



KERCKHOFF MARINE LABORATORY

NEWSLETTER



Check out the latest news about our
research, education, and opportunities at
Caltech's Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory.

One of America's longest running marine laboratories.

KML's 95th Anniversary



Kerckhoff Marine Lab recently celebrated its 95th anniversary over the summer. We welcomed the largest group the lab has ever seen to commemorate this historic facility. The event was a celebration of the past, and more importantly, focusing on our goals for the future. We were joined by our many partners including Aquarium of the Pacific, Orange Coast College, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, among many others! California State Assemblymember, Diane Dixon, joined us, along with representatives of Orange County and the City of Newport Beach to commemorate the event. We are very thankful for our volunteers and supporters that helped make this event possible!



Summer Outreach

SCIENCE TUESDAY AT KML

FREE
EVENT

ALL AGES WELCOME

4:30-6:00

EVERY TUESDAY THIS SUMMER



KML was very busy this summer season with various education programming. We hosted our new "Science Tuesday" event offering the public a chance to come tour the facility and hear from one of our featured speakers each Tuesday and participate in fun activities. We hope to bring these back in 2026! We also hosted both the Holbrook Oceanography Club and the Ocean Adventure Camp, both weekly summer camps for aspiring marine biologists.



Research/Western Flyer



Top: Caltech/JPL crew in front of Western Flyer

Left: ROV footage from Lasuen Knoll

Bottom: Dr. Victoria Orphan and Dr. John Magyar viewing ROV footage



We were very fortunate to collaborate with the Western Flyer Foundation this summer on a research expedition. Caltech and JPL scientists joined the Western Flyer crew on a research expedition to Lasuen Knoll (14 Mile Bank) off the coast of Newport Beach. Scientists deployed various monitoring equipment and remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) at historical Caltech test sites. Following the research expedition, KML hosted a "Science and Sunsets" event at the lab where guests could learn more about this historic vessel that once carried famed author, John Steinbeck, and inspired his famous *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*.



KML Volunteers

KML is fortunate to have a large group of volunteers that help with research operations, aquarium husbandry, education activities, and events. We are featuring individuals in each newsletter to give a perspective of their background and interest in helping at KML!

Sarah Franklin

I'm Sarah Franklin from Irvine. My journey with the ocean began here in the Newport Harbor as a Sea Scout, teaching at the Newport Sea Base, and developing a love for marine environments. Although I had sailed in and out of the Newport Harbor for years, I had no idea then what a hidden gem awaited me in China Cove.

I earned a Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and History from UCLA, where I pledged Alpha Phi Omega. My professional path began in public service, working for a California State Legislator representing the Newport area. After taking time to raise my family, I sought a new challenge and returned to school at Orange Coast College, this time diving into Marine Science. I became the first recipient of OCC's Applied Ocean Science Degree and earned my Aquarium Certificate, AALSO Life Support Operator, and Water Quality Certifications.

It was on my OCC graduation day in 2023 that I was introduced to the Manager of KML, Stephen. When I first walked into the lab, I was immediately struck by its rich history and incredible potential. I've been volunteering there since June 2023, working on life support systems, animal husbandry, and most importantly, engaging in visiting youth. Outdoor education is a true passion of mine. I love watching the youth explore our tanks with wide eyes and curiosity or be brave enough to touch a sea urchin. Being part of a working marine lab helped support and inspire my academic journey, culminating in a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies from Cal State Fullerton.

Outside of KML, I'm most at home spending time with my two sons, Ash and Pierce, supporting them on their path as young adults. I also enjoy quiet, hands-on hobbies like sewing and knitting. I have a bad habit of rescuing Betta fish every time I visit a pet store. I enjoy hiking all over our beautiful hills and mountains and take every chance I can to get down to the beach.



Left: Sarah Franklin



Right: Sarah working with one of our education tours at KML

KML Social Media

Follow us on all our social media platforms!



Facebook:

Kerckhoff Marine Lab - Caltech



Instagram:

kerckhoff_marine_lab



YouTube:

Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory



LinkedIn:

Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory



TikTok:

kerckhoffmarinelab



Threads:

kerckhoff_marine_lab

Save the Date!

KML Holiday Party-Dec 20



We will be celebrating our 3rd annual holiday party here at Kerckhoff Marine Lab on December 20th during the Newport Beach Christmas Boat parade. Join us for one of the best viewing locations of the parade and partake in festivities. Make sure to save the date for the event!



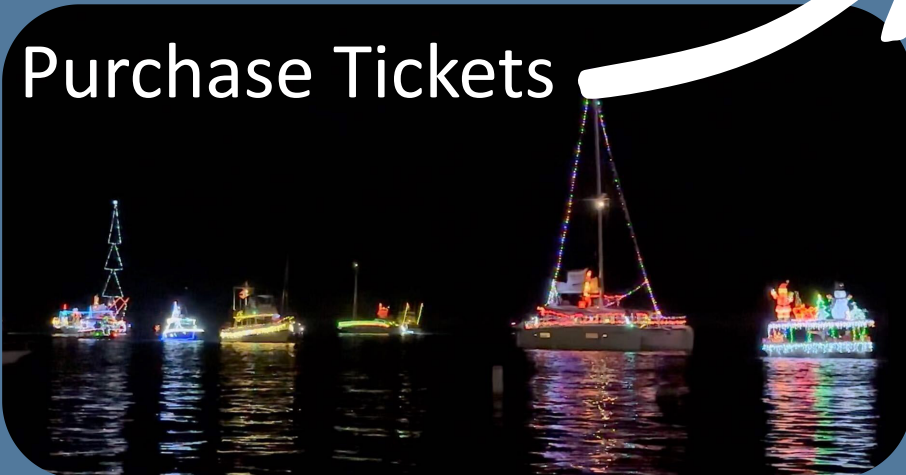
Upper Left: KML decorated for the holidays

Upper Right: Guests during the event.

Lower Left: Boat parade view from the lab.

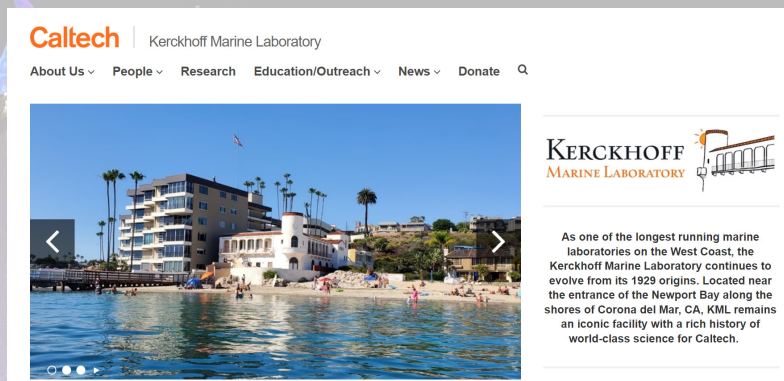
Lower Right: Guests holding their crushed ornaments.

Purchase Tickets



For More Info

Check out our Website:
<https://kml.caltech.edu>



Join our Mailing List:
kml-info@caltech.edu

Kerckhoff Marine Lab
Newsletter

Support KML:



Our Linktree:



For all other inquiries about how to access or support KML please contact:
Stephen Ranson (sranson@caltech.edu) or call us at 949-675-2159.