

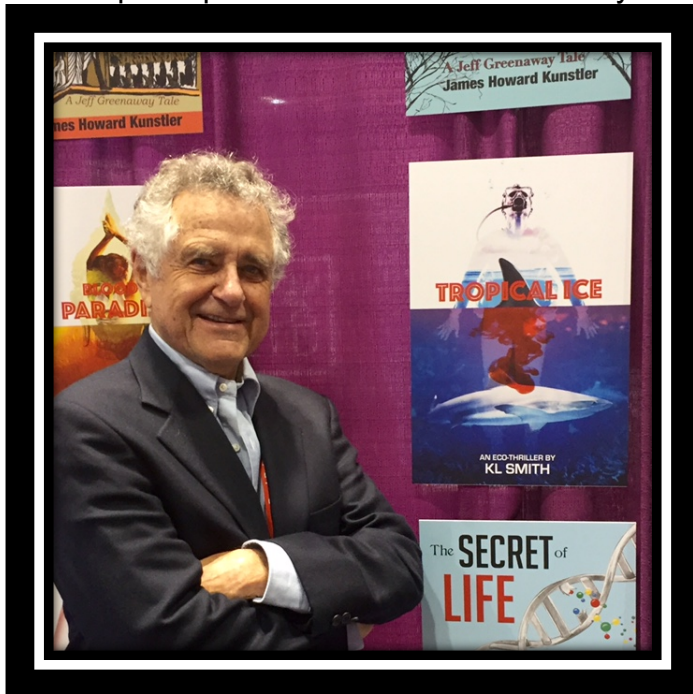
MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 6

JUNE 2020

June 17th Meeting: Ken Smith, Founder of *Undercurrent* (ZOOM ONLINE MEETING)

Ken Smith (AKA “Ben Davison”) is an industry icon. His presentation is titled: “Why *Undercurrent* is the most despised publication in the dive industry.”



Ken is the author of the “Tropical Ice” u/w thriller.

Mr. Smith Went to Washington

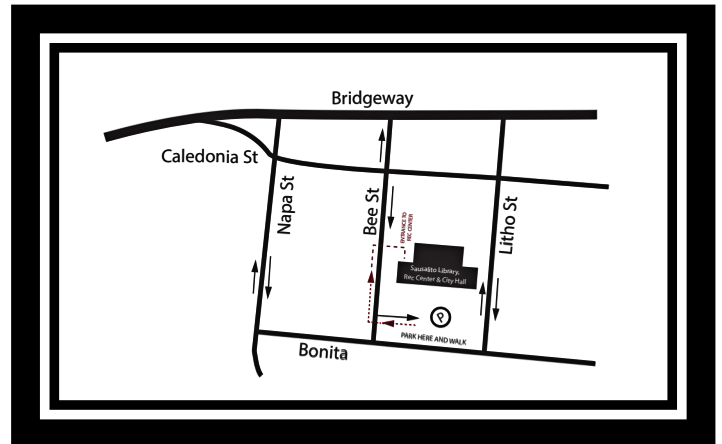
Ken began his career at NASA and then the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C. Later, he was a partner in a Virginia management consulting firm, Craver, Mathews, Smith, with a specialty in fundraising and direct marketing management. Their West Coast office evolved into a new firm, Dodd Smith Dann.

As a partner and creative director, his clients included Greenpeace, the Coral Reef Alliance, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the African Wildlife Foundation, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Sierra Club, Barbara Boxer for Senate, the Social Democratic Party in the U.K., and dozens of public television and radio stations, including KQED.

See page 2 for more MSC News.

New Venue Starting in August: Sausalito Park & Rec Center on the 2nd Wednesday Each Month

As reported last month, we have enjoyed supporting Book Passage, but we have found a new home for our monthly meetings – if the Shelter-in-Place mandate has been lifted by then.



Address is 420 Litho Street, but entrance and parking can both be accessed on Bee Street. A larger map is on our website.

Starting in August, we'll meet at the Sausalito Park & Rec Center at 420 Litho Street.

However, the entrance and a parking lot are on Bee Street between Caledonia and Bonita. (NOTE: Bee is a one-way street only between Caledonia and Bridgeway, but two-ways from Caledonia to Bonita).

Directions: From the parking lot, walk down Bee Street and enter at the Rec Center entrance on the lower level.

Our meetings will be held in the Edgewater Room in August and October; and the Game Room for September and November.

NOTE: These will be on the 2nd Wednesday each month starting in August, no longer the 3rd Wednesday!

See page 2 for more MSC News.

More About Ken Smith

Ken currently provides pro bono fundraising and funding management of \$5 million annually for two U.S. foundations working to stop elephant poaching in nine African nations, plus pro bono consulting to the Marine Mammal Center, the International Court Court for the Environment Coalition, and others.

He founded *Undercurrent*, the consumer guide for serious scuba divers in 1975; Ken still publishes and edits it under the nom de plume "Ben Davison".

Ken has earned a Basic Certification and has logged about 1,000 dives. His articles have appeared in *Outside Magazine*, *Men's Journal*, *Skin Diver*, and *Adventure Travel*. His novel, *Tropical Ice*, an environmental thriller based loosely on Captain Don, the founder of Bonaire diving, which he "discovered" on a sailing voyage that began in Sausalito. It was published by Water Street Press in March 2017.

He generously offers MSC Members a subscription to *Undercurrent* as part of our membership.

