

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2025

January 8 Meeting: IOFF, “Ocean Conservation: Inspiring Action Through Film and Photography”

We'll kick off the new year with two very special guests: Ana Blanco and Steve Peletz of the International Ocean Film Foundation.

Since the official list of selections is still in progress, they'll share a variety of short films and photography by Steve, all focused on ocean conservation.



Ana Blanco is the Executive Director and Member, Board of Directors, of the IOFF.

She joined the IOFF in 2011 with more than a decade of experience in executive nonprofit management. In 2012, she established the International Student Film Competition. In 2013, she launched the IOFF Traveling Program for students worldwide.

A certified PADI diver, a sailing aficionado, and a volunteer with the [Blue Water Foundation](#), she's currently co-producing and co-directing her debut film, “*Sequoias of the Sea*” about the vanishing bull kelp along Northern California's coast.

Read her full bio: <https://marinclub.org/meetings/>.

[Read More MSC Presentations on Page 2](#)

November 13 Meeting Recap: Six MSC Presenters

Our November meeting was “SRO” (Standing Room Only) with the largest turnout we've had in years.

Everyone loved the superb presentations by:

- **Virginia Bria** featured **Santa Maria Island in the Azores**.
- **Ric Miller** showed videos of the **August Dive 'N Dine** and the **MSC 2024 Philippines dive trip**.
- **Lisa Perla** shot a beautiful video of **Chuuk Lagoon**.
- **Barbara Wambach and John Lewis** shared amazing images and videos in the **Maldives**.
- **Ken Carter** spoke about his Hawai'i trip and showed rare photos of the Loch Ness Monster from Scotland. (*Unfortunately, we had difficulties recording Ken.*)
- **And Gil Zeimer** showcased his latest scuba blogs.

Watch Vimeos for five of these presentations:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/1611110>

2024 Holiday Party: Recap



Barb reported: “Over 50 members and friends attended the Holiday Party at my home. It was a lovely afternoon of dazzling conversation, delicious food, and splendid underwater videos produced by Lisa Perla, Ric Miller, and me.

“We hosted lamb chops and smoked salmon; both were once again a big hit. A super fun afternoon was had by all!” See more photos:

<https://marinclub.org/2024-holiday-party-recap/>

Page 2: IOFF (Continued)



Steve Peletz is a research diver, retired dive instructor, videographer, and ocean advocate.

The second presenter, Steve, also manages [Deep Blue Monthly](#), an online magazine featuring news on marine science and ocean conservation.

As a Board Member of [MigraMar](#), an organization of 24 marine scientists who study, track, and advocate for migratory species of sharks, whales, turtles, and rays in the Eastern Pacific, he's been tagging sharks since 2016.

Among other projects, he's filming "Shark Finale", a documentary on the economic, political, and physical challenges that marine scientists face in seeking greater protections for migratory sharks, whales, and turtles in the Eastern Pacific.

Read his full bio: <https://marinclub.org/meetings/>.

PS: The 22nd Annual IOFF, attended by many MSC members, will be held from April 11-13 at the Cowell Theater, Fort Mason, San Francisco.

Renew Your Membership Now.

Annual renewals for your membership are due by February 28: \$50 for singles and \$79 for couples. After March 1, you'll pay a \$10 late fee, so your fees will be \$60 for singles and \$89 for couples. Download a form here: <https://marinclub.org/membership/> Or contact Julie Finley for the form you may need.

Blue Friday 4.0: "Don't Shop. Dive!" on Black Friday – Recap

This year, Blue Friday was celebrated by more folks we know in more places worldwide:

- **California** — New member **Mike Smith and 16 [Sea Diver's Scuba Dive Club](#) friends** in the Channel Islands and MSC presenter, Jami Leslie Feldman in San Diego.
- **Hawaii** – Kerwin Louis did a two-tanker with 12 divers off the Big Island's Kona Coast through [Blue Wilderness](#).
- **Honduras** – [Sun Divers Roatan](#) also hosted a debris clean-up.
- **Costa Maya, Mexico** – Our dive buddies at [Amigos Del Mar Mahahual](#) went to Banco Chinchorro.
- **Coral Sea, Australia** – Friends of Gil, Terry and Cathie Cummins, [Dive Queensland](#), went out on Mike Ball Dive Expedition's Spoilport to Ashmore Reef and Rain Island.
- **And Blue Friday founder, Ken Carter**, planned on getting wet in Monterey over Christmas week.

