

Santa Rosa Author to Receive Benjamin Franklin Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SANTA ROSA, CA – April 6, 2023 – Santa Rosa author Stephen W. Hinch’s book, *The Slickrock Desert*, has been named a finalist in the prestigious 35th Annual IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards™ competition, sponsored by The Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA). As one of three finalists in the category of Regional nonfiction, he will receive either a gold or silver medal award during a special dinner ceremony on May 5 in San Diego, California. See IBPA’s announcement here: www.ibpabenjaminfranklinaward.com/winners-regional.

The Slickrock Desert, published by Atenera Press, is the story of the canyon country of Southern Utah: its history, natural history, geology, paleontology, and what we know of its earliest inhabitants, told through the author’s personal explorations over the last 40 years. Steve has an unusual background for an outdoor explorer. Trained as an electrical engineer, his career includes executive management positions at Hewlett-Packard, Agilent Technologies, and TeamLogic IT, where he has managed product lines with revenues in excess of \$300 million per year. He holds three patents in telecommunications technologies, and in 1988 the international industry trade association IPC presented him with their President’s Award for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the electronics industry.

But there is another side to Steve’s background. A recognized expert in outdoor navigation, his book, *Outdoor Navigation with GPS*, now in its third edition, is a bestselling guide to the subject. He has taught courses on wilderness navigation to police and fire personnel, search-and-rescue teams, hunters, hikers, and backpackers for many years. He is also the author of *Hiking and Adventure Guide to the Sonoma Coast and Russian River*. *The Slickrock Desert* is the latest book to come from his love of the outdoors.

About the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards Program

The IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards™ program, which includes over fifty categories recognizing excellence in book editorial and design, is regarded as one of the highest national honors for independent publishers. The program is administered by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), with help from over 160 volunteer book publishing professionals including librarians, bookstore owners, reviewers, designers, publicity managers, and editors.

About Atenera Press

Founded in 1998 as Annadel Press and renamed in 2021, Atenera Press is dedicated to exploring the wonders of our natural world. To learn more, visit the Atenera Press website at www.atenera.com. A complete Media Kit for *The Slickrock Desert* can be found at www.atenera.com/mediakit.

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