to contact for display space.)

The final marketing effort underway is to increase corporate membership. The Directors have developed several marketing packets geared towards corporations. Each packet focuses on the essential exploration and research focus of the Club: one

emphasizes our education and young explorers programs, one emphasizes our conservation efforts and the third emphasizes our restoration efforts. If you work for or know of a corporation that you think would be a good corporate sponsor, contact Faanya Rose to get one of these packets, or give her the name of the contact person, and they will call for the Club.

Everyone is encouraged to provide a concise statement of the Club's mission. One that will explain to someone who does not know us why they might want to be associated with us. The ground rule: short and memorable, fit on a billboard, readable at normal speed. Send your ideas!

The Friday work day ended with a Chapter Chairs Dinner that included short summaries of various chapter events and then a fascinating slide show by Curt Newport who led the successful salvage effort of the Liberty Bell 7. The space capsule was recovered, from waters that were 16,000+ foot deep, on the same day as the launch, 38 years later.

—Lesley Ewing

## New York — ECAD Great Explorations of the 20th Century

*“Far better it is to dare mighty things,  
even though chequered by failure, than  
to dwell in that perpetual twilight that  
knows not victory nor defeat.”*

—Theodore Roosevelt,  
Fellow of The Explorers Club

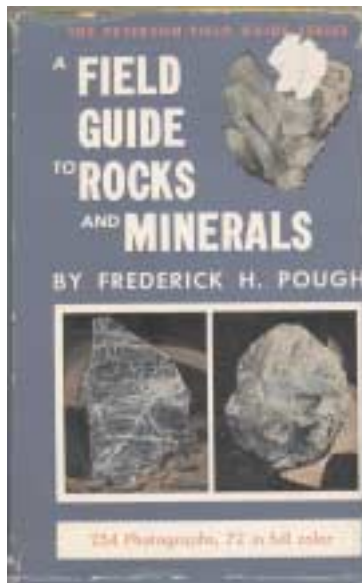
As advertised, the March 24 annual dinner was an over-the-top extravaganza. It started with Exotics. You could choose between Wine Marinated Rose Hair Tarantulas – lightly roasted; Barbecued Scorpions on Toastette; Mealworms sautéed in butter, wine and Garlic; Roasted crickets; Alligator a la Creole; Saddle of Beaver; Kangaroo Loin; Leg of Caribou; Bear Chunks in Sauce; Fillet of Ostrich; Wild Boar Sausage; and Boneless Turtle Meat. Actually, the tarantulas went very quickly, but there seemed to be more tarantula photo-ops than snacks.

The dinner was a bit tamer food-wise, but that was balanced by the array of incredible speakers and guests. George Plimpton was the host of the evening. Jim Fowler provided an interesting assortment of animal guests and Arthur Clarke made a guest appearance from Sri Lanka. The full program was provided in the dinner announcement and on the Club’s web site, so I will not repeat it here. However, Mort Beebe was busy getting video of the event and we will ask him to share his efforts at a future chapter event.

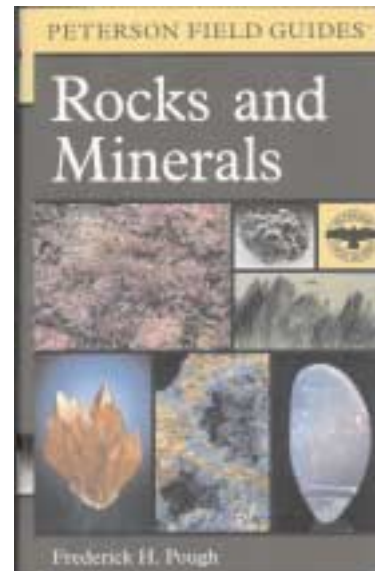
## San Francisco Anthropaleontologist Dr. Tim White

At our March 30 meeting, Dr. White made clear the fragility of seeking early human roots in an enthralling talk for our March meeting. When searching strata, dated in geologic terms rather than archaeological, he described the meticulous and tenacious skills that have harvested the rare finds. His photos illustrated the vast Awash Region of the Afar Depression (the northern entry to Africa’s Rift Valleys)

*see Human Origins page 4*



1953



1998

## Geologists... in the Back of the Room

At the Reno meeting of the Northern California Chapter of The Explorers Club in January, there were a couple of scruffy geologists (are there any other kind?) whispering in the back of the room. Fred Pough, FN’45, and Michael Diggles, FN’92, were having a great time being mentor and mentee, in that order. Fred wrote the popular Peterson’s Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals in 1953. His fifth edition came out in 1998, over 45 years later. This book is organized by mineral classifications and still written for the layperson. A mineral-testing section (flame tests, bead tests and such) is also included. Most guides to minerals have dropped that information much to Fred’s dismay. He seemed quite proud that his book still has it included (perhaps much to the publisher’s dismay).

