

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2020

April Meeting: Bill Keener, The Marine Mammal Center – “Whales and Porpoises” **(CANCELED)**

Research Associate Bill Keener is part of a team of scientists who want to increase solutions-focused studies on whales, dolphins and porpoises in the S.F. Bay Area. **(NOTE: THIS MEETING HAS NOW BEEN CANCELED.)**



Whales continue to make our bay a permanent stop on their annual migration.

The Marine Mammal Center is providing a home for the local nonprofit formerly known as Golden Gate Cetacean Research.

Bill Keener has joined Dr. Tim Markowitz, Cetacean Field Research Coordinator, Izzy Szczepaniak and Marc Webber, his fellow Research Associates at GGCR, to focus on three initiatives:

- **The Humpback Whale Project** collects data on the risk of ship strikes;
- **The Harbor Porpoise Project** continues a multi-year assessment to document this population's abundance and distribution;
- **The Bottlenose Dolphin Project** extends a collaboration with researchers along the California coast to track and study their use of habitat in San Francisco Bay.
- **And Gray Whales of San Francisco Bay** suffering from malnutrition.

See page 2 for more TMMC News.

RENEW NOW! RATES HAVE GONE UP! We've Raised Membership Fees to Accommodate Rising Costs

Effective 01/01/20, our annual fee for an individual membership went up 20% for both individual and couples living at the same residence.



MSC membership is a great value.

About 75% of members have renewed, so if you haven't, you'll pay a \$10 late fee: it now costs \$60 for an individual membership and \$89 for a couple.

The fastest way to renew your membership or join MSC is to complete our interactive online form: <https://tinyurl.com/wo23hoo>. You can also request a new / renewing membership form from Julie Finley: membership@marinclub.org

Beachhopper II Diving, March 6-7-8 by Barb Wambach

Five members of Marin Scuba Club enjoyed a weekend of diving Monterey on the Beachhopper II, March 6/7/8. While the weather forecast was iffy, we lucked out with beautiful sunny skies and only a few showers Saturday afternoon. Visibility varied between 20-30 feet, fine for Monterey.

See page 2 for more Beachhopper II News.

Bill Keener & TMMC (Continued)

As whales continue to make San Francisco Bay a permanent stop on their annual migration, it is imperative we support these research projects.

Our club meeting will run from 7:15 – 8:45pm on Wednesday, 4/15 at Book Passage to hear about Bill's research. **(THIS HAS BEEN CANCELED!)**

This three-year, essential project to protect these gentle giants from human impacts will cost more than \$500,000. Please [make a donation today](#).

March Presentation Recap: Adam Ratner, Marine Mammal Center

Because of the coronavirus mandate to Shelter in Place, we had to cancel our March meeting. However, we invite Adam to reschedule when we are back to our normal lives.

Diving With The Oldies By Gil Zeimer

Did you hear the story about the older SCUBA diver who put on his wetsuit backwards, misplaced his camera in a BC and kept fogging up his mask? That would be me, myself and I.

While on a dive trip with 9 other senior members of MSC to [Little Cayman Beach Resort](#), we overcame a few issues and thoroughly enjoyed our experiences. Collectively, we completed 170 dives despite wearing prescription masks, having a few equipment problems, and dealing with other underwater senior moments. Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/rs5u2jf>



What's not to enjoy with 80° water & 100-ft vis?

Beachhopper II (Continued)

On Saturday, March 7th, Barb and Virginia hosted brunch at 4pm, then Ken Carter led an almost full moon night dive at Breakwater.



We started our dive just before dark. There were lots of fun small critters including a variety of crabs, small octopi, and nudibranchs. On the return, we were bombarded by a group of novice divers heading out. As I was leading the compass navigation, I did it the Barb-way, navigating our group around the crowd. Though I left my buddies behind, we all survived, getting back to shore from 25-ft depth.

Big thanks to Virginia for her amazing photos, Ken for leading our night dive, Niles for both joining the fun and keeping us safe, and Jeffrey for joining on Saturday. Watch Niles' video: <https://vimeo.com/401044912>

These were early days of coronavirus. Everything was normal on Friday, March 6th. But by Saturday March 7th, no masks could be cleaned in a shared water bucket. Diving is now closed.



Cold but smiling after a dip in Monterey Bay.