Visit this blog for details, photos, and videos: <https://marinclub.org/blue-friday-4-0-recap/> —

A New DiveHeart Documentary

"The Legend of The Statue" is now available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VagP-d-VYbU>

Long-Sleeve T-Shirts For Sale... Soon.

Sean O'Day has offered to manage orders for our 100% double-needle-stitched cotton, long-sleeve MSC T-shirts for new members. They're pre-washed, unisex, and great quality.

He will announce this opportunity at the January 8th meeting.

Cost will be approximately \$30 each.



Iron-On Patches

Buy them for just \$10 each at our monthly Sausalito meetings or contact ken@kennethrcarter.com to purchase as many as you need by mail.

California: Channel Islands by Chris Cervellone



Wilson Rock, Channel Islands



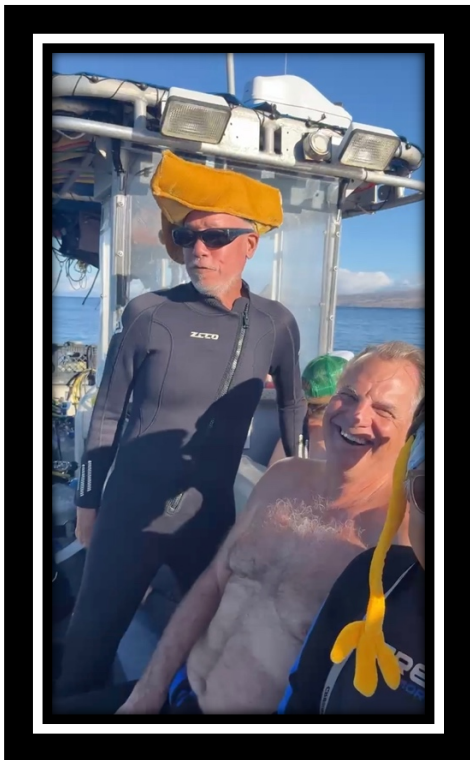
#Underwater Paparazzi



Nicolas Cervellone and his proud dad, Chris.

See more images and videos:
<https://marinclub.org/blue-friday-4-0-recap/>

Hawaii: Kerwin Lewis



Watch his video on our blog.

Page 4: Blue Friday 4.0 Goes Global

Roatan: Honduras



Natalie even wore a blue rash guard on Blue Friday.

Costa Maya, Mexico



Muchas gracias for these great photos, Heiko!

Coral Sea, Australia



Cathie and Terry Cummins were Down Under.

See more images and videos:

<https://marinscubaclub.org/blue-friday-4-0-recap/>



BOTTOM TIMES

HYBRID CLUB MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE IN THE EXERCISE ROOM THROUGH 2025, 7:00 – 8:45 PM

Wed., Jan. 8, 2025: Ana Blanco and Steve Peletz **in person**, Int'l. Ocean Film Foundation, "Ocean Conservation: Inspiring Action Through Film and Photography". <https://intloceanfilmfest.org/>
MSC will again provide wine, cheese, crackers, grapes, water, etc.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7983463827?pwd=UGEreEJ4VFoycmZRZ2lPWnM5NGp6dz09&omn=89016535474>

Meeting ID: 798 346 3827

Passcode: 755205

Wed., Feb. 12, 2025: Kenneth Stewart **via Zoom**, Diving With a Purpose: The Guerrero Project and More.
<https://divingwithapurpose.org>.

