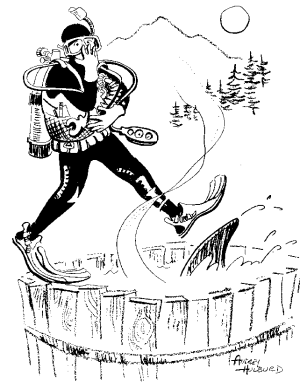


# MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

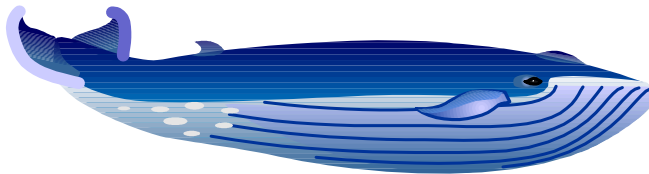
Volume 16 Number 5 May, 2009



## **Free Poolside Potluck 5/16**

The spring social season kicks into high gear on Saturday afternoon, May 16 with the Marin Scuba Club's Spring Potluck Picnic at Barbara and Garry Sebring's home in San Rafael. The club will provide main courses, wine, beer and soft drinks. Please bring your favorite appetizers, salad, side dish or dessert to share. Also, bring a swimsuit and towel if you'd like to practice your free ascents in the Sebrings' pool.

This event is free for each MSC member and one guest (space is limited). See the enclosed flyer for details, including driving directions.



## **Join Us For a Free Sneak Preview Tour of the Marine Mammal Center 5/17**

by Larry Clinton

Sausalito's Marine Mammal Center, the first and largest hospital and rehabilitation facility for seals and sea lions in the U.S., has been completely remodeled and will open to the public in June. But, the new facilities are in operation now, treating record numbers of aquatic patients. Thanks to Marie DeStefanis, a volunteer supervisor at the Center, Marin Scuba Club members and guests can take a sneak preview tour on Sunday, May 17.

Our plan is to arrive at the Center, off Rodeo Lagoon, for an orientation at 1:15, and then stay for the 2:00 PM feed. To facilitate finding the center and parking, some of us will be meeting for no-host lunch or brunch at the Bayside Cafe in Sausalito. From there we'll car pool out to the Center.

If you'd like to join us, please let me know whether you'll be gathering at the Bayside, or arriving at the Center independently. I'll need to know a week in advance to reserve a private area in the Cafe's enclosed patio overlooking the floating homes. You can reach me at [click@dipsymusic.com](mailto:click@dipsymusic.com).

## **See You at the Flatiron**

Don't forget, we're moving to the Flatiron in San Rafael starting with our May 20 meeting.

This popular sports bar is located at 724 B St (corner of 2nd) in downtown San Rafael. We'll be meeting upstairs in a quiet, private room, and will be able to order food and drinks delivered upstairs.

Come early and enjoy happy hour (4-7 PM) with \$1 off domestic beers, well drinks and house wines. The meeting will run from 7:30-9:15.

Our May 20 speaker will be Jennifer Stock, the Education and Outreach Coordinator for NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the Marin Coast. Cordell Bank is an underwater granitic mountain, and an oasis for hundreds of species of invertebrates and fishes. Foraging migratory species like albatrosses, shearwaters, humpback, and blue whales frequent these waters. Learn about this hidden mysterious environment and take a peek at what scientists see through the porthole of a submersible.

## **Reserve Now for June 12-14 Dive & Dine**

If you'd like to come to beautiful Van Damme State Park for the June Dive & Dine, please fill out the enclosed liability waiver/reservation form and mail it with a check ASAP or bring it to the May 20 meeting. Because the campout is in early June again this year, there will be no further distribution of reservation forms after May 20. We need to know how many to expect since the Club provides breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning, plus beverages throughout the weekend.

We have reserved six campsites on the sunny meadow, near bathrooms. Each campsite includes parking for two vehicles, so space is limited. Advance pre-paid reservations are a must

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-- and carpooling is highly encouraged. One campsite is also reserved for Thursday night 6/11 for any early birds who can't wait for the fun to begin.

As indicated in the enclosed flyer, Friday and Saturday night's dinners are potlucks. We hope to have a selection of abalone entrees Saturday night, so please bring side dishes, salads or desserts to share. Check the flyer for other details.

Every attendee must fill out the waiver/reservation form, even non-divers. No one will be able to attend without a signed waiver on file. You can sign up for just one night's camping or only the Saturday evening potluck, and you can bring guests. Please indicate where you'd be able to help out: shopping, transporting supplies, breakfast setup or cleanup on either Saturday or Sunday. Our biggest need is firewood. If you can provide or transport some, please let Jane Clinton know at [jkclinton@comcast.net](mailto:jkclinton@comcast.net).

Sorry, but no refunds will be made for reservations cancelled less than one week in advance.

### **Dances With Sharks**

Anybody whose business card reads Great White Shark Adventures should have some gripping stories to tell, and our April speaker, James Moskito, certainly didn't disappoint. James showed images and footage of shark dives at the Farallons, Guadalupe, Cocos and Galapagos. Find out more about these and other shark diving expeditions at [www.greatwhiteadventures.com](http://www.greatwhiteadventures.com).

### **Catalina Calling**

There are still a few spots open for our trip to the Banning House at the Isthmus of Catalina October 18-21. A deposit of \$150 per person is required to make a reservation. Bring a check to the May 20 meeting or contact Nathan Cobert at [ncobert@earthlink.net](mailto:ncobert@earthlink.net) for more information.

