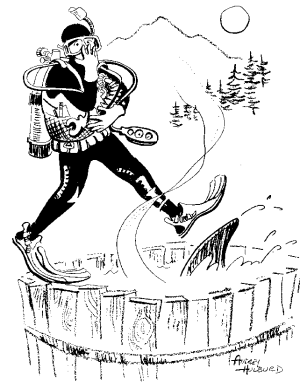


# MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 Number 3 March, 2010



## Are Your Dues Overdue?

If there's a membership application and liability waiver included with this newsletter, we still haven't received your 2010 dues. To renew, please fill out the paperwork and return it with your check (\$42 for individuals, \$66 for couples at the same address). Even for renewals, we still need a fresh signed, dated and witnessed application and waiver. Couples should photocopy the 2-sided liability waiver and fill it out individually -- non-divers, too!

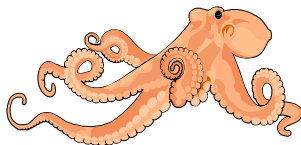
Bring everything to the March 17 meeting, or mail it to the address on the application. Don't wait -- your next newsletter could be your last, and it might be personally delivered by our new Membership Chair: Guido.

## Octosmarts

Three recent videos show that octopuses are even brainier and more adaptable than anyone knew. Australian scientists studying octopuses in Sulawesi and Bali discovered that they use coconut shells as disguises and for protection. The researchers filmed 20 veined octopuses crawling across the ocean floor with two coconut shell halves, nearly twice as big as their bodies, suctioned to their undersides. Then the octopuses stopped to re-assemble the coconuts and hide themselves within. See the silent footage at: <http://news.ninensn.com.au/national/983859/octopuses-using-coconut-shells-as-tools>.

David Gallo director of special projects at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, shows jaw-dropping footage of amazing sea creatures, including a color-shifting cuttlefish and a perfectly camouflaged octopus, at [www.ted.com/talks/david\\_gallo\\_shows\\_underwater\\_astonishments.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/david_gallo_shows_underwater_astonishments.html). Watch it to the end!

When spiny dogfish sharks began turning up dead in the



## Shark Attacks Suffer During Recession

Noting that "the number of shark attacks in the United States dropped dramatically from 41 in 2008 to 28 in 2009," George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File in Gainesville, FL indicated that the downtrend -- like so many others -- may be due to the economy.

Burgess said the rate of attacks is dictated by the number of sharks and people in the same waters, and yearly variations are common. A possibility for the decline of assaults in American waters might be due to the recession reducing the number of beach-going bathers, Burgess said. "Florida's population hasn't gone down, so I suppose the economy could have had an effect on how many times people can afford to put gas in their cars and go to the beach... Considering there were 50 attacks in 2007, we may have a bit of a trend, but only time will tell," he added.

As if to prove that all the sharks aren't on Wall Street, or vacationing in Florida, Burgess noted that attacks worldwide edged up from 60 in 2008 to 61 in 2009.

Perhaps more telling than the annual figures is the number of shark attacks in a 10-year period, which rose to unprecedented levels between 2000 and 2010, Burgess said. That increase "continues a 100-year trend of each decade having more attacks than the previous one, the result of increases in human population and the amount of time spent in recreational activity."

Conversely, fatality rates have sharply declined. At the beginning of the 20th century, 60 percent of all shark attacks were fatal, compared with only 7 percent between 2000 and 2010, he said. Worldwide last year, victims died in five attacks, compared with four the previous year. The United States led the world with 28 attacks, followed by Australia, 20, and South Africa, six.

"The number of people who died relative to the number of attacks was so high at the beginning of the 20th century in large part because of poor at-the-scene care, no lifeguards and obviously a much more rudimentary ability of medical

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Seattle aquarium, staffers stayed up all night to catch the culprit in the act. Turns out a giant Pacific octopus, usually prey for sharks, was turning the tables on the predators. Catch the action at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9A-oxUMAy8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9A-oxUMAy8). But there's a caveat: according to the Seattle Times, the video was made after the fact, and the shark was "herded" toward the octopus by filmmakers. Still, the video has gone "viral" on YouTube, scoring over 5 million viewings.

If you received this newsletter by e-mail, just copy and paste any of these links into your Internet browser. If you're still getting it by mail, this is another good reason to switch, by sending an e-mail to [click@dipsymusic.com](mailto:click@dipsymusic.com).

### **"Dead Zones" Spreading in the Oceans**

Lower levels of oxygen in the Earth's oceans could be another sign of fundamental changes linked to global climate change. NOAA scientists warn that the oceans' complex undersea ecosystems and fragile food chains could be disrupted.

In some spots off Washington and Oregon, the almost complete absence of oxygen has left piles of Dungeness crab carcasses littering the ocean floor, killed off 25-year-old sea stars, crippled colonies of sea anemones and produced mats of potentially noxious bacteria that thrive in such conditions.

