

The Dolphin Gazette



newsletter of DCP & WDC



*volume 6, issue 2
April 2002*

WELCOME!

The *Dolphin Gazette* is published jointly from DCP & WDC. The *Dolphin Gazette* is printed and sent quarterly to DCP members and available on-line at www.dolphincommunicationproject.org/newsletter. Passengers from the m/v *Hanky Panky*, receive a year subscription.

Typically, the fall issue includes field notes & preliminary data analyses. The winter issue has more data details, while the spring and summer issues provide details for the field season & other items.

At DCP, we're always happy to accept contributions of photos, observations, opinions (& financial donations) to make our website & newsletter better. We'd love to hear from you!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the *Dolphin Gazette*.



Membership Updates

DCP began our membership program in 11/01. DCP currently has 50+ members at the student, individual, family & supporting levels.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Check us out online for an ecotour (or membership).

www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

OR (for ecotours)

contact **Bill Sperling** for more details

bsperling@idyllwild.com

P.O. Box 2400, Idyllwild, CA 92549

Online Chat Transcript

On 27 March 2002, Kathleen participated in an online, live chat with the Cyberways & Waterways group. The transcript from her hour chat is available online.

<http://www.4cw3.com/en/chatMailBoards/ChatArchive/>

Field Reports 2002

DCP returns to the field - Japan, White Sand Ridge & Bimini - in May. Three sections of field reports will resume on our home page. Follow along & join our research in progress!

2002 Ecotour Updates

Summer 2002 Schedule for the m/v *Hanky Panky*

18-24 May	15-21 June	13-19 July (OSE)	10-16 August (DCP)
25-31 May	22-28 June	20 - 26 July (OSE)	17-23 August (DCP)
1-7 June	29 June - 5 July (OSE)	27 July - 2 Aug (OSE)	24-30 August (DCP)
8-14 June	6-12 July (OSE)	3-9 August (OSE)	

Special DCP trips: 1-14 September. Red DCP letters mean that trip is full. Contact WDC or DCP for information on week availability & trip cost.



Research Update - Japan, Bimini & White Sand Ridge

Members of DCP & MIK work together to better understand the society of the ...



Kathleen returns to Mikura Island in early May to continue gathering data on the bottlenose dolphin group living there. Kathleen will be joined by two USM students: Robin & Joana (see page 7 this issue).

DCP will be gathering all our regular data on dolphin communication and behavior but we will also be collecting information on light levels around Mikura Island, and in the Bahamas.

Remember our hypothesis that dolphins in darker water (or rather water with less light available) use more sounds to exchange information? Well, we will be using a photographer's light meter to gather light levels systematically. We will take light level readings at varying depths both at Mikura and in the Bahamas. We will record whether dolphins are in view and what they are doing. This will allow us to address the issue of how light availability might affect dolphin use of sounds.



Bimini - Atlantic spotted dolphins

An update on the newest dolphin study under DCP.



T.J. & Susan McCue join DCP as our Bimini Field Researchers. T.J. & Susan will begin field work in Bimini in June, 2002. Our field season will last three months this year. T.J. & Susan will continue photo-identification and behavior observations of the Atlantic spotted dolphins seen around Bimini Island. They will post weekly updates to DCP's Field Reports site.

WELCOME to T.J. & Susan! We look forward to working with you.

Many thanks to Bill & Nowdla Keef, Bimini Undersea, for their support of DCP's spotted dolphin studies in Bimini - they provide the boats!

Mikura Bottlenose Dolphins

DCP will continue collaborations with the research group on Mikura: the MIK to better understand the lives and behavior of these dolphins. Currently, we have one paper pending publication on novel actions towards two dead dolphins. Similarly, Kogi, Sakai and others from MIK and ICERC Japan will be working with Kathleen to finalize a manuscript about the population parameters of this dolphin group. We will post updates to DCP's web site and include them in future issues of the Gazette.

Bahamas' Updates

In August, we will return to the White Sand Ridge, Bahamas, to continue observing spotted dolphins for our communication studies. We have 4-5 trips scheduled and most are filled. We look forward to seeing everyone out on the Banks and to sharing a few weeks with the dolphins, and with Peppie, our Bahamian Captain.

We will continue to use our MVA and our click detector to gather data on how dolphins exchange information.

