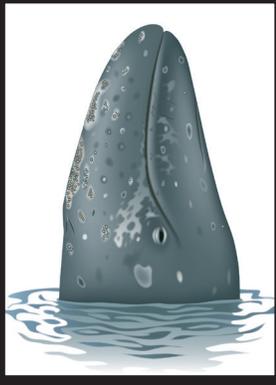




New Zealand Hosts SMM Biennial



Spynopper



Scenic vistas, wave-swept sandy beaches and coastal flax flowers are commonly seen along New Zealand's eastern South Island coastline, such as this view of Sand Fly Bay on the Otago Peninsula. All photos in this article by Diane Alps.

by Diane Alps

Every two years, the Society for Marine Mammalogy hosts the world's largest international conference focused on marine mammals. With over 2,000 marine mammal researchers participating in these week-long meetings, "The Biennial" is the leading venue for dissemination of the "latest and greatest" in marine mammal science.

The Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM) is a professional society whose mission is to promote the global advancement of marine mammal science and contribute to its relevance and impact in education, science, conservation and management.

Founded in 1981, the Society was developed based on a need for an entity to organize and run the already successful, Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. The Biennial Conferences, indeed, predate the beginning of the Society (a detailed history can be found on the Society's website). The first Biennial was held in 1975, with 300 attendees. Today, attendance at the Biennials often exceeds 2,000 marine mammal experts. These conferences play an important role in the world of marine mammal science, bringing researchers and students together to share findings, strategies and methods toward the advancement of the sciences.

The Society's scientific journal, *Marine Mammal Science*, is the leading journal for original research on (you guessed it!) marine mammal science, including form and function, evolution, systematics, physiology, biochemistry, behavior, population biology, life history, genetics, ecology and conservation. Other important areas of focus for the Society include research grants to students and developing countries, special publications and workshops.

Biennial, cont.



In December 2013, the Society held its 20th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals in Dunedin, New Zealand. Following the devastating earthquakes in Christchurch, where the event was originally planned, the University of Otago offered their beautiful campus for the week-long conference. This Southern Hemisphere destination was quite popular, yet due to its distance (from everywhere!) the attendance was a bit lower than other meetings. At 1,200 attendees, the event almost felt “intimate” in nature, when comparing it to previous meetings of 1,800-2,000. The next Biennial will be held in San Francisco December 11-15, 2015. It is expected to have over 2,500 attendees, likely the largest conference so far.

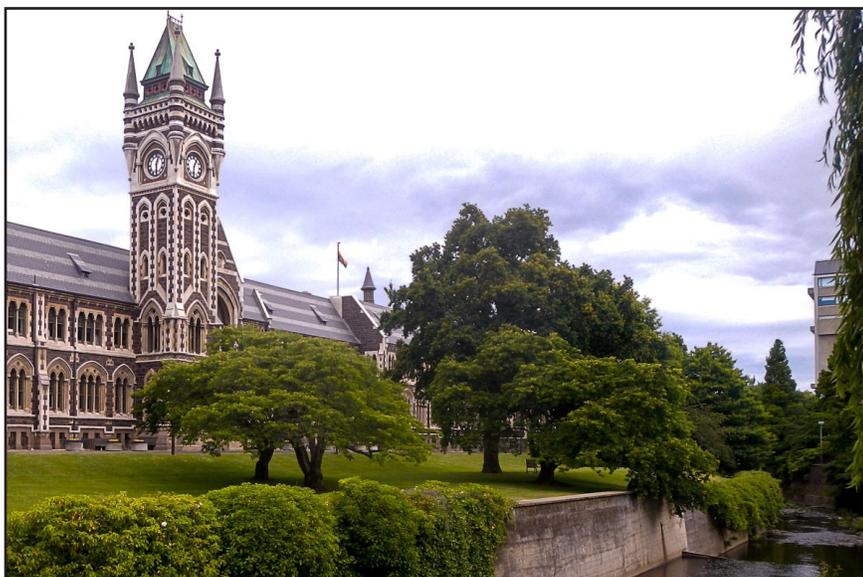
The small college town of Dunedin, home to University of Otago, was filled to the brim with marine mammal people, conference goers were in every nook and cranny the town had to offer, including campus housing. In spite of the overflowing abundance of visitors, it was a very hospitable host-town.

Dunedin is located on the Otago Harbor and is at the base of the Otago Peninsula, known for its rich biodiversity. Pinnipeds, penguins and seabirds are “must see” highlights in this part of New Zealand. So, we did!...as soon as we arrived in town, we toured the Peninsula. I recall the very first New Zealand fur seal that we spotted near the Royal Albatross Center. Fur seals are so rarely seen in Southern California, we were ecstatic to find one on our first day. Later, we realized that they were as common as California sea lions are, here in Southern California - we saw them just about everywhere - however, we were no less excited! On the first day, in addition to the one fur seal, we saw royal albatrosses



Red-billed gulls (Chroicocephalus scopulinus) are New Zealand natives and one of only three gulls species found here.

soaring overhead, several species of (gorgeous!) shags, known as cormorants in the States, New Zealand’s iconic pukeko (purple swamphen), the beautiful, but also quite abundant, red-billed gulls, and numerous other birds.



The University of Otago is New Zealand’s oldest campus. The Victorian design of the University’s Registry Building, also known as the Clocktower Building, and the Waters of Leith provide the backdrop as we walked between sessions..

Back to business....as we look to the conference and the events surrounding it, we’re looking at seven full days of workshops, presentations, meetings and events, typically beginning first thing in the morning and running well into the night: two days of pre-conference workshops, a full day of plenary talks, four days of 15-minute sessions and 4-minute speedtalks, poster sessions, an icebreaker reception, a video evening, a student affairs workshop, a student travel fundraiser, panel discussion, and, of course, the event-ending banquet and dance. It’s hard to imagine all that is squeezed in to such a short period of time! But as with any professional conference, time is valuable and needs to be maximized.

Pre-conference workshops always kick off the events. These workshops are not led by the Society, instead venues are made available for those who

submit a proposal. The workshops are typically topic-specific work groups, with a projected goal. Other times, they may serve as a convenient venue to arrange a review/symposium-type gathering while many collaborators are all in the same part of the world, giving them an opportunity to present updates on the collaborative project. Fifteen workshops were scheduled for this 2013 meeting.

The Marine Mammal Tourism workshop featured case studies from around the world. Management successes and challenges were presented on topics such as ecotourism in developing countries and swim-with operations. A review of the processes of collecting data from commercial whale watching boats, and a retrospective of 60 years of commercial whale watching in Southern California rounded out the workshop, giving a more complete picture of what is happening in the world of marine mammal tourism.