Fred has been a mineralogist for one or another of the museums that dabble in such baubles for many decades. One of the gigs he told Michael about was when C.D. Woodhouse talked him into working at the museum in Santa Barbara. Woodhouse, it turns out, married into the Champion Spark Plug family and became the foreman of the Champion Mine owned by Champion Sillimanite, Inc., from which the insulator material, andalusite, was produced. “Why does a sillimanite company produce andalusite?” you might ask. Sillimanite and andalusite are part of a trio of aluminum silicates that form at different pressures

and temperatures, kyanite being the third member. The mine is up Jeffery Mine Canyon in the White Mountains in eastern California (Diggles, and others, 1983, USGS MF-1361-D). The ore in the White Mountains was mined, hand-sorted, hauled out on mules, and shipped to the company in Michigan. The advent of Pyrex made the operation obsolete (Schmauch and others, 1983, USBM MLA 94-83). Rutile, titanium oxide, is also present in that canyon so grab a copy of Fred’s book, put your jeep in 4WD, and head up the canyon for an enjoyable weekend of mineral hunting. Among Woodhouse’s claims to fame, besides hornswagging Fred Pough into coming to Santa Barbara, is the discovery of Woodhouseite, a calcium aluminum phosphate sulfate hydroxide (Lemmon, 1937, American Mineralogist, v. 22, p. 939-948).

“Why is the Champion Mine in Jeffery Mine Canyon?” you might ask. The deposit was discovered by Dr. J.A. Jeffery, President of the Champion Porcelain Company (Kerr, 1932, Economic Geology, v. 27, p. 614-643). Fred didn’t know if Woodhouse’s bride was a Jeffery but I suspect that perhaps she was; who else but somebody used to scruffy geologists would fall for a scruffy geologist? (That’s a trick question; another answer is “another scruffy geologist”)

—Mike Diggles, FN’92

Fred Pough is second from the right in the front row, page 2..

## Human Origins (*from page 3*)

and the search for minisule traces of humanoids. Fate rules as the fragile artifacts are only available as erosion exposes them. Washed away they are lost. Mining is fruitless in the vastness.

This is new science, only twenty years in the Afar, seeking our oldest remnants. There are more questions than answers, despite the media attention each find or report draws. Yet, the only way to find ancients are in the paleographic record.

Enticing pieces have been found. An international cadre of skilled professionals are dedicated, and we all benefit as they use all tools available to deduce man's (and ape's) roots.

## Book Review High Mountain Botany

KÖRNER, Christian (1999) [Alpine Plant Life](#), Springer-Verlag, NY, ISBN 3-540-65438-0, 338 pp + 4 color plates. \$64.95 (paper)

LUTYEN, James L. (1999) [Paramos: A Checklist of Plant Diversity, Geographical Distribution and Botanical Literature](#), New York Botanic Garden Press, ISBN 0-89327-427-5, 278 pp + 6 color plates. \$64 (hardcover)

Studies of high-altitude botany began in the Alps. One can still find inexpensive copies of Schröter's turn-of-the-century handbook of the Alpine wildflowers, printed in multiple languages and copiously illustrated with magnificent chromolithographed plates. But Schröter and his contemporaries focused not only on taxonomy but on the physiological adaptations of Alpine plants to their demanding environments, and the physiological-ecology tradition remain vibrant a century later. Christian Körner is a leading practitioner: native of Salzburg, educated at Innsbruck, now Professor of Botany at Basel. He serves on the steering committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program and is editor-in-chief of the prestigious journal *Oecologia*. In [Alpine Plant Life](#) he attempts a very succinct survey of the field from its beginnings to the present, touching on all of the world's high mountain systems. One caveat: the plates are crowded with very small pictures, which dilutes both their esthetic

impact and informational value. Any mountaineer that wants to understand the vegetation "up there" will learn a vast amount from this book.

