



The Antarctic Society

VOLUME 20-21

OCTOBER

No. 1

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New members welcome!
\$13/yr, plus more for mailed newsletter. See 'About Us' on website to join.

"BY AND FOR ALL ANTARCTICANS"

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NEW FACES, NEW IDEAS FOR OUR TREASURED SOCIETY

Among the world's recent reminders is that we're all connected and that resilience helps to carry us forward. With nearly everyone adjusting to the pandemic, the Antarctic Society is doing the same, and then some. We have new Bylaws and a new Board of Directors. We've taken to Zoom meetings and are exploring alternative methods to share information.

We deeply thank the membership for responding to the ballot and the survey this summer. A huge number of you took the time and effort. The thoughtful comments have given us much to work on.

We did not gather in person this year to visit with old friends and honor those dearly departed. Having to cancel the 2021 Mystic Seaport Gathering is another disappointment. We do hope to organize a meeting in 2021, but it will be virtual.

Helping to make plans for the future of our Society are some familiar faces re-elected to our Board of Directors, and a few new Board members. Thank you all for serving. To our retiring Board members – Tony Gow, Louis Lanzerotti, and John Behrendt – who have been inspiring in their wealth of experience, ties to science, personal stories, and dedication to sharing, we extend our perpetual gratitude. Get to know the present Board of Directors on our website "About Us" page (<https://www.antarctican.org/board-of-directors>). You'll be impressed by the diversity and breadth of Antarctic interests.

When I started going south as a laborer in 1995, I fell in love with the Ice, but I never expected to join such a prestigious and dedicated group, nor to follow in the footsteps of many illustrious past presidents. I am honored and excited to be the new Society President. I look forward to working with the Board and members. Together we can help keep the newsletter interesting, membership stimulated, and all of us better informed about the place that has mutually affected us. Please use our virtual resources by perusing the website, sharing an Antarctic post or podcast on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/antarcticansociety>), contributing an article to our newsletter, or communicating via email. Let's stay connected, be resilient, and move forward. Be well.

Liesl Schernthanner

Members vote to approve Restated and Amended Bylaws

In June 2020, the Society's Board of Directors met via Zoom to review proposed Restated and Amended Bylaws. The Board voted to submit the proposed revision to Society members for approval. A ballot was sent to all Society members, asking for their vote to approve or disapprove. One hundred fifty-six members - just over 50% of us - returned ballots, with 145 votes to approve, 5 votes not approving, and 6 with no vote. Therefore, *the 2020 Restated and Amended Bylaws have been approved.*

Fourteen of the returned ballots, including 12 of the yes votes, included comments on the wording of the Bylaws. The Board will review these comments and make additional revisions to the Bylaws as warranted. In the meantime, the Revised Bylaws as approved have been posted in the Members section of the Society [website](#).

September 2020 Board meeting

On 19 September the Board of Directors met via Zoom. President Tony Gow opened the meeting, after which Secretary Joan Boothe reported that the membership had approved the Restated and Amended Bylaws. Pursuant to the approved Revised Bylaws, the Board then elected new officers and Directors. Liesl Scherthanner, the newly elected president, then replaced Tony in presiding over the meeting, beginning with thanking Tony for his service.

Minutes of the meeting have been posted in the Members section on the [website](#). Topics discussed included the Treasurer's report; steps being taken to regain nonprofit status for the Society; further revisions to the Bylaws; results of the member survey; plans for future meetings; cancelling of the 2021 Gathering planned for Mystic Seaport; newsletter plans; member outreach; and dollar

cost of membership dues. Discussion of a memorial to Paul Dalrymple was deferred.

The next Board meeting will be via Zoom on December 12 at 4:30 p.m. EST. All Society members are welcome and encouraged to participate. You have to sign up in advance to receive a Zoom meeting link. If you have not used Zoom before, it is straightforward with a computer or a Smartphone, iPad, etc., with Internet access. To sign up, contact Webmaster Tom Henderson, webmaster@antarctican.org.

