

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday, February 14 Meeting: “25 Years Focused on Cayman Reefs: Explore The Caymans With Jim Hellemn”

Jim Hellemn is an underwater imaging specialist, digital artist, and long-time friend of Marin Scuba Club who is renowned for his groundbreaking techniques in capturing the vibrant beauty of coral reefs.



In this insightful talk, Jim will share his experiences, from his most challenging projects across the three Cayman Islands, along with his favorite and best-selling Cayman images, and offer a sneak peek into his upcoming group trips, exploring the very places where he created them.

With over 4,000 dives under his belt, Jim says, "My personal hope is that my images and the exhibitions that we do will help people begin to appreciate the ocean as a vital part of our world so they can begin to take realistic steps to protect and preserve marine environments for our future generations."

A Unique Approach

We all know that you can only see a coral reef well up-close, and you'll need to bring some light with you. Back up enough to see a wider view, and it disappears in blue. But Jim has spent his career developing new ways to capture the essence of these special places, creating innovative equipment and techniques that enable him to photograph an entire reef.



Great Wall West Mural, revisited in 2010.

[See Jim Hellemn, Page 2](#)

January Meeting Recap: Caitlin Bailey, “Filming In The Deep Sea”

As a NOAA wildlife cinematographer, photographer, and ocean explorer, Caitlin led us on an hour-long journey deep into the sea. Since 2016, she's created more than 100 deep water videos working with geologists and biologists.

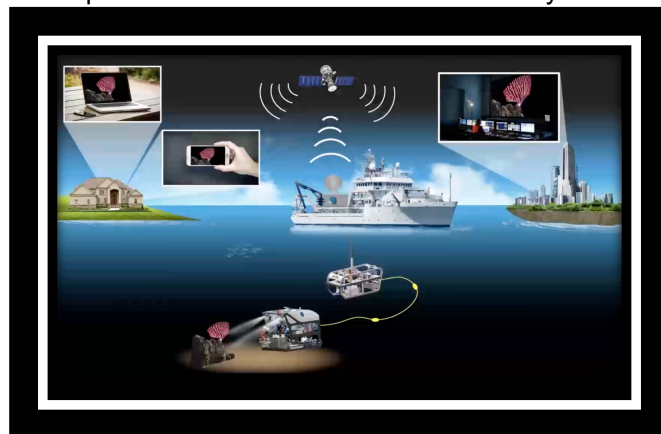


Caitlin's floating home is the Okeanos Explorer.

A crew of 49 people work 365 days a year on two-year rotations aboard this 224-foot-long, ex-submarine finder. The OE and its ROVs that descend up to 6,000 meters are exclusively dedicated to ocean and sea life research.

Caitlin said, "We're like *Star Trek* — boldly going where no one has gone before." She added:

- Their website gets up to one million hits per day.
- They shoot videos daily, edit, and publish them online.
- Their cameras can go from wide angle to 18x zoom.
- They see corals and sponges thousands of years old.
- They dive on shipwrecks and take photos that help them create 3D models.
- They find new species on most expeditions and send samples to the Smithsonian National History Museum.



Anyone with Internet can watch their livestreams 24/7.

[See Caitlin Bailey, Page 2](#)

Stitching Images Together

His first coral reef image, "Great Wall West", published in *National Geographic* in 2001, was the first "stitched" and highest resolution coral reef image ever created. Jim spends days, even months on a reef, taking hundreds of precise photos up close with specially designed lighting.

Next, in post-production, he uses high-power computers to assemble all the individual images into a seamless super-wide landscape that captures all the true colors and detail.

The images are more than just a photograph — they document an important ecosystem that is vital to our planet. Jim's images have also been a benefit to science. He returned to Bloody Bay Wall in 2010 to create a second identical resolution image that is being used by scientists to compare changes in the reef over a decade. Working closely with them, Jim also produced a matching image of Great Wall West, capturing coral fluorescence and turning scientists in a new direction.

[Explore The High-Resolution Images of Great Wall West:](#)
[Explore Great Wall West 1999](#)
[Explore Great Wall West 2010](#)
[Great Wall West Fluorescence](#)



His 12' x 125' Mural at Aquarium of The Pacific in Long Beach.

Join us on Wednesday, February 14th for Jim's incredibly detailed images. Visit <https://jimhellemn.com/>

Coming Soon: "Facing Grace II: Dances With Sharks" From Michael Aw, Producer

"Making pictures of whale sharks is quite easy. Making pictures of models underwater is quite easy too. Making pictures and a movie of models dancing with whale sharks... not so easy. You need a professional passionate model, dancer, and the support of a 'village'."

