

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2025

March 12 Meeting: Nirupam Nigam — “Finding and Photographing the Jewels of the Sea of Cortez”

The Sea of Cortez is often overlooked as a dive destination. Yet hiding in the underwater desert of sand are some of the world's most charismatic critters, from blue-spotted jawfish to orange throat pike blennies.

Bluewater Photo's Nirupam Nigam presents the best method for approaching, finding and photographing these charismatic critters.



Scuba diver and rockfish in the Hood Canal, WA.

While growing up in L.A., he fell in love with the ocean and pursued Channel Islands underwater photography.

At 15, Nirupam was first introduced to underwater photography. At 22, he became the Editor-in-Chief of the www.uwphotographyguide.com — the world's leading underwater photo and video retailer. It's also the world's most popular online resource for underwater photographers, with a mission to disseminate practical knowledge regarding underwater photography.

After receiving degrees in Aquatic & Fisheries Science and General Biology, plus an Arctic Studies minor, Nirupam worked as a fisheries observer, spending months on vessels in the Bering Sea to North Pacific.

Page 2: Nirupam Nigam (See Page 2)

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

The founder of www.DivingWithAPurpose.com, Kenneth Stewart, and his Lead Instructor, Kamau Sadiki, joined us from Maryland for last month's presentation.

They were in D.C. for a book signing by Tara Roberts. “[Written In The Waters: A Memoir of History, Home and Belonging](#)” was inspired after seeing a DWAP exhibit at the National Museum of African American History.



DWAP has achieved worldwide recognition.

Restoring Our Oceans. Preserving Our Heritage.

Ken and Kamau focused on *The Guerrero Project*, sharing the tragic story of this Spanish slave ship that sank off the Florida coast in 1827 on its way to Cuba with 561 Africans aboard; 41 entrapped in the hold drowned.

About 35,000 slave ships have docked in six countries. Of the 500–1,000 that purportedly sank, only five have been found, and only two of those have been documented. *The Guerrero* was one of them.

Donate Now.

Join Ken Smith, who is generously matching other MSC member donations, to help train the next generation of ocean stewards and underwater archaeology advocates: <https://divingwithapurpose.networkforgood.com/>

Watch the DWAP video: <https://vimeo.com/1057267929>.

Page 2: Nirupam Nigam (Continued)

This West Coast native calls Southern California and Western Washington home, where he calls himself “a full-time u/w photographer and photo gearhead.”



He says, “Photography is my medium; light is my paintbrush.”

Join Nirupam on Wednesday, March 12th.

He'll be on Zoom at 7:00 Pacific Time, but we hope to see you live in Sausalito. Contact him through his website www.photosfromthesea.com or send an email to nirupam@uwphotographyguide.com.

Renew Your Membership: \$10 Late Fee

After 3/1, annual renewals are now \$60 for singles and \$89 for couples. Complete or download a form here: <https://marinclub.org/membership/>.

MSC Bahamas Shark Trip

Barb Wambach said: “Eleven members enjoyed a week in San Salvador Island in the Bahamas. We only saw three scalloped hammerheads. Another highlight was the ever-so-friendly groupers that enjoyed up-close contact. The weather was great, visibility was very good, and we saw lots of tropical fish, turtles, and seahorses. Overall, a fun trip.” See more photos:

<https://marinclub.org/msc-bahamas-shark-trip/>



MSC Silver Banks Humpbacks Trip

Virginia Bria reports, “Nine members of Marin Scuba Club recently visited the Silver Banks in the Dominican Republic to snorkel with the Atlantic Humpback Whales aboard the *MV Turks & Caicos Explorer II* with Aquatic Adventures.



HappyWhale.com's mission is to support healthy oceans.

“This destination is the home of over 7,000 whales who migrate here yearly from as far as Norway. We spent six hours for each of five days, in and on the water, observing, photographing, filming, and documenting the behaviors of these magnificent whales during their migration to mate and give birth to their young. What a treat!”

To read more, including how Virginia adopted “Big Papi” through Happy Whale, visit this blog:

<https://marinclub.org/silver-banks-humpbacks-trip-with-marin-scuba-club/>

T-Shirts Now For Sale

Sean O'Day is managing orders for our 100% double-needle-stitched cotton MSC T-shirts for all members.

They're pre-washed, unisex, and great quality. Cost is about \$35 each.

We will have a link soon to order your short- or long-sleeves. I'll send it via email when Sean gets it.



Buy Your Iron-On Patches

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

BOTTOM TIMES

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

Wed., March 12: Nirupam Nigam **via Zoom**. “Finding and Photographing the Jewels of the Sea of Cortez”.

<https://www.photosfromthesea.com/>. MSC will again provide wine, cheese, crackers, grapes, water, etc.

Join Zoom Meeting: This is also listed on the Home, Meetings and Newsletter pages:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7983463827?pwd=UGEreEJ4VFoycmZRZ2lPWnM5NGp6dz09&omn=88072992753>

Meeting ID: 798 346 3827

Passcode: 755205

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 14: Martin Broen, award-winning photographer, “Light in The Underworld”. <https://www.martinbroen.com/>.

Wed., June 11: Mike Boom, Videographer **Live**, “Faces of The Philippines”. <https://laughingeel.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/.

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

- **June 21, 2025: Spring Social.** Simma and Jeffrey will again host from 12:30 – 6:00 pm at their home. Save The Date.
- **Aug. 21–Aug. 24: Fall Dive ‘N Dine.** [Van Damme State Park](#) near Mendocino, group campground. More info to come.
- **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: \$3,940/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 3 (5 nights), Coral Triangle at Pura Vida Beach and Dive Resort in Duain/Dumaguete.

+ **May 4-10 (6 nights)** – Ferry to Magic Oceans Dive Resort, Anda, Bohol. Contact ellen_hope@sbcglobal.net if interested.

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

July 19-26, Cozumel, Mexico. 17 are confirmed for 7 days of 2-tank dives/8 nights. **LAST CALL.** blwambach@comcast.net.

August 1–10, Sand Dollar Hotel, Bonaire. The expected cost of this 2024 trip is \$900–\$1,600/person, depending on the number of participants and accommodations booked. Contact ken@kennethrcarter.com if interested.

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

Oct. 17-25, Cabo Pulmo, Mexico. Sold out: 15 people; 7 days of 2-tank dives/8 nights. Contact blwambach@comcast.net.

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, March 12,
Nirupam Nigam — “Finding
and Photographing the
Jewels of
The Sea of Cortez
www.photosfromthesea.com

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

After 3/1, You'll Pay a
\$10 Late Fee to Renew
Your Membership.

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

Marin Scuba Club: Board of Directors

<http://www.marinscubaclub.org>

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