The most compelling case was “*Balancing tourism and dolphin conservation at Chilika Lagoon, India*” presented by Coralie D’Lima, a Ph.D. candidate at James Cook University, Australia, and a 2007 AC-PS student research grant recipient. A small and declining population of the threatened Irawaddy dolphin can be found in Chilika Lagoon. In a sector referred to as “Outer Channel,” approximately 80 dolphins are the focal point of a bustling and highly unregulated dolphin watching industry. Over 600 boats are all competing to watch the same 80 dolphins (yes - six hundred!!). With 600 boats in a small geographic area, economic competition is as challenging as trying to watch the same few dolphins without imposing stress or harm.

High expectations raised through false advertising is a prominent business practice, where photos of gregarious bottlenose dolphins, leaping high in the air, and appearing to be very close to excursion boats is commonly seen on promotional materials. Conversely, Irrawaddy dolphins are often inconspicuous, with unpredictable surfacing patterns and low surfacing profiles. Passengers with high expectations are often disappointed with their encounter instead of being thrilled to catch a glimpse of this threatened species in its natural habitat.

Coralie’s study highlights many of the challenges posed in the ecotourism industry throughout the world: raised expectations, false advertising, economics and misbranding. Bernardo Alps’ presentation on whale watching in Southern California included an example of misleading tourist expectations with dynamic photos of breaching humpback whales along the Australian coast on the website of a Southern California based operation promoting gray whale watch trips.

Marine mammal tourism is a multi-billion dollar international industry, which is exceptional in bringing our hustle-and-bustle society closer to nature. And competition is fierce in some areas.

A combination of ethical business practices, public education, monitoring and research, and conservation management is required to ensure that we don’t overburden the marine mammals that are driving the existence of this tourism in the first place

The official kickoff to the week-long conference is the Icebreaker Reception. Otago Museum was a beautiful venue for this fun mixer. The museum gave a beautiful introduction to New Zealand, both its rich history of native and settlers, as well as its wildlife. The museum was at capacity with conference-goers, excitedly catching up with fellow researchers and enjoying the exhibits, as well as delicious food and beverages. Local Maori students performed the haka, the traditional dance of legend and folklore.

Day one of the conference was held at the beautiful Dunedin Town Hall. Built in 1878, this Victorian-style hall extends a full city block in the center of Dunedin. Much of the architecture in New Zealand is in a European design reflecting the style of the nation’s settlers. Dunedin was initially developed in the latter part of the 19th century as a result of the economic boom following the Central Otago Gold Rush, which occurred during the 1860s. The stunning architecture created a gorgeous backdrop for the festivities of the Biennial.

The full day of plenary talks in the Town Hall were kicked off by the leader of Maori Tribe of this region, who greeted us with a Maori prayer followed by a haka performance. I later heard from locals that when this tribal elder heard of this important conference taking place in Dunedin he insisted it be blessed in Maori tradition. It was a great way to set the stage for the conference, giving a warm feel of local culture.

The conference theme was: *Marine Mammal Conservation - Science Making a Difference*, and the first day really captured it. The Society’s Conservation Chair, Barb Taylor (Southwest Fisheries Science Center), was the first speaker, “All the ingredients - how to succeed at marine mammal conservation.”

Dr. Taylor reviewed the marine mammal conservation from the last 2-3 decades: right whales, harp seals and the tuna/dolphin issue. Today we have a very long list of human-caused threats, both direct and indirect. Direct threats include bycatch, hunting, drive fisheries and ship strike. Indirect threats include fisheries competition, ocean noise, habitat degradation and climate disruptions, such as ocean acidification and loss of sea ice. These indirect threats are very difficult to communicate as there is no simple villain, no simple or obvious story and the evidence of harm is difficult to pinpoint and likely to be indirect. The root cause of these issues, as well as the majority of our environmental disasters, is too many people on this planet using too few resources. We are creating global environment degradation with no accountability.

Biennial, cont.



Dunedin is rich with world-class heritage buildings of Victorian and Edwardian architecture such as the Knox Church, built in 1872, which is can easily be seen from most of the central city due to its spire which reaches almost 170 feet high.

However, today we also have a host of new players to aid the primary effectors in conservation. Today, we add educators and ecotourism, media specialists, including social media, economists and technical specialists to the teams of scientists, government managers, NGOs (such as ACS), and legislators. Collaborations and open communication are key in successful conservation efforts.

Barb provided a formula for conservation in the 21st century, stating that we must:

- Collaborate, teams are necessary
- Persevere, solutions take a long time
- Balance optimism and realism
- Improve communication skills
- Take every opportunity to infect people with your enthusiasm for what you do

I believe Barb's last point resonates so well with ACS efforts, both on and off the water,

as naturalists, educators and scientists, we have the ability to reach thousands with our excitement and enthusiasm. Let it shine, let it be contagious! I hope each and every one of you will make an effort to "infect people with your enthusiasm" as often as possible - starting now!

Dr. Taylor's presentation was very motivating and set the stage for a series of talks on conservation efforts and successes: New Zealand's Maui's dolphins and sea lions, the vaquita, and polar bears. Andy Read (Duke University) cited a 1973 paper, where H. Rittel described problems of social policy as "wicked problems" because there is no definitive formula, no perfect solution, each problem is unique and each intervention changes the nature of the problem. Dr. Read warned that we should prepare for failure: it is not likely that we can save every marine mammal population; yet we can also prepare for success, as some marine mammal populations are reoccupying habitats from which they have been absent for decades. We must learn to deal effectively with these "wicked problems," but we must also learn how to coexist with them.

Days two through five of the Biennial were a sea of 15-minute presentations, running from 9:00am to 4:30pm, followed by 15 minutes of 4-minute "speed talks." There were four concurrent sessions of the presentations, so during the one-minute transition time, hundreds of people appeared like busy bumble bees swarming from one room to another. And these full days did not end at 5pm. Two-hour poster sessions gave everyone time to mix and mingle and try to review a few of the 400 posters.

I attended over 50 talks and the notes are mind-boggling, but a few brief "soundbites" include:

- Jeremy Goldbogen (Hopkins Marine Station), *Ecomorphological and behavioural analysis of the ultimate mouthful and consequences for niche partitioning in rorqual whales*: Goldbogen reports that the rorqual tongue inverts all the way down to the belly button vacating the mouth space, while the rorqual pleats expand up to 4 times their resting length. Together these features allow maximum space for prey engulfment.



The University's Union Hall became "conference central" as it hosted the registration and information desk, exhibitors, posters, tables, meeting rooms and the ever-elusive wi-fi.

