

# MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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**FEBRUARY 2025**

## February 12 Meeting: Ken Stewart, Diving With A Purpose, “The Guerrero Project & More”

From [InDepth Magazine](#): “Ken Stewart has arguably done more for Black scuba divers over the last 45 years than most of us can even imagine.”

Born in New York City, he moved to Nashville, TN, in 1979, then retired. Along the way, he earned his Open Water certification in 1989 at age 44.



*Ken has logged more than 1,000 dives since 1989.*

Ken founded his NPO [Diving With a Purpose](#) in 2005. Today, at 79, his multiple benevolent programs focus on training more than 500 young Black and brown divers and more. He's been featured in NatGeo, ABC, CNN, NBC, the Washington Post, and Smithsonian.

### Combining Maritime Archaeology & Veteran Divers.

Ken's flagship program is related to the Atlantic slave trade with 18 documented shipwrecks in six countries with 18,000 volunteer hours.

[Read More About Ken Stewart on Page 2](#)

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

Ana Blanco and Steve Peletz of the International Ocean Film Foundation shared a variety of ways that they're focused on ocean conservation, with short films, photography, internships, travel, magazines, and more.

The IOFF's mission since its launch in 2004 is to be the premier global platform for ocean literacy and education through independent film. Their mission is a world of healthy and productive oceans for the benefit of all.

Watch their Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/1046538030>



### Monterey Breakwater Dive, 1/25

A handful of MSC members – Niles, Ken, Virginia, and Mark — took a cold dip last weekend.

Niles wrote, “Sun came out right after we started diving, so very nice color. Clarity as reported, 20-30 feet easily in many places.

“Did the basic crawl along the breakwater. Lots of fish! Including many sheepsheads — one was quite large. Also saw a pretty big calico bass. Large sea stars were fairly abundant. And scallops!

“Nice, slow leisurely exploration. Very relaxing and revitalizing dive for the cold water divers in the club.”

## Page 2: Diving With a Purpose (Continued)

### The Wreck of *The Guerrero* Slave Ship.

In 2003, Ken was the Southern Region Representative for the National Black Scuba Divers ([NABS](#)) when he received a phone call about a documentary called "*The Guerrero Project*". It focused on the search for a pirate Spanish slave ship which sank off the Florida coast in 1827. It was carrying 561 Africans to Cuba; 41 who were entrapped in the ship's hold tragically drowned.



Watch the trailer: <https://www.theguerrero-project.org/>

After that call from the director/producer, Karuna Eberl, looking for black divers she could interview for her documentary, Ken emailed many of his NABS brothers and sisters, beginning the correspondence with "Tired of the same old dives? Let's dive with a purpose!" That became his "A-Ha" moment.

### *The Guerrero* Was One of About 35,00 Slave Ships.

These vessels brought nearly 12.5 million captive Africans to the Americas between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Of the estimated 500 to 1,000 ships that purportedly wrecked, *only five have been found and of those, only two have been documented. This was one of them.*

### Join us on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ken will join us on Zoom that night starting at 7:00 Pacific Time. We hope to see you live in Sausalito or on Zoom for this event.

## Long-Sleeve T-Shirts Now For Sale

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.



Sean will start taking orders on 2/12. Cost will be approximately \$35 each.

## Iron-On Patches

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

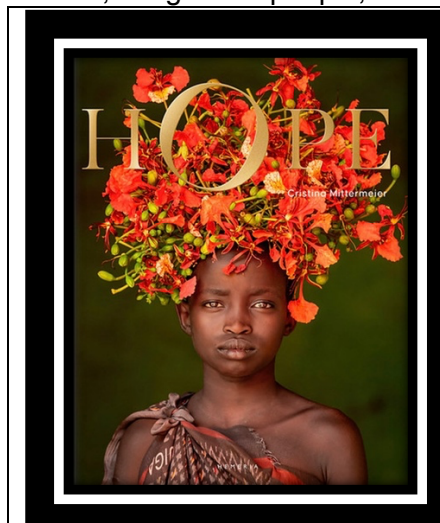
## Renew Your Membership Now

Annual renewals for your membership are due by 2/28: \$50 for singles and \$79 for couples. After 3/1, you'll pay a \$10 late fee = \$60 and \$89 respectively. Complete a form or online or download one here. Mail your checks and apps to Julie: <https://marinclub.org/membership/>.

