

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2023

September 13th Meeting: David Helvarg & Natasha Benjamin, “Blue Frontier Campaign – CA Kelp Crisis”

Two multi-talented individuals and activists who have a genuine love for the ocean will present this month.

Meet David Helvarg, Executive Director

An award-winning journalist and author of “*The Golden Shore – California’s Love Affair with the Sea*”, David has produced more than 40 broadcast documentaries for PBS, The Discovery Channel, and others. His print work continues to appear in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Sierra*, and more. Today, he and Blue Frontier continue to lead media training workshops for ocean scientists and advocates.



David and Natasha are helping to turn the tide for kelp.

Meet Natasha Benjamin, Associate Director

A marine scientist and filmmaker based in Northern California, Natasha is a diver, surfer, and a producer of Peabody Award-winning Brick City TV. She works with Marine Applied Research & Exploration (MARE) and Blue Frontier, and is presently co-producing a new documentary, “Sequoias of The Sea”.

An Ocean Conservation and Policy Group

Founded in 2003 with support by Dr. Sylvia Earle, Philippe Cousteau and others, Blue Frontier is a national leader in providing resources and opportunities to bring the voice of caring citizens into decision-making processes to positively impact our seas.

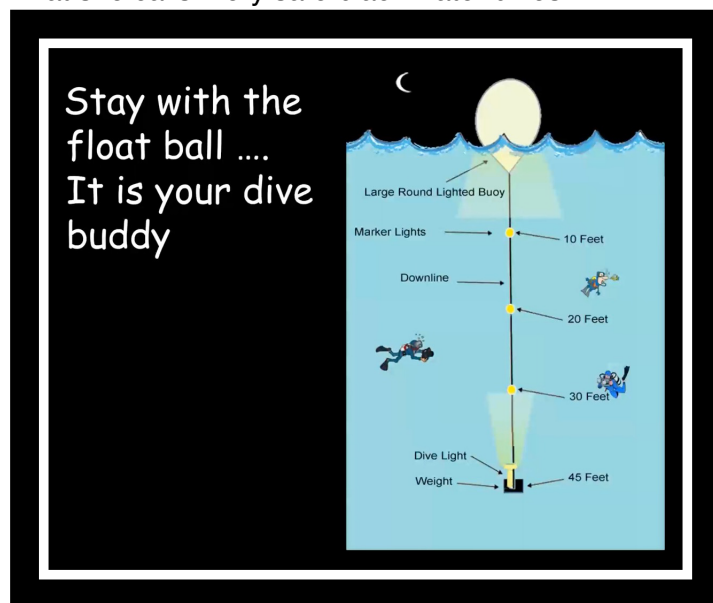
Kelp forests cover 25% of global coastlines, provide food and shelter for thousands of species, and sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

[See Blue Frontier Campaign, Page 2](#)

August Meeting Recap: Linda Ianniello, “Black Water Diving”

Linda presented a tutorial on black water diving. With more than 450 of these types of dives from southeast Florida and the Philippines, she’s become an expert and an author on the subject.

Most of her excursions are out of the Palm Beach Inlet, about five miles south and six miles offshore, for what she calls “very safe black water dives”.



Divers drift along for two to 12 miles.

She “thinks small” while participating in the “largest animal migration on earth”, using a Nikon D5000, a 60mm lens in a Nauticam housing with two Inon Z-330 strobes in this very challenging photography.

Linda generally captures, enlarges, and edits:

- Fish such as flounder larva, deep water angelfish, dwarf frogfish, cusk-eels, and the unfortunately named bony-eared assfish
- Gelatinous plankton like jellyfish and salps
- Invertebrates such as worms and others
- Mollusks like sea butterflies and nudibranch
- Cephalopods like squid

To browse her website, purchase stunning prints, or buy the 2nd edition of her book “Blackwater Creatures”, visit www.LindaPhotography.com. [Watch her Vimeo.](#)

Blue Frontier Campaign , Continued

Over the past decade, **a third of these kelp forests have been lost across our Blue Planet.** But along the 350-mile coastline from San Francisco to the Oregon border, **a striking 95% of kelp forests have been decimated.** While many other important ocean ecosystems such as coral reefs are getting attention, kelp is the lost forest of the ocean, disappearing before our very eyes.

With a perfect storm of climate change impacts causing oceans to warm, sea stars to disappear, and urchin populations to explode, we're witnessing an ecological disaster in one of the world's most highly managed and protected coasts. In fact, our coastline that once harbored productive kelp forests now has only bare rocks and hungry urchins.

For more information, visit <https://bluefront.org>.

We look forward to having you join David and Natasha on Wednesday, 9/13 for their presentation at MSC.

Kirby Cove Coastal Clean-Up: September 23

Marin Scuba Club is now confirmed to clean-up Kirby Cover on Saturday, 9/23 from 9am–Noon. Bring a picnic lunch, gloves, close-toed shoes, long pants, and help us keep our beaches beautiful. Have fun with your club members while doing a favor for the ocean:

<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html>

Email claramikowski@gmail.com for information and to sign a waiver.