- Robert Pitman (Southwest Fisheries Science Center), *Out of Antarctica: Dive data support “physiological maintenance migration” in Antarctic killer whales*: (Ari Friedlaender presented for Pitman) Tagging data shows “Type C,” fish eating killer whales, make similar migratory treks to warm Brazilian waters, as do “Type B,” seal and penguin eating killer whales. These two ecotypes of killer whales have very different foraging requirements yet make the same long distance movements to warm waters. Adaptations to cold habitats often include shunting blood away from surface (skin) to reduce heat loss. This migration is likely evidence of a remarkable behavioral adaptation to allow foraging in productive Antarctic waters, in which killer whales are physiologically constrained. Pitman suggests these are “maintenance migrations” to warmer waters that enabled skin regeneration without the high cost of heat loss in Antarctica.
- Steven Thornton (Univ. of North Carolina), *Functional morphology of pygmy (Kogia breviceps) and dwarf (K. sima) sperm whale dorsal acoustic structures*: Thornton finds the right nasal passage of odontocetes much smaller than the left nasal which is used for breathing. The right nasal is used for echolocation. Thornton also found the acoustic system “highly tunable,” permitting focus of the sound beam into a desired direction.
- Brandon Southall (SEA, Inc.), *Measuring cetacean responses to military sonar - Behavioral response studies in southern California*: Southall reports results to date indicate that Cuvier’s beaked whales react most strongly to simulated sonar exposures with clear changes in vocal and diving behavior indicating avoidance responses at quite low received sound levels. Blue whale responses are more variable and depend on complex interactions of exposure conditions and individual behavioral state.

You can still find informative updates that were posted throughout the Biennial on Twitter #smm2013.

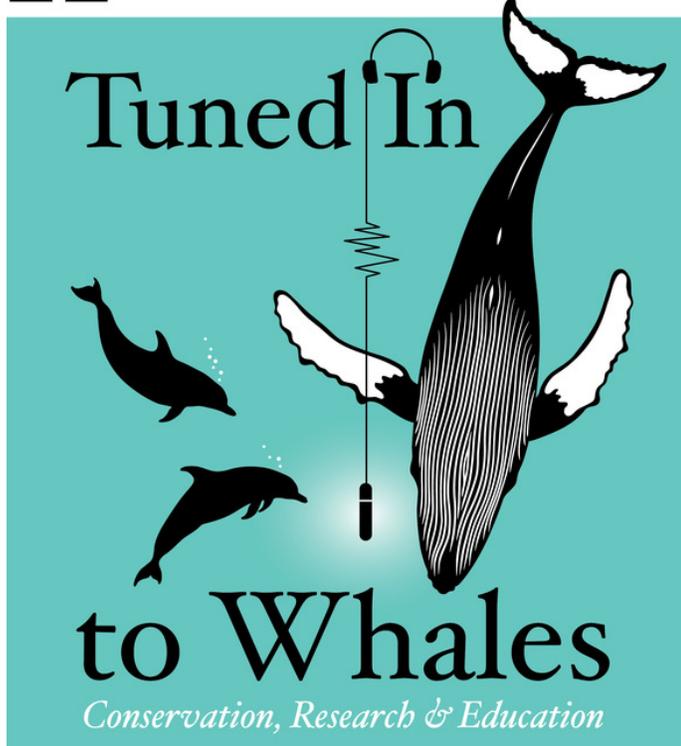
ACS will continue to keep you updated on this and other scientific meetings through newsletters, chapters’ monthly presentations, and our 14th International Conference, *Tuned in to Whales, Education, Conservation and Research*, November 7 - 9, 2014 in Newport Beach.

Diane has been involved with the American Cetacean Society since 1998. She discovered ACS through the Cabrillo Whalewatch Naturalist Program (of which she is still an active volunteer). Diane soon became active on the ACS-LA Board of Directors and has held positions of Conservation Chair, Whalewatch Chair, Membership Chair and Officer positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President. She has been the President since 2011. Diane also worked as the sole staff person for ACS’ National Headquarters for eight years while concurrently working at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, where she is now the Programs Coordinator. Diane is also very active with the ACS National Board of Directors and was recently appointed Vice President. Diane thanks the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium for their support.



Fantastic ACS Conference Taking Shape!

 AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



14th International Conference

Newport Beach, California – November 7-9, 2014
Hyatt Regency Newport Beach

by Mike Makofske

Conference planning is progressing well and promises an event you will not want to miss! ACS will keep you informed and add details to the website as plans are solidified. Meanwhile, here are some common questions that may help you prepare to attend this great event and make the most of your experience:

When is the 14th ACS International Conference?

The official dates of the conference are November 7, 8 & 9, 2014. The hotel's conference rate is available for 135 rooms on November 7 & 8, and for a more limited number of rooms from November 4-6 and 9-12.

What does the conference consist of?

ACS's International Conference is a highly respected gathering of scientists, educators, conservationists, students, hobbyists – anyone with an interest in cetaceans and their ocean environment. Activities include speaker sessions with world-renowned experts, a poster session for students working on cetacean-related projects, a photography contest, and whale-watching field trips, which are usually held on Friday.

The speaker lineup will be finalized in early July. For a look at past conference programs, see our website at <http://acsonline.org/education/conference/> (click the Conferences tab on the home page).

I'm a student and would like to submit a project for the poster session. Where can I get more information?

You start by submitting a poster abstract. Information on this subject can be found on the ACS website at <http://acsonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/2014-Call-for-Poster-Abstracts-Final.pdf>, or by e-mailing posters@acsonline.org.

What is this year's conference theme?

The theme for this year is *Tuned in to Whales: Conservation, Research and Education*. It's based on ACS's three-part mission statement, and we are lining up speakers and panelists in all three disciplines: Conservation, Research and Education.

Do you need to be a scientist or professional to attend?

No! Everyone is welcome. ACS prides itself on being a bridge between the science and lay communities. The speakers will be respected researchers, conservationists and educators, and anyone with a sincere interest in cetaceans and the ocean environment will be able to enjoy and learn from the many programs at the conference. The 2014 speaker lineup is still in the works, but to get an idea, you can review past programs on the ACS website at <http://acsonline.org/education/conference/>.

Where will the 2014 conference be held?

The venue is the Newport Beach Hyatt Regency, 1107 Jamboree Road in beautiful Newport Beach, CA.

When will conference registration be available?

We expect to start taking conference registrations in June, but you can make your hotel reservations now at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AMCS14> or by calling Hyatt's central reservation line at (888) 421-1442 and referencing the "American Cetacean Society room block."

What is the hotel's conference rate?

The conference rate for singles or doubles is \$155 a night, a significant savings from normal rates at this hotel. It's available for the nights of November 7 & 8 for 135 rooms, and for a more limited number of rooms on November 4-6 and 9-12 at this link: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AMCS14>, or by calling Hyatt at (888) 421-1442 and referencing the "American Cetacean Society room block." NOTE: The hotel has a resort fee of \$19 a day, but IT WILL BE WAIVED FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES. If it appears on your bill or reservation, let the desk clerk know you are an ACS conference attendee and the charge will be removed.