Other Interesting Stuff About Ken

Ken was a founding board member of Continental Savings and Loan Association in S.F., a board member of The Marine Mammal Center, the Milo Foundation, and the Mountain Play.

Finally, he holds a B.A. in Mathematics from the Univ of Washington, an M.A. in Government from George Washington University, and a D.P.A. (Doctorate in Public Administration) from the University of Southern California.

He has taught graduate courses at several universities.

By the way, his wife, Lucia Christopher, once a PADI instructor, certified Elliott Zalta in Maui.

For this MSC June Zoom Meeting, which will start at 7:00 on Wednesday, June 17th, BOD Chair Barb Wambach will advise online protocol.

The Club expects approximately 50 members to participate in our first Zoom Meeting since we can't yet meet elbow-to-elbow.

RENEW NOW!

We've Raised Membership Fees to Accommodate Rising Costs

Marin Scuba Club will reduce 2021 membership fees for all who have not renewed yet during 2020. The rebate will be based on the number of months that we are closed for meetings: with four closed meetings to date (March, April and May), that is a 36% rebate in 2021.



MSC membership is a great value.

About 75% of members have renewed. It now costs \$60 for an individual membership and \$89 for a couple.

The fastest way to renew 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

Ken Smith will give copies of *Tropical Ice* to the first 5 people who email him that they are willing to donate \$25 or more to www.SharkStewards.org.

Email Ken today at: bendavison@undercurrent.org

BOTTOM TIMES

WE WILL DECIDE TO MEET OR CANCEL ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE EACH MONTHLY MEETING, OR WILL PROVIDE FURTHER IN ADVANCE FOR EACH DIVE TRIP.

June 17 (Wed): Ken Smith, Founder of *Undercurrent*, “Why *Undercurrent* is the most despised publication in the dive industry”, Zoom MSC Club Meeting, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Free for all members.

June 20 (Sat): Spring/Summer Social at Jeffrey & Simma’s lovely farm home for a pot luck vegetarian gathering & **July 17-19 (Fri-Sat-Sun): Tahoe Dive & Camp:** Join Ken for this annual fun weekend to dive the Rubicon Wall, camp, etc. **THESE HAVE BOTH NOW BEEN CANCELLED.**

July 15 (Wed): Adam Ratner, Associate Director of Conservation Education, The Marine Mammal Center, “Behind The Bark: Saving Seals and Sea Lions in California”, Zoom MSC Club Meeting, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: Free for all members. **(THIS WAS RESCHEDULE FROM MARCH.)**

NEW VENUE, NEW WEEK! **Aug 12 (Wed): MSC Club Presentations for Egypt/The Red Sea, Little Cayman, Monterey, Philippines, and more.** Club Meeting: Either in Barb’s Mill Valley backyard or Sausalito Park & Rec Center, Edgewater Room, 7:15 – 8:45 pm. Free for members; \$5 donation 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 **TO BE DECIDED AS A GO/NO GO IN JULY; CAMP SITE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED.**

September: Coastal Clean-Up: Possibly Kirby Cove. Date: TBD: Alyssa Ralston is coordinating.

Sept 9 (Wed): Michael Scott, Seacology’s Island Conservation Program. Watch a presentation of Seacology’s history, conservation approach, current projects, and future outlook in 61 countries since 1991. Sausalito Park & Rec Center, Game Room, 7:15 – 8:45 pm. Free for members; \$5 donation for non-members. **(THIS WAS RESCHEDULED FROM MAY.)**

Oct 14 (Wed): William Keener, Marine Mammal Biologist: “Whales and Porpoises”. Club Meeting: Sausalito Rec Center, Edgewater Room, 7:15 – 8:45 pm. Free for members; \$5 donation for non-members. **(THIS WAS RESCHEDULED FROM APRIL.)**

November 11 (Wed): Bamboo Reef: Equipment & Trips, etc. Club Meeting: Sausalito Rec Center, Game Room, 7:15 – 8:45 pm. Free for members; \$5 donation for non-members.

(NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON THIS SOLD-OUT TRIP. IT MAY BE MOVED TO 2021.)

Nov 7-15: 20 MSC members plan to leave 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 stay for 3 nights in La Paz to snorkel with whale sharks, scuba dive, or just relax. 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, June 17th:
Ken Smith,
Founder of *Undercurrent*
**(ZOOM ONLINE
MEETING)**

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

Marin Scuba Club

The Club meets the
3rd Wednesday
each month;
**but the 2nd Wednesday
starting in August**
(except December
— no meeting).

**Marin Scuba Club
Board of Directors**

<http://www.marinclub.org>

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Barbara Wambach, Chair chair@marinclub.org

BOD Vice Chair/Social Media

John Lewis, Vice Chair vchair@marinclub.org

Treasurer

Marc Paris treasurer@marinclub.org

Secretary

Lisa Kuhn secretary@marinclub.org

Membership Coordinator

Julie Finley membership@marinclub.org

Member Relations

Ellen Sakoloff relations@marinclub.org

Newsletter Editor/Publicity/Webmaster

Gil Zeimer newsletter@marinclub.org

Activities Coordinators

Barbara Wambach activities@marinclub.org

Niles Szwed activities3@marinclub.org

Program Coordinators

Virginia Bria program@marinclub.org

Bryan Eckert program2@marinclub.org

Special Program Coordinator

Kenneth R. Carter kc@marinclub.org