[#oceangeographic](#), [#awtimate](#), [#facinggrace](#),
[#savingsharks](#), [#Whaleshark](#), [#damai](#)

This page features the best videos and an archive of unusual sea creatures from past expeditions:

https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/video_playlist.html

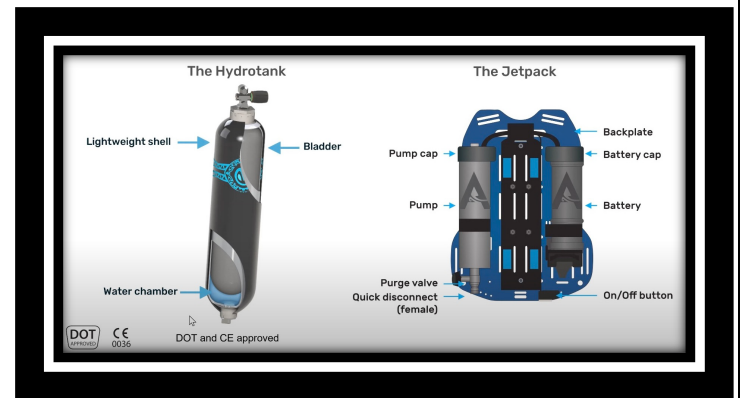
Here's a Deep Sea Octopus Nursery in the Gulf of Alaska's Noyes Canyon:

https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/video_playlist/ex2306-octopus-nursery.html

See more about Caitlin Baily at www.beneaththesurfaceimaging.com/ and watch her presentation: <https://vimeo.com/902323283>.

Avelo Dive Systems: Getting The Lead Out.

This company, based in Maui, was a big hit at DEMA. Its revolutionary hydrotank and bladder system weighs about 1/3 of a traditional tank and BC, lets divers easily attain neutral buoyancy, extends bottom time, and eliminates the need to wear any weights.



Read more: <https://diveavelo.com/>

Renew Your Membership Now.

Annual renewals for your membership are due by February 29, 2024 and members are already clicking, paying online, and submitting their forms.

We're again offering the same membership fees as 2023: \$50 for singles and \$79 for couples. This cost also generously includes a year-long subscription to [Undercurrent](#), courtesy of Ken Smith.

After March 1, we'll add a \$10 late fee, so please renew now to avoid paying more then.

If you're a current member, download a form here:

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

Those wanting to become new members can download a form here: <https://marinscubaclub.org/membership/new-membership/>

Renew online today or contact Julie Finley for a form by emailing her: membership@marinscubaclub.org.

BOTTOM TIMES

MEETINGS

Wednesday, February 14: “25 Years Focused on Cayman Reefs”, Explore The Cayman Islands with Jim Hellemn, www.JimHellemn.com. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7983463827?pwd=UGEREJ4VFoycmZRZ2lPWnM5NGp6dz09&omn=88335845602>

Meeting ID: 798 346 3827 Passcode: 755205

Wednesday, March 13: Jami Leslie Feldman, “Dive Into Social Media!”, www.instagram.com/underwaterpaparazzi/. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm.

Wednesday, April 10: Jeff Bozanic, Ph.D., “The Coldest Dive: Antarctica”, <https://jeffbozanic.com/>. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm. *Recipient of the 2024 NOGI Award, Sports/Education.*

Wednesday, May 8: Jodi Frediani, “Svalbard: Wild Land, Wild Ice, Wild Life”, www.jodifrediani.com/. Hybrid Club Meeting — 7:00-8:45pm.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 1 – Sunday, June 2, ScubaShow.com, Los Angeles Convention Center

Thursday, June 6 – Sunday, June 10, Emerald Bay State Park, Lake Tahoe – Ken has booked a premium campsite for up to 10 people. Enjoy diving, hiking, and biking, Contact ken@kennethrcarter.com.

Summer Dive ‘N Dine – August (Exact dates and details to come.)

DIVE TRIPS – For details, see: <https://marinscubaclub.org/trips/>

Date Change: July 27 – August 3, 2024 – Sand Dollar Hotel, Bonaire. Price TBD: includes 6 days of shore diving and breakfast. Ken is organizing this trip and has reserved 10 rooms: 2- and 3-room suites; each room sleeps 2; 1-room suites and studios are available as desired. Boat diving packages as low as \$70/day for two tanks. Airfare, gratuities, lunch, and dinner are not included. Contact ken@kennethrcarter.com if interested. **RSVP by February 15th.**

Oct. 25 – Nov. 4: Maldives. 10 days of land-based snorkeling and diving followed by an optional 7 days of diving on a liveaboard. Price: TBD. Contact blwambach@comcast.net if you’re interested. **RSVP by February 15th.**

January 18 – Feb 1, 2025, Bahamas – Back-to-back trips in the Caribbean; join one or both. First stop, San Salvador Island at the Riding Rock Resort and Marina in the Bahamas, famous for scalloped hammerheads, reef, and oceanic whitetip sharks. Their beautiful reefs benefit from deep ocean currents. Package includes 16 boat dives, 21 meals, and airport transfers: \$2,250 (excluding air, tips, and drinks.) Second stop: Dominican Republic, Turks & Caicos Explorer II liveaboard with 20-guest capacity. One of the few places to snorkel with humpbacks during calving season: \$5,195 (includes \$450 permit fee, \$450 port fee, meals, and accommodations. Contact blwambach@comcast.net. **RSVP by February 5th. Deposits due in February.**

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, February 14,
"25 Years Focused on
Cayman Reefs",
Jim Hellemn,
www.JimHellemn.com

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 – avoid the late fee.

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

BOD Chair

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BOD Vice Chair/Social Media

John Lewis, Vice Chair vchair@marinscubaclub.org

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