If I can't make the whole conference, can I attend for just one day?

Yes, we plan to make single-day and half-day tickets available. You also can buy tickets for the field trips or the Saturday night banquet without buying the entire conference.

What's the nearest airport?

The closest and most convenient airport is John Wayne International, airport code SNA (sometimes referred to as Orange County or Santa Ana airport). It's only about four miles from the Hyatt Regency, and the hotel runs a free shuttle to/from this airport. If SNA doesn't work out for you, Long Beach Airport (LGB) is about 25 miles away and Los Angeles International (LAX) about 45 miles. The hotel does not have a shuttle to these airports, but commercial shuttles and taxis are available.

What about rental cars?

All of the above-mentioned airports have rental car facilities, but you might get a better price at the Hertz Local Edition in the Hyatt Regency. You can book this location through the Hertz website or directly by phone at (949) 718-0239.

How much is parking?

If you're staying in the hotel overnight, self-parking is free for conference attendees. If not, it's \$5 a day (up to 15 hours, enough for one day's conference activities).

Information will be updated on the ACS web site as it becomes available. If you're already an ACS member, you'll get e-mail updates. If not, the best way to stay up-to-date (and get a discount on the conference) is by joining ACS at <http://acsonline.org/shop-acs/become-a-member/>. Come join in this inspirational event – it only comes around every other year! Take what you learn and help ACS inspire an even broader audience toward cetacean understanding and conservation.

**Check regularly on the ACS website for
conference information and many other items of
interest to ACS members.**

www.acsonline.org



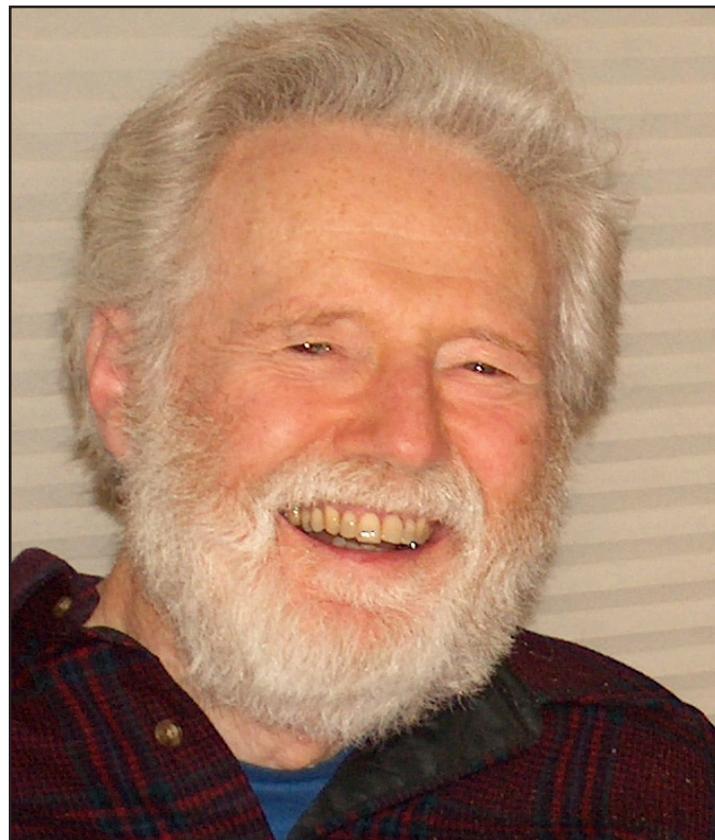
Message From The President

In Honor of Alan Baldrige

Cetaceans, marine mammals and birds lost a true friend and ally with the passing of Alan Baldrige on May 28, 2014. Alan and soulmate Sheila Baldrige were instrumental with the formation of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Cetacean Society in 1980.

With a master's degree in Library Science, Alan and Sheila moved from England to the Monterey Peninsula in 1966, where they both worked in scientific librarian positions throughout their careers - Alan at Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station and Sheila at Moss Landing Marine Labs. Alan became an expert on the identification, ecology, biology and conservation of local marine mammals, seabirds, and land birds. His passion for and careful observation of these animals was shared in writing, teaching and organizing efforts on their behalf. In 1980, he co-authored *The Bird Year* about the seasonal habitats and ecology of Monterey's bird life, and in 1991, *Gray Whales* was published.

During nearly 30 years at Hopkins Marine Station, Alan was a tireless and life-long educator who was generally considered the "go-to" naturalist when government officials or news reporters wanted to know something about things that fly over, swim in or wash up on the shore of Monterey Bay. He inspired countless marine biologists, ornithologists and field birders with his passion



for the ecology and conservation of the diversity of wildlife, which took him on numerous travels throughout the world.

Alan remained interested and engaged by nature until the very end of his life. On April 30, 2014, the Myers Oceanographic & Marine Biology Trust awarded the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Cetacean Society a grant on behalf of Alan and Sheila's dedicated work with the organization.

Alan Baldrige touched the lives of many with his passion for studying, observing and documenting marine mammals. His inspiration lives on through students in all phases of life who marvel at the wonders of nature.

Niane Glim



Art Haseltine, ACS-MB and Myers Trust board member and Myers Trust President, Dr. John Pearse, congratulate award-winners Alan and Sheila Baldrige.

Chapters in Action

Lynette Koffinow, San Francisco Bay

Our members and attendees have been fascinated and inspired by our winter/spring presentations.

On February 25 Kathi Koontz and many of the WET team gave an informative and exciting presentation on "*Whale Disentanglement in Northern California.*" They created a mock event that began with the beginning call/report of a distressed whale, all the follow up calls, getting the team coordinated, to the actual disentanglement.

We were fortunate on March 6 to have Ari Friedlaender, in CA between Antarctica trips, give a fascinating presentation on "*Seeing below the surface: using tag technology and visualization tools to understand the underwater behavior of whales.*" Ari was so generous to donate a few of his gorgeous photographs to sell in which the proceeds will go toward our 2014 Student research grants.

On March 20 we had a special event at the Aquarium of the Bay by Stephen Palumbi and Anthony Palumbi regarding their new book "*The Extreme Life of the Sea.*" It was wonderful to see how the two have melded the science with a non-scientist writer's work.

