

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2022

February 9th Meeting: Nirupam Nigam – “Photographing Northwestern Giants and Critters, From GPOs to Wolf Eels to Warbonnets”

Our in-person and Zoom February hybrid meeting will feature Nirupam Nigam, a dedicated underwater photographer and fisheries scientist.



Nirupam is a zealous photographer.

He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Underwater Photography Guide and the Marketing Director at Bluewater Photo.

While growing up in Los Angeles, he fell in love with the ocean and pursued underwater photography in the local Channel Islands.

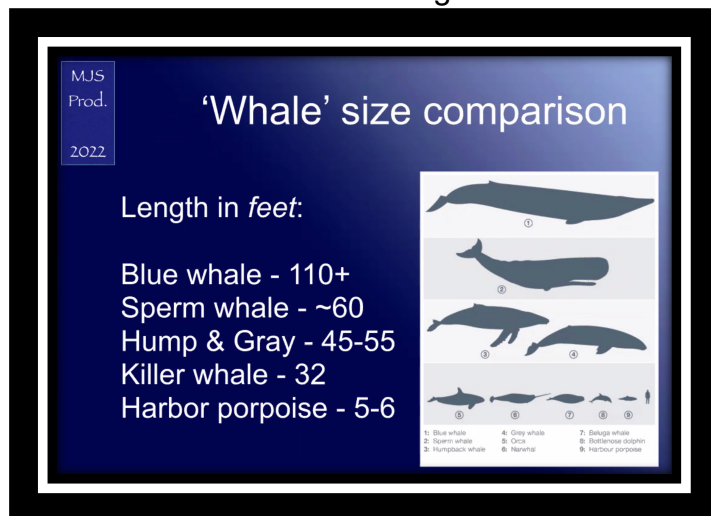
Nirupam received degrees in Aquatic and Fisheries Science and General Biology, at the University of Washington, and has collected fisheries data on vessels in the Bering Sea and North Pacific for NOAA.

Check out his work at photosfromthesea.com, his reviews at uwphotographyguide.com, as well as the world's leading source of photo and video gear, advice, education, and dive travel at bluewaterphotostore.com.

Please join us for his presentation on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:00pm PT.

January Meeting Recap: Mary Jane Schramm, Naturalist, Author, and Columnist – “Love Among The Leviathans”

As a human encyclopedia of cetaceans along the California coast sanctuaries, Mary Jane intrigued us with facts about “The Mating Game”.



Blue whales are 20x larger than porpoises.

Her photos and anecdotes of “Sex in The Sea” for air-breathing mammals included what whales look for in females, why females choose their mates wisely for good DNA and compatibility, and how males must outcompete others to woo females.

Whales mostly stick to their own species, are selective, are aware of predators, favor certain positions, and hold their breath during sex.

If you think you've had difficult long-distance relationships, you're not alone. Cetacean mating may involve commutes of up to 10,000 miles round-trip for blue whales and humpbacks, or up to 12,000 miles round-trip for gray whales.

Want to see whales live? Go whale watching right now at high point promontories like Point Reyes National Seashore, Fort Funston, and the Sausalito Headlands, as well as tours by the American Cetacean Society (SF Bay Area chapter).

An Interview With Past Speaker: Erena Shimoda, Underwater Healer

This photographer, who we met at a trade show in 2019, was just interviewed by journalist Pendarvis Harshaw.

“Rightnowish” is a weekly podcast on KQED that “digs into life in the Bay Area right now... ish.” They talk to movers and shakers about how living here shapes what they create and how they shape the place that we all call home.

Listen to this podcast here with a transcript and images of survivors by Erena:

<https://www.kqed.org/arts/13908113/rightnowish-erena-shimoda-underwater-photography>



*A breast cancer survivor,
photo courtesy of Erena Shimoda*

Erena is also offering underwater photo sessions at an indoor heated pool (92° F.) in a Pacifica SCUBA shop. She encourages everyone to jump in the water this year. [Contact her via email.](#)

A Rare Pristine Coral Reef Discovered in Tahiti

They call it the “Twilight Zone”. It’s a huge, pristine coral reef that stretches across the ocean floor at depths of 100 feet or deeper and for nearly two miles off the coast of Tahiti.

Because sunlight levels are lower down there, and because of coral bleaching at shallower depths nearby, scientists from the UNESCO-led mission just can’t believe that it exists.