Video & Photo Tips

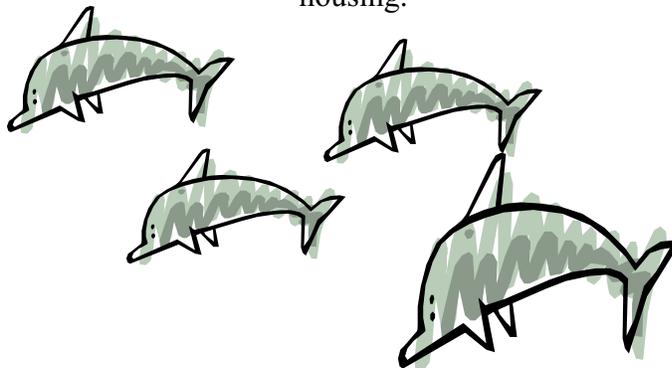
from Lynne Winner & John Anderson

10 Tips for Better Underwater Video

1. Check your equipment carefully before entering the water. Make sure all the seals are tight & that you have a fresh tape & battery in the camera.
2. Have someone hand your camera to you after you get in the water instead of jumping in with it.
3. After you get the housing wet, look carefully inside to make sure no water is entering. If you see a lot of bubbles coming off of it then double check-you may have a leak.
4. Wipe the front of the housing lens with your hand to clear any air bubbles that form on it. If you are using autofocus your camera will see these and focus on them instead of the action.
5. Don't roll tape until you think there is something to shoot. Watching several minutes of empty water is not very exciting.
6. Once you see something to shoot then start to tape early and then frame your shot. You can edit it later. If you wait too long to begin taping you will miss the shot while the tape is starting.
7. Have your camera lens in the widest setting so you can keep the subject in the shot. This means you need to get close to the subject and not zoom in on it.
8. When shooting a moving subject like dolphins you need to shoot slightly ahead of them toward the direction they are swimming.
9. Don't have your face in the viewfinder so that you are unaware of what is happening around you. Be careful of other swimmers & be courteous to them. Avoid standing on the reef if you're in shallow water & do not touch the coral.



10. Always keep in mind the direction you are swimming and the proximity of the boat or shore. Make sure if you are swimming with the current that you have the energy to swim back against the current while carrying your housing.



Guest Column

*contributed by Chris Palmer
National Wildlife Federation*

In the course of my film work, I have had the opportunity to swim with wild dolphins in the Bahamas, Tahiti, Hawaii, and other places. Those are memories I will never forget. However, there is an increasing problem worldwide of people harassing dolphins by attempting to interact so closely with them. They are powerful wild animals, graceful and mysterious, and like the wolf or the grizzly bear, deserve to have undisturbed habitat. Dolphins exist for themselves, not for us.

The future of dolphins, as well as their home - oceans and coastal waterways - depends wholly on the actions of the most feared predator on the planet: man. The National Wildlife Federation has been active for many years working to prevent the drowning of dolphins in purse seine nets used in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean to harvest yellowfin tuna. And through our Keep the Wild Alive Campaign, we are working hard to protect dolphins and many other species. At least seven species of dolphins are endangered - and human behavior is the cause.

From a dolphin's point of view, the world is a dangerous place, and threats are manifold. Pollution and habitat degradation are two of the biggest threats. Coastlines are heavily settled.

continued on page 5

Umi-ku

Umi, DCP's beagle mascot writes haiku with her nose. She shares some in this column ... & invites DCP friends to send in their own.

(note: "itachi" is Japanese for weasel.)

by Umi '98

Oh sweet itachi,
Long, fast, brown. You I desire.
What stops me? ... Damn leash!



Wherever they go
Could never be as fun as
Being home with me

The trash on the floor?
You should have heard the wild cries
From inside that bin.

Alert! Intruder!
What do you mean: Stop barking?
My job is defense.

*Three haiku contributed by Heather Cross & her
canine friends, 2001*



DCP's Wish List - every little bit helps



Like most non-profit organizations, DCP relies on grants, sponsorships, & donations. Donations can be **monetary** or "in kind". "In kind" are items donated instead of the funds to purchase such items. What is neat about "in kind" donations is that these may be items you have lying around the house (or garage). Some suggestions follow:

Supplies

2-hr VHS tapes

Q-tips

8.5 x 11 paper

Printer cartridges (BW & color) - Epson Stylus 740 printer

1-hr DV or Hi8 (ME) videotapes (60 or 120 min)

Blank CDs - W or RW 700 MB

Equipment, Etc.

A 12-16 ft dinghy with motor
(for use in Bimini).