BOTTOM TIMES

NOTE: OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS AND DIVE TRIPS ARE TENTATIVELY ON HOLD. WE WILL DECIDE TO MEET OR CANCEL ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE EACH MEETING AND FURTHER IN ADVANCE FOR EACH DIVE TRIP.

April 15 (Wed): Guest speaker Bill Keener, Research Associate, The Marine Mammal Center: "Whales and Porpoises". Formerly with the Golden Gate Cetacean Research Center, Bill is now working on a Cetacean Field Research Program to support the extensions of protections in S.F. Bay for the Humpback Whale Project, the Harbor Porpoise Project, the Bottlenose Dolphin Project and Gray Whales. Club Meeting: **THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELED TO SHELTER IN PLACE.**

THIS TRIP HAS BEEN MOVED TO 2021. FOR MORE INFORMATION: relations@marinclub.org

May 8-17: Philippines Dive. Join Ellen Sakoloff at the land-based El Galleon Dive Resort in Puerto Galera for 9 nights. Boats depart 4x/day for dive sites. [Contact Ellen](#) for details or call her.

May 20 (Wed): Guest speaker Michael Scott, Seacology's Island Conservation Program. Michael will present an overview of Seacology's history, conservation approach, current projects, and future outlook in 61 countries since 1991. Club Meeting: Book Passage, 7:15 – 8:45 pm. Free for members; \$5 for non-members.

June 17 (Wed): Guest speaker and presentation: TBD. Club Meeting: Book Passage, 7:15 – 8:45 pm. Free for members; \$5 for non-members.

June 20 (Sat): Spring/Summer Social at Jeffrey & Simma's lovely farm home for a pot luck vegetarian gathering. Contact: blwambach@comcast.net

July 15 (Wed): Guest speaker Sal Zammitti, Bamboo Reef, San Francisco. Club Meeting: Book Passage, 7:15 – 8:45 pm. Free for members; \$5 for non-members.

July 17-19 (Fri-Sat-Sun): Tahoe Dive & Camp: Join Ken for this annual fun weekend to dive the Rubicon Wall, camp, hike, bike, and more activities. Contact: Ken@kennethcarter.com

Aug 19 (Wed): Guest speaker and presentation: TBD. Club Meeting: Book Passage, 7:15 – 8:45 pm. Free for members; \$5 for non-members.

Aug 21/22/23 (Fri-Sat-Sun): Annual Dive & Dine, Ocean Cove – Save The Date. The club has reserved group campsite #3 again with stunning views. Sign-up in June: blwambach@comcast.net

NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON THIS TRIP BEING PUSHED BACK AT THIS TIME.

Nov 7-15: 20 MSC members are leaving for Cabo Pulmo for 5 nights / 4 days of 2-tank dives on November 7th for \$863 - \$916 per person double occupancy. Some members will extend the trip for 3 nights in La Paz to snorkel with whale sharks, scuba dive or just relax. This trip is now waitlist only. Contact: blwambach@comcast.net

We promote safe diving. Remember to always plan your dive based on the conditions, be aware of your skills and equipment, and, above all, always stay with your buddy.

Marin Scuba Club
28 Marinero Circle, #30
Tiburon, CA 94920



Next Meeting:
Wednesday, April 15:
Bill Keener, The
Marine Mammal Center,
"Whales & Porpoises"
**(THIS MEETING HAS
BE CANCELED)**

Book Passage
51 Tamal Vista Blvd.
Corte Madera

**REMEMBER TO RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP.
RATES WENT UP
ON 4/1/20.**

Marin Scuba Club

The Club meets the
3rd Wednesday
each month
(except December
— no meeting)

**Marin Scuba Club
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<http://www.marinscubaclub.org>

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John Lewis, Vice Chair vchair@marinscubaclub.org

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Marc Paris treasurer@marinscubaclub.org

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Lisa Kuhn secretary@marinscubaclub.org

Membership Coordinator

Julie Finley membership@marinscubaclub.org

Member Relations

Ellen Sakoloff relations@marinscubaclub.org

Newsletter Editor/Publicity/Webmaster

Gil Zeimer newsletter@marinscubaclub.org

Activities Coordinators

Barbara Wambach activities@marinscubaclub.org

Niles Szwed activities3@marinscubaclub.org

Program Coordinators

Virginia Bria program@marinscubaclub.org

Bryan Eckert program2@marinscubaclub.org

Special Program Coordinator

Kenneth R. Carter kc@marinscubaclub.org