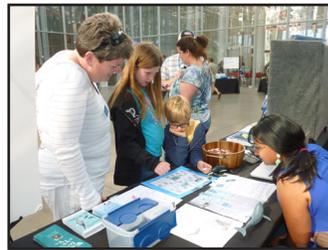
On April 29 all attendees enjoyed Pamela S. Turner's presentation on the research and writing of her book "*Everyone knows bottlenose dolphins are smart. But why are they smart?*"



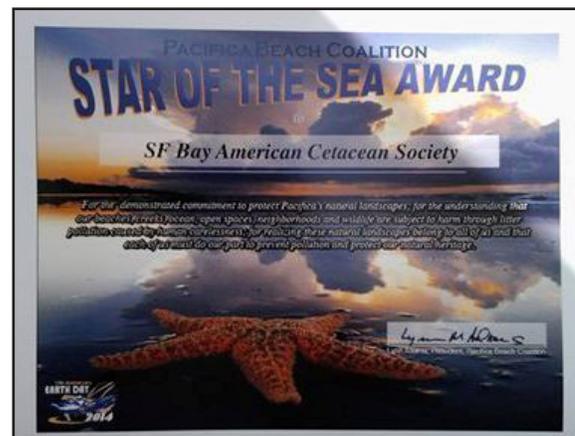
Our Educational Outreach Events began on February 11 for the 6th Annual Environmental Youth Forum at the Rafael Film Center. There were 460 children that viewed films, heard speakers and attended a panel discussion with young activists in

their three screen Rafael Film Institute. We were among the 14 environmental organizations in their "active cinema" room that they were able to meet, learn about our organizations, and discuss issues.

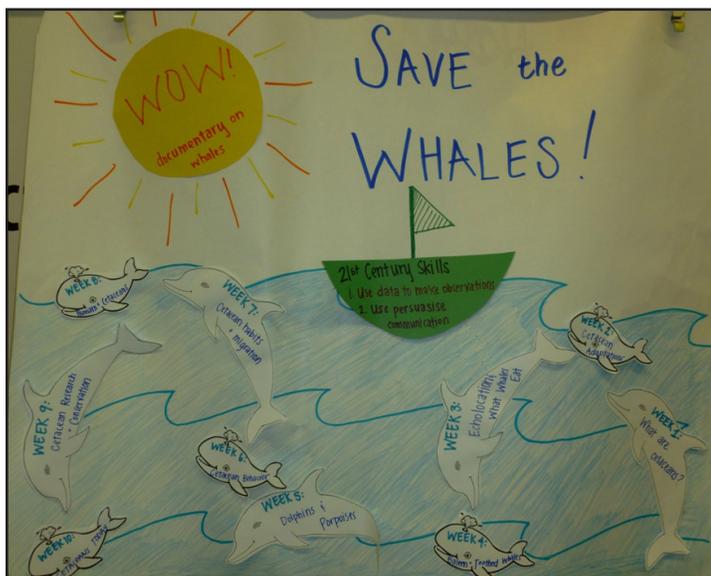
We had an incredible time on March 22 and March 23 at Cal Academy's *Brilliant!Science: Incredible Ocean*, which was in preparation for their new Rocky Reefs exhibit. As part of the event, the Academy organized a Family Festival in which the event took a closer look at oceans as a source of food for both humans and for the creatures that make them their home, and focused specifically on the waters along California's coast. We had several relevant hands-on activities, demonstrations, and information about SF Bay ACS for our visitors.



A wonderful time was had by all at the Pacifica Earth Day event. This was our third year celebrating Earth Day in Pacifica with Pacifica Beach Coalition. Everyone began the morning by cleaning up a pre-designated site (everywhere in Pacifica from the town, schools, beaches, roadsides, etc). We then celebrated the day by having an educational event with the other wonderful ocean and environmental organizations. There were talks, music, and great festivities. It is always an incredible time to educate the public on the gray whales and their migration. Many times one can see them blowing and breaching from our Linda Mar Beach Location.



Chapters, cont.



We are putting a call out for board members, volunteers, and interns to join our active chapter! You have an opportunity to become a board member, volunteer, or intern with us. We have a variety of positions available that require as little as two hours of your time a month. To find out more about becoming a board member or volunteering, please contact Lynette R. Kofinow at acs.sfbay@gmail.com. Look forward to working with you!

For our inspiring monthly presentations, events, SF Bay ACS Student Chapters and school projects, and updates on issues please visit our website: www.acs-sfbay.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/sfacs.

Mike Makofske, Orange County

The highlight of ACS-OC's quarter came on April 27, when the chapter held its second Earth Day Whale Watch fundraiser with Dana Wharf Whale Watching. About 70 people went on this year's trip, and they were rewarded with close-up looks at migrating gray whales and a small pod of Pacific white sided dolphins (plus, of course, a rewarding on-board raffle!). The event was a success financially and as a chapter-builder, and our thanks go to General Manager Donna Kalez and her entire team at Dana Wharf for their generosity in hosting us aboard their flagship, the Dana Pride.

Our February speaker was Meredith Rivin, Associate Curator of the J. D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center in Santa Ana. Meredith is a long-time member and friend to ACS-OC, and we were glad to finally have a chance to hear her at one of our meetings. Her talk on the whale fossils found in Orange County freeway digs and other construction projects sparked one of the liveliest Q&A sessions we've ever had, concluding with Meredith's pronouncement that "Orange County is one of the coolest place for whales for the last 50 million years!" (Can we put that on a banner at the conference this November?)

In March we welcomed our friends Bernardo and Diane Alps from ACS-LA. They gave a report on the Society for Marine

Our new class at the Citizen School in Redwood City is going fantastically. It is a 10-week semester with a WOW! (think "science fair") at the end so the students can show off what they've learned to family, friends, community, and Citizen Schools employees/volunteers. We are hoping to expand our class to the five other Citizen Schools after this semester is over. We feel so fortunate to have them teaching the children about cetaceans and the ocean environment.

We had a great time April 30 at Sir Frances Drake High School for their Earth Day event. It was very inspiring to see teachers that inspire their students regarding the ocean and environment by doing everything from Beach cleanups to showing the film "Blackfish."

We look forward to giving presentations and classes the next couple months at Ocean Shore School (Pacifica), Sir Frances Drake High School (San Anselmo), Brewer High School (Foster City), Tamalpais High School (Mill Valley), Camp ARF (Vet Science Camp - Walnut Creek), and in the fall Santa Clara School.

If you are a teacher or student that would like to partner with us on Educational Projects or creating a SF Bay ACS Ocean Club please notify us. We would love to work with you!

Our Harbor Porpoise Research Project, conducted in collaboration with San Francisco State University and Golden Gate Cetacean Research organization, is in development and going well. We are looking for additional volunteers to participate with us on this project. It is a very exciting project and a fabulous opportunity to work with us and the scientists. For further information please contact: Lynette Kofinow: lklifeart@sbcglobal.net.

Mammalogy conference last December in New Zealand, and of course they shared some of their great photos from the trip. We enjoyed seeing them again, along with several other ACS-LA members who made the trip down.

On May 22 Dr. Irene Gilgoff, spoke to us on the topic of sea turtle conservation, keying off her recent trip to Costa Rica and her involvement with the Turtle Island Restoration Project.

In Orange County, of course, all eyes are on next November, when the 14th International ACS Conference will be held in Newport Beach. We're looking forward to welcoming a crowd of leading researchers, educators and conservationists and showing them our beautiful home turf.