Membership survey yields big results

by Joan N. Boothe

The Board decided to take advantage of our mailing to the Members asking for approval of the Revised Bylaws to survey how Members feel about the Society now and for the future. Officers, Ex-officio Officers, and Directors joined to create a survey that would not only give our members a chance to express themselves, but also to provide input for moving the Society forward in the years to come. From the response received, it is clear that many members also thought this was a good idea.

Just over 50% of our members - 160 of you - returned surveys, about one-third of them anonymously. Many of you responded to all or nearly all the questions that offered multiple-choice options, accompanied by numerous comments, qualifications, and explanations. Overall conclusions from the survey: Those returning the surveys are pretty happy with the Society as it now is, especially the newsletter, but many would like more from it, or changes for the future to adapt to today's world. There was one common concern, that we are currently an aging society, with a need for new blood and younger members if we wish to survive and thrive in the years to come. But, even if many of us are aging, the surveys make it clear that we are a keen and articulate group that

continues to be interested in what's happening in Antarctica today and is eager to remain involved, if only to keep up to date on today's activity on the Ice.

The survey questions were divided into sections, as summarized here:

General Questions — These were the first questions asked. Nearly everyone answered the questions in this group, perhaps because they were right at the beginning before they had survey-answer fatigue. We asked why people belong to the Society. The overwhelming answer was they want to keep up with Antarctica today. But it isn't only that. People join and remain members also because of personal connections to friends and to their own experiences on the Ice in years past. What do we get from our membership? Nearly everyone, 98% of those who answered the question, cited the newsletter, but the website is also of great interest, as are gatherings and networking.

Gatherings and Meetings — From a statistical perspective, the answers here may not reflect what we would hear if all members responded since it's probable that it was the most engaged members returning the surveys. But here's what you told us. About half of the respondents have attended a Society meeting or "Gathering" at some point, with 41% in the last ten years. You come for the talks, but nearly as important, it's to see friends and renew connections. For those who did not attend, distance seems to be the main issue. As for time of year that's preferred, summer definitely gets the nod (the northern summer, that is!). In part that's because older members seem to prefer that time of year, but it's also because it does not conflict with the Antarctic season. Several people offered thoughts for meetings in the future, including using new technology. The pandemic in particular has made us more aware of the possibilities for virtual gatherings, and quite a few people mentioned this as something to consider for

the future. It would eliminate the problems of distance and might make it practical to have more frequent meetings, something that many suggested would be desirable.

Newsletter — We really, really like the newsletter! Ninety-nine percent of respondents answered the question, "Do you read the newsletter?" and the answer is a resounding "yes." How often? Eight-six percent said "always," with another 11% saying "sometimes." We like everything in it, though current Antarctic news is right at the top (of interest to 99% of respondents to the question!). It's clear that a high-quality newsletter is central to the health of our Society. As one respondent put it, "The newsletter is the eyes, ears, and heart of the Society. A point of reference, a promoter of a true sense of community, and a sustainer and renewer of common bonds of experience and interest." All well and good, but comments received also provided input for improvement. The most common suggestions were for reports of activity on the Ice, including that by people from other countries.

Website — The website is clearly valued by our members. Only 17% say they never go there, but the survey responses also suggest a need for more awareness of what the website has to offer and how to access it. The website is a rich resource for Society members, but the survey tells us that more of us need to explore its content.

Archives — The Society has long had archives, but only about half of us seem to know that, and even fewer of us know how to access the archived material. As for the slide scanning service, most of us have no plans to take advantage of it. In part, that's because members don't know about it. The same appears to be true of the question of having the Society archive polar memorabilia. Only 75 people answered the question about whether they were interested in taking

advantage of this, and of these, just over half said yes. Not everyone has items that might be appropriate for this service, but there does seem to be a problem with letting people know that it's a possibility.

Social Media — As noted earlier, we're an aging group, with relatively few members from the younger generations who are deeply involved in social media. This is clear from the fact that 60% of us don't even know we have a Facebook page, and many people commented that they just don't do anything with social media. The survey responses suggest a potential here for increasing awareness of the Society's possibilities with social media, but this won't be of interest to many of our current members, including several who flatly stated that they don't want the Society to have anything to do with social media.