(e.g., zodiac or hard-bottom)

TV - w/ stereo
RCA connections

VCR - for DV tapes
OR for VHS tapes in
PAL & NTSC formats.

Hard disk space ... external hard drive for macintosh . or
anything related to increasing computer performance :-)

If you have other items to donate, but aren't sure, give us a call or send an email.

You can reach us at: 1-805-283-0747 or at

www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

Guest Column continued ...

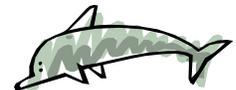
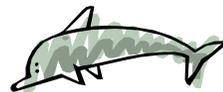
Ship channels are polluted with petroleum-stained waters and toxic discharges. Offshore waters are affected by agricultural and urban runoff. Shorelines, with their protective mangrove forests and seagrass, are being torn up for marinas and resorts. Dolphins are losing clean living space and a food supply.

Chemicals washed into the rivers and seas work their way up the food chain. Dolphins, as top predators, ingest large amounts of fish daily, and chemical levels can build up in their bodies. With a coat of blubber that protects them from cold, dolphins are especially vulnerable because they absorb toxic pollutants in this band of fat. When a dolphin has to call upon its bodily food stores, as in times of stress, the pollutants are released into its system. Beluga whales in the heavily industrialized St. Lawrence River between the United States and Canada are down to 500 animals from a population that once numbered about 5,000. The dead that have washed ashore have been found to contain such high levels of heavy metals, PCBs, and DDE, that their bodies are treated as toxic waste. Periodic die-offs have affected its populations in the North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Commercial fishing nets are another problem. Although the situation has improved in recent years, two types of nets - drift and purse seine nets - spelled doom for millions of dolphins that ended up as bycatch. Drift nets can extend up to a terrifying 40 miles.

Perhaps the most preventable threat is inappropriate human interactions. At a resort on Shark Bay in western Australia, about half a dozen female dolphins are regularly fed by tourists. Ostensibly wild dolphins, they are now habituated to humans. A recent report cites declines in the survival rates of calves born to these mothers. In one case, a shark attacked a newborn while its mother was seeking handouts on the beach. Elsewhere in the world, wild dolphins have been known to ram and bite people who got too close. In one case in Brazil, a dolphin killed a man who was harassing it. Feeding, irresponsible swimming with wild dolphins, noise, collisions between boats and dolphins, trashing the waterways, and human crowding and harassment, all threaten the independence of these wild animals. This is one area in which individuals can really make a difference.

The simple refusal of large numbers of people to buy tuna that have been caught by harming dolphins forced fishermen of many nations to change their methods. Because of consumer pressure, millions of dolphins have been saved, although continued vigilance is necessary. Dolphins are incredible and fascinating marine mammals. They are sublimely beautiful and social, and deserve our highest respect. For us to degrade their habitat, and thus to threaten and hurt them, is totally unacceptable. Their fate is up to us.



Chris Palmer Bio.

As President and CEO of National Wildlife Productions, Inc., Palmer leads the television, film and multimedia programs of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), the nation's largest member-supported conservation group with over four million members and supporters. Since joining the National Wildlife Federation in 1994, Palmer has directed NWF's launch into broadcast, cable, syndication, home video, new media, large-format and international markets. He oversees and executive produces all NWF's wildlife films. His work has been described as one of the "great success stories of the modern environmental education movement."

[for a more detailed biography, check out DCP's newsletter page on the web.](#)



Support D.C.P. with your purchases of...

**notecards & bookmarks
postcards - in 5 styles**

**Videos Membership(s)
t-shirts & tanktops**

D.C.P. membership
see next page for details &
sign up today!

2001 Bahamas' Summary Video, Dolphins' Spirit, or Dolphins (the film)

cost varies depending on video.
summary video available on CD.

t-shirts & tank tops (M L XL)
shirts are 100% cotton.
\$15.00 per t-shirt
\$10.00 per tank top

cards - note & post varieties *packet discounts available*
notecards: \$2.50 each postcards: \$1.00 each

bookmarks - remember us each time you sit down with a good book
cost per bookmark packet: \$1.25



shipping fees not included in price.
for shipping arrangements,
contact DCP.



Check out our website for views of items, ordering options, membership information, & details on our ecotours.

Adopt-A-Dolphin

We all love dolphins. We love their grace, their speed, their playful natures. We are drawn to them & their ocean home. DCP is proud to announce our new Bimini Atlantic spotted dolphin Adopt-A-Dolphin and Name-A-Dolphin Programs. These programs will help fund our Bahamas dolphin research, as well as education programs for children & adults who care passionately about dolphins. DCP's spotted dolphin adoption & naming programs allow us to promote conservation & management of dolphin populations & the health of the oceans, their home.

