

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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June 14, 2023 Meeting: Sea Women, “Arctic Expedition”

Grab your dry suits, hoodies, thickest gloves, and long johns. On June 14th, **three intrepid female explorers** will take us on a deep dive of their Arctic Expedition to Norway, as they interacted with orcas and humpbacks.



Sea Woman #1: Dr. Virginia Bria, a diver for 40 years, has studied art therapy and photography at Pratt Institute, NY. She taught art and is currently a trusted Marin County investment advisor for 28 years.

When she arrived in California, Virginia quickly fell in love with the Sonoma County coastline and took her cameras underwater. She's been a NAUI instructor, NAUI Rescue Workshop Leader, and a divemaster. For several years, she also explored, camped, and dived along the Baja peninsula from Loreto to La Paz. She has logged over 5,000 dives worldwide.

She recently participated in the Antarctica Climate Change Expedition with Michael Aw, Ocean Geographic, and Sylvia Earle, Mission Blue. In 2022, she joined the Sea Women Expedition in Norway's high Arctic as a photographer and videographer with 34 women from 14 countries, spending 3 back-to-back trips in the fjords of Norway aboard the *MV Explorer*. Read more: <https://www.bellasirenaimages.com/>

Sea Woman #2: Carol Cotton Blickenstorfer is a photographer, videographer, scuba diver/instructor, reviewer, artist, and adventurer from Knoxville, Tennessee. She and her husband run a computer and underwater news/product review business. After 3,000+ dives, she's enchanted with the sea and creatures, earning multiple NAUI, PADI, NACD, NSS-CDS, and TDI certifications, then documenting sea life on underwater trips worldwide.

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May Meeting Recap: Eva Paulus, “Deep Sea Fish & Research”

Though deep-sea diving is very expensive, Eva, a marine biologist, traveled on the RV SONNE twice out of Germany. This ship is 118 meters long, holds 80 scientists, runs at 15 knots/hour, and has 8 labs.



Dragonfish are found in the Mesopelagic depths.

Because of COVID, the crew on the SO285 trip took four weeks to journey from Germany to Cape Town instead of flying there. It left on 8/20 and returned on 11/2/21. On other trips, Eva went to the Azores and Iceland; at the latter, she studied hydrothermal vents for her Master's thesis.

Among the ship's most interesting equipment:

- **CTD** measures conductivity, temperature, and depth. It also enables environmental measurements.
- **The Kiel 6000** is an ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) which requires a team of 8 people to operate it for deep dives. It costs about \$10M Euros, but about \$1M Euros to use it for one week. The ROV captures all kinds of marine animals that live in the deep ocean.
- **Landers** are long-term monitoring systems that capture data for up to two years.
- **Towed video systems** (like a towfish).
- **Nets** capture sea animals at different depths.
- **Corers** are heavily weighted devices that push the core into sediment to get measurements of the sea bottom at different times. They're able to identify 16,000 animals.

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In her spare time, Carol is very active in the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), an inclusive community pursuing research and re-creation of historic skills, arts and culture, where she specializes in research and re-creation of historic Baltic costumes and jewelry. Read more: <https://www.instagram.com/carolblickenstorfer/>



Sea Woman #3: Whitley Mike is an avid graphic designer and art director who lives near Minneapolis, Minnesota. She holds a B.A. in Communications and Media Arts, a Post-B.A. Graphic Design Certificate, and a Master of Arts in Sustainable Design, where she focused on how human behavior impacts endangered species.

Author, Author: Nathan Cobert

He's just announced the publication of his new mystery suspense novel. "**Colder In The Shadows**" is a psychological thriller that Ken Smith called, "A clever and mystical ride. I sure enjoyed it." Buy it here: <https://www.amazon.com/Colder-Shadows-Nathan-Cobert/dp/B0BM463RCX/>

Diver Discovers Roman-Era Shipwreck

From Bryan Eckert: A diver off Israel's coast discovered an 1,800-year-old Roman shipwreck containing 44 tons of artifacts. Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/595d6kvd>

Eva Paulus, Continued

- A **Neuston catamaran** carries several nets.
- The **RMT** (Rectangular Midwater Trawl) yielded hundreds during "The Night of The Jellies".

The Magnificent Migration

At sunset all over the ocean, a magnificent migration starts with animals hiding in darkness, running the gauntlet, finding a carbon-rich meal, biologically pumping carbon, then coming home.

For more info about Eva and her studies, visit: <https://ecologyforthemasses.com/eva-paulus/>

About Solvin Zankl

A nature photographer for over 20 years, Eva met this professional German photographer in Iceland and invited him to join two of her research trips. He specializes in wildlife stories from different environments, including coasts and the deep sea, deserts, forests, and freshwater habitats.

