

# San Diego Kayak Club

Vol 1 Issue #9 ~ January 2000

A monthly newsletter for the San Diego Paddling Community



## SDKC Entry Gets Trophy for “Best of Show – Self Powered”

By Marie Humphrey

Many club members got involved in the Parade of Lights Festival this year. It was a fantastic effort for our first time and we already have some great ideas for next year. Angie Bogdan really led the effort by working on the parade organizing committee and making sure that the club was well informed about the event and getting questions answered throughout.

The weekend started out with us setting up a booth on the Broadway pier at 7:00 a.m. Saturday. We set up the awning with the club banner and new logo and had two tables displaying photo albums and newsletters. Bob Puckett at Windsport graciously loaned his TV/VCR player so we could show action videos throughout the weekend. He also loaned us a mannequin that we dressed in paddling jacket, pants, gloves, PFD and helmet. At first glance,

people thought it was a real person waving to the crowd.

We also displayed Pete Hartness' new Current Designs Extreme on Robert Henry's handy boat-drying rack. It is a beauty and attracted a lot of attention, especially from Marilyn Monroe in the next booth over. On the ground we placed a Necky Narpa and Wavesport Kinetic so that people could sit in them if they wanted to see how they fit. We had the hatch covers off the Narpa with dry bags and gear inside so folks could see how much gear they hold.

A lot of people stopped by to talk about kayaking, look through the photos and pick up a newsletter. It was good exposure for the club and kayaking in general. I want to thank Neena Seshagiri, Mona Feliz, Karen Tresenrider, Angie Bogdan, Frank Sprinkle, Janet Steinberg,

Christo Matthews, and Kathy and Jorge Correa for helping out in the booth over the weekend.

On Sunday, Jennifer Kleck and her crew were getting ready for the parade of lights. Jen had stayed up late the night before making antlers and gathering lights and decorations. After a slow start due to the boat trailer being locked, all pitched in to decorate the Nacra catamaran (GENEROUSLY loaned by Mike Meer and his partner Casey) as the sleigh and rig up the kayaks as reindeer. They had to rig up a generator to run all the lights so this required extra gasoline and oil to be carried on board as well. Mike Vest, as Santa, and Theresa Siegel, as the elf, had to put up with the noise and fumes of the generator while they “steered” the sleigh with their paddles to keep the drag down.

### Club Officers

President.....Marie Humphrey  
619-282-3307  
humphrey@utm.net

Vice President.....Margo Roark  
mroark@biomail.ucsd.edu

Treasurer.....Matt O'Berry  
oberry@aol.com

Secretary.....Claire Swift  
csswift619@aol.com

### Committees

Community  
Service.....Neena Seshagiri,  
Angie Generas

Environmental.....Udo Wald

Library.....George and  
Kathy Correa

Marketing/  
Advertising.....Robert Henry,  
Carol Snyder

Membership.....Jay Amshey,  
Neena Seshagiri, Kevin Donohue

Safety.....Greg Moll,  
Steve Bogdan, Robert Henry,  
Greg Knight, Matt O'Berry

Special  
Events.....Margo Roark,  
Sherri O'Berry, Cathy Knight,  
Ron Peterson, Duane Strosaker,  
Anne Ainsworth, Robert Henry

Internet.....Pete Hartness,  
Angie Generas, Simon Swift

Club Photographer.....Don Hobbs

### Newsletter

Editor.....Anne Ainsworth  
619-644-0979 (H)  
willsbills@aol.com

Visit our Website at:  
<http://www.sdkc.org>

*continued on page 3*

# Club Calendar

When participating in a San Diego Kayak Club event, participants are cautioned that kayaking is a potentially hazardous activity. You must read and sign the club waiver prior to the start of an event and you assume all risk for any involvement in the event. These paddles are a social event, lead by non-professional hosts. The hosts do not necessarily have experience in first aid, CPR and do not necessarily carry first aid or rescue equipment. **All club events and articles must be to the editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication.**

## Events

**During the winter - Surfing San Diego.** Kayak surfing at some of San Diego's best beaches with Simon Swift. Contact Simon at [sswift@hns.com](mailto:sswift@hns.com) or call at 858-259-0867.