Working with Bimini Undersea, DCP hopes to help fund our summer field work gathering data on the spotted dolphins around Bimini. Each adoption costs \$30 and lasts for one year. Each name purchased for a dolphin goes into DCP's permanent database and costs \$200.00. The adoption & naming packet includes a certificate, a photo of your adopted dolphin, a spotted dolphin fact sheet, biographies of our named dolphins, a DCP flyer, & a copy of our most recent issue of the *Dolphin Gazette*.

Become a spotted dolphin parent today, & support valuable scientific research!

DCP would like to thank Tamara Daus Reinhard, Spin Design, LLC, for donating her time & expertise in the development of our new adoption & name-a-dolphin packets. Check out her work at:

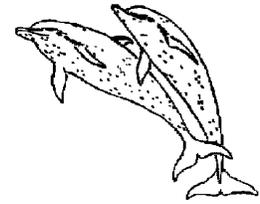
www.spindesignfirm.com

Thanks TJ McCue for his dedication & efforts in pulling together the Adopt-a-dolphin & Name-a-dolphin programs.

for more information about adopting a spotted dolphin, look to the back page of this issue of the Gazette OR contact DCP at www.dolphincommunicationproject.org



DCP is proud to announce our membership program. Join us to learn about exciting new programs, research eco-trips, and member discounts.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

The following list defines the benefits of each level of membership with DCP.

- **\$15 Student:** welcome packet
- **\$25 Individual:** welcome packet
- **\$35 Foreign:** welcome packet
- **\$45 Family:** 3 notecards, 3 postcards, & welcome packet
- Note: Family memberships consist of 2 or more individuals living in the same household.
- **\$75 Supporting:** 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then the *DCP Season Summary* or *Dolphin Spirit*) & welcome packet
- **\$250 Contributing:** 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then other) & welcome packet
- **\$500 Patron:** Limited edition matted print suitable for framing, 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then other) & welcome packet
- **\$1000 Benefactor:** 25% discount for individual members on a DCP Bahamas' Ecotour trip, Limited edition matted print suitable for framing, 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then other) & welcome packet

Welcome Packet

Membership card, 1 packet of 5 bookmarks, welcome letter, DCP flyer, one-year subscription to the *Dolphin Gazette* (DCP's newsletter), and a 10% discount on merchandise from DCP.



Collaboration with the University of Southern Mississippi - Department of Psychology

University of Southern Mississippi - DCP & Kathleen Dudzinski began collaborating with Dr. Stan Kuczaj of the Psychology department, University of Southern Mississippi in the fall, 2001. Recently, Kathleen became an Adjunct Faculty member through the Psychology Department at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). Currently, Kathleen and Stan are jointly advising two students studying behavior and sounds of dolphins. The students are Robin Paulos, of Maine, and Joana Ramos, of Brazil. Robin and Joana will accompany Kathleen to Mikura Island in May for two weeks to better understand one of DCP's field sites as they prepare their proposals for graduate degrees.

Kathleen and Stan are also preparing grant proposals for further studies of dolphin communication in a variety of settings. Keep an eye here and on DCP's web site for more details about collaborations between USM & DCP to come.



Yes! I want to become a member of the Dolphin Communication Project.

Please enroll me at the level checked.

- New member Renewing member Gift membership
- \$15 Student \$75 Supporting I would like to offer an additional gift
- \$25 Individual \$250 Contributing of \$ _____.
- \$35 Foreign (outside USA) \$500 Patron
- \$45 Family \$1000 Benefactor

Memberships to the Dolphin Communication Project are for one year.

- My check made out to Dolphin Communication Project is enclosed.
- You may also use your credit card to pay for your DCP membership online at the member page.
A \$1.00 handling fee will be added

Name: _____ if gift, note gift recipient at left & **your** name

Address: _____ & address here: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ I want to receive newsletter via email or postal mail .

Your gifts support DCP and are tax-deductible. For more details, see www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

Yes! I want to adopt a dolphin.

Freckles Split Jaw Swoosh Juliette White Blotch

Circle the name you want to adopt, fill out the above information and send \$30.00 per adoption packet.

Dolphin Communication Project
3600 South Harbor Blvd., #429
Oxnard, CA 93035 USA