FYI, the 24th Annual California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photograph Contest is open for entries. Deadline is 9/25: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/photo/>

Russian Gulch Dive & Dine Recap

Barb reports: "Twenty-seven members and friends of Marin Scuba Club enjoyed a beautiful weekend at Russian Gulch State Park.

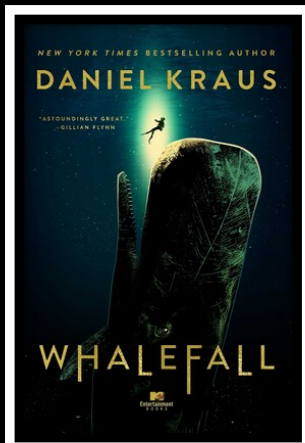
"A few divers culled purple urchins at Caspar Cover on Friday and seven divers explored the Russian Gulch Cove on Saturday. Underwater sightings includes a large halibut, wolf eel, rock fish, large abalone, and lots of purple urchins. Sadly, there was very little kelp in the cove and the abs did not look healthy.



Over two dozen members were very happy campers.

"Many also enjoyed breathtaking hikes both in the park and along the bluffs of Mendocino. Robert Raffo even enjoyed a 50-mile bike ride!

"As usual, the dining side of our weekend was extraordinary and delicious. We celebrated four Leo birthdays on Saturday (Elliott, Ellen, Barb and Larry) with a huge chocolate cake. A super fun weekend was had by all!"



A new novel caught your editor's eyes. Daniel Kraus is a *New York Times* bestselling author who also wrote *The Living Dead* and *The Shape of Water*. An Amazon review says, "*The Martian* meets *127 Hours* in this powerfully humane and scientifically accurate thriller about a scuba diver who's been (accidentally) swallowed by an 80-foot, 60-ton sperm whale and has only one hour to escape before his compressed air runs out."

The diver is 17. His dead father's remains are off the coast of Monastery Beach. Alternate chapters draw the reader into their relationship, interspersed with scientific details of the undersea world. It reminds me of *Pinocchio* and *Geppetto* inside *Monstro*; others may think of *The Book of Job* or *Moby Dick*.

Buy *Whalefall* on Amazon or reserve it at your library:

<https://www.amazon.com/Whalefall-Novel-Daniel-Kraus/dp/1665918160/>

BOTTOM TIMES

MEETINGS

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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7983463827?pwd=UGEREJ4VFoycmZRZ2IPWnM5NGp6dz09>

Meeting ID: 798 346 3827

Passcode: 755205

Wed., Oct. 11, MSC Member Presentations. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm. Details to come.

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

2024 Presenters – Contact Virginia or Bryan if you have a speaker to recommend

January: TBD

February: Jim Hellemn, www.BlueOceanArt.com

March: Jami Leslie Feldman, “Dive Into Social Media!”, www.instagram.com/underwaterpaparazzi/

April: Jeff Bozanic, “The Coldest Dive: Antarctica”, <https://jeffbozanic.com/>

May: Jodi Frediani, “Svalbard: Wild Land, Wild Ice, Wild Life”, www.jodifrediani.com/

EVENTS

Sat., Sept. 23rd – Claire Mikowski and Lisa Kuhn are organizing a Coastal Clean-Up at Kirby Cove. Email Claire to participate: claramikowski@gmail.com. A separate email was sent on 8/24 to purchase a commemorative T-shirt.

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 – FOR DETAILS, SEE <https://marinscubaclub.org/trips/>

October 26 – November 5, Roatan – Thirteen members are now confirmed for 10 nights' accommodations at The Splash Inn. 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). Resort accommodations, transfers, breakfast and 15 dives included. On January 18th, travel to **El Galleon Dive Resort**. Seven nights' accommodations, 6 days unlimited diving, transfers and breakfast. A few poolside rooms remain. Contact blwambach@comcast.net if interested — space is still available.

January 18 – Feb 1, 2025, Bahamas – Marin Diving Center is organizing a trip for diving with scalloped hammerheads on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas, then Barbara Wambach is organizing a snorkeling trip with humpback whales aboard the Turks & Caicos Explorer II liveaboard. Contact blwambach@comcast.net if you're interested.

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://marinscubaclub.org/membership/>



Marin Scuba Club
47 Heritage Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901-8309

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, September 13,
"Blue Frontier Campaign:
California Kelp Crisis"
by David Helvarg
and Natasha Benjamin

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

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

Renew your
membership now.

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

BOD Chair

Barbara Wambach, Chair chair@marinscubaclub.org

BOD Vice Chair/Social Media

John Lewis, Vice Chair vchair@marinscubaclub.org

Treasurer

Marc Paris treasurer@marinscubaclub.org

Secretary

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

Program Coordinators

Virginia Bria program@marinscubaclub.org

Bryan Eckert program2@marinscubaclub.org

Special Program Coordinator: Ken Carter kc@marinscubaclub.org