

Radcliff's Rad Students



Thank You for 20 Years



Our Ocean Backyard: Derek Walton Lighthouse

odyssey NEWS

Radcliff's Rad Students

O'Neill Sea Odyssey intern Karina Gonzalez wrote this blog post after accompanying a class from Watsonville's Radcliff School in September, 2016.

Goodbye summer, hello fall. With school back in session, classes have been boarding the catamaran once again. This time it was Radcliff Elementary School from Watsonville. This class of fifth graders came in with plenty of excitement as they arrived at the OSO building. After they patiently awaited instructions and guidelines, they strapped on their life preservers and they were ready! As normal protocol the students were separated into 3 groups and they chose their group names, which happened to be the harbor seals, California sea lions, and elephant seals. Then they were off!

As the students boarded the boat their excitement grew to curiosity as they all nestled onto the net looking at the waves ahead. However, their curiosity must have been on the physical beauty of the ocean because these students came with plenty of knowledge on the dynamics of the ocean. These students quickly answered questions about the role of plankton and kelp forests in the ocean. They even compared the role of microhabitats to the movie Finding Nemo. The

students were also very aware of the dangerous effects of pollution to ocean animals. One student even brought up the unfortunate event of animals getting caught in soda can plastic rings.

But since they were aboard the OSO catamaran, they had the fortunate opportunity to expand their knowledge. The students got a chance to learn about how compasses work and they were able to test out their newly found knowledge into action. The students were also able to reel in a sample of ocean water and observe the plankton that were present.

Once the boat ride ended, the students then gathered inside the OSO building to continue their learning experience. Inside, they got to map out their measurements taken with the

compass, view the plankton under the microscope, and learn more about pollution.

With this full day of activities, it is safe to say that Radcliff Elementary School's fifth grade class got to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity. Not only did they learn more about the ocean and its inhabitants, but they had the opportunity to put their knowledge to the test with hands on activities on the boat and back inside the classroom. It's great students such as them that will be future spokesmen of ocean awareness! ♦



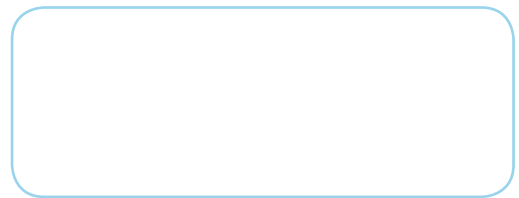
Radcliffe students on Monterey Bay, Karina Gonzalez



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O'Neill Sea Odyssey's 20th Anniversary Celebration

BY DAN HAIFLEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PHOTOS BY
NIKKI BROOKS

Thanks to the volunteers, donors and committee members who made "The Ocean Is Alive" happen, OSO raised \$75,000 the evening of September 17. Guests enjoyed stilt dancers, harp music, wine in re-purposed, engraved glasses, watched a special edition 20th anniversary video and participated in live and silent auctions. To watch the special edition video, go to tinyurl.com/oso20thcelebration ('20th' continued inside). ♦



Left to Right: OSO Board member Jim Thoits, Kim Thoits, Former California State Assemblymember and Santa Cruz mayor, John Laird, OSO Executive Director, Dan Haifley, Rebecca Haifley



Fall/Winter 2016 News

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Pat O'Neill addresses the crowd with Auctioneer Anthony McNaught.

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Thank You for 20 Years, Here's to 20 More

BY JACK, BRIDGET & TIM O'NEILL



Over 250 people jammed into the Seymour Marine Discovery Center in Santa Cruz O'Neill Sea Odyssey's 20th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 17 for an elegant evening of art, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music, and an auction. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a description of the event, and some wonderful photos by our own Nikki Brooks.

At the end of 2016 our program will have served over 90,000 students, putting us on track to reach our goal of 100,000 served by our field trip by the end of 2018. That does not count the students reached by our Virtual Program and by our online classroom science curriculum offered through the Pepper

Professional Development Network.

We would like to thank all the donors, partners, and volunteers who have helped to power our program, and the teachers and students who have participated. We look forward to seeing this program continue for another 20 years, and beyond! ♦

(‘20th’ continued from outside cover)

Committee Members: Andrea Graham (Chair), Tatiana Burdiak, Adam Steckley, Jim Thoits, Bridget O'Neill, Liz Kroft, Kelly Leo, Alexah Hart, Laura Barnes-Walker, Kathleen O'Neill.

Sponsors: Union Bank, Bank of America (Gold); PG&E (Silver), Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, AEI Consultants, Inc., McNaught Fine Art, and Morgan Stanley (Bronze), KSCO – AM (Media).

Emcee: Lex Van Den Berghe.

Auctioneer: Anthony McNaught.

Video producers: Joyce Anderson and Yamal Duryea.

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Leave a Legacy for Youth and the Ocean

You're part of the reason we're here and you can also be part of the reason we'll be here 100 years from now. Since 1996, O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) has served nearly 75,000 youth with a free, ocean-going science and environment program.

