

# ADVENTUROUS DREAMS, ADVENTUROUS LIVES

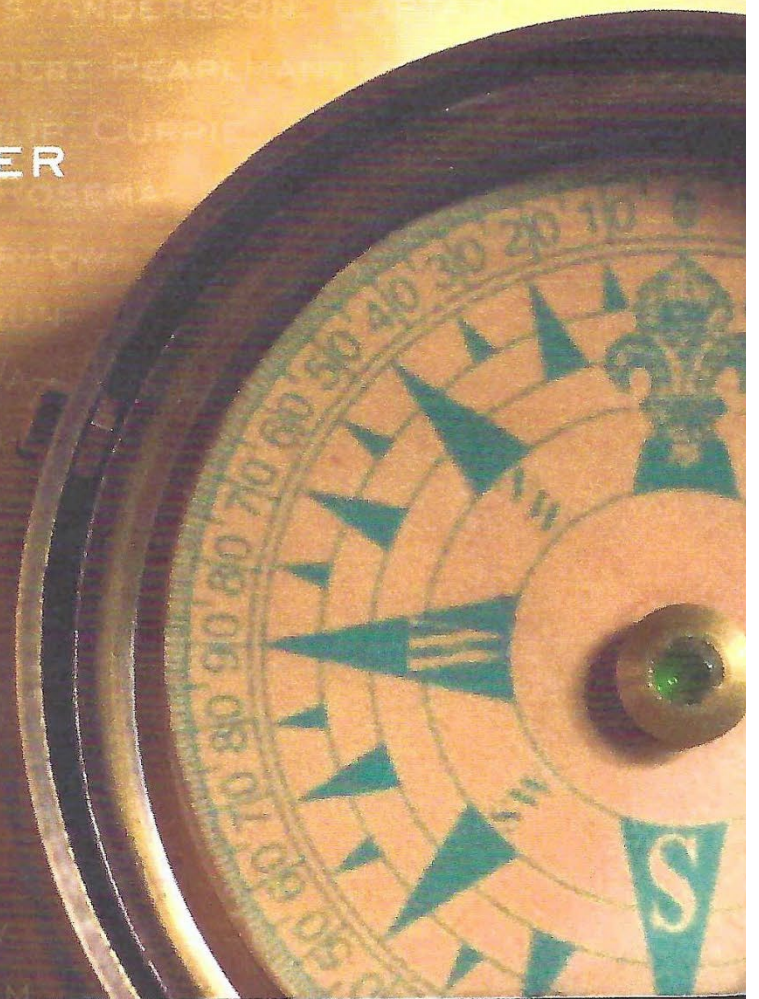
*Collected and Edited by*

**JASON SCHOONOVER**

*Foreword by*

**MEAVE LEAKEY**

*I had no idea when I had my first youthful dream of flight that it would take me all the way to the moon—but that's the power unleashed in following one's dreams. Jason Schoonover's book should be required reading in every school. —BUZZ ALDRIN*





## PAUL BERKMAN



*“Exploration is a process of discovery driven by curiosity, challenges of the unknown and a deep understanding that life is too short.”*

All dressed up and nowhere to go. PAUL BERKMAN COLLECTION

## From Warm Times to Cold Climes

I remember my first expedition to Antarctica at 22 in 1981—a year-long experience that will bubble insights for as long as I live. I had just graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a bachelor’s degree in aquatic biology when I joined a Scripps expedition. I have made nearly 200 scuba dives but none as daunting as those under the Ross Ice Shelf, with thousands of cubic kilometers of glacial ice overhead—less than 1,500 kilometers from the Pole. These dives were down a metre-wide hole that had been melted through 20 meters of ice—the deepest dives ever made through ice, as well as dives made farthest south during the austral winter. At the underside of the ice hole we discovered stones that had been buoyed off the bottom by anchor ice, which grows in super-cooled bodies of water.

During winter, it was like diving through air with nearly 200 meters of visibility except when we turned off our 1000-watt light to sense the deep darkness at the end of a tether under the sea ice far from home. Along the way, we encountered meter-tall glass sponges, standing like large Greek amphorae, covered with undulating feather stars; armadas of brittle stars; and ice fish that circulated antifreeze through their blood. One of my favorite discoveries established that the Antarctic scallop (*Adamussium colbecki*) can live in excess of a century—the longest known lifespan of any Antarctic species—in contrast to temperate or tropical scallops, which generally live only a few years!

My interest in oceanography emerged from growing up along the coast of southern California within walking distance of the beaches in Pacific Palisades. There were always small treasures in the sand, within the twisted clumps of kelp and in the rock piles that appeared after the surf was up. I still can see the small swell shark that I played with for hours when I was nine or 10 in a tide pool surrounded by sea anemone and barnacled rocks until the returning waves washed it home. This creature was my first fascination with the sea and by 12 I knew that my career was in oceanography.

From the opportunities that followed—I've been back to Antarctica eight seasons over 25 years—I have learned that it is the passion that matters most in making childhood dreams come true. Centered with the support of family, I have had the good fortune to explore the world we live in with an eye toward contributing to the sustainable development of humanity into the distant future.

PAUL BERKMAN of Columbus, Ohio, integrates science, policy and information technology as a Research Professor at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California Santa Barbara. Paul also is the CEO and co-founder of EvREsearch Ltd., which provides Digital Integration System (DIGIN®) applications around the world. His book *Science into Policy: Global Lessons from Antarctica* evolved from his winter-over expedition and the course that he began teaching in 1982 as a Visiting Professor at UCLA at the age of 24. After working in Washington, D.C., as a consultant on Antarctic affairs, he completed his M.S. and Ph.D. in Oceanography in 1986 and 1988, respectively, at the University of Rhode Island, where he was a National Science Foundation graduate fellow.

By age 30, Paul had traveled to all seven continents with subsequent fellowships from the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University; the Japanese Ministry of Science Education and Culture at the National Institute of Polar Research in Tokyo; the University of Canterbury in New Zealand; and NASA at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Paul carried Explorers Club Flag #28 on two of his Antarctic expeditions, and for the last sixteen years he has been exploring the world with his wife, Julie, and two daughters, Kathryn and Anna, who are kindred spirits.