Blue alert! Dana Point operators saw their first three blue whales of the season on May 1!



It's all smiles as the Dana Pride sets out for the OC Chapter's Earth Day fundraising trip on April 27. Clockwise from top: National and OC Board Member Mike Makofske, Dana Wharf General Manager Donna Kalez, ACS-OC Naturalist Christina de la Fuente, and ACS-OC Board Member and Naturalist Steve O'Toole. Photo by ACS-OC Naturalist Carla Mitroff.

Student Coalition, Sabena Siddiqui

The ACS Student Coalition (ACSSC) has been busy at work, advocating for healthy oceans and the wellbeing of whales.

We are excited to announce the success of the ACSSC-University of Hawaii Mānoa's first semester! They have a full board of officers and many activities to show for their dedication and passion. The UH Mānoa ACSSC went to elementary school classrooms and gave ocean conservation presentations. ACSSC-University of Hawaii led ocean crafts to engage students and promote awareness. The group collected six trash bags full of garbage during their beach clean-up and is planning a new campaign focused upon beach clean-ups. In February, ACSSC-UH Mānoa members participated in the 2014 Ocean Count held through the NOAA Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. This involved contributing to the annual shore-based monitoring census by counting humpback whales that migrate to Hawai'i from January-March. Their members were able to learn about humpback whale behavior, contribute to ongoing humpback whale data collection, and promote awareness about humpback whales to ensure their health in the future.

ACSSC-University of Hawaii members were able to speak with Graduate students from the UH Mānoa Marine Mammal Research Program in a student panel forum. ACSSC-University of Hawaii members had the opportunity to attend a dolphin necropsy at the Hawai'i Pacific University through the Marine Mammal Stranding Program a week after the presentation. Additionally, the group held a screening of *Blackfish*. Please join us in supporting this passionate group of students by visiting their Facebook page!

Our Indiana University ACSSC group finished the school year while continuing their captivity campaign. This included a screening of films such as *Blackfish*, *A Fall from Freedom*, among others. ACSSC members participated in the "Empty the Tanks" worldwide event by protesting at the Indianapolis Zoo. The Indiana University group has new board off officers for the upcoming Fall school year and plans to continue their captivity campaign while implementing new ones!

If you are interested in joining or supporting these burgeoning student efforts, check out our new website, at acsscnational.wordpress.com. If you or a youth you know are interested in starting a Coalition at your high school or university, contact our President, Sabena Siddiqui at siddiqis@indiana.edu, or click the "Lead your own coalition" link on our website.

Chapters, cont.

Diane Alps, Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Chapter had a whale-of-a-Spring-time!

Our Gray Whale Census and Behavior Project wrapped up the season with three new records! Here are the season's numbers:

1 December - 23 May

Southbound -- 1,214 (14 cow/calf pairs)

Northbound ---1,741 (286 cow/calf pairs: RECORD COUNT!)

Total -----2,955

Our Census Director, Alisa Schulman-Janiger, reports these selected gray whale highlights: (* = new record count, highest in all 31 seasons)

1. *New December record count: 368 (including 4 northbound)
2. *New May record count: 307 (including 1 southbound)
3. *New northbound calf record count: 286 cow/calf pairs
4. Highest one-day count in 26 seasons: 101 (1 March: 9 northbound, 7 southbound), despite many rain squalls and bouts of gale force winds!
5. This was our third highest southbound count (in 31 seasons)
6. This was our seventh highest northbound count (in 31 seasons)

The Cabrillo Whalewatch program, a partnership between the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and ACS-LA, celebrated the end of the gray whale watch season with 100 volunteers contributing over 6,800 hours! Students, families and passengers of all ages on 754 boats were taught about local marine life on boats from Marina del Rey Sportfishing, Voyager Excursions in Redondo Beach and Spirit Cruises in San Pedro.

We are particularly excited for our coming whale watch adventure: Summertime Blues (and Humpbacks!) as the sightings in the Santa Barbara Channel have been exceptional! Blue and humpback whales have been gorging themselves, and stopping to entertain passengers with friendly approaches. As always, you just never know what you might see, especially when you have 8 full hours of whale watch time!! Sign up today – www.acs-la.org. We hope to see you on board!!



Census dedication at work! Photo courtesy Alisa Schulman-Janiger.

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY		OTHER SIGHTINGS THIS SEASON	
TODAY'S GRAY WHALES 5-23-14		(Dates of our most recent sightings)	
Southbound	0	WHALES	
Northbound <i>cow/calf pairs: 1</i>	2	Fins: 5-21-14	
TOTAL WHALES TODAY	2	Blues:	
SEASON GRAY WHALE TOTALS		Orcas: 4-23-14	
Southbound <small>NEW RECORD HIGH COUNT DECEMBER: 368</small>	1214	Sperms: 12-2-13	
Northbound	1741	Humpbacks: 5-11-14	
Southbound Cow/Calf Pairs	14	Minke: 5-8-14	
Northbound Cow/Calf Pairs <small>NEW RECORD HIGH COUNT</small>	286	DOLPHINS	
Total Whales Since 12/01/13	2955	Risso's 5-13-14	
		Common 5-25-14	
		Bottlenose 5-23-14	
		Pacific White Sided 5-17-14	
		OTHER OBSERVATIONS	
		Thresher Shark 1-12-14	
		Steller Sea Lion 2-3-14	
		Minke breached 12 times 3-14	
		Fin Whale breached 20 times 4-8	
		False Killer Whales 4-21-14	
		WWW.ACS-LA.ORG	

ACS-LA GRAY Whale Census and Behavior Project located at Point Vicente, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA: This season's final counts of gray whales, and extraneous marine mammal sightings. Photo by Alisa Schulman-Janiger.

Richard Ternullo, Monterey Bay

March speaker Steve Webster spoke to our members on “*The Natural History of Cephalopods.*” Dr. Webster is a founding member of both ACS-MB and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. His presentation was very informative and enjoyable. I think quite a few participants were encouraged to see the new cephalopod exhibit opening at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

In April Milos Radakovich addressed a large crowd on the topic of “*Cetaceans Today and Yesterday.*” Milos is a long-time member and former board member of ACS-MB, his last post being Historian. For the past decade he has worked on various cruise vessels throughout the world as a Naturalist. His presentation was probably the most humorous we’ve heard in some time, complete with props.

During this meeting Alan and Sheila Baldrige were honored for 27 years of serving on the Board of the Myers Oceanographic and Marine Biology Trust. A donation of \$3,000 was given to ACS-MB as a local organization supporting marine conservation. Alan and Sheila have been the backbone of ACS-MB and founding members. Sadly, we lost Alan in May. See the article on page 8 that honors his many accomplishments.