This has been possible in part because you have provided much-needed and deeply appreciated support for OSO's program for area youth. In 2005 OSO's Board of Directors made a commitment to raise funds to ensure

our future by establishing a permanent endowment fund for OSO which is housed at the Community Foundation for Santa Cruz County.

We would like to invite you to help us build a future foundation for our program, for the kids, and for the ocean. You can do this by naming OSO's permanent fund at Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County in your estate plan. There are also many ways to leave a permanent legacy and reap some significant financial benefits before hand, including: a beneficiary designation in your retirement fund or insurance policy, gifts from a will or living trust, an annuity that provides you with lifetime income, gifts of real estate, and charitable trusts.

We would be honored to meet with you to discuss supporting our permanent fund in a way that works best for you. Please contact Dan Haifley at **(831) 465-9390** or at dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org, or fill out the form below and mail it to us. Thank you! ♦

Enrollment Form

- I have named OSO in my estate plan (we will contact you relative to recognition)
- I would like to talk to someone about a gift to OSO in my estate plan
- I wish to learn more about the OSO/Community Foundation's gift annuity program
- I would like the recommended language for including OSO in my estate plan

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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Please send to OSO, 2222 East Cliff Drive, Suite 222; Santa Cruz, CA 95062

(**'Thank You'** continued)

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Keep Up On Weekly Happenings

Check out O'Neill Sea Odyssey's blog oneillseaodyssey.org/blog. Thank you for your 20 years of support! ♦

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If you would like to opt out of the paper version of this newsletter and would like a PDF emailed to you, please email dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org and write in the subject line: "Email newsletter please". Thank you! ♦

Our Ocean Backyard: *Derek Walton Lighthouse – Santa Cruz’s Landmark*

BY DAN HAIFLEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A few years back there was a proposal to remove Santa Cruz’ iconic mile buoy, which despite its moniker is actually a mile and a half offshore. Proponents claimed, among other things, that the Harbor’s Walton Lighthouse was all that boaters needed for navigation.

But really both are needed, especially if you don’t have navigation equipment in your kayak and suddenly find yourself shrouded in in the fog, as happened to me two years ago. Public outcry ended the proposal.

Located at the end of the Santa Cruz Harbor’s west jetty, the lighthouse adorns countless ads, videos and photographs. It’s become a landmark, in addition to its very practical use. Charles Walton, who passed away in 2011 at 89, was a key backer of its construction. I was introduced to him in 2004 by Jim Thoits, who serves on O’Neill Sea Odyssey’s Board of Directors. A few years before Jim had been working with local businessman Bill Simpkins to spearhead the fundraising drive for the lighthouse, and Charlie agreed to provide a cornerstone donation.

The Walton Lighthouse isn’t named for Charlie; he wanted it named in honor of his late brother, Derek, a merchant marine who was lost at sea during

World War II. It stands today near where a harbor light had always been since the harbor’s construction was finished in 1964. The first light was housed in a box structure from 1964 until 1996.

The structure was replaced by a cylinder that people referred to as “the water heater” from 1996 until 1999. A pipe structure held the light until May 2002. While functional, most considered it an eyesore.

In 1998, Bill Simpkins had proposed replacing this succession of functional structures with an attractive one. When they got approval by the harbor, Simpkins, Thoits and others began raising money, collecting enough to begin work in 2001. The classical style was designed by structural engineer Mark Mesiti-Miller and built by Devcon Construction. Then-Port Director Brian Foss oversaw and promoted the effort.

The lighthouse is 41 1/2 feet tall as measured from the level pavement of the west jetty, and 59 1/2 feet above the mean low water mark in the harbor channel. It weighs 350,000 pounds and is designed to withstand a quarter million pounds of energy from an incoming wave.



Construction began with a cylindrical inner core that contained the lighthouse’s electrical equipment plus a 42-step spiral staircase. Surrounding it was a network of reinforcing rods. Concrete was blown into the array then troweled by hand to form the structure’s current shape, similar to a cone. The concrete walls are 4 1/2 feet thick at the base.

A weatherproof white finish was applied to the exterior, and then a copper roofed lantern room was secured at its top. According to the book “Reflections of the Santa Cruz Harbor: A Portal to Monterey Bay” by Dave Clark and Gus Gregory, the top section contains a 360 degree chamber found in lighthouse designs since the late 1700s.

And so on June 9, 2002, the new harbor lighthouse was dedicated and its signal - a green beacon that flashes every four seconds on a plane 36 feet high - was activated.

A version of this column appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on February 14, 2016. ♦

18 Years After Her Own Sea Odyssey Trip, Mom Brings Son in Class with the Same Teacher

Eighteen years after her own experience with O’Neill Sea Odyssey, Josefina Flores accompanied her son, Joel Ruiz, on September 30, 2017 during his class from Hall District School in North Monterey County. Joel’s teacher, Alice Miller, was also the same one who had brought his Mom and her class out nearly two decades ago!



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