Goals and Possibilities for the Future — Should we be more closely associated or cooperate with other polar organizations? Most respondents think we should. In fact, only one person checked "none" in response to this question. Of the 84% of respondents who answered this question, the two favorites for closer connections are the New Zealand Antarctic Society and the National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs. More than half of us said yes to these organizations. The American Polar Society was third in line, then the Old Antarctic Explorers Association.

After who to work with, we asked about possibilities for increasing membership. Just over three-quarters of us, in an echo of the response to the what-organizations question, indicated that we should cooperate with other polar organizations. Closely following this was the option of encouraging members to introduce people to the Society. There were lots of comments on this one, including suggestions of offering free memberships for a year to people returning

from the Ice, reaching out to tourists, having brochures that could be distributed. We have much interesting input to consider here.

The survey concluded with two broad questions, with no multiple-choice options to make it easier to respond. We asked members 1) what they would like the Society to do in the future that it is not now doing and 2) what matters to members about the Society. More than half of the respondents answered one or both of these questions, many offering thoughtful responses that provide rich, valuable input for thinking about the Society's future.

Frequently mentioned, among other things: more meetings, including virtual ones; moving meetings around the country; efforts to increase membership, especially younger members. But members also are concerned that we retain the culture of the Society as it has developed since its inception: relaxed, informal, and welcoming.

The response to the survey from our Membership is clear evidence that our membership values the Antarctic Society. Thanks to all those who returned the survey, and even more so, thank you so much for your input. The Board will be reviewing it carefully and acting on it to move the Society forward, into the future.

For details of the survey responses, see the Members area of the Society's website.

Dues to increase for hard-copy members

by Tom Henderson

The Society has not increased its dues in 10 years. In the interim, the costs of printing and mailing have increased significantly.

As of now, 110 members still receive "hard copy": a printed newsletter mailed first-class via USPS.

The dues difference of \$7.00 in hard copy versus electronic distribution no longer covers the extra expense of hard copy. This is by far the greatest single expense the Society incurs.

Therefore, the Board of Directors, at its September 19 meeting, voted to increase the dues for hard copy members from \$20.00 per year to \$25.00 per year. Dues for non-U.S. hard-copy members will increase from \$25.00 per year to \$30.00 per year. These increases will take effect January 1, 2021. The dues for electronic members will remain at \$13.00 per year for both U.S. and non-U.S. members.

Advantages other than monetary accrue from choosing an electronic membership. They are

- (1) the electronic version contains photos and graphics whereas the hard copy version doesn't,
- (2) the electronic version generally is in your hands earlier than the hard copy version, and
- (3) the online version can be printed out on your home printer should you wish to have a hard copy of it.

When I send out email notice of the availability of the electronic version, that email contains a link to a page on the Society's website. That page allows members to click on a link which uploads a PDF-format version of the newsletter to their computer for reading, saving, or printing. The newsletter is literally two mouse clicks away.

We strongly encourage any hard-copy member with an email address to switch to electronic membership.

As Treasurer, I offer to any hard-copy member that, if you wish to switch to electronic membership now, I will translate any time remaining on your current hard-copy membership to equivalent time in an electronic membership, extending your membership beyond its current expiration date. Contact me at to take advantage of this offer at webmaster@antarctican.org.

Mystic Seaport June 2021 Gathering is cancelled

The Antarctic Society has cancelled the planned June 4-6, 2021 Gathering of members that would have taken place in Mystic, Connecticut. The reason, of course, is that the pandemic is forcing Mystic Seaport Museum to delay, for at least a year, the major Antarctica exhibition that motivated us to set up the meeting.

"The Antarctica exhibit will not be displayed here in 2021," writes Rebecca Shea of Mystic Seaport Museum. "There are still lots of negotiations and many things to be determined, but the earliest it would have a run here at MSM would be sometime in 2022.