In addition to three days of diving, other activities include nature hikes, mountain bikes, ocean kayaks, snorkeling, and fishing.

Each of the eleven rooms is individually decorated and has a private bath. There is also a trellised courtyard where you can sip a cool drink and view the California mainland on the horizon.

Price is projected at \$700-\$800 per person including air fare, accommodations and breakfasts, the ferry to Catalina and diving on the West End Dive Center boat. Or, you can drive down and meet the ferry.

## **Where Have all the Grouper Gone?**

Sharks, barracuda and other large predatory fishes disappear from Caribbean coral reefs as human populations rise, endangering the region's marine food web and ultimately its reefs and fisheries, according to a study by researcher Chris Stallings of The Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory.

"I examined 20 species of predators, including sharks, groupers, snappers, jacks, trumpetfish and barracuda, from 22 Caribbean nations," said Stallings. "I found that nations with more people have reefs with far fewer large fish because as the number of people increases, so does demand for seafood. Fishermen typically go after the biggest fish first, but shift to smaller species once the bigger ones become depleted. In some areas with large human populations, my study revealed that only a few small predatory fish remain."

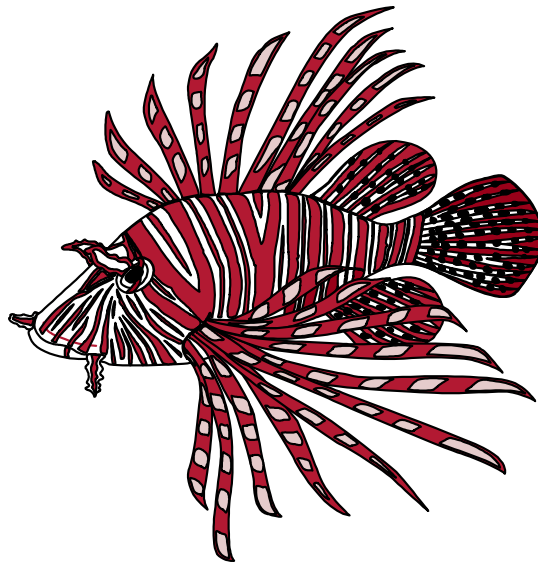
Stallings said that although several factors - including loss of coral reef habitats - contributed to the general patterns, careful examination of the data suggests overfishing as the most likely reason for the disappearance of large predatory fishes across the region. He pointed to the Nassau grouper as a prime example. Once abundant throughout the Caribbean, Nassau grouper have virtually disappeared from many Caribbean nearshore areas and are endangered throughout their range.

"Large predatory fish such as groupers and sharks are vitally important in marine food webs," Stallings said. "However, pre-

dicting the consequence of their loss is difficult because of the complexity of predator-prey interactions. You can't replace a 10-foot shark with a one-foot grouper and expect there to be no effect on reef communities. Shifts in abundance to smaller predators could therefore have surprising and unanticipated effects. One such effect may be the ability of non-native species to invade Caribbean reefs."

A case in point, said Stallings, is the ongoing invasion by Pacific lionfish, which were introduced by aquarium releases.

About half the world's growing population lives near coastlines, so demand for ocean-derived protein will continue to increase, Stallings warned. He said meeting such demands while retaining healthy coral reefs may require multiple strategies, including implementation of marine reserves, finding alternative sources of protein, and increased efforts to implement family-planning strategies in densely populated areas.



# BOTTOM TIMES

**May 16 (Sat.):** Spring Potluck at Barbara and Garry Sebring's home, San Rafael. See enclosed flyer for details. Call Barbara (415-499-0799).

**May 17 (Sun.):** *Sneak Preview of Marine Mammal Center.* Meet at Bayside Cafe, Sausalito, at 11:30 AM. Contact Larry (click@dipsymusic.com).

**May 20 (Wed.):** Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting, 7:30* at the Flatiron, 724 B St, San Rafael. Jennifer Stock, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

**May 30-31 (Sat.-Sun.):** *SCUBA Show and film festival*, Long Beach Convention Center. Discount tickets at May 20 meeting. Check 310-792-2333 or www.scubashow.com for details.

**June 3 (Wed.):** *Newsletter deadline.* E-mail submissions to click@dipsymusic.com.

**June 11-14 (Thurs.-Sun.):** *Spring Dive & Dine*, Van Damme State Park, Mendocino. See enclosed flyer and signup sheet. Call Jane (415-332-6196).

**June 13: (Sat.):** *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

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

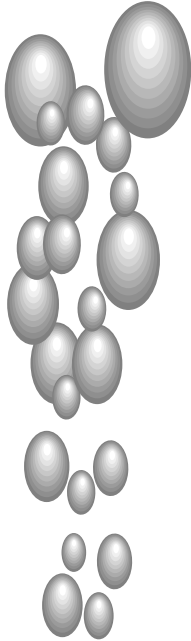
**July 11 (Sat.):** *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

**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 9-11 (Sun.-Tues.):** *Peace Liveaboard* to Southern Channel Islands. Individual berths available. Contact Pierre at sfreefdiver@comcast.net

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

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



**Marin Scuba Club**  
**PO Box 3408**  
**San Rafael, CA 94912**



*Next Meeting*

**Wed., May 20**

**Program:**

**Jennifer Stock**

**Cordell Bank**

**National Marine Sanctuary**

**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  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
(**except December**)

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**Marin Scuba Club**

**Board of Directors**

***www.marincluba.org***

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