Among the strangest high-altitudes ecosystems are the northern-Andean (Ecuador, Columbia and Venezuela) *páramos* (from a Basque word meaning "wilderness"). The signature plant of these systems is the *frailejón*, which usually looks more or less like a giant artichoke on a trunk. Very similar plant forms have evolved independently on the high mountains of tropical Africa. Tropical-alpine plants need not to contend with persistent winter snow packs, but they have a daily regime of more or less mild days and bitter-cold nights year-round, and often they are wrapped in fog or mist much of the time.

Körner provides an introduction to *páramo*, but Luteyn's book brings together the scattered and polyglot literature in a way no one has attempted before. It contains a virtually complete list of the plant species recorded from the paramos, with documentation, and a gazetteer of *paramo* sites which is indispensable to any Andean biogeographer. Luteyn was co-editor (with H.Balslev) of the 1992 book [Paramo: An Andean Ecosystem Under Human Influence](#) (Academic Press, ISBN 0-12-460442-0). His two books together belong on the shelf of any high-altitude biologist. The plates in the 1999 book are full-size and magnificent, unlike Körners. The bibliographies of all these books in themselves are worth their cost, but it must be said that when it comes to academic paperbacks, Springer-Verlag pushes the price envelope. Hard!

—Arthur M. Shapiro, FN'79

## Books by Members

AMELIA EARHART: THE MYSTERY SOLVED  
by Elgen M. Long, FN'72  
and Maria K. Long  
ISBN: 0684860058 (Nov99)

HUNTING DANGEROUS GAME WITH THE  
MAHARAJAS  
by Shuja Ul Islam  
and John H. Roush, Jr., FN'80  
ISBN: 0960083022 (Jul00)



© Jerry Hughes

## Suisun Bay Ice Breaker

There is a club for collecting information about the USS Glacier's Antarctic voyages in 1959/60 and about those currently working on the restoration of the USS/USCGC Glacier. At the links below, one can chat with fellow crew members, add links and pictures of one's own history, keep informed about the work schedule for and see pictures of the ship's restoration progress.

Since there are a few EC NC members working on this restoration, and others have done scientific research from her during activities in the Polar regions, I'd like to keep you up to date on her progress. She is in Suisun Bay and many of us travel one week each month from all parts of the country to work on her.

Everyday I try to put up a new picture of our work and schedule on the Yahoo! club site:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/ussglacier19591960>

Drawings of the ship, area views and work activities can be seen at:  
[http://briefcase.yahoo.com/jg\\_hughes](http://briefcase.yahoo.com/jg_hughes)

My collection of historical pictures are at:

[http://www.sonic.net/~jerryh/antarctica/ant59/in\\_ant/antarctica59.html](http://www.sonic.net/~jerryh/antarctica/ant59/in_ant/antarctica59.html)

Any of these pictures are available for use. Thanks for any interest in our project.

—Jerry G. Hughes, MN'01



@ Suisun Bay  
© Hughes

# Greetings from the Chair

## New Member Challenge:

How do we encourage growth and affiliation while maintaining our traditions?

At the Chapter Chairs' dinner on Friday evening, the Philadelphia Chapter Chair, David Concannon, offered several Philly cheesesteak sandwiches and a few pounds of Scrapple to chapter that gets more new members in 2001 than Philadelphia. I'm rather partial to Scrapple and at the time the challenge was offered, I'd enjoyed a glass or two of wine, so I accepted on behalf of Northern California and raised him some sour dough bread, Ghiradelli chocolate and canned fog. Washington, DC joined in with an offer of crab cakes. So far we have seven new members (see the new member section) and the year is still young. I hope everyone will join me in trying to get more members for the Club in general, and especially those folks who live in the Bay area.

I've checked my calendar and Ground Hog's day is on a weekend in 2002. I would really like to have a New Member/Sponsor brunch that day and prominently feature Philadelphia Scrapple, Philly Cheesesteak and Maryland Crabcakes on the menu.