**Sunday, January 9th. Jane's Tour of San Diego Bay.** Hosted by Jay Amshey. We will put in at the beach just south of the Glorietta Bay Yacht Club on Silver Strand Blvd. We will paddle north across the bay about 1.5 miles to the 29th St. Marine Terminal then head south along the Navy base. Jay will bring a copy of Jane's Fighting Ships' relevant pages and we will determine how our tax dollars are being spent by identifying as many ships as possible by their hull numbers and gaze in awe at their armaments. We will cruise along the Navy piers and then cut across to Coronado and cruise up along the amphibious base where we can practice our stealth approaches on Seals who have nothing better to do on weekends. We will return to our launch point after about 10 miles and seek an appropriate watering hole with chow. Recommendations in that category are hereby solicited by your host. Please RSVP with Jay at 760-634-3880 or email me at [amshey1@worldnet.att.net](mailto:amshey1@worldnet.att.net)

**Monday, January 10th. Club Meeting. Come Meet the Rest of the Club Members and Share Your Ideas!!**

You can join us for a bite to eat from 6:00-7:00 pm or just come for the meeting from 7:00-9:00 pm. Coco's Restaurant, 5955 Balboa Avenue (near Genessee). Contact Marie Humphrey at 619-282-3307 or [humphrey@utm.net](mailto:humphrey@utm.net)

**Saturday, January 15th. Kayak Polo Practice Session on Mission Bay.** Hosted by Steve Bogdan. Meet at Bahia Point. Contact Steve at 619-486-1379 or [sbogdan@qualcomm.com](mailto:sbogdan@qualcomm.com) for times or information.

**Sunday, January 16th. Kayak Polo Game on Mission Bay.** Hosted by Steve Bogdan. Meet at Bahia Point. Contact Steve at 619-486-1379 or [sbogdan@qualcom.com](mailto:sbogdan@qualcom.com) for times or more information.

**Saturday, January 22nd. Whale Watch Paddle.** Join Kevin Donohue and Robert Henry for a whale watching paddle out the Mission Bay channel and up the coast line to spot some of the oldest visitor to the Californias. This will be a three to four hour paddle looking for the magnificent California gray whale. We will observe and respect the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. For more information or to reserve your spot email [kdonohue@corovan.com](mailto:kdonohue@corovan.com) (Kevin Donohue) or [rtkayak@aol.com](mailto:rtkayak@aol.com) (Robert Henry) or you can call Robert at 619-644-0979. Intermediate paddlers.

(Beginner) **Sunday, January 30th, Paddle from Shelter Island to Coronado Island in San Diego. 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.** Hosted by Marie Humphrey 619-282-3307. We'll meet at Shelter Island and paddle across San Diego Bay to the Ferry Landing on Coronado Island. We'll eat at one of the many restaurants at the landing. After brunch we'll paddle back to Shelter Island. Eight miles round trip. Call for directions and to reserve your place at the table.

**Saturday, January 29nd. El Capitan Reservoir Paddle.** Hosted by Mike Otto. Meet at the boat launch area. \$5 use fee. We will be traveling all the way to the marsh area of El Capitan, 15 miles total, where quite a few species of birds and occasionally large fish can be found. There is a chance of observing deer and coyotes along the steep hillsides of the reservoir. El Cap is a truly wild area. I will go rain or shine, so if it looks like rain bring a paddle jacket and some clothing that is warm if it gets wet. RSVP or for more information, contact Mike at 858-560-6880 or [mrotto@earthlink.net](mailto:mrotto@earthlink.net).

**Saturday, February 5th. 10:00 am - 11:00 am Kayak Towing Clinic.** Hosted by Greg Knight. Towing discussion and practice for both whitewater and sea kayak. Explanation and demonstration on proper technique and equipment. Some of the clinic is done off water. For more information, contact Greg at 619-488-2259 or [aquaadv@pacbell.net](mailto:aquaadv@pacbell.net).

**Every Tuesday, Kayak Polo at the Allied Gardens Pool.** 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Contact Anne Ainsworth for details - [willsbills@aol.com](mailto:willsbills@aol.com) or 619-644-0979. Whitewater boats only. *Space is limited.*

**Every Tuesday,** paddle with the Night Herons from the Shelter Island boat ramp to Coronado. Leave 6:00 pm SHARP. **Fast** paced five mile paddle to Coronado for a leisurely dinner or coffee and a very fast paced four mile paddle back. Bring a bright white light. Non-club event. For information, contact Chris Stomberg at 619 233-5226.

**Most Thursdays**, San Diego Bay Paddle. Shelter Island launch ramp. Put-in at 6:00 pm. Moderately paced paddle to various locations around San Diego Bay. Casual, non-club event. Contact Jim Richards for more information: 619-229-0849.

**Most Sundays. Ladies Kayak Polo Practice/Drills.** Meet at Bahia Point. Contact Jennifer Kleck at 619-233-5226 for more information

**Thursday evening paddles** sponsored by Southwest Kayaks. Meet at 5:30. Free with own boat or call to rent 619- 222-3616.

