

NEWSLETTER OF THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2007

The ACS/PS Speaker Series is on hiatus for the summer, and will resume in September.

Please check our web site:
www.acspugetsound.org for the 2007-2008 speaker series schedule in a couple months.

We'll look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Event Information

All speaker series events meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle, (just north of the Woodland Park Zoo).

Doors open at 7pm and the program starts at 7:30pm. Plenty of free parking is available in the upper and lower parking lots. Admission is free—donations to offset the room rental costs are gratefully appreciated of course as we operate on a shoestring like almost all nonprofits.

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Springer Homecoming Reunion

The 5th anniversary of the rescue and reintroduction of Springer (A 73) to her native pod.

By Uko Gorter, ACS/PS President

It started with an email from Donna Sandstrom of Orca Alliance, reminding all of us who helped bring back Springer to her native pod of the upcoming five-year anniversary. Would we want to do some kind of celebration or reunion party? What about Telegraph Cove, BC, near Hanson Island where she was released?

How could anyone say no? Donna, was instrumental in forming a coalition of non-profit groups to help set up a Springer Fund. Orphan Orca Fund or OOF, as it was known, was there to support—and yes, persuade—the International and federal agencies (National Marine Fisheries Service, USA, and Fisheries and Oceans, Canada) to rescue this two year old orca girl. ACS/PS



Springer Reunion—compliments of OrcaLab, July 14, 2007

was a sponsoring member along with with Orca Alliance, the Whale Museum, People for Puget Sound, Earth Island, Friends of the San Juans, and Orca Conservancy (the last three groups listed later backed out).

Soon after Donna's request a Springer Reunion Planning Committee was formed to plan the celebration. The excitement seemed contagious, and before long we found many willing folks to help out. Most crucial of these were

(Continued on page 3)



Announcements

- ✧ Ballots for the 2007-2008 ACS Puget Sound Chapter Board are appended to this edition of the *Whulj*. Your vote is important. Please print, complete, and return your ballot by September 1st to:

American Cetacean Society
Puget Sound Chapter
P.O. Box 17136
Seattle, WA 98127-0836

- ✧ **IMPORTANT:** Starting this year, the 2007-2008 Speaker Series will start in September (instead of October) and will skip December.

- ✧ The ACS National Executive Director search is still underway. Please see the national web site (www.acsonline.org) for details.

- ✧ The ACS National Board as a few openings in the areas of education, publications, and chapter relations. Please consider volunteering a few hours a month and working towards saving the whales through public awareness.

Interested parties please contact national (dianealps@acsonline.org).

- ✧ An ACS National Conference is tentatively scheduled for Monterey California in November 2008. It's a little premature to make a formal announcement, but we thought you might like to know for your vacation planning purposes.

- ✧ The ACS Puget Sound Chapter board also has a few openings in the areas of publications, chapter representation, education, and administration.

Interested parties please come to a Speaker Series meeting if possible and/or contact uko@ukogorter.com

- ✧ We are currently looking for a reporter to write short retrospective articles on our Speaker Series meetings. Interested parties please contact diane@artemiscomputing.com.

Whulj "the saltwater we know"

The Newsletter of
the Puget Sound Chapter
of the American Cetacean Society



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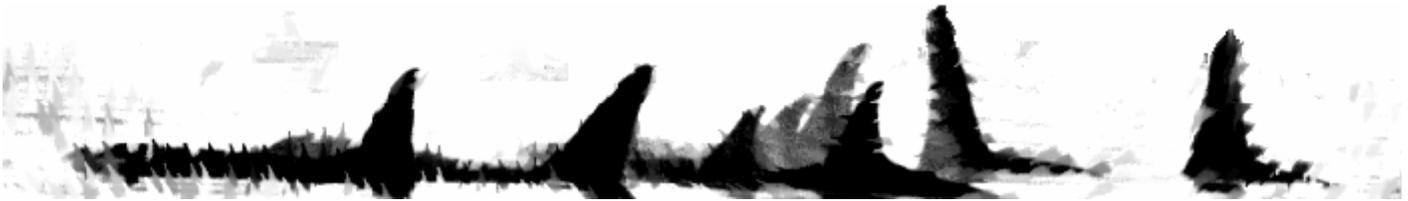
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and Dr. Peter Ross