"We look forward to the days when the pandemic is resolved and we can enjoy such thought-provoking exhibits and welcome affinity groups such as your own."

The Society will announce in this newsletter any developments or, with luck, rescheduling of this much-anticipated event.

Meanwhile, our webmaster Tom Henderson has returned the money that many of you sent in to reserve a spot. If you reserved a hotel room or transportation, you may wish to cancel unless you want to go to Mystic on your own. Outdoor portions of the museum remain open.

From the Archivist

by Charles Lagerbom

Since 2008, the Antarctic Society has grown a collection of images digitized from original slides provided by Society members. Members receive their slides back as well as the new digital files. The free service requires only that the Society get nonexclusive use for its website and publications.

Slides are not only scanned; they are improved: see "Example of a Scanning

Project” in the Members’ section of the Society’s [website](#) under “Slide Scan Service.”

In this issue of the newsletter, we spotlight an early slide contributor, Jack Crowell (1898-1985).

John Thomas “Jack” Crowell tended to be more Arctic than Antarctic. He went north with Donald MacMillan in the 1920s and 1930s aboard *Bowdoin*, served at Frobisher Bay in World War II, and helped start the U.S. base at Thule, Greenland, in the 1950s.

His Antarctic bona fides came in 1962, when he worked for NSF with development of the *Eltanin* ice-strengthened research ship. He next was instrumental in surveys of Antarctic Peninsula sites for what became Palmer Station as well as design and construction of NSF’s wooden Antarctic research vessel *Hero*, built in South Bristol, Maine, in 1968.

Crowell’s slide collection in the Antarctic Society comprises about 260 images, many from his survey trips in the early 1960s aboard USCGC *Staten Island* and *Eastwind* scouting out possible Palmer Station sites. Four images from his collection accompany the electronic version of this issue of the newsletter.

Jack Crowell lived on Kimball Island just off Isle Au Haut in Maine; he died in 1985.



USCG icebreaker *Staten Island* off Port Lockroy, Mt Williams in background 1963 (copyright Jack Crowell)



Launch of *RV Hero* at Gamage Shipyard, South Bristol, Maine, March, 1968 (copyright Jack Crowell)



USCG Icebreaker *Staten Island* ship's boat approaching Argentine Melchior Station 1963 (copyright Jack Crowell)

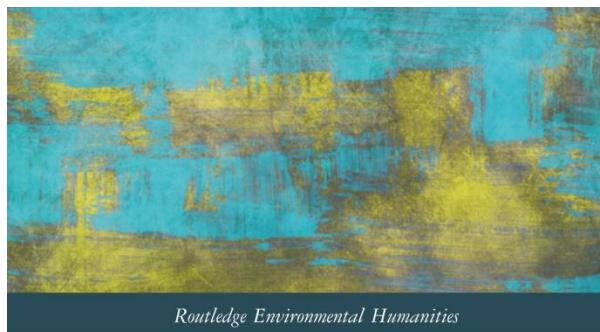


Tabular iceberg from deck of USCG Icebreaker *Staten Island* 1963 (copyright Jack Crowell)

Anthropocene Antarctica

reviewed by Valmar Kurol

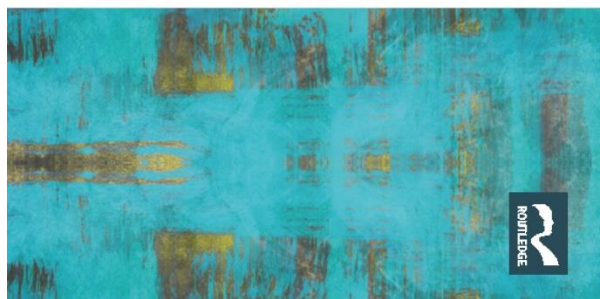
Anthropocene Antarctica – Perspectives from the Humanities, Law, and Social Sciences (Elizabeth Leane and Jeffrey McGee, eds., Oxford and New York: Routledge, 2020, 196 pp) is an informative and often cutting collection of ten essays on aspects of Antarctica. The editors are, respectively, a Professor of English at the School of Humanities and a Senior Lecturer in Climate Change, Marine and Antarctic Law, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania. Most contributors are professors from Australian and New Zealand institutions. Publisher's current price is US\$124.



