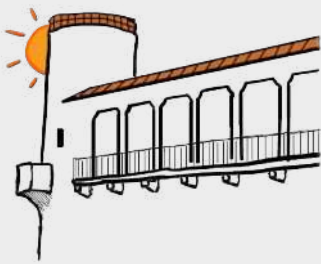




# KERCKHOFF MARINE LABORATORY

# 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.

# Summer Has Arrived!



**The Wedge**

**KML**

We had a record swell this June at the Wedge in Newport Beach. This world-famous surf break sits right across the harbor from Kerckhoff Marine Lab where we got a front-row seat to the excitement. June often brings strong southern swells to this beach, but this month's was the biggest we've seen in years with some waves coming in at over 20ft high. The waves were so big we even had surfers riding inside the harbor!



**Top:** Map showing the location of the Wedge and KML

**Middle:** Heavy set at the Wedge (June 9)

**Bottom Left:** View of the Wedge from KML

**Bottom Right:** Surfer riding wave in Newport Harbor



# New Staff at KML!

## Aaron Raff

We are excited to announce our new staff member here at KML! Aaron was hired in May to assist with both research and education operations here at the lab. Check out more about him below!

Aaron started volunteering at KML in the Fall of 2024 to gain experience in marine science and aquatic husbandry. Growing up, he spent his summers on Balboa Island participating in the Balboa Island Yacht Club serving as both the Secretary and Treasurer. During his time here, he learned to sail and found himself often passing Kerckhoff Marine Lab in many of his races, not aware of the history and research the building has to offer in Newport Harbor.

Aaron originally pursued a career in acting. He started working in television while going to school for theatre. Keep an eye out for him as an extra when you are watching TV! He also was a knight at Medieval Times and local renaissance fairs and has performed in many community productions in Southern California.

To combine his love for the ocean and performing, he became a camp counselor for the Boy Scouts at Camp Cherry Valley in Catalina Island for a few years. While there, he completed the first section of the Catalina Island Conservancy Naturalist Program. He also served as a lifeguard for small boat sailing and the advanced camper experiences.

Aaron also currently works at the Ocean Institute as an Instructor and Deckhand for their maritime program. He is a crew member for the replica tall ship Spirit of Dana Point and the R/V Sea Explorer where he teaches hands-on classes in ocean education and maritime history.

Make sure to say hello to Aaron the next time you are at KML!



**Left:** Aaron at KML

**Right:** Aaron at sea aboard the Western Flyer



# KML History

## WORK STARTS ON PALISADES CLUB PROJECT

### Motion Picture Actress Officiates at Laying of Cornerstone Sunday

BALBOA, Oct. 12.—With the laying of the cornerstone, yesterday, for the \$45,000 bath house and boat house of the Balboa Palisades club, the first step in the \$350,000 building program of the organization was taken.

W. J. Carmichael, of Fullerton, chairman of the Orange county division of the board of governors of the club, officiated in the formal dedication of the site for the first building. More than 150 people gathered on the bay front to watch the formal dedication ceremony.

Dorothy Mackaill, First National Pictures star, christened the cornerstone of the building. She was assisted by Duke Kahanamoku, champion swimmer, and a member of the club.



Duke Kahanamoku, the famed swimmer and surfer of Hawaii, frequented Corona Del Mar and was influential in establishing the surfing community in Southern California in the 1920s.

In June 1925, a similar swell to June 2026 hit Corona del Mar resulting in a shipwreck in front of what is now Kerckhoff Marine Lab. Duke and his companions rescued 12 of the 17 aboard. A plaque commemorating the event sits directly next to Kerckhoff Marine Lab's plaque on the bluff above KML. Duke was also a member of the Balboa Palisades Club (prior to the change to KML) and assisted with the christening of the building's cornerstone in 1926.

**Top Left:** Article from 1926 discussing the construction of the Balboa Palisades Club

**Top Right:** (L-R) Gerald Vultee, Owen Hale, Bill Herwig, Duke Kahanamoku

**Bottom Right** Plaques commemorating Duke and KML on Ocean Blvd

**Bottom Left:** Duke Kahanamoku



# Science and Sunsets

## Kerckhoff Marine Lab



Saturday, Jul 25, 2026

Dinner and Drinks: 6:30pm-7:30pm

Speaker: 7:30-8:30pm



101 Dahlia Ave, Corona del Mar, CA

(Valet Parking and shuttle provided along Ocean Blvd above lab)



### Reserve Tickets Here:

Tickets includes Valet, Food, and Drinks

\$75 Adults

\$40 College Students  
Child (under 18)

We also accept cash/check payment at check-in. All proceeds go directly to KML research and operations.



### Speaker Details:

Dr. Shana Goffredi  
Occidental College

### Presentation:

Deep-sea  
GAStronomy: Animal  
Microbiome Hacks  
for Life in Extreme  
Environments



For more information or to RSVP please email [sranson@caltech.edu](mailto:sranson@caltech.edu), space is limited

# Science Tuesdays

Science Tuesdays are back again this summer! Join us every Tuesday for a new speaker discussing the latest research happening at Caltech and beyond. Lab tours and activities will be available each week. Tickets are free and we welcome all ages!

## SCIENCE TUESDAY AT KML

**FREE  
EVENT**

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

**4:30-6:00**

**EVERY TUESDAY THIS SUMMER**



**Scan Here for Tickets  
and Weekly Calendar!**



# 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***

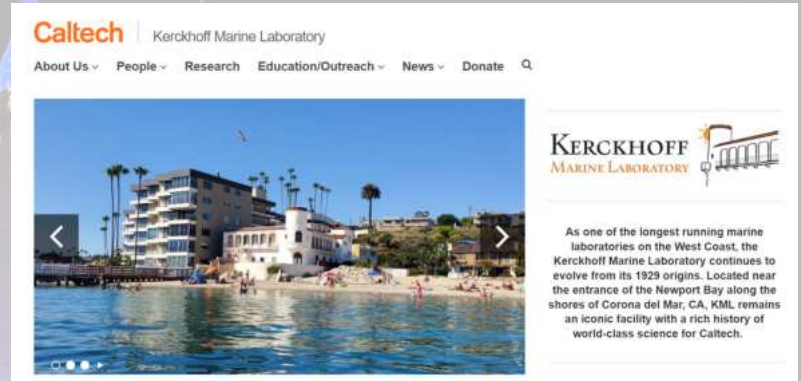


**Threads:**

***kerckhoff\_marine\_lab***

# For More Info

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



**Join our Mailing List:**  
**[kml-info@caltech.edu](mailto: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](mailto:sranson@caltech.edu)) or call us at 949-675-2159.**