Whulj publication schedule: February, May, August, November

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submissions, comments, suggestions, and questions welcomed



Movie review

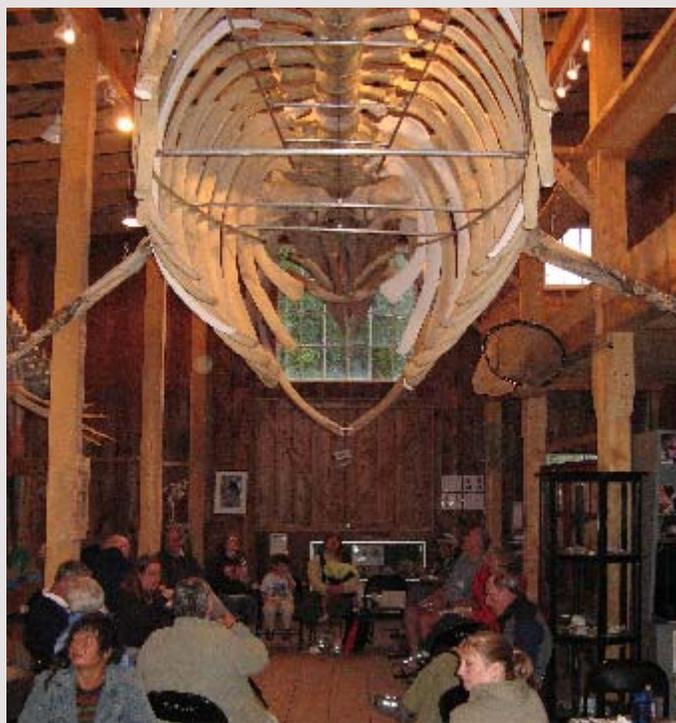
A Life Among Whales

by Nancy Morris

In the documentary, *A Life Among Whales*, Dr. Roger Payne, internationally known whale biologist, thoughtfully intertwines his own life devoted to whale research with today's worldwide efforts to save whales from the serious threats of whale hunting, toxic levels of heavy metals, PCB's, and other contaminants. The beautifully photographed film presents both heartwarming and heartrending imagery that explores the fascinating whale species of the world, from whale song research of the 1970's by Dr. Payne to courageous activism on the open sea to stop the barbaric slaughter of whales.

A Life Among Whales inspires us to examine our connections to other life on this planet and how humans treat the uniquely complex whales . . . and to recognize that if we can't save the whales, we can't save anything.

For further information on this documentary go to:
<http://www.uncommonproductions.com/lifeamongwhales/>



Interior of the Killer Whale Interpretive Center in Telegraph Cove—photo courtesy Joe Olson

Springer Reunion—continued

(Continued from page 1)

Mary and Jim Borrowman of Stubbs Island Whale Watching, Telegraph Cove, BC.

Fast forward to Friday evening, July 13. Yes, that date had us somewhat worried. But we needn't be. George Taylor, Kwakwaka'wakw member, as well as founder and director of the Le-La-La Dancers, greeted and welcomed us with a song and drum solo. After this moving greeting ceremony, a delicious salmon (yes, wild salmon) dinner awaited us. Between the excellent dinner and the tiring long drive up north, we slept very well that night.

The next morning most of us were up early full of anticipation. Would the guest of honor show up herself? But first, we gathered for an interesting panel discussion in the Killer Whale Interpretive Center. This veritable marine mammal museum is a delight for all. Underneath a giant skeleton of a fin whale, forty of us were seated to hear the panel reminiscing and discussing the lessons learned. The panel was made up of some of the experts who had made the Springer rescue possible. Among them were: Paul Spong, of Orca Lab; Bob Lohn, NW regional director of NOAA Fisheries; Marilyn Joyce, director of marine mammal program at DFO, Lance Barrett-Lennard of the Vancouver Aquarium, Donna Sandstrom, of Orca Alliance, and George Taylor. Kathy Fletcher, director of People for Puget Sound, was the moderator.

The whale watch started slightly ahead of schedule, but no one objected. We boarded the Gikumi, the first vessel of Stubbs Island, with a long Telegraph Cove history. This lovingly restored logging tug is a wonderful platform to watch whales from.