ANTHROPOCENE ANTARCTICA

**PERSPECTIVES FROM THE HUMANITIES, LAW AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Edited by
Elizabeth Leane and Jeffrey McGee



Humanities have engaged more slowly with Antarctica than have the natural sciences. A

perception may exist that Antarctica is isolated from world political and social influences. “This collection,” the editors affirm in a foreword, “paves the way for researchers in the Environmental Humanities, Law, and Social Sciences to engage critically with the Antarctic, fostering a community of scholars who can act with natural scientists, to address the globally significant environmental issues that face this vitally important part of the planet.”

While the definition of Anthropocene is in flux, the term is used in the book for that period in which activities by humans have become a significant driver of environmental change. In Antarctica, this change began with whales and seals as victims of planetary expansion, continuing to the destruction of land ice, sea ice, and ice shelves through warming, to the destruction of ozone in the stratosphere by chemicals, and finally to increasing amounts of migrating microplastics in the oceans. The Antarctic Treaty has been successful in managing Antarctica as a continent of science and peace. But, with increasing human activities the book argues for new geopolitical, legal, and ethical perspectives from the humanities, law, and social sciences.

Of the book's three parts, the first and meatiest is Governance and Geopolitics, which discusses the stresses that climate change is placing on Antarctica, and the need for better links between Antarctic governance and global change governance. While science's dominating position within the Antarctic Treaty System has led to greater understanding of Antarctica's role in climate systems, the legal, policy, and operational response, on a global basis, has been limited. One essayist notes that “the fundamental challenge of Antarctica is that it is not behaviour on the continent that is changing Antarctica in any radical and unconstrained way, but rather human activities outside the region and beyond the purview of the Antarctic management regime.” Ironically,

Antarctic Treaty states – representing two-thirds of Earth’s human population – comprise some of the worst contributors to climate change and pollution.

A provocative essayist takes a swipe at his own country, a major Antarctic player, and argues that Antarctic programs, such as subglacial research (ice core drilling), while requiring big international science, exist as a proxy for national self-interest, strategic competition, and support of territorial claims. A further essay examines proposals for geoengineering the cryosphere for climate change relief. Large engineering projects, developed conceptually or on a smaller test scale in non-Antarctic locations, may themselves threaten Antarctica. These schemes include reflective glass beads to increase ice reflectivity, ocean fertilization to increase carbon uptake, and underwater berms to block warm water.

The second part, Cultural Texts and Representations, examines fiction, particularly the growing ecothriller genre, in which Antarctica is threatened by global warming and pollution from beyond its shores, but, paradoxically, is a threat to the planet as a cause of sea-level rise and a source of extreme weather and climate. Also discussed are ecomusicology and soundscape recordings from the field that have been used in public performances and museums as sound art. A final essay treats the use of Antarctica and penguins in advertising, and how some of it has been used subversively for greenwashing (icewashing) products and services.

The third part, Inhabitations and Place, looks at the extreme Eurocentrism of the Heroic Era and polar exploration as an extension of colonialism. Included is an analysis of Chile’s experiment in establishing a small civilian town populated by families of military personnel on King George Island during the 1980s to strengthen Chile’s claim to a part of Antarctica and to ready the country for potential mineral and tourism activity. A short final chapter discusses the McMurdo

Dry Valleys and their unique standing as an ice-free area and how early scientific work there generated new ways of planning for environmental impacts and ecological research for Antarctica as a whole.

Super Bowl Sunday on HF

by A.J. Oxtan

The story you are about to read is true, but some of the salient detail is lost or confused in the ice fog.

Prologue: Back in the old days, HF (high frequency radio) was the prime mode of communication between stations on the Antarctic continent. American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) broadcast sports and news worldwide and to all the ships at sea. Palmer and South Pole, and other bases and ships of diverse nations along the Antarctic Peninsula, depended upon AFRTS-HF radio for real-time programs.

