

July 2016 Newsletter



Whalers Dive Club

BJ's Restaurant & Brewery

6424 Canoga Ave

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

(818) 340-1748

The Whalers Dive Club, Inc., a California non-profit

When: 1st Wednesday of the Month 6:00-7:00 Food & Fellowship

7:00-9:00 Meeting

Website: www.whalersdiveclub.com

Address: P.O. Box: 4283, West Hills, CA 91308-4283

East side of Canoga, just south of Victory You can only enter the parking lot from Canoga northbound. Both self-parking and valet available.

Private Room, Extensive Menu, and Full Bar

July Entertainment

Ken Kollwitz

This month we honored to have our own Whaler Ken as our guest.

Ken will be presenting cameras (video & still), strobes & lights and how to hopefully choose what would be good for a person who is thinking about getting a camera for diving. He will touch on some considerations as far as safety and things to think about before putting a camera into their hands

President's Message

According to the Sunday, May 29, 2016 L A Times, researchers last summer discovered what could be the World's Largest known sponge. It was found at about 7,000 feet deep in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Hawaii and is roughly the size of a Minivan. They were stunned to find it with remote cameras attached to an underwater rover and it has brain like appearances and is bluish-white in color.

Thought to be one of the largest in size, world experts say that no one has been able to identify the genus it belongs to and perhaps because it is so large it may be over 2,300 years old!

I have the original article if you'd like to read it and will bring it to our July 6th, 2016 meeting at B J's, Woodland Hills on Canoga Av. at 6pm in the Back Room. See you there, Trish

UP-COMING EVENTS

JULY

General Meeting: July 6, 2016 Wednesday @ Bj's 6:00 pm
Ken Kollwitz Speaker

Dive; July 16, 2016 - Spectre

Board Meeting; July 21, 2016 Thursday @ Lamplighter 6:00 pm

Dive: July 23, 2016 - Spectre (contact Dahlia)

AUGUST

General Meeting: August 3, 2016 Wednesday @ Bj's 6:00 pm

Dive: Aug 20, 2016 - Asante (contact Dahlia)

Board Meeting; August 18, 2016 Thursday @ Lamplighter 6:00 pm

SEPTEMBER

General Meeting: September 7, 2016 Wednesday @ Bj's 6:00 pm

Board Meeting: September 15, 2016 Thursday @ Lamplighter 6:00

Dive: September 17, 2016 - Beach Clean=up at Deer Creek

More Upcoming dives:

Nov 5-12, 2016. Anthony's Key Resort, Roatan, Honduras -Please see Dahlia for more info

Oct 2017 - Red Sea and Israel tour



Petra, Jordan - Red Sea - Underwater Park

Minivan-sized sponge discovered

By CALEB JONES
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Researchers in Hawaii have been absorbed by a sea creature they discovered last summer, and their findings are pretty big.

The team of scientists on a deep-sea expedition in the waters off Hawaii discovered what they say is the world's largest known sponge.

The creature, roughly the size of a minivan, was discovered about 7,000 feet down in a marine conservation area off the shores of the northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The rare sponge, with a bluish-white color and brain-like appearance, stunned scientists when it appeared in the remote cameras attached to their underwater rover.

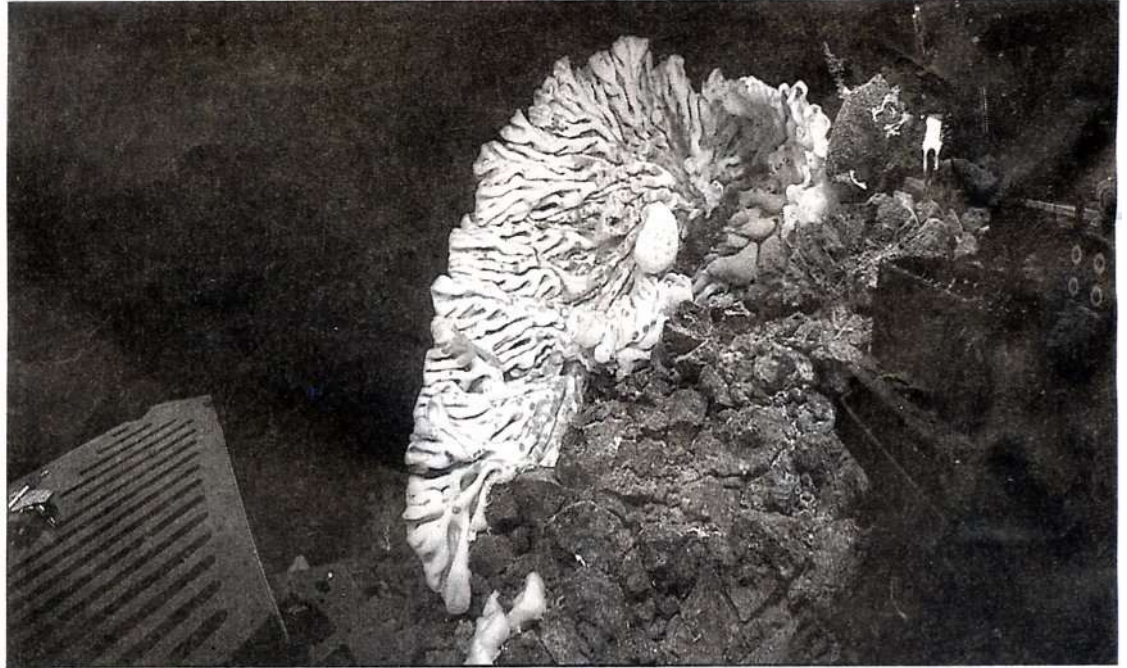
Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Hawaii studied the sponge for about a year before releasing their findings.