Slowly we made our way into Johnstone Strait. The weather was overcast but dry. Not long after, our naturalist Jackie Hildering, alerted us to a small group of Pacific white-sided dolphins. These sleek playful animals gave us a few close-up glimpses of their bi-colored dorsal fins and intricate patterning. Shortly thereafter a few Dall's porpoises showed up. And then, as to complete our cetacean smorgasbord, we were treated with a sighting of our first pod of Northern Residents. Would Springer be with them? No, this was not her pod.

The Gikumi finally approached Robson Bight. This bay
(Continued on page 5)



Orca Sing 2007

*captions by Ann Stateler, ACS/PS Vice President
photos courtesy of Erin Corra*



left: Ann & Odin send out a song to the Southern Resident orcas. To the right is a section of the world-famous Corky Banner.

below: Odin and Ann with the City Cantabile Choir at Lime Kiln Park during Orca Sing 2007.





Movie review

Sharkwater

by Nancy Morris

Sharkwater, a documentary that will be in US theaters this fall, explores the beauty and important contributions of sharks in a complex ocean ecosystem revealed by extraordinary underwater photography. The film, directed by Rob Stewart, adamantly addresses the need to save the endangered sharks from extinction and shows how they are victims of human greed and folly. This is a much-needed departure from the usual sensationalized media coverage of sharks as insatiable killers of the deep. In fact, deaths from shark attacks are extremely rare — averaging only around 10 per year worldwide — far fewer than attacks by many other species of animals.

Not only is *Sharkwater* a poetic nature documentary, it also records the suspense filled escapades of activists attempting to protect sharks while they are under threat of imminent arrest. By the end of the documentary, you can't keep from loving sharks and responding to the urgency to preserve them and their ocean habitats before they are lost forever. For further information on this documentary go to: <http://www.savingsharks.com/>



Springer Reunion—continued

(Continued from page 3)

known for the famous killer whale rubbing beach, is now closed off as part of the Michael Bigg Ecological Reserve, named after the late Michael Bigg, killer whale researcher and pioneer of the photo identification research method.

Suddenly excited calls from Peggy Foreman (ACS/PS education chair), who we learned to identify by her expressive vocalizations, hinted at an important sighting. Confirmed by our naturalist, Jackie, Springer was sighted. We just needed to wait until they made their way outside the reserve. It wasn't long before the A 11s with Springer made their Hollywood style appearance. Now excited screams from the entire Springer Reunion crowd could be heard. She is here! Springer is here! Accompanied with drum and chant by George Taylor, the Gikumi respectfully followed the guest of honor and her family.

There is more exciting news: it appears that A11 has a newborn calf. We kept up with Springer and her family past Dong Chong Bay, where she was released five years earlier.

It is wonderful to see her thrive among her own family. She looks healthy and is no longer interested in vessels. She is a real killer whale.

If all of this wasn't enough, all attendees were invited to Paul and Helena Spong's Orca Lab on Hanson Island. This northern equivalent of Ken Balcomb's Center for Whale Research, has its beginning in the early 1970s. It has researched the Northern Residents through non-invasive methods.

We were ferried by zodiac, courtesy of Tide Rip Tours. But, with no dock or pier near Orca Lab, we were forced

(Continued on page 7)



Photos of members of Springer's extended family courtesy Joe Olson



Newly published field guide to benefit ACS *The Marine Mammals of the North American Pacific from WildGuides*

by Uko Gorter, ACS/PS President

It has been some time since Dylan Walker of WildGuides Ltd. contacted the American Cetacean Society..

This lesser known publisher of wonderful natural history field guides, based in Berkshire, UK, was created in 2000 as a non-profit publishing company. In their seven years of existence, they have produced 17 high quality regional field guides. Proceeds of these guides have benefited many organizations dealing with the subject(s) of each specific guide.

Now that a new field guide was being created for the marine mammals of the North American Pacific, the American Cetacean Society was chosen to be the recipient of the proceeds of this beautiful guide, and the ACS/Los Angeles Chapter President, Bernardo Alps, wrote an endearing and poignant forward for it.