My second winter on the Ice was at Palmer Station, Anvers Island. While satellites were encroaching, HF was still the backbone of communication among Antarctic stations as well as to the United States. Ham radio and MARS carried personal letters and phone patches, while business traffic went through the Navy via HF RTTY (45 Baud and upper case only) or by way of the Inmarsat satellite phone at US\$10 a minute. During this time the ATS-3 satellite came to be used for daily data exchanges, at 4800 and 9600 Baud—upper and lower case—and for weekly phone patch service. But there was still no live commercial programming from the United States, such as news and sports, other than AFRTS or BBC.

Then one fine day, just before Super Bowl Sunday, AFRTS shut down its HF service and moved all that programming to a channel on Inmarsat. The radios went silent. Panic ensued.

Desperate times called for desperate measures. With coaching from far-flung mentors and a rabid audience close at hand, I

dug out from stores the spare Inmarsat earth station. Consider this: Mobile and satellite phones today you can carry in one hand (with three fingers missing if necessary) but this Inmarsat box required two men and a penguin to move. We hung the box upside down in the walkway behind the Inmarsat equipment rack in order to get the connectors close to the cables and devised a kludge of a splitter to divide the receiver I.F. downlink from the steerable antenna above on the roof. Next, the box was fed the secret code that put the receiver into service mode. That would be like telling your mobile phone to listen in on other phone conversations. Then we were able to tune the receiver to the AFRTS channel. Voila! Voices of announcers at AFRTS came out of the tinny earpiece of the handset.

That was Part A. Now for Part B. This box had a telephone line connection so a regular desk phone could be wired in. We went from that through a phone patch to an audio distribution board. With finagling, line audio was sent to the two 100-watt SSB transceivers usually used for voice comms with: South Pole on 11,553 kHz, other stations around the Peninsula on 4,775 kHz including Faraday (U.K.), Marsh (Chile), sundry summer camps, and all the ships at sea. Also on station was one of those little “hear your own voice on the radio” kits you used to see advertised on the inside back cover of Flash Gordon comics for broadcast around campus.

Super Bowl Sunday arrived. With appropriate fanfare, all this equipment was set up, fired up, tuned up (as necessary), and jacked in to the audio board. Kickoff skipped via skywave to South Pole and sailed via seawave to Faraday. When the game was over, hours later, even tourists on a cruise ship and crew on a nearby Greenpeace vessel sent Thank You QSL messages.

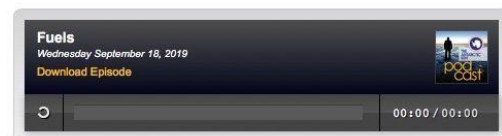
Podcasts from the *Antarctic Sun*

Latest Episode

Posted Monday August 10, 2020



Previous Episodes



Podcast Page on Antarctic Sun website

Your editor some years back bought a laptop computer and was instructed to charge it using a MagSafe, which I figured out is Apple’s word for a plug-in charger. New technology, new word, I guess, but geez.

Now come Podcasts. Turns out a Podcast is a good old radio interview you download from the internet and play anytime. Using an iPad I’ve had for years, the other day I finally opened the Podcast application and typed “Antarctic” in the search box. First on the list was “[The Antarctic Sun Podcasts.](#)” Of many, I listened to two: one called Fuels; the other, Field Support and Training. Each, about 15 minutes long, is well done, full of facts, conversational, and packed with interviews made at locations in Antarctica.

Joan Boothe’s article (above) about membership survey results says many of us want to hear more about field work and NSF and aren’t fond of “social media.” These Podcasts hit the spot. You don’t have to sign up, and they’re free.

Remember those lectures we used to go to? Sit back and enjoy a Podcast. If you find an interesting one, consider sharing it via email or on Facebook.

