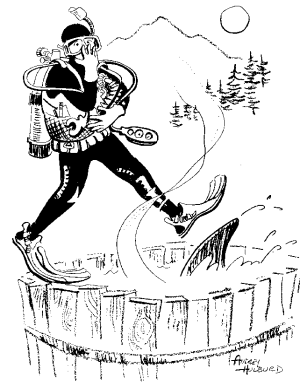


MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Number 6

June, 2009



Behind the Scenes at the Mammal Center

by Larry Clinton

Nearly two dozen MSC members and guests gathered for a preview tour of the Marine Mammal Center at Rodeo Beach on May 17. The Center, the first and largest pinniped rehab facility in the country, has recently undergone a \$35 million upgrade into all new quarters, and will open officially to the public June 15. However, thanks to some inside connections, we were able to have our own private "sneak preview."

Most of us gathered at Sausalito's Bayside Cafe for brunch and then caravanned out to the Headlands. At the Center we were met by Marie DeStefanis and Stan Jensen, two very experienced volunteer supervisors, who showed us around the buildings and the pens and pools in which sick, injured or malnourished seals and sea lions are rehabilitated so they can be returned to the wild.

The Center is chock full, with well over 100 patients. Many are below their birth weights due to a lack of food fish off the Northern California coast

We learned to tell one species from another (for instance, sea lions have visible ears, like lions, while seals do not), as well as the differences in their pupping, nursing and parenting behaviors as well as their unique health issues. We were even able to walk among the pens during a feeding, allowing the photographers in the group to get some intimate close-up shots. No future public tours will be granted this privilege.

Since then, further upgrades have been installed, including artwork, interpretive signing, and a well-stocked gift shop. So whether you joined us on the 17th or not, the Center will be well worth a visit during public hours. To learn more, go to www.marinemammalcenter.org.



Marie DeStefanis took this photo of two elephant seals which had just been released after treatment at the Marine Mammal Center.

Hot Time at Potluck

Ninety degree temperatures didn't hold down the turnout at the Club's annual Spring Potluck in May. In fact, many attendees took advantage of Barbara and Garry Sebring's pool for a refreshing dip (or two) during the festivities.

Thanks to Barb and Garry for opening their house, and for turning out round after round of goodies from their barbecue. And thanks to everyone else who brought dishes and dive stories to share. At least one new program idea emerged from the gathering, so stay tuned for further announcements.

Whale of a Show For June

Our June 17 meeting will feature perennial favorite Ken Howard, showing images from his recent travels. Expect to see images of sailfish, whale sharks, humpbacks, marine birds, Steller sea lions, manatees and manta rays. Don't miss Ken's superb images of this diverse wildlife!

Membership Roster Enclosed

Current member households will each find an updated membership roster included with this newsletter. This membership perk is an invaluable tool for networking, lining up dive buddies, and making social connections. The rosters will be available to any prospects who join the club within the next couple of months.

If you have any corrections, please e-mail them to me at click@dipsymusic.com

Seahorses Tagged

Britain's Seahorse Trust has begun tagging the elusive hippocampus, or seahorse, for the first time in an effort to find out more about the unusual creatures. According to the Daily Telegraph, little is known about Britain's two native species, the spiny and short-snouted seahorses, which are found around the south coast of England.

The tagging project is an effort to find out how endangered the marine animals are. It could also shed light on some mysteries, such as where they go during the winter months and whether they mate for life. Steve Trewalla, of the Seahorse Trust, who is recording the project, said the seahorses were easy for divers to tag, even twirling a tail around the handler's finger.

The largest population in the UK of around 40 seahorses, including pregnant males, was discovered in Studland Bay last summer. The Seahorse Trust wants further protection for seahorses in Studland Bay, due to concerns that the species may be threatened by boats in the area ripping up eelgrass which the seahorses rely on.



Who felt luckier, the deer, or the fisherman?

Better than a Flu Shot!

submitted by Sandy List

Miss Beatrice, the church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all.

One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea. As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cute glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, and in the water floated, of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat. The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist.

"Miss Beatrice," he said, "I wonder if you would tell me about this?" Pointing to the bowl.

"Oh, yes" she replied, "Isn't it wonderful? I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter?"

Taking It To the Bank

Last month, Jennifer Stock, Education and Outreach Coordinator for NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, gave a fascinating multi-media presentation on this unique underwater setting just off the Marin coast. Her enthusiasm, coupled with close-up video shot from an unmanned submersible, added up to a compelling presentation.