Hopkins Marine Station Director, Dr. Steve Palumbi, presented his new book, “*The Extreme Life of the Seas,*” in May to a full and engaged audience. June Speaker Dr. Karin Forney will speak on “*Where’s Whaldo? Modeling cetacean distributions in dynamic habitats to reduce anthropogenic impacts.*”

Dr. Erich Hoyt was welcomed to Monterey Bay on the Whale Trail by ACS-MB and other enthusiastic conservation organizations at the Museum of Monterey.

The Annual fundraiser for Viva Vaquita at Hula’s Island Grill was successful and well-attended.

A total of four grant proposals were submitted, and we will fund at least two. I must comment that the submissions this year were all top quality.



Steve Webster answering post-presentation questions.



Milos Radakovich brings knowledge and humor to ACS.

Chapters, cont.

Uko Gorter, Puget Sound

Our little Puget Sound Chapter has entered its 15th year after it was re-established in 1999 by Joe Olson. Indeed, a previous chapter existed in the late 1970s through the early part of the 1990s. ACS-PS board member, Bonnie Gretz and myself have been trying to dig into the history of our chapter. While we uncovered a few nuggets, much remains a mystery. If any of you out there have information about our chapter dating back to the 1970s, we would love to hear from you. Contact us at acspsinfo@acspugetsound.org.

In the meantime, our chapter is still going strong and continues its mission of education the public about whales through our meetings and educational outreach. Listed below are just a few of the events we have participated in and/or are scheduled for the near future.

Wednesday, April 16 - ACS-PS presented two talks as part of the “Puget Sound Experience” for the Tahoma Middle School students on the Seattle-Bainbridge ferry. Both students and ferry commuters listened in for a talk about the marine mammals of the Salish Sea. We brought marine mammal specimens and artifacts to enhance this presentation.

Tuesday, April 22 - ACS-PS president Uko Gorter, gave a talk about marine mammals for the Kindergarten class of Christine Pasos, of the View Ridge Elementary School in Seattle. The presentation included a drawing session with Uko.

Saturday, May 10 - ACS-PS attended the Penn Cove Water Festival 2014. This is an annual family festival celebrating Native American culture, environmental stewardship, and bringing local communities together. We manned a table in the Coupeville Wharf.

ACS-PS was a co-sponsor for The Whale Trail’s “Orca Tour 2014” event in Seattle. The “Orca Tour with Erich Hoyt, *Adventures with Orcas in the North Pacific, from Stubbs to Iceberg.*” The tour started in Saturna, BC, and proceeded all the way down to Monterey Bay California. Go to: www.thewhaletrail.org or to: www.orcatour.org for more information.

The annual *Orca Sing* 2014 will be held on June 21. Once again, our ACS-PS chapter is a co-sponsor for this event. It will be held at the Lime Kiln Point State Park on San Juan Island, and starts at 6 pm. More information can be found on the Whale Museum’s website (whalemuseum.org).

As usual, our Speaker Series meetings are every third Wednesday of the month, held at the Phinney Neighborhood Center in Room 6. Listed below are our past presentations so far this year.

- January 15: “*Hawaii’s resident and not-so resident Blackfish: recent studies of false killer whales and killer whales in Hawai’i.*” Presented by Robin Baird, biologist at Cascadia Research Collective, Olympia WA.
- February 19: “*Whales as a source of raw materials: A look at historic and recent whale products.*” Presented by ACS-PS president, Uko Gorter.
- March 19: “*Soundside Marinelifelife Rescue Center, an introduction.*” Presented by Casey McLean. Followed by a documentary on the Franciscana (“On the brink of Survival”).
- May 21, “*Studying beluga whales in a changing Pacific Arctic: distribution, migration, and diving behavior.*” Presented by Donna Hauser.
- June 18, Research on Southern Resident Killer Whales (title, TBA). Presented by Dawn Noren, biologist at NWFSC/NOAA Fisheries, and ACS-PS board member.

As usual, we will take a summer hiatus until September 17.

If you are living in or visiting the Seattle area, we would love to welcome you to our monthly meetings. Visit our website (www.acspugetsound.org) or our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ACSpugetsound>) for more information and updates.

Sandy Rosenberg, San Diego

The San Diego chapter has been busy over the last few months. We have held monthly speaker events and two chapter sponsored whale watches. All have been fun and exciting.

In February, Jay Barlow spoke to us on counting cetaceans. He provided fascinating details on state-of-the-art methods for making population estimates, especially of gray whales. We learned about the technology used and the adjustments that are needed to determine accurate counts.

Our March speaker was Wayne Perryman who spoke on techniques for counting large aggregations of marine mammals as well as determining the size and shape of individual whales.

We had a special treat in April when Howard and Michele Hall shared their film "*Seasons in the Sea*" with us, premiering new footage. This gorgeous film was followed by a lengthy question period in which Howard shared some interesting details of his film making.

Both of our whale watches were highly successful. The February trip found several southbound gray whales. In March, we had northbound whales including breachers and a juvenile who gave us great looks while it explored the kelp (top right). We also had hundreds of common dolphins. In addition to providing us with a great trip, Pacific Nature Tours boat company, made a generous donation to ACS.

Our January speaker was Dr. John Hildebrand whose topic was "*Marine Mammals and Sound*." Dr. Hildebrand spoke on the history of our understanding of whale vocalizations and his own research on the subject.



Chapters, cont.

Joy Primrose, Oregon

The ACS Oregon Chapter hosted a stop on “*The Orca Tour*” Saturday May 10, 2014. The event was held at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Orca expert, author and marine conservationist Erich Hoyt spoke on “*Adventures with Orcas in the North Pacific- from Al Stubbs to Iceberg, the White Russian Bull.*” This event will also officially bring The Whale Trail to Oregon. The Whale Trail is a series of sites where people can view orcas and other marine mammals from shore. The goal of “*The Orca Tour*” is to promote awareness of the Southern Resident Killer Whales throughout their range along the Pacific Coast from Vancouver Island to Monterey, California, and to inspire stewardship of the marine environment. It was a fun and educational evening.

Our speaker series meetings are free and open to the public, so please join us and bring a friend or two! Meetings are held at the Newport Public Library, 35 NW Nye Street, Newport at 1:00 PM. Our scheduled speakers are:

May 17, 2014 G. Renee Albertson, Ph.D. candidate at the Marine Mammal Institute, OSU presented her research using genetic markers to describe the habitat use of Rough Toothed Dolphins in the Hawaiian Islands and Humpback Whales in French Polynesia.

June 14, 2014 Angie Sremba presented “*Beached Bones: Exploring the impact of exploitation on the great whale populations of South Georgia.*” Angie has done DNA analysis of bones from the whaling stations at the South Atlantic Island of South Georgia where over 175,000 whales were killed.