SCAR Open Science Conference, 3-7 August 2020

The letters SCAR form an abbreviation familiar to Antarctic hands. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research is a nongovernmental organization created in 1958 to promote and coordinate Antarctic research that is international. SCAR is part of the International Science Council, or ISC. Funded largely by the national Antarctic programs, SCAR hosts meetings, worldwide in scope, some of which assemble the broadest cast of scientists and others active in furthering understanding of the Antarctic.

While scientific gatherings have been frequent throughout the life of SCAR, in 2004 the organization began Open Science Conferences, held every 2 years in one of the member countries, of which 32 have full membership standing. (The National Academy of Sciences represents the United States in SCAR.)

In 2020, SCAR did something new: it shifted the Open Science Conference entirely to an online setting, and it made the sessions available for free to anyone. The online meeting, originally to have been held in person in Hobart, took place from 3 to 7 August 2020. It used both live streaming and recorded presentation to give plenary presentations, mini-symposia, and workshops. Some fora were devoted to discussion or other interactive formats. Related events were held before and after the main conference.

What's staggering is the scope. The meeting registered 2,712 participants from 60 countries who created 584 virtual displays and held 24 key events and 21 related events. A spreadsheet you can download from the SCAR 2020 Online website lists 576 presentations in 48 categories ranging from astronomy to public engagement.

With Valmar Kuroš's review (above) of *Anthropocene Antarctica* in mind, the humanities and social sciences have expanded in SCAR. This broadening parallels changes

in the parent International Science Council, which was created in 2018 from a merger of the International Council for Science (founded in 1931) and the International Social Science Council (founded in 1952).

An advantage of the online format is that it's still not too late for you to attend the entire conference. Most presentations were recorded and are on the [SCAR2020 Online YouTube channel](#).

Here's where you'll start to feel overwhelmed. You editor asked SCAR for a short list of vital takeaways, or a highlights page, or any kind of wrap-up document. On 12 October, staff replied that "we still haven't produced our report." They may be overwhelmed, too.

I dove in. Boasting 453 views as of 21 October is "Highlights of SCAR's current scientific research programs," 121 minutes long. Then there's the most popular session, "Antarctica in a warming world" (125 minutes), with 594 views. At 92 minutes, a session titled "The role of fish in the Southern Ocean" has been eyeballed 41 times. A session on bioprospecting has 35 views. Two sessions on living and working in Antarctica got a few dozen views each. "Communicating Antarctic issues of global importance" is 16 minutes long; it got 57 views. "The Empirical Sublime: Antarctic Ice, Time, and the Poetry of Elizabeth Bradfield and Jean McNeil," 15 minutes, has had 20 views so far and deserves more.

At a party in McLean, Virginia, some decades back an agitated gent accosted Dr. Marcel Bardon, then head of NSF's physics division and in whose home the party was taking place, demanding to know why he should care about the kind of science Marcel's group was funding. Marcel replied, "You don't need to care at all. But you should be grateful that a few individuals care deeply about these things."