But it does. “It was magical to witness giant, beautiful rose corals which stretch as far as the eye can see,” said Alexis Rosenfeld, a French underwater photographer who helped make the discovery.



Photo by Alexis Rosenfeld

And it offers hope that more reefs like this are waiting to be discovered around the world. After all, most of the known coral reefs exist at shallower depths, typically less than 80 feet.

Renew Your Membership Now. We’re Going Back to Pre-COVID Rates.

Annual renewals for your membership are due by February 28, 2022: \$50 for singles and \$79 for couples. **Avoid a \$10 late fee by renewing prior to March 1.**

Download a form here: <https://marinscubaclub.org/membership/>

If you want to join MSC, you can download a membership form here:

<https://marinscubaclub.org/membership/new-membership/>

Renew online now or contact Julie Finley for a form.

BOTTOM TIMES

February 9 (Wed): Speaker – Nirupam Nigam, “Photographing Northwestern Giants and Critters — From GPOs to Wolf Eels to Warbonnets.” Hybrid/Zoom Club Meeting, 7:00-8:45pm.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7983463827?pwd=UGEREJ4VFoycmZRZ2lPWnM5NGp6dz09>

Meeting ID: 798 346 3827

Passcode: 755205

Winter Mexico Dive Trip: Ellen Sakoloff and Jeffrey Zankel are looking forward to a **week of diving in Cozumel** in February or March. Dates are flexible. If you would like to join them, RSVP [Ellen Sakoloff](#).

February Monterey Diving: Barb has booked the Beachhopper II for Fri/Sat, Feb 11/12 and Fri/Sat, Feb 18/19. She could add a Sunday with a minimum of 4 divers and some shore diving. Contact [Barb Wambach](#) if you would like to join her.

March 9 (Wed): Speaker – Hannes Klosterman, “Underwater Photography: Sea of Cortez”. Club Meeting, 7:00-8:45pm.

April 7-10: 19th Annual International Ocean Film Festival, live at Cowell Theatre, San Francisco; and April 11-24: virtual screenings. For more info, visit <https://intloceanfilmfest.org/>

April 13 (Wed): Speaker – Mark Palmer, “Whither Whales? History & Current Status of Whaling”, Earth Island Institute and Director of Intermediate Marine Mammal Project. Club Meeting, 7:00-8:45pm.

May 6-15: Philippines El Galleon Dive Resort in Puerto Galera. Join Ellen at this land-based resort for 9 nights. Boats depart 4 times daily for a short run to dive sites. Breakfast is included; airfare and transfers are not. Other fees: 5% charge for credit cards, \$16 daily for rental gear; \$66 per week for Nitrox, extra charge for Verde Island dive. **THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL AND THERE WILL BE A WAITING LIST**. Contact Ellen Sakoloff for details: relations@marinclub.org

May 10-16: Big Sur Dive Trip. Join Barb for a Channel Islands Expeditions “Vision liveaboard” that departs Monterey on May 10th, then returns to Morro Bay on May 16th with an included shuttle back to Monterey. Four+ days of diving. Contact [Barb Wambach](#) for details.

Summer Dive ‘N Dine: The MSC is hoping to secure Russian Gulch group campsite between mid-August and early September. We can only book this six months out, so please stay tuned for details and we will confirm the venue by early March.

Summer Tahoe Dive: Emerald Bay. Join [Ken Carter](#) for some biking, hiking, and high-altitude diving in Lake Tahoe. The campsite needs to be booked urgently for July so let him know if you can join, ASAP.

Oct 18 – Nov 1: Kona, Hawaii Dive Trip. Let Barb know if you can join her for part or all of a two-week Kona trip in late October. She’s planning on staying at the Kona Reef Condos and dive with a few different operators. Contact [Barb Wambach](#) for details. Mahalo.

The Marin Scuba Club promotes 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:
February 9 (Wed): Speaker
– Nirupam Nigam,
“Photographing
Northwestern Giants and
Critters: From GPOs to
Wolf Eels to Warbonnets”

**(In-Person & Zoom
Hybrid Meeting:
Sausalito Parks & Rec
Center, Edgewater Room,
420 Litho Street,
Sausalito.)**

**The Club now meets on
the 2nd Wednesday
each month.**

Marin Scuba Club: Board of Directors
<http://www.marinscubaclub.org>

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