

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2025

April 9 Meeting: Tiffany Duong and Louise Edwards, Co-Developers of The Video Game: “Found in The Fjords: An Arctic Ocean VR Experience”

Three Otters Media (TOM) is a female-founded virtual reality and new media studio that creates digital worlds to give our physical one a fighting chance. They strive to inspire empathy, wonder, and awe for the natural world, leveraging immersive technologies to create genuine connections to the planet from our schools and homes..



Tiff, Lou and Aya: VR Avatars and in RL (Real Life).

TOM's first game, “Found in The Fjords”, was designed to bring awareness, empathy, education, and support to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 14 Life Below Water. It was named as the Top Prizewinner in the UN's Metaverse for the SDG's competition.

Meet The Team

Dr. Louise Edwards, AKA “Lou” is one of Tom's co-founders, lead VR developer, an Earth scientist, educator, explorer, science and educational consultant. She believes that everyone should feel empowered not only to thrive in the world that we find, but to strive to build the world we want to live in.

Continued on Page 2

March Meeting Recap: Nirupam Nigam — “Finding & Photographing The Jewels of the Sea of Cortez”

Bluewater Photo's Nirupam Nigam presented the best method for approaching, finding and photographing some of the Sea of Cortez's most charismatic critters. He noted that the Sea of Cortez is one of the most remote places in the world to dive, hosts more than 900 islands, is home to 900 species of fish, 5 species of turtle, and 32 species of marine mammals.



Snoot Photography of a Signal Blenny.

Some interesting facts about the 55 Midriff Islands in the Northern Sea of Cortez:

- Currents and thermoclines bring rich nutrients
- Viz and temps can range from 68°–83° per dive
- Blue spotted jawfish, orange throat pikeblennies, signal blennies (“The Crowning Jewel of Jewels”), and bluebanded gobies are extremely interesting
- Over 100 species of nudibranchs live here

Special discounts when you shop with Bluewater Photo, Travel and Scuba: www.bluewaterphotostore.com

- Enter “HUPSDIVE” at checkout for 15% off dive gear.
- Enter “HUPSPHOTO” at checkout for 10% off photo gear (Nauticam and cameras/lenses excluded).

Contact Nirupam through www.photosfromthesea.com.
Watch Nirupam's video: <https://vimeo.com/1066398009>.

Page 2: Tiff and Lou (Continued)

Putting people in the driving seat of their own learning supports deeper understanding, and enhances their sense of self-worth and curiosity. She's based in the Rocky Mountains of Western Canada.

Tiffany Duong, AKA "Tiff", another of TOM's co-founders, is an explorer, storyteller, and producer. She holds degrees from UCLA and the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. Inspired by an epic dive trip, she left corporate law to campaign for our planet.

Now, she writes, speaks, and leads from dense jungles to remote oceans to the changing Arctic. Through her varied work, Tiff gives voice to what's happening in the natural world in order to inspire meaningful action and lasting change. Follow her on Instagram: @tiffmakeswaves.

Aya Walraven is the third co-founder of TOM, the technical director and sound producer for "Found in The Fjords". Her background is in emerging tech, such as augmented reality (AR), video streaming, and data analysis.

She's also an avid freediver with a strong interest in the history of the ocean's relationship to food and culture, as well as sustainable harvesting.



The VR Experience is based on real data.

"Found in The Fjords"

TOM's award-winning game is a virtual world based on real data. It takes you on a leap into frigid Arctic waters to experience first-hand how North Atlantic orcas are adapting to a changing ocean and planet.

For 20 minutes, you'll become a juvenile orca experiencing your first winter in Norway's fjords as you learn how to navigate the threats and opportunities brought by the annual winter herring run and others competing for its rich bounty.

Watch this VR game: <https://foundinthefjords.org/>

New T-Shirts Now For Sale

Sean O'Day has set us up on Zazzle for 100% double-needle-stitched cotton MSC T-shirts for all members.