Dr. John O. Annexstad, 1932-2020

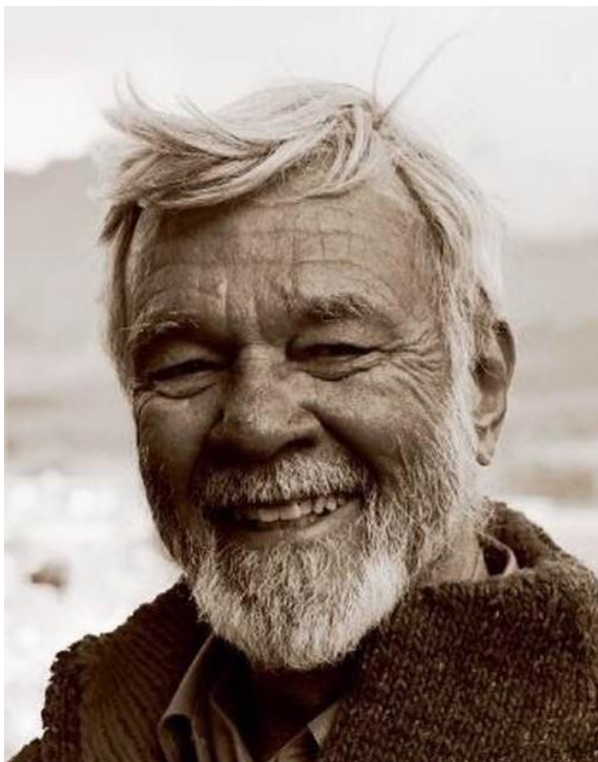
by Tom Henderson

Antarctic scientist Dr. John Owen Annexstad passed away on June 9, 2020. He is survived by his wife Judith, six children and step-children, and eleven grandchildren.

John was born on the Annexstad family homestead in Norseland, Minnesota, on 10 January 1932.

He graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a degree in physics and mathematics in 1956 after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War.

His Antarctic career began in 1957 working for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in Antarctica during the International Geophysical Year as part of Operation Deep Freeze and continued through his time in Fairbanks, Alaska. John notably tended the seismograph there during the 1964 “Good Friday” earthquake.



Dr. John O. Annexstad January 10, 1932 - June 9, 2020

In 1968, he joined the Apollo Space Program in Houston, Texas, as the Associate Curator for lunar samples (moon rocks). While employed with the Johnson Space Center he led the creation of the Antarctic Meteorite Program to continue NASA’s research of planetary materials.

Under his supervision this program discovered numerous meteorites in Antarctica, now in the NASA collection. Annexstad Peak was mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey and named by the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names for John Annexstad, geomagnetician and station seismologist at Byrd Station.

In 1981, John was recognized with a Distinguished Alumni Citation from Gustavus Adolphus for his government service. During his explorations in Antarctica, he worked on and was awarded his PhD in Glaciology from the Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany, in 1983.

Upon retirement from NASA in 1985, he returned to northern Minnesota to follow his passion of educating young minds as a Professor of Geology at Bemidji State University. He also served as the Director of the Space Studies Program and Director of the Minnesota Space Grant Consortium.

He retired from BSU in 2000. In 2016, his six decades of Antarctic work earned him emeritus status with the famed Explorers Club. He remained in his beloved northern Minnesota until his passing. He inspired and educated many young students, who now follow in his footsteps.

John was a long-time member of the Antarctic Society. He used his Antarctic knowledge to teach others and to provide understanding to so many about Earth's polar regions. He will be missed.

CDR Robert L. Dale, USN(Ret.), 1925–2020

by Tom Henderson

Long-time Antarctic Society member Robert L. Dale passed away peacefully at home on June 22, 2020 at the age of 95. He is survived by his loving and gracious wife Jean, three children, and five step-children.

Bob enlisted as a Naval Aviation Cadet in 1942, earning his gold wings and commission at Pensacola, Fla. He flew Dauntless dive-bombers, Corsair fighters, and later Savage heavy attack aircraft. The Savage was the first plane capable of delivering an atomic bomb from an aircraft carrier.

He received his degree from George Washington University graduating cum laude, majoring in geology. Bob's mentor at GWU urged him to participate in the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in Antarctica in 1959-1960. As a part of the University of Wisconsin research team, he flew geologists to remote, unexplored mountain ranges to collect geology samples. He wintered at McMurdo Station in 1960 with the VX-6 Squadron. He served as the Naval Air Operations Officer supporting "Deep Freeze" in Antarctica from 1964 to 1966. He retired as Navy Commander in 1966.

Bob joined the National Science Foundation in 1968 as an Office of Polar Programs liaison and served until 1975, managing usage of the research trawler *Hero* and Palmer Station, near where *Hero* did much of its work. Our editor Guy Guthridge overlapped at NSF with Bob for 5 years and remembers him vividly as calm, balanced, and unbureaucratic. In appreciation for Bob's service in Antarctica, the United States Board on Geographic Names named a glacier in the Royal Society Range *Dale Glacier*.



Bob Dale at McMurdo in January, 1972

Peter Espenshied Passes

As we go to press, we have learned that long-time member Peter Espenshied passed away in early September.