The application forms are on the web site and if anyone would prefer a paper copy, you can get them from me at any of the dinner meetings. Member, Fellow, Friend, Sponsor or Patron—they all count!

—Lesley Ewing, FN'93

# NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have elected recently to the Explorers Club:

- Jerry Hughes, MN'01, Forestville
- Tom Joyce, MN'01, Sausalito
- David J. Larsen, MN'01, Hollister
- Leslie S. Saul, FN'01, San Francisco
- Gregory Kovacs, FN'01, Stanford
- Lewis H. Lambert, Jr., MN'01, Fremont
- Pam E. Lambert, MN'01, Fremont

Many thanks to those of you who sponsored these new members and first introduced them to the Club. We hope everyone will join in welcoming our recent members to the Club, and we all look forward to seeing you at Chapter events.

## A Note from Egypt



I thought the members of the chapter would like to see some pictures from my Fulbright year in Egypt. Best Wishes.

—Eve Iverson, CO'86

This thoughtfulness will bring a wonderful 112-photo journal to those who link <http://photomail.photoworks.com/sharing/album.asp?Key=0228452492320709>

## Yemen, from the Field

Bill Isherwood received this news: (Mar 4) I am about to head to the desert to excavate a Neolithic/Bronze Age (?) site north of the Ramlat Sabatayn and south of the ar-Rub al-Khali. Beautiful

—Lee Langan, FN'99

sand for miles; silent and windy, with volcanic outcrops which seem to have attracted the ancient foragers. Nothing else for about four hours by Toyota.

This is my third visit, and one promising great research. It was an occasional site situated next to a river, long since dry. The whole area of Jawat Banat Methul has large stone configurations and cairn mounds.

—Diana Pickworth (MN'01)

## evolution

### @ The Explorers Club

Let me report that I was underwhelmed by the response to the request for people to receive PDF-alternatives as an option to the printed version of our chapter newsletter. PDF, for those not in the swim of computers, is the acronym for 'portable document format'. It is a nifty technology that allows almost any document, created on almost any computer, to be prepared for reading and printing using almost any computer! Completely eliminates the battles that rage between advocates of different computer operation systems and hardware technologies. PDF technology has become ubiquitous, except explorers in the Northern California Chapter could care less.

That is okay. Good-old hard copy is just fine, and yours will be in-the-mail regularly. Besides, Mike Diggles posts the PDF version on our website, for those unstated few who may wish to have it. Both worlds are served.

Having said 'regularly', next month's regular schedule will be delayed. I shall be away and not able to bring it together until later in May.

—Lee Langan, FN'99

Please make your checks out to The Explorers Club and mail with this form to:

Stephen E. Smith  
The Explorers Club  
402 Via Royal  
Walnut Creek, CA  
94596

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ spaces for April 27, 2001, at the Fort Mason Officer's Club.  
Cost: \$45 by April 15; \$50 if postmarked thereafter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if changed): \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

menu choice (please circle):

- meat
- fish
- vegetarian

## Chapter Officers

Chair: Lesley Ewing  
510-527-7899  
lewing@coastal.ca.gov

Vice-Chair: Stephen E. Smith  
925-934-1051  
nauticos@oceanearth.org

Treasurer: Thomas Hall  
415-502-7204 (work)  
thall@epi.ucsf.edu

Webmaster: Mike Diggles  
650-329-5404  
mdiggles@usgs.gov

Database: Jerry Hughes  
707-887-2523  
jg\_hughes@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Lee Langan  
415-567-8089  
lee@langan.net

## Continuing Chapter Calendar for 2000-2001 Season

April 27	San Francisco	Marc Shargel, "An Underwater Swim Across the Pacific", Fort Mason Officers Club (Bldg 1) [gate at Franklin & Bay, veer right to Club]
May 18	Peninsula TBD	Jim Moore, "Exploring the Highest Sierra"
Mid-June	In the works!	Summer Party
July, August, and September		Break for the Field Season. Explore!

Please note venues with care. They sometimes change, but the most recent is accurate!  
For example, the April 27 meeting is in SAN FRANCISCO!

(When copying the URL addresses be sure to keep them all on one line; most are available as links on our Chapter website.)

Lesley Ewing  
The Explorers Club  
Northern California Chapter  
1679 Tacoma Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707-1826