They're pre-washed, unisex, and great quality. Cost is \$15.60 for lighter short-sleeve or \$20.56 for long-sleeve in many colors.

Order yours now:

https://www.zazzle.com/store/marin_scuba_club



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.

Renew Your Membership: \$10 Late Fee

Now that we're into April, annual renewals cost \$60 for singles and \$89 for couples. Complete or download a form here: <https://marinclub.org/membership/>.

22nd Annual International Ocean Film Festival

Buy your tickets now before these films sell out:

<https://ioff2025.eventive.org/schedule>

Advance Special Screenings

April 5: Rafael Theater, "Salmon Run", 4:00 pm and "Her Shark Story", 7:00 pm

Programs

April 11: Two programs, 4 & 7 p.m.

April 12: Six programs, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

April 13: Six programs, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

A New Waiver for Divers 45 Years and Older

DAN Insurance has been rolling out a new waiver to dive operators that limits their liability. They're now required to have divers sign this new release to be protected by DAN Insurance. If you're 45 or over and *take any medication*, you're required to supply a doctor's note that you are safe to dive. But if you lie, you'll likely not be covered. Read the article: <https://dan.org/alert-diver/article/to-lie-or-not-to-lie/>

Barb added that most recent and planned trips now enforce this draconian waiver, including the Maldives and Cozumel, a Free-Diving Class, and snorkeling with humpbacks.

Download the three-page "Diver Medical Questionnaire" and the "Diving Medical Guide to the Physician" that are attached to the email with the April Newsletter, complete it, and have your doctor sign off on it.

BOTTOM TIMES

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

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”. Find out more: <https://foundinthefjords.org/>

Join our Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7983463827?pwd=UGEreEJ4VFoycmZRZ2lPWnM5NGp6dz09&omn=81288709080>

Meeting ID: 798 346 3827

Passcode: 755205

This Zoom link is also listed on our website’s Home, Meetings and Newsletter pages: <https://marinclub.org/>

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. 21-24: 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 more info about each trip, visit: <https://marinclub.org/trips/>

April 29–May 10: 5 nights at Coral Triangle, Pura Vida Beach and Dive Resort in Duain/Dumaguete. **SOLD OUT.**

May 4-10 (6 nights): Ferry to Magic Oceans Dive Resort, Anda, Bohol. **SOLD OUT.** Contact ellen_hope@sbcglobal.net.

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 19-27, Cozumel, Mexico. 16 are confirmed for 7 days of 2-tank dives/8 nights. **LAST CALL.** blwambach@comcast.net.

August 1–10, Sand Dollar Hotel, Bonaire. 10 are confirmed. 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, Sea of Cortez aboard the Rocio Del Mar with Nirupam Nigam. Contact lisa.perla@yahoo.com.

Oct. 17-25, Cabo Pulmo, Mexico. 16 members are confirmed; 7 days of 2-tank dives/8 nights. **SOLD OUT.**

Contact blwambach@comcast.net.

January 24-Feb. 6, 2026 – Palau. 10 nights per room at the Palau Royal Resort: \$2,250–\$2,650. 9 2-tank dive days with Sam’s Tours: \$2,510. 3-tank dive package: \$2,673. Combo of 2- & 3-tank dives: \$2,592. Night dives are extra. The best flight choice is China Air: \$1,300 round-trip. Contact blwambach@comcast.net.

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

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

You'll Now 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

BOD Chair
Barbara Wambach

BOD Vice Chair/Social Media
John Lewis

Treasurer
Sue Estey

Secretary
Lisa Kuhn

Membership Coordinator
Julie Finley

Member Relations
Ellen Sakoloff

Newsletter Editor/Publicity/Co-Webmaster
Gil Zeimer

Activities Coordinators
Barbara Wambach
Social Activities Coordinator & Co-Webmaster: Ric Miller:

Co-Program Coordinators
Virginia Bria, Gil Zeimer, and Bryan Eckert

Special Program Coordinator
Ken Carter

To contact us, please complete this form:
<https://marinclub.org/contact/>