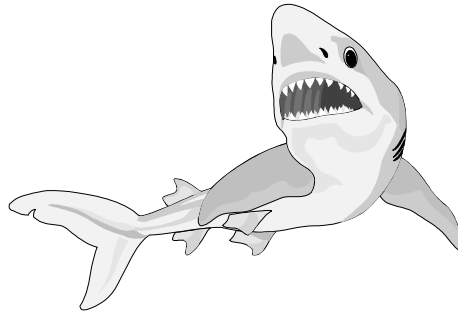
Areas of hypoxia, or low oxygen, have long existed in the deep ocean. These areas — in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans — appear to be spreading, however, covering more square miles, creeping toward the surface and in some places, encroaching on the continental shelf within sight of the coastline. Off Southern California, oxygen levels have dropped roughly 20 percent over the past 25 years. Elsewhere, scientists say, oxygen levels might have declined by one-third over 50 years.

During the summer, northerly winds aided by the Earth's rotation drive surface water away from the shore. This action sucks deeper water to the surface in the process called upwelling. Though the water from the depths is oxygen-poor, it's rich in nutrients, which fertilize phytoplankton. Southerly winds reverse the process in what's known as down-welling. Changes in the wind and ocean circulation since 2002 have disrupted what had been a delicate balance between upwelling and down-welling.

"It is consistent with models of global warming, but the time frame is too short to know whether it is a trend or a weather phenomenon," says Gregory Johnson, a NOAA oceanographer.

science to save severe trauma victims," he said.

In the United States last year, there were 19 attacks in Florida, four in California, three in Hawaii and one each in Texas and Georgia. "More than half the attacks — 33 out of 61 — were surfers and this continues a trend that we've been seeing for quite awhile," Burgess said. Swimmers were the second largest group of victims, accounting for 10 of the attacks. The remaining incidents involved scuba diving, spear fishing, and a myriad of other water sports.



### **March 17 Meeting: Plan Ahead**

Be sure to join us on March 17 for "Dominica, Fiji and Beyond" by Virginia Bria, Bella Sirena Images. If you've seen Virginia's work before, you know you're in for a beautiful presentation. For a sneak preview, go to [www.bellasirenaimages.com](http://www.bellasirenaimages.com). March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, and the Flatiron should be quite crowded. MSC members should plan to eat upstairs. Special of the Day will be corned beef & cabbage for \$7, so wear something green and join us!

### **Listening to the Ocean**

At our February 17 meeting Michael Stocker, executive director of Ocean Conservation Research, demonstrated how creatures of the sea, from blue whales to shrimp, communicate with sounds. He also demonstrated the growing problem of human generated noise pollution and its impact on marine animals. Check [www.ocr.org](http://www.ocr.org) to find out more about Ocean Conservation Research.

### **Dive & Dine June 10-13**

Our Spring Dive & Dine is scheduled for the group campsite at Russian Gulch State Park from Thursday, June 10 through Sunday, June 13. The Club will provide breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings, and drinks Saturday night. The Saturday dinner will be a potluck, with abalone as the main course, conditions permitting.

The cost will be \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members for the full weekend. Those coming just for the Saturday potluck will be charged \$15 per person. Look for sign-up sheets at the March 17 meeting and in upcoming newsletters.

# BOTTOM TIMES

**Mar. 17 (Wed., St. Patrick's Day):** Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Virginia Bria, Bella Sirena Images, presents "Dominica, Fiji and Beyond." Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

**Apr. 7 (Wed.):** *Newsletter deadline.* See below.

**Apr. 30-May 1 (Fri.-Sat.):** *Annual Bay Area Dive Show*, Santa Clara Convention Center. Free tickets at [www.divechronicles.com/Bay](http://www.divechronicles.com/Bay).

**Apr. 21 (Wed.):** Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Journalist Lindsey Hoshaw: "Voyage to the North Pacific Garbage Patch" with the Algalita Maine Research Foundation. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

**May 15-16 (Sat.-Sun.):** *SCUBA Show and film festival*, Long Beach Convention Center. For more information, call (310) 792-2333 or visit [www.scubashow.com](http://www.scubashow.com).

**May 12 (Wed.):** Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Program TBA. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

**June 10-13 (Thurs.-Sun.):** *Spring Dive & Dine*, group campsite, Russian Gulch State Park, Mendocino. Call Jane (415-332-6196).

**June 16 (Wed.):** Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Program TBA. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

**Sept. 10-12 (Fri.-Sat.):** *Fall Ab Campout*, Van Damme St. Park. Call Jane (415-332-6196).



***We Need Your Help!***

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:click@dipsymusic.com) or mail CDs or hard copy to Larry Clinton, 29 Gate 6-1/2, Sausalito, CA 94965.

**Marin Scuba Club**  
**78 Edward Ave.**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**



*Next Meeting*

**Wed., April 21**

**Program:**

**Lindsey Hoshaw:**  
**“Voyage to the**  
**North Pacific**  
**Garbage Patch”**

**Happy Hour 6:00-7:00**

**Socializing: 7:00**

**Meeting: 7:30-9:15**

**The Flatiron, 724 B St,**  
**San Rafael**

**MARIN SCUBA**  
**CLUB**  
**NEWSLETTER**

The Club meets the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
(except Oct. & December, 2009)

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**Board of Directors**  
*www.marinclub.org*

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