

From: Antarctic Circle ac@rs41.org
Subject: The SouthPole-sium v.5 is cancelled
Date: May 5, 2022 at 10:49 AM
To:
Bcc:



May 5, 2022

Dear Antarctic and polar booklover,

Our Committee (Joan Boothe, Rick Dehmel, David Hirzel, Michael Rosove and myself) held our usual weekly Zoom meeting yesterday. A week ago, at our meeting on April 27th, there was unanimity expressed that we should cancel the SouthPole-sium v.5. We agreed to confirm this at our meeting yesterday with the thought that the intervening week might see some changes in the situation. There were none.

You will all be aware of some of the reasons why this cancellation has become necessary. The major one, of course, is the continuing uncertainty on traveling and gathering cast by Covid-19.

We have only 14 registered, an increase of one over the past several weeks. (See <http://www.antarctic-circle.org/gathering5-registered.htm>) Three or four have previously said they would attend but never registered.

This has been a hard decision to make. Considerable effort has been expended over past months in planning for the San Francisco gathering. The Committee has rejected the idea of proceeding in a virtual way as we did last June for SouthPole-sium 4.5. Also, re-scheduling the event to June 2023 was rejected as several of the Committee members have other commitments at that time.

Whether or not there will ever be another SouthPole-sium is an open question. The first one, in Jaffrey, New Hampshire in 2012, was planned as a "one off" event. But there was great interest in going forward with other gatherings which happened in Scotland (2015), Oslo (2017) and Dublin (2019). Attendance at these ranged from 66 in Oslo to 43 in Dublin. It would be exciting to have a gathering in Tasmania or Christchurch but this could only happen if a local committee were to rise to the occasion and do the hard work necessary.

When it looked like we might not proceed with SouthPole-sium v.5 we asked that those registering not pay the fee until later as this would make it easier administratively for all concerned. Two have, however, paid and will, of course, receive full refunds.

There is at least one registrant who is planning on coming to San Francisco if the gathering is cancelled and there may be others. If any of these have reservations at the University Club these will, to our knowledge, be honored. (Once we have more information on this we will post the information and e-mail those we know are likely to have made bookings at the Club.) If there are any questions related to this, please contact the University Club (see <http://www.antarctic-circle.org/gathering5-accommodation.htm>) or Joan Boothe who made the arrangements at the University Club (hoodooskr@aol.com). Joan kindly offered to host a reception at her home for those attending the SouthPole-sium. For those in the San Francisco area and any of those registrants who are still coming to San Francisco, perhaps Joan will offer to host an informal gathering. It won't substitute for an actual SouthPole-sium but it will be as close as we can get, for a short time at least.

We apologize to those who have made plans to come to San Francisco. We hope that you are able to cancel any transportation or accommodation arrangements.

Rob Stephenson (for the Committee)

PS: The inspiration for the original and subsequent SouthPole-siums has been the annual Shackleton Autumn School held each October Bank Holiday weekend in Athy, Ireland. The actual event has not been held in the past two years, only

held each October Bank Holiday weekend in Athy, Ireland. The actual event has not been held in the past two years, only virtually. But this October the live version will return. Historically many of the attendees at past SouthPole-siums have also been attendees at Athy. We hope many of you who were planning on coming to San Francisco in June will consider going to Athy in October. For more information, as it develops, go to <https://shackletonmuseum.com>.

PPS: I would like to thank the Committee for its assistance in planning the SouthPole-sium v.5. All pitched in from the start and worked hard to the end!

This has been sent to:

- Gordon Bain *Australia*
- Joan Boothe *USA*
- Brad Borkan *UK*
- Paul Chaplin *Norway*
- Drew Clarke *Australia*
- Alan Cooper *USA*
- Scot DeGraf *USA*
- Rick Dehmel *USA*
- Bill Fox *USA*
- Art Gertel *USA*
- Martin Greene *USA*
- Joanna Grochowicz *New Zealand*
- Bob Headland *UK*
- Tom Henderson *USA*
- David Hirzel *USA*
- Max Jones *UK*
- Richard Joss *USA*
- Laura Kay *USA*
- Bruce Larsen *USA*
- Sally Larsen *USA*
- Elizabeth Leane *Australia*
- Shane Murphy *USA*
- Joe O'Farrell *Ireland*
- Trevor Potts *UK*
- Leslie Roberts *USA*
- Michael Rosove *USA*
- Liesl Scherthanner *USA*
- Stephen Scott-Fawcett *UK*
- Tracy Sheeley *USA*
- Philip Sidney *UK*
- Peter Spielmann *USA*
- Marjory Spoerri *USA*
- Robert Stephenson *USA*
- Anne Strathie *UK*
- Seamus Taaffe *Ireland*
- Ken Thomas *USA*
- David Williams *UK*
- Isobel Williams *UK*
- Patricia Wood *UK*
- Karen Woods *UK*

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