Thursday, January 13 Mission Bay

Thursday, January 20 San Diego Bay

Thursday, January 27 Mission Bay

**Free Seminars sponsored by Southwest Kayak**

Wednesday, January 12, 6:00 p.m. Outfitting for Baja

Wednesday, January 19, 6:00 p.m GPS Navigation

Wednesday, January 26, 6:00 p.m Stretching for Paddlers

Call (619) 222-3616 for more info.

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## “Best of Show – Self Powered”

*continued from page 1*

The reindeer, Jen, Chris Stomberg, Matt O’Berry, Gilbert Siegel, Robert Henry, Simon and Claire Swift, Luther Daugherty and Greg Hultman, had to maintain a pace of five knots to keep up with the other boats in the parade. This is quite a feat when you are pulling a sleigh for eight miles. Just try it sometime.

Angie Bogdan, who watched the parade from the judge’s area, had this to say, “I was so proud to be associated with them as they paddled by and the parade judges ‘oohed’ and ‘aaahed’ over their dedication and innovation. One Committee Member who had previously teased me about them not being ‘real boaters’ came to me after the parade and took back his statement and said they were as much of a boater as any other big boat out there that night.”

Thanks for making us all look good, team. Also, thanks to Kevin Montgomery for loaning us his double sea kayak. Yes, kayakers are special people. And when we put our minds to it we can accomplish just about anything. I can’t wait to see what we come up with next year.



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## Classified Ads

### FOR SALE

**Perception Aquaterra Kahuna kayak.** Great sit-on-top for diving, surfing, or just paddling around the bay. Comes with Perception two piece paddle, seat, and life vest. \$400. **Sea Swift fiberglass touring paddle.** Two piece. Custom sea shell pattern on blades. 225 cm. \$125. **Yakima Raingutter Towers** with 48" crossbars. \$75. **Two sets of Yakima Hully Rollers (4 rollers per set)** for Yakima racks. \$75 each. Contact Mike at 858-874-8115 or Mike.Vest@sdsu.edu.

**Valley Petrel,** glass with no dings, external rudder, bilge pump, 3 spray skirts (M)- neoprene and 2 nylon, 4 paddles incl. Werner 240 cm 2 pc, Mohawk 2 pc, Steans Elite 2pc. and Aquaterra Whisper wood 2 pc. 2 paddle bags, drybag, coated paddle jacket, deck bag, compass, chart cases, all for \$600 - one price for everything only. Contact Jay at 760-634-3880 or email at amshey1@worldnet.att.net

**Perception Pirouette Kayak.** \$400. Red. Contact Gilbert at HM: 858-679-7179 or WK: 858-485-3977 or email at: gilbert.siegel@ncr.com

**Prijon Hurricane.** \$350 OBO. Great beginner whitewater boat. Contact Marie at 619-282-3307 or humphrey@utm.net.

**1996 K-1 Expedition Feathercraft (Red).** Includes spray skirt, sea sock, cockpit cover and repair kit. Excellent condition. \$2,500. Call Ky Stratton at 619- 482-9345 or email kys@sdcity.sannet.gov

# Whale Watching

By SDKC Member Jennifer Kleck

Whale watching season is fast approaching and I highly recommend that everyone do some! Last year was a strange year for whale watchers. Normal migration and reproductive patterns were probably affected by El Nino and La Nina, although some of the inconsistencies were tough to explain.

For example, Laguna Manuela, Baja, which is usually full of whales, was almost barren although the major breeding lagoons reported normal numbers. In addition, many whales died last year. Some even washed up on our beaches. While many theories were put forth, the high mortality rate last year may simply be a natural phenomenon. In 1946 the International Whaling Commission prohibited killing gray whales. This means that the vast majority of the current gray whale population has been born in the last 50 years. It is very likely that gray whales live 50-90 years (based on estimates from whales that have teeth). What this means, is that we're finally seeing "old" whales in the population that will be dying of natural causes in increasing numbers. As weather patterns calm down, hopefully normal, predictable whale patterns will return!

**Local whale watching:** A very reliable place to see gray whales close up is near La Jolla and along Point Loma. It's possible that the deep canyons off La Jolla bring the grays in closer to shore here – especially if they use water depth to navigate. Launch your kayak from La Jolla Shores with a thermos full of hot chocolate and paddle out a mile or so. Be patient and alert. Just remember, you are required by law to give all marine mammals a berth of 100 yards.