Frankly, we couldn't be more proud and honored to be associated with and benefit from this wonderful publication: "*Whales and Dolphins of the North American Pacific, Including Seals and other Marine Mammals*".

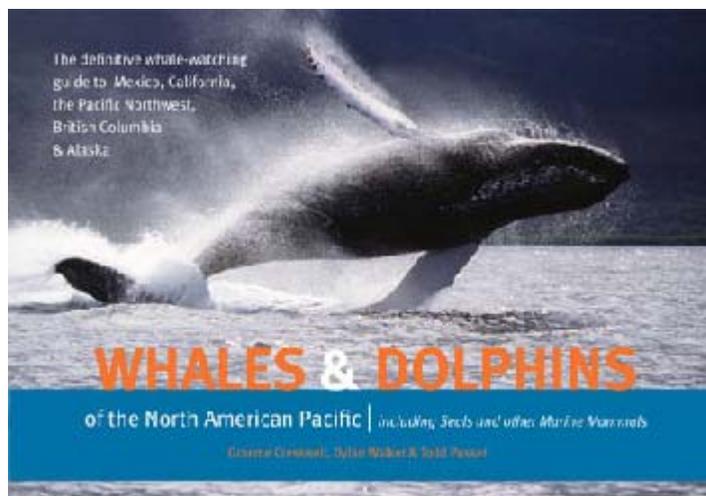
As the title suggests, it covers all the marine mammals that occur along the North Pacific Coast, from Baja California to the Bering Sea of Alaska.

This unique work mainly draws from the work of numerous photographers. Many beautiful never-before published photos grace this publication.

A great number of behaviors are shown through breathtaking photography. Almost every species account is accompanied with photos of surface views of each animal. And each species is depicted in an illustration, swimming—half submerged—in lateral view. Accurate range maps are also shown.

Additional information on the geography of the North Pacific; how to identify marine mammals; and whale watching in the North American Pacific, along with anecdotal accounts, round out this work.

The easy-to-use format, gorgeous photography, and—of course—the obvious benefit to the American Cetacean Society, makes this a MUST HAVE for all you members,



(and yet-to-become ACS members).

Don't go whale watching without this guide! I'm sure that sounds like hyperbole, but I'm confident that you will be in complete agreement once you get a chance to examine a copy.

Thank you, WildGuides Ltd. for this wonderful opportunity for ACS, and your continued commitment to conservation groups worldwide.

More information on: www.wildguides.co.uk

Whales and Dolphins of the North American Pacific, Including Seals and Other Marine Mammals. By Graeme Cresswell, Dylan Walker, and Todd Pusser.

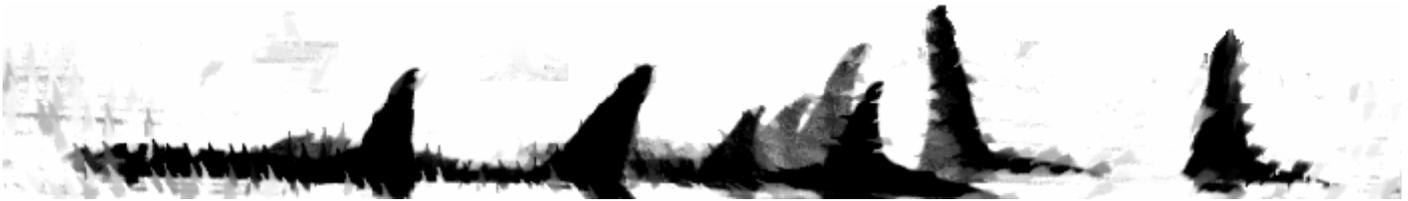
WildGuides (published in North America by Harbour Publishing, Canada)

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June 2007

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Recordings of Springer's Vocalizations

by Joe Olson, ACS/PS Past President
Owner—Cetacean Research Technology

On 19 January 2002 in the Puget Sound waters between Seattle and Vashon Island, I had the fortunate opportunity to make what are believed to be the first recordings ever of an individual wild killer whale calf.

The calf had been sighted a few days earlier by a ferry captain and reported to local whale researcher, Mark Sears. Ken Balcomb of the Center for Whale Research was asked to identify the whale and he didn't recognize it as belonging to the Southern Resident killer whale community. Mark then called for my assistance to record the little whale's vocalizations.