## Christine Mittermeier Hopes You Read This

Virginia wrote: "I recently read an amazing book that was part of a crowdfunding campaign to support the photographic work of Christine Mittermeier's book entitled, 'Hope'. I could not put it down as I read her eloquent poetry which leaves you with a deep feeling to act, protect and love nature, the ocean, and all sentient beings.

"It's a stunning compilation of her 30 years of worldwide exploration and photographic documentation of our oceans, Indigenous people, and the beauty of our planet.



"Her husband, NatGeo photographer Paul Nicklin, runs SeaLegacy, an NPO for ocean conservation."

Check out the two links below: one is to SeaLegacy and one is to a video introducing Christine's book.

<https://www.cristinamittermeier.com/sealegacy>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNYgP6G0\\_1E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNYgP6G0_1E)

# BOTTOM TIMES

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

**Wed., Feb.12, 2025: Kenneth Stewart via Zoom, “The Guerrero Project and More”.** <https://divingwithapurpose.org>.  
MSC will again provide wine, cheese, crackers, grapes, water, etc.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7983463827?pwd=UGEreEJ4VFoycmZRZ2lPWnM5NGp6dz09&omn=83041208303>  
Meeting ID: 798 346 3827 Passcode: 755205

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

**Wed., April 9: 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: Mike Boom, Videographer via Zoom, “Faces of The Philippines”.** <https://laughingeel.com/>.

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

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

**Wed., August 13: Mandy Norman & Bradley Mart, Coral Reef Alliance.** [coral.org/en/](https://coral.org/en/).

**Wed., October 8: 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: MSC Member Presentations: TBD.**

### **EVENTS**

- **Thurs., 2/27: MSC @ San Rafael Elks Club, 5:00 – 8:00 pm — Fiji & Maldives (Barb), Raja Ampat & Sea Women Arctic (Virginia), Truk/Chuuk Lagoon (Lisa).** 1312 Mission Street, San Rafael. Plenty of free parking is available.
- **22nd Annual International Film Foundation, April 11-13, 2025:** <https://intloceanfilmfest.org/>
- **June 21, 2025: Spring Social.** Dates TBD.
- **Late August: Dive ‘N Dine.** Dates to be confirmed before March.
- **Sun., Dec 7, Holiday Party.** Save the date.

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

**April 12–23, 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](mailto:gil@zeimer.com).

**April 29–May 3 (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](mailto:ellen_hope@sbcglobal.net) if interested.

**June 26–June 30:** 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](mailto:ken@kennethrcarter.com) if interested.

**July 19-26, Cozumel & Oct. 17-25, Cabo Pulmo.** Planning for 7-8 nights each. Contact [blwambach@comcast.net](mailto:blwambach@comcast.net).

**August 1–10, 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](mailto:ken@kennethrcarter.com) if interested.

**August 1-10, Sea of Cortez aboard the Rocio Del Mar with Nirupam Nigam.** Contact [lisa.perla@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa.perla@yahoo.com).

**January 23-Feb. 4, 2026 – Palau.** Tentative dates for 10 days at Palau Royal Resort with Sam’s Tours.

**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  
47 Heritage Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94901-8309

Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, February 12,  
Kenneth Stewart,  
"The Guerrero Project  
and More",  
<https://divingwithapurpose.org/>

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

**Renew Your Membership  
Today. Starting on 3/1,  
You'll Pay a \$10 Late Fee**

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

### Marin Scuba Club: Board of Directors

<http://www.marinscubaclub.org>

#### **BOD Chair**

Barbara Wambach: [chair@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:chair@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **BOD Vice Chair/Social Media**

John Lewis: [vchair@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:vchair@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **Treasurer**

Sue Estey: [treasurer@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:treasurer@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **Secretary**

Lisa Kuhn: [secretary@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:secretary@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **Membership Coordinator**

Julie Finley: [membership@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:membership@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **Member Relations**

Ellen Sakoloff: [relations@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:relations@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **Newsletter Editor/Publicity/Webmaster**

Gil Zeimer: [newsletter@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:newsletter@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **Activities Coordinators**

Barbara Wambach: [activities@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:activities@marinscubaclub.org)

Social Activities Coordinator:

Ric Miller: [activities2@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:activities2@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **Co-Program Coordinators**

Virginia Bria [program@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:program@marinscubaclub.org)

Gil Zeimer [newsletter@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:newsletter@marinscubaclub.org)

& Bryan Eckert [program2@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:program2@marinscubaclub.org)

#### **Special Program Coordinator**

Ken Carter [kc@marinscubaclub.org](mailto:kc@marinscubaclub.org)