A Mission Bay to San Diego Bay paddle is another great opportunity to

see them, however, since they swim at roughly the same rate as we paddle, you'd increase your chances of passing migrating whales if you paddled north from San Diego Bay to Mission Bay, or Mission Bay to La Jolla. Pick a calm day and go early as spouts are tougher to spot when there are white caps. If you see a bunch of birds diving and making a ruckus, investigate – there are often marine mammals involved in feeding.

**Baja whale watching:** Of course, the most spectacular place to watch gray whales is in their breeding lagoons in Baja. February is the best month to go. Kayaks are forbidden on the three breeding lagoons and this is strictly enforced. Instead, you must pay reasonable fees to whale watch from small open "pangas" under strict regulation by the Mexican government. The only place you can still launch a kayak among wintering grays is near Laguna Manuela. This is a great destination in itself, or as a stop on your way to one of the major lagoons. It's easy to get to with any vehicle and is about one hour north of Guerrero Negro. Take a right just after the Pemex at Jesus Maria and a left onto a good dirt road after the sign for "Laguna Manuela". You'll reach the coast about five miles from HWY 1 and there is good primitive camping among the dunes. Be prepared for persistent winds and cold, damp nights. The surfing and beach combing are excellent here as well. FYI: my favorite Baja travel book is [The Baja Adventure Book](#) by Walt Peterson which has tons of excellent info, maps, stories, and travel tips!

Scammon's Lagoon is the most popular gray whale destination, and the easiest to reach by car or bus (although a 10+ hour drive). Drive past the exit for Guerrero Negro and follow

the signs. You'll take a right onto a very good dirt road through the salt flats to the lagoon. Pangas run from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and a 1 ½ hour trip costs \$25 per person (this includes a free baloney sandwich and beer at the restaurant – skip the sandwich and pay the \$3 for fish tacos!). Good camping is available here at reasonable rates. There are outhouses, but no showers. A stunning new interpretive center is under construction although I don't know if it will be finished this year. There are also plenty of hotels, RV parks and restaurants in Guerrero Negro and whale watching tours operate out of town as well. A gringa named Shari Bondi has been conducting independent research at Scammon's Lagoon for ten years! She recently acquired a house in town and lives there full time. She has an excellent web site full of info and links: [www.greyscale.com](http://www.greyscale.com). She used to be available as a "naturalist for hire" on whale watching tours, but has made some enemies in the government by reporting environmental problems associated with the salt works. She's friendly and knowledgeable and you might try e-mailing her if you're planning a trip to Scammon's Lagoon.

I've never been to Magdalena Bay (the most southerly breeding lagoon), but I doubt it could be as beautiful as San Ignacio Lagoon – definitely my top choice for a whale watching trip! Laguna San Ignacio is a small lagoon surrounded by desert. It is temporary home to a stunning variety of migratory animals and permanent home to many more. One of my favorite memories is from here: I'm walking along the shore as the sun sinks into the horizon, a ribbon of pelicans undulating before a palette of pinks and purples, and the only sounds I can hear are the calls of birds and the "whoosh" of whale breath.

San Ignacio is famous for its “friendly” whales. I hoped to touch a whale, but as I walked along the beach at sunset that first night, listening to whales breathing in the lagoon, I knew that was enough. The next day in a panga, when I found myself literally surrounded by whales – swimming, mating, spy-hopping, breaching whales – I was in heaven. Aside from a few pangas near by, there was hardly a *hint* of anything human. It was their world. When a cow and calf pair swam close to our panga, my heart pounded. When the calf parked itself directly under a passenger on board and exhaled in his face – repeatedly – I grinned. When the calf shoved her head over the low railing of the panga in front of me, I kissed her! The feel of her skin was amazing and unexpected. It gave under the gentle pressure of my fingers like a sponge. Mom came close for some pats too and they stayed with us for about 20 minutes.

I’ve spent several weekends at Laguna San Ignacio; I’ve been close to many whales and I’ve rubbed the noses of a few. The thing is, if I never touched a whale, I’d still be madly in love with Laguna San Ignacio. The place is so beautiful, so remote, so quiet and untouched that you can *hear them breathing!*