Try Beating This Fish Story

A young doe was picked up by a sport fisherman 1-1/2 miles offshore shortly after the fires in Southern California earlier this year. The fisherman was able to bring it on board without much of a struggle, and even to comfort it a little. He turned her loose when he got back to shore. Think her friends in the forest believed where she had been?

Killer Videos

by Larry Clinton

From time to time people send me links to interesting underwater videos, which I'll be happy to pass on. If you see any you'd like to share, send me the URLs and I'll publish them in this newsletter.

This month there are two particularly noteworthy ones:

At www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBwqbqZ3L60, you can see a penguin take some amazing evasive action to avoid a pod of hungry orcas.

On www.news24.com/News24/Technology/News/0,,2-13-1443_2523100,00.html, you'll find a startling interview with a fellow who was cage diving with great whites in South Africa when one 13-footer got stuck *inside* the cage. The article contains footage of the incident.

If you get this newsletter by e-mail, just copy and paste those URLs into your browser. If you're still stuck with the snail mail version, considering switching to e-mail with the newsletter as an easy-to read PDF file, complete with color illustrations. Just send me your e-dress, and I'll add you to the ever-growing distribution list.

Dining at the Flatiron

The Marin Scuba Club has our own waitress just to serve us at the Flatiron. If you get there before 7:00 and want to eat or drink, please go to the back dining room and identify yourself as a Marin Scuba Club member. They've promised to turn on the TVs so you won't miss your favorite game. And don't forget the happy hour pricing until 7:00!

Up until 7:00, the Board gathers in the upstairs meeting room, so you're better off getting together with other club members in the downstairs back room before then. After 7:00, come on upstairs to socialize before our program starts.

BOTTOM TIMES

June 17 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Ken Howard, From Manatees to Mantas and More. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

July 1 (Wed.): *Newsletter deadline.* See below.

July 11 (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

July 15 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Gordon Robinson: Sharks and Deep Reefs of the Bahamas. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

August 8 : (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

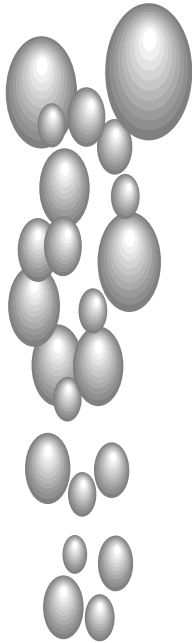
August 19 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Amos Nachoum, Big Animal Adventures. Call Jeffrey (415-898-7752).

Sept. 10-13 (Thurs.-Sun.): *Abalone campout*, Van Damme State Park, Mendocino. Call Jane (415-332-6196).

October 10: (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

Oct. 18-21 (Sun.-Wed.): *Dive Trip to Catalina Isthmus*, Banning House, Two Harbors. Call Nathan (415-479-1777).

Nov. 14 : (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).



We need articles, recipes, short notes, pictures, SCUBA funnies or whatever for future newsletters and for our website.

Website: E-mail photos with a caption and/or article and photo credits to John Brenneis (webmeister@marinscuba.org). If you do not have access to a scanner, mail photos along with captions and photo credits with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photos back. Ric's address is 1 Issaquah Dock, Sausalito, CA 94965.

Newsletter: Deadline is usually the first Wednesday of the month - two weeks before the meeting.

Send materials for future articles in one of the following ways. Note that these are listed in priority order.

1. E-mail text to Larry at click@dipsymusic.com. It's best to just send the material in the body of the e-mail and not as an attachment.
2. Send a CD to the address below. MS Word - PC format is preferred, otherwise include a note as to what the format is.
3. Fax typed manuscripts to 415-339-1361.

Pictures and Graphics - E-mail JPEG files to click@dipsymusic.com or mail CDs or hard copy to Larry Clinton, 29 Gate 6-1/2, Sausalito, CA 94965.

Marin Scuba Club
PO Box 3408
San Rafael, CA 94912



Next Meeting

Wed., June 17

Program:
Ken Howard
From Manatees to Mantas
and More

Happy Hour 6:00-7:00
Socializing: 7:00
Meeting: 7:30-9:15

New location:

The Flatiron, 724 B St,
San Rafael

MARIN SCUBA
CLUB
NEWSLETTER

The Club meets the
3rd Wednesday of each month
(**except December**)

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