Our February speaker, Bridget Watts, Field Biologist, was cancelled due to inclement weather. She will be rescheduled after she returns from her current project in Alaska.

We also have several other events scheduled for the summer.

We will have a table with information and activities on cetaceans during World Oceans Day, June 7, 2014 at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Save the Vaquita Day is July 12, 2014! We will be providing visitors to the Oregon Coast Aquarium with information on the Vaquita and how they can get involved in saving this endangered porpoise.

Our beach clean-up in partnership with Surfrider Foundation is July 19, 2014 at 11:00 AM.

The Third Annual Summer Whale Watch Weekend is July 26 & 27, 2014 from 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM at Boiler Bay State Park, Depoe Bay. This event provides free, eco-friendly shore based whale watching and wildlife viewing with education and information on Oregon’s cetaceans.

August 10, 2014 10:00 AM Rocky Creek State Park, Depoe Bay will be our Summer Potluck Picnic and Whale Watch. Join us for shore based whale watching followed by a potluck picnic. Please bring a dish to share, we will provide table settings and beverages. Congratulations to our second class of ACS Certified Oregon Marine Naturalists who graduated on April 19, 2014. We had an amazing group of 13 students who were very engaging, creative and eager to learn. Many are already volunteering for our upcoming events. Now we have 24 Naturalists having fun educating and interpreting for the ACS Oregon Chapter!

We attended a meeting on the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan for K-12 students. The goal is to connect teachers to existing resources and discover gaps in the existing resources. We shared with the group the resources the ACS Oregon Chapter could offer to teachers and students.

Joy Primrose, ACS Oregon Chapter Founder and President, gave a presentation on April 29, 2014 at the Yachats Academy of Arts and Sciences. “*A Diversity of Whales, Dolphins & Porpoises.*” The presentation covered the ACS and discussed 12 species of cetaceans most often seen along the Oregon Coast.

Whale Watching With the Whale Experts

Experience the rich biodiversity of the ocean while supporting the American Cetacean Society!

All-day adventures in the Santa Barbara Channel:

- July 26 hosted by ACS/LA, details can be found at www.acs-la.org
- August 16 hosted by ACS, details can be found at www.acsonline.org

Price: \$109 (\$99 for ACS Members) - a delicious continental breakfast is included.

Both trips will depart at 8 am and return at (or near) 4 pm. The trips take place aboard the Condor Express. This 75-foot jet engined vessel was custom-built for whale watching with no external props. The company has been partnering with ACS and whale watching in Santa Barbara Channel for decades.

The journey will provide us with eight full hours of water time, searching for whales throughout the Channel. We will head toward Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands, 20 miles offshore, in search of the large whales that feed in these nutrient-rich waters throughout the summer, including blue and humpback whales. Other marine life we might see in the channel includes minke whales, killer whales, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, Pacific white-sided dolphin, Risso's dolphin, northern right whale dolphin, elephant seals, northern fur seals and, of course, California sea lions.



Quest for Whales: Journey to Antarctica - March 8-26, 2016

A unique collaboration between Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris and the American Cetacean Society:

Longtime pioneer of Antarctic expeditions Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is collaborating with the ACS to offer this in-depth exploration of the marine mammals and landscapes of the Antarctic Peninsula. Expedition leader Ted Cheeseman and whale biologist Ari Friedlaender conceived this expedition focused on marine mammal encounters while sharing science, education and exploration of one of the most whale-rich stretches of water in the world. We will travel at peak season alongside marine biologists including ACS scientists for incredible photography, whale watching from the ship and Zodiacs, and landings at the best wildlife and landscape sites in the Antarctic. Join this grand departure from the norm of Antarctic cruises, benefitting from the depth expected from a Cheesemans' Ecology expedition. Ice permitting, our itinerary will include crossing the Antarctic Circle south to Margarite Bay. A portion of the proceeds from this trip will benefit the American Cetacean Society. For more information go to http://www.cheesemans.com/antarctica_wh_mar16.html

A Legacy of Conservation

The legacy of ACS will be the pivotal role it has played for over 40 years in protecting the world's "ambassadors of the seas." Part of your legacy can be in the support you provide toward this cause. You don't need to be wealthy to make a gift that will have an impact on the future of whales, dolphins, and porpoises and their habitats. A charitable bequest to ACS in your will or living trust will serve as a powerful testimony to your conviction that this work is important to the health and biodiversity of our marine ecosystem.

I hope you'll join me in including ACS in your estate planning. I can't think of a better gift for our children and grandchildren.

Diane Glim

All information about charitable bequests is held in the strictest confidence.

Your Name: _____ E-mail: _____

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I have established a charitable bequest to the American Cetacean Society. Please add my (our) name(s) to the Legacy of Conservation Display at ACS Headquarters and in the Spyhopper publications.

Thank you for supporting ACS and our mission.

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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY 

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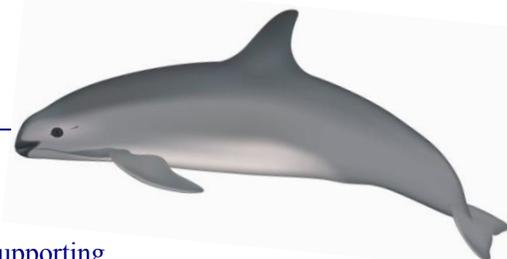
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The American Cetacean Society (ACS) protects whales, dolphins, porpoises, and their habitats through public education, research grants, and conservation actions. Founded in 1967, ACS was the first whale conservation organization in the world.

ACS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with national headquarters based in San Pedro, California. We have active chapters in Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange County, Monterey, San Francisco, Puget Sound, and Oregon, and a Student Coalition based in Bloomington, IN. We also have new chapters forming in New England and Florida. Members live throughout the United States and in more than a dozen countries.

Join us in our mission, and help us spread the word! You will find many opportunities for education and involvement as an ACS member. **You can join/renew or make a donation** by using the form below, or go to www.acsonline.org and enroll or donate using PayPal. We hope to see you on the active rolls, and would love to have you share in our upcoming *Whalewatcher* journals and online *Spyhopper* newsletters.

Thank you,
Your friends at ACS



Please join, renew, and/or donate!

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If you have questions, please call our national office at 310-548-6279 or e-mail acsoffice@acsonline.org



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

We Can't Do it Without You!

The American Cetacean Society continues to grow and make an increasingly meaningful impact on awareness, education, and protection of whales, dolphins, and porpoises and their habitats. This is due in large part to your support, personal dedication, and willingness to carry our message out to your own contacts and communities.

We hope that you will consider making a donation during this important fundraiser for ACS - our Annual Appeal to members and supporters. Thank you so much for your dedication to the American Cetacean Society - together, we can make a difference!

Diane Glim

Diane Glim
ACS Board President

*Help ACS protect whales, dolphins, porpoises
and their habitats through public education, research
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