See his portfolio and archives: <https://solvinzankl.com/>

Her thesis is on the survival of the Southern Resident Orca of the Pacific Northwest, and how sustainable solutions can help protect orca and their future.

Whitley's unique education combines her passion for graphic design and the well-being of the cetaceans.

As a Sea Women Expeditions team member since 2019, she has assisted with visual storytelling through branded design, social media communications, and co-hosting virtual expeditions.

Her aspirations for the 2022 Sea Women Expedition to Norway's frigid fjords were to better understand Type 1 Eastern North Atlantic orca behavior and their habitat.

Read more: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/whitleymike/>

A New Extreme Sport Takes Root in The Bay

From Bryan Eckert: "Bobbing in the morning swell beneath the north tower of the Golden Gate Bridge, five divers in thick, hooded wetsuits clung to an inflatable paddleboard precariously anchored on the bay floor by an 80-lb. rock... This is our drug, we have to chase it..."

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/yk9dsnec>

Nominations Open for Group to Help Develop CA's Kelp Restoration and Management Plan

From Larry Clinton: <https://tinyurl.com/2e4prs74>

BOTTOM TIMES

MEETINGS

Wed., June 14, Sea Women, “Arctic Expedition”, Virginia Bria, Carol Cotton Blickenstorfer & Whitley Mike. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm.

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

Meeting ID: 798 346 3827

Passcode: 755205

Wed., July 12, Sean Wheelles, “Rebreathers: Show & Tell from Bamboo Reef”. Hybrid Club Mtg. — 7:00-8:45pm.

Wed., August 9, Linda Lanniello, “Black Water Diving”. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm.

Wed., Sept. 13, “Blue Frontier Campaign: California Kelp Crisis — Working to Save The Sequoias of The Sea”. Speakers: David Helvarg, Exec. Director & Assoc. Director, Natasha Benjamin. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm.

Wed., October 11, MSC Member Presentations. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm.

Wed., November 8, Renee Cappozola, “Beneath The Sea Imaging”, 2021 Underwater Photographer of The Year Winner, Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm.

EVENTS

Sat., June 3 – Sun., June 4, Scuba Show Long Beach, <https://scubashow.com>. Gil Zeimer will be leading a workshop on 6/4, 3-4pm: “*Blogging About Bubbles: “How to Get Published”*”. This is America's largest diving expo with over 10,000 diving enthusiasts expected and over \$45,000 in door prizes!

Fri., Aug. 4, “Meg2: The Trench” opens in 3D. Trailer: <https://tinyurl.com/555pyvc9>. Join us for a group viewing. Contact gil@zeimer.com.

PARTIES

Sat., June 17 – Spring Social, Jeffrey and Simma's Farm Home in Sebastopol. Evites have been sent. If you did not receive your Evite, contact Barb: blwambach@comcast.net

Th., August 10 – Sun., August 13 – Dive & Dine, Russian Gulch State Park Campsite. Details to come.

Sun., December 3 – Holiday Party. Save the date for an afternoon party at Barb's home. BYOB. The club will provide non-alcoholic drinks, lamb chops, turkey meatballs and more. Evites will go out in October.

DIVE TRIPS

July, Lake Tahoe, A weekend of hiking, biking, and diving. CANCELLED as campsites are sold out.

October 26 – November 5, Roatan – Thirteen members are now confirmed for 10 nights' accommodations at The Splash Inn. 16 dives and breakfast are \$1,225 for double occupancy and \$1,666 single occupancy each. Airfare is separate. Contact blwambach@comcast.net if interested. There are a few good rooms still available.

January 2024, Philippines, 2 weeks – Eight members are confirmed. Arrive Manila by January 11th. January 12th: van transfer and stay at the **Buceo Anilao Beach & Dive Resort** (6 nights with 4 days unlimited diving). Accommodations, transfers, breakfast and 15 dives are \$1010 for a single and \$825 for a double. On January 18th, travel to **El Galleon Dive Resort**. Seven nights' accommodations, 6 days unlimited diving, transfers and breakfast \$1380 for a single and \$1162 for a double. Not included in above pricing is airfare, tips, Nitrox, rental gear, etc. A few of the most desirable poolside rooms remain. Contact blwambach@comcast.net if interested — space is still available.

**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.**

If you want to renew or join MSC, visit our Membership pages or contact Julie Finley for a PDF form:
<https://marinclub.org/membership/>



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

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, June 14,
Sea Women "Arctic
Expedition"

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.

Renew your
membership now.

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

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