The little bit of human influence found along the lagoon is pretty special too. Some forward thinking, thoughtful Mexicans built a small whale watching camp called “Ecoturismo Kuyima” by the lagoon. Call 011-52-1154-0026 or 011-52-1154-0070 for current prices (which are very reasonable) and reservations. You can stay one day, or ten giving you maximum flexibility. They started with a simple comfortable palapa in which they serve fresh seafood and cold beer, and a few cabin tents. You can pitch your own tent or take advantage of theirs which are equipped with cots. You can save a few bucks by cooking some of your own meals, but I highly recommend

eating at least dinners in the palapa – it’s very social! They have excellent outhouses, solar showers, and added a few sleeping huts recently. They also acquired a van and will shuttle you the 60 km from town to the lagoon, saving about 4 years of wear and tear on your vehicle (also handy if you take a bus from TJ). Local musicians show up sometimes on weekends to entertain. You’ll make friends. It can’t be helped. Three hour panga rides are ~\$25/person and you can go as often as you wish. Of course, the very finest real estate on the lagoon is under control of Americans – an outfit called Baja Expeditions ( [www.bajaex.com](http://www.bajaex.com) ). Their five day trips are expensive (\$1,600pp), but include charter air fare from San Diego to the lagoon (maximizing whale time) and they take excellent care of you.

If you go to San Ignacio, check out [www.netconnection.com/bajawhales](http://www.netconnection.com/bajawhales). It’s an excellent site focusing on Laguna San Ignacio and has many excellent links.

So here’s the bad news. The Mitsubishi Corporation, in partnership with the Mexican government, has big plans to open a new salt plant at Laguna San Ignacio. They are the ones who own Exportadora de Sal (ESSA: [www.bajasalt.com](http://www.bajasalt.com) ) in Guerrero Negro/ Scammon’s Lagoon. The new San Ignacio project will be the world’s largest salt operation. 116 square miles of wildlife habitat will become evaporation ponds. Giant engines will pump 6,000 gallons of water out of the lagoon every *second* in order to produce 7 million metric tons of salt each year. The by-product of this will be one *billion* gallons of toxic brine every year. To get some idea of how this will affect Laguna San Ignacio, all we have to do is look at Scammon’s Lagoon. In December 1997, 94 endangered black sea turtles died in Scammon’s Lagoon. The Federal Prosecutor of Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) began an

investigation. While the cause of the December incident was undetermined, PROFEPA’s investigation conclusively turned up a 4 million gallon brine spill in May 1998 and another in January 1999 resulting in major fish kills and more turtle deaths. They also found 300 batteries from shipping buoys on the lagoon floor leaching toxic chemicals into the sediment – a major violation. In addition, a jetty built when the plant opened silted up the lagoon mouth so much that grays stayed away for a decade until a channel was dredged. Fuel spills from ships and propeller blades are other hazards created by the salt industry.

As much as I love Laguna San Ignacio, I dislike Guerrero Negro. It is dirty, crowded, and thoroughly ugly. 40 years ago, before the salt plant opened, less than 100 people lived there and I imagine it looked much like Laguna San Ignacio does today. 10,000 people live there now. There are plenty of less pristine places to make salt. I have traveled in the US, Africa, Europe, Central America, and Mexico, and I have encountered NO place as magical as Laguna San Ignacio! My advice...go see it now. You can make your voice heard on the issue through the Natural Resources Defense Council and International Fund for Animal Welfare (NRDC): [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).

**Welcome**  
**Our New San Diego**  
**Kayak Club Members!**

Beth Brummitt  
Jerry & Michael Farrow  
Russ Hixon  
Shane Kenworthy  
Barb Larimer  
Dennis Rodgers  
Bob Youngquist

# San Diego Kayak Club Application

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

*I paddle* (check as many as apply) bays[  ], lakes[  ], coastal waters[  ], whitewater[  ], open ocean[  ], surf[  ], fishing[  ], camping[  ], polo[  ], other \_\_\_\_\_

I want to join SDKC's internet mailing list? \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my monthly newsletter sent to me via: internet [  ] or mailed hardcopy [  ]

I own the following boats: single touring, double touring, inflatable, sit-on-top, whitewater, surf ski, canoe, other \_\_\_\_\_, none

I heard about SDKC from \_\_\_\_\_

I joined the club because \_\_\_\_\_

Paddle sports are a rewarding experience. The activity can range from relaxing paddling to extremely strenuous, even dangerous situations. It is not the intention of the San Diego Kayak Club to absolve the members from individual responsibility. We merely make opportunities available to participate in the sport. Members, by their signatures below, agree that they are personally responsible for their safety and that they will limit their activities to the level of their ability.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (See chart below)

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues Prorated by Month of Payment good through April 30.**

Amt. Due	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Household	\$36	\$33	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	<b>\$12</b>	\$9	\$6	\$3
1 Person	\$24	\$22	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	<b>\$8</b>	\$6	\$4	\$2

**Mail this application, along with your check made payable to San Diego Kayak Club to:**

Matt O'Berry  
5691 Genoa Drive  
San Diego, CA 92120

Anne Ainsworth  
6977 Temple Terrace  
San Diego, CA 92119