"The largest portion of our planet lies in deep waters, the vast majority of which has never been explored," Papahānaumokuākea research specialist Daniel Wagner with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries said in a statement released Wednesday. "Finding such an enormous and presumably old sponge emphasizes how much can be learned from studying deep and pristine environments."

A study published this week in the scientific journal *Marine Biodiversity* described the massive creature.

The animal was found in the waters of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which is the largest protected conservation area in the United States and one of the largest in the world. It covers an area that is bigger than all the other U.S. national parks combined.

Christopher Kelley, program biologist at the Hawaii Undersea Research Lab, who helped lead the expedition with Wagner, said the crew



Associated Press

HUGE FIND — A massive sponge is photographed at a depth of about 7,000 feet in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument off the shores of the northwestern Hawaiian Islands. A team of scientists on a deep-sea expedition discovered the sponge, which they say is the world's largest ever documented.

captured images of the sponge with remote underwater cameras that were positioned above their underwater research vehicle. They then used laser points to measure parts of the sponge and also carefully measured the vehicle and compared those dimensions to the images they had of the sponge and vehicle together to determine its size.

Kelley said they took samples of a sponge of the same species they found the day before the larger one and sent them to the world's top experts, and no one could identify what genus the sponge belongs to.

"Here's this animal that has presumably never been encountered before and it's enormous and that kind of bring up a little intrigue for deep water and what else exists down there," he said.

While this particular sponge is only incrementally larger than other

sponges found, the researchers say it shows the value in exploring the ocean's depths to discover unknown and mysterious forms of life.

They pored over scientific literature and found this was the largest documented sponge to date.

Paul Dayton, professor emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California has studied large sponges in the Antarctic.

"Certainly I can agree that this is a very large sponge indeed, the largest I have heard of," Dayton said in an email to The Associated Press. "It is incrementally larger than the ones off British Columbia and they might find an even bigger one, but surely this is the biggest sponge I have ever heard of."

Joseph Pawlik, a professor in the department of biology and marine biology at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington said getting a

good sense of the size of these large sponges can be difficult. He has studied large barrel sponges that grow to very large sizes, and has come up with a method of estimating their age and size based on volume.

"Largest implies volume," he said. "We have some pretty substantial sponges that are barrel sponges that have huge volume."

Sponges are similar to coral reefs in that they provide critical habitat for other sea life and filter large amounts of sea water and remove material other animals in the ocean don't eat.

According to scientists, some of the large sponges found in more shallow waters have been estimated to be over 2,300 years old, leading researchers to wonder how old some of these deep-sea organisms that have never been encountered can become.

Other Members of the Dive Community



- o receive 5% off scheduled local boat charters
- o if active or retired military, make that 10%



- receive 10% off scuba equipment

GLYNN PALMER: Scuba Repair

For more information please contact Glynn @ 310-266-2955



Check with the Shop for:

Schedule of classes

Dive equipment

Dive trips

Repairs



Peace Dive Boat



Divers Alert Network



Disabled Veterans Scuba Project

Photo Gallery

Latest Training Class



Photos by Rusty Geller



Photos by David Guth



A Monkey Faced Prickle



Spanish Shawl Nudibranch



Hilton's Aeolid Nudibranch



Kelp fish in front of the anchor chain of the Gosford



Infant Sheep head



Photos by Dan Tobias TURKS & CAICOS VACATION





LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS

2016 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Contact the board: info@whalersdiveclub.com

Trish Kolbeck	President
Greg Arsenaunt	Treasurer
Betty Pringle	Secretary
Rick Dalven	Webmaster
Kat & Mike Prentice	Prize Coordinators
Norman Deatherage	Beach Clean-up
Betty Pringle	Newsletter
Greg Arsenaunt & Dahlia Luria	Dive Coordinators
Dahlia Luria	Training
Shelly Bern & Steve DeVore	Members at Large