Wed., March 12, 2025: Nirupam Nigam **via Zoom**. "Finding and Photographing the Jewels of the Sea of Cortez".
<https://www.photosfromthesea.com/>.

Wed., April 9, 2025: Tiffany Duong and Louise Edwards **via Zoom**, co-developers of the video game: "Found In The Fjords: An Arctic Ocean VR Experience".

Wed., May 7, 2025: Mike Boom, Videographer **via Zoom**, "Faces of The Philippines". <https://laughingeel.com/>.

Wed., June 11, 2025: Martin Broen, award-winning photographer. <https://www.martinbroen.com/>.

Wed., July 9, 2025: William Cline **via Zoom**. Member of Scuba Hall of Fame & Publisher of *Scuba Diving Industry Magazine*. <https://scubadivingindustry.com/>.

Wed., August 13, 2025: Mandy Norman & Bradley Mart, Coral Reef Alliance. coral.org/en/.

Wed., October 8, 2025: Ashley Bugge and Tiffany Duong **via Zoom**. "The Seabirds: Lessons from a Diver for a Bold and Beautiful Life". <https://www.theseabirds.org/>.

Wed., November 12, 2025: MSC Member Presentations: TBD.

EVENTS

22nd Annual International Film Foundation, April 11-13, 2025: <https://intloceanfilmfest.org/>

DIVE TRIPS – For details, visit: <https://marinclub.org/trips/>

January 25 – Feb 1, 2025, Dominican Republic – The 7-night Turks & Caicos Explorer II liveaboard has a capacity for 20 guests. Snorkel with up to 7,000 humpbacks during calving season: \$4,721 (15% negotiated discount, includes \$450 permit fee, \$450 port fee, meals, and accommodations. 9 divers so far. **SOLD OUT**. Contact blwambach@comcast.net.

April 11 – 23, 2025, Palau Royal Resort – 12 days/11 nights: \$3,665/double occupancy: 8 diving days, 16 boat dives. Ask Gil for details about this trip being organized by an Irvine dive club: 4 spots are still available: gil@zeimer.com.

April 29 – May 4, 2025 (5 nights), Coral Triangle at Pura Vida Beach and Dive Resort in Duain/Dumaguete. Plus, **May 4-10 (6 nights)** ferry to Magic Oceans Dive Resort, Anda, Bohol. Contact ellen_hope@sbcglobal.net if interested.

June 26 – June 30, 2025: Camping/high-altitude diving trip to Emerald Bay State Park in Lake Tahoe. There is room for 6-7 other campers; parking for other cars is extra. Contact ken@kennethrcarter.com if interested.

August 1–10, 2025 Sand Dollar Hotel, Bonaire. The expected cost is \$900–\$1,600/person, depending on the number of participants and accommodations booked. Contact ken@kennethrcarter.com if interested.

August 1-10, 2025, Sea of Cortez aboard the Rocio Del Mar with Nirupam Nigam. Contact lisa.perla@yahoo.com.



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

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, January 8,
Ana Blanco and
Steve Peletz, IOFF,
“Ocean Conservation:
Inspiring Action Through
Film and Photography”

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

Marin Scuba Club meets
on the 2nd Wednesday
of each month.

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 page or contact
Julie Finley for a PDF application:

<https://marinclub.org/membership/> — we are not currently
accepting PayPal.

Marin Scuba Club: Board of Directors

<http://www.marinclub.org>

BOD Chair

Barbara Wambach: chair@marinclub.org

BOD Vice Chair/Social Media

John Lewis: vchair@marinclub.org

Treasurer

Sue Estey: treasurer@marinclub.org

Secretary

Lisa Kuhn: secretary@marinclub.org

Membership Coordinator

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Newsletter Editor/Publicity/Webmaster

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Social Activities Coordinator:

Ric Miller: activities2@marinclub.org

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Gil Zeimer newsletter@marinclub.org

& Bryan Eckert program2@marinclub.org

Special Program Coordinator

Ken Carter kc@marinclub.org