



EXPEDITION PROFILE

July 21st- 26th, aboard D/Y Valkyrie

The International SeaKeepers Society joined Dr. Ari Friedlaender and Dr. Brandon Southall of the California Ocean Alliance to conduct whale research aboard D/Y Valkyrie. The work consisted of tagging and observing humpback whales in Monterey Bay, California, while also providing a chance for kids to learn about whale research. The tags deployed record video, kinetics, depth, and location of the animals. This data will also be compared with the data received by underwater hydrophone receivers which sit at the bottom of Monterey Bay, and in turn will help the scientific community better understand the whales' behaviors and communications.

Dr. Friedlaender and Dr. Jim Harvey from the Moss Landing Marine Lab tagged the animals from a specially modified RHIB. Valkyrie a 65' Sea Ray motor yacht, acted as a second platform, both as safety support for the tagging, and primarily responsible for deploying and recovering passive acoustic drifters, conducting focal animal follows, photo-ID and radio tracking of tagged whales and recovery of tags. The fly bridge and bow of the boat proved to be perfect for this type of observational research. Additionally, a whale watching vessel carrying students from the COA Marine Mammal Scientist in Training course joined Valkyrie and the MLML RHIB as part of their summer field curriculum.

The data collected from the tags, as well as the behavior observed and documented from Valkyrie will be compared with the data received by underwater hydrophone receivers which sit at the bottom of Monterey Bay, and in turn will help the scientific community better understand the whales' behaviors and communications – all with the aim of conservation and education.

Program Director:

Tony Gilbert
Tony@seakeepers.org
255 Aragon Ave. Third Floor
Coral Gables, Florida
Tel: 305.448.7089

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jay Wade – *Chairman*
Glen Allen; Julian Chang; Mark Luther
Michael T. Moore – *Chairman Emeritus*
Richard Snow, *President & CEO*