With the help of my recordings, subsequent ones made by Dr. David Bain, a photo taken a year-and-a-half earlier by Dr. Marilyn Dahlheim, and expert detective work by several other killer whale scientists, the orca calf was finally identified as a member of the **Northern Resident** killer whale community — a population of orcas that traditionally never visits Puget Sound!

The whale's scientific identification is A-73 and she had already been named *Springer* by Dr. Paul Spong of OrcaLab. The two recordings on the Cetacean Research Technology web site are good examples of the range of sounds that Springer was making on that cold winter day in 2002.

Five years later, on 14 July 2007, most of the people involved with returning Springer (A73) to her family met for a five-year reunion at Telegraph Cove, British Columbia (See related article by Uko Gorter). We took to the waters of Johnstone Strait aboard the M/V Gikumi skippered by Captain Jim Borrowman of Stubbs Island Whale Watching. To our great joy, Springer joined the reunion — 5 years to the day that she was released from Dong Chong Bay on Hanson Island!

She was accompanied by other members of her extended family belonging to the A8, A11, and A12 subpods. A recording of Springer with her family is also available on the web site. I can't tell who is who, nor whether any of the vocalizations belong to Springer, but it's wonderful to listen to Springer's family while she is in their company.

To listen: www.cetaceanresearch.com/sounds

Springer Reunion—continued

(Continued from page 5)

to make a D-day style landing on the slippery rocks at low tide. Like crustaceans we crawled up to the lab's deck. Split in two groups, we were given tours of the lab and its workings, and took a short hike to one of the largest red western cedars on the island. Despite the area being extensively logged in earlier times, it has survived around 300 years.

Orca Lab's impressive and extensive network of hydrophones has given the Spongs an acoustic view into the Northern Resident Killer Whale lives. Photo ID work has revealed an intricate family tree of these pods. One hopes that their work will continue by future cetologists.

Later that day, a few of us were invited on a private vessel owned by past ACS/PS board member, Bob Wood. Bob has now formed his own organization, Global Research and Rescue (GRR). Bob brought us to the U'mista cultural center on Alert Bay. This museum and cultural center has one of the best collections of Potlatch masks anywhere. They are lovingly and openly displayed in a long house. It was a powerful experience.

On our way back to Telegraph Cove, we hung around with a mom and calf humpback whale. As the setting sun reflected on their sounding flukes, we reluctantly but utterly satisfied, made our way back.

ACS/PS was well represented at the Springer Reunion by the following board members and their families & friends: Uko and Susan Gorter; Joe, Ingrid, and Alex Olson; Peggy Foreman; Mike; Hella Cascorbi; D.J. Mar; Darcie Larson; Odin Lonning; Ann Stater; and Stogarita, the chapter spokesdog. We may be a small chapter but we're active!

This was certainly a weekend we will never forget. May Springer and her kind frolic in these deep green waters for years to come.



Photo of Pacific white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens* or just "lag" for short) courtesy Joe Olson

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Puget Sound Chapter
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address label

address correction requested

SAVE THE DATE—Wednesday September 19th

Please join us at 7pm at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6 (just north of Woodland Park Zoo)

Join us to kick off the 2007-2008 Speaker Series. See www.acspugetsound.org in September for information on the presentation.



Photo courtesy Mark Sears © 2002 All Rights Reserved

PLEASE JOIN US — SAY “YES!” — ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY!”

Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	Patron
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	Contributing
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Please make check payable to ACS and mail to: ACS/Puget Sound Chapter, P.O. Box 17136, Seattle, WA 98127-0836

BALLOT

Election of the ACS Puget Sound board 2007

Dear members,

It is time once more to elect your Puget Sound Chapter board. As a member, it is your privilege to give your vote. Simply mark your choice behind the name or write-in candidate.

Perhaps you are motivated to serve as a board member yourself, or know someone who would like to. You do not have to be a whale expert or professional to serve on our board. All we ask for is your commitment and enthusiasm.

Please mail your ballot by Saturday, September 1 at the address below.

If you have any questions, contact our membership chair, Uko Gorter, at: 425-827-3437 or e-mail him at uko@ukogorter.com



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