

Welcome to the Pacific Mammal Research August 2017 Newsletter.



*Welcome to Pacific Mammal Research!*

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*August 2017 Newsletter*

## Summer's Flying!

If you were thinking that the newsletter was a little late this month...you'd be right! We've been extra-busy here at PacMam these last few weeks giving presentations, preparing for upcoming events and doing our regular research as well. But never fear, we hadn't forgotten!

Summer temperatures and the smoke-haze from ongoing wildfires in British Columbia have made for an interesting landscape recently, and we've also encountered the first few instances of "Fog-ust", the local name for the thick layer of sea-mist common during this time of year. This mist can sometimes obscure our view in Burrows Pass preventing us from conducting observations, but thankfully that hasn't happened so far this year.

So what has been keeping us so busy, you ask? Well read on to find out!



*© Cindy R. Elliser - Pacific Mammal Research*

*River otter swimming near our field site.*

**Save The Date: Fidalgo Bay Day 2017**

Come say hi to PacMam researchers at our stall this Saturday, August 12th, at the 14th annual Fidalgo Bay Day event! Hosted by Friends of Skagit Beaches, this family-friendly event offers a chance to celebrate the history, beauty, and marine life present in Fidalgo Bay through live demonstrations, touch-tanks and creative crafts and games. You can also learn about local projects (such as Pacific Mammal Research!) and volunteer opportunities with us and other local agencies and organizations.

There will be complimentary tastings of seafood chowder courtesy of local restaurateurs and BBQ'd shellfish provided by Taylor's Shellfish, as well as the

opportunity to enjoy a traditional salmon BBQ lunch offered by members of the Samish Indian Nation.

The event is free and will take place at the Fidalgo Bay Resort from 11am-3pm on Saturday, August 12th. For more details, check out the [information here](#).

### Community Presentations

We've been fortunate to give a number of presentations to local groups and organizations recently ranging in age from kindergarteners to octogenarians!

Dr. Cindy Elliser, our Research Director and Founder, presented at two of the Summer Learning & Lunches series, educating children and their parents about marine biology and PacMam's work here in the Salish Sea. We also gave talks at the Camano Island Public Library and La Conner Retirement Inn, which were both well attended and well received.

If you'd like us to come talk to YOUR group or organization get in touch via email ([cindy.elliser@pacmam.org](mailto:cindy.elliser@pacmam.org)) - we'd love to hear from you!



*Dr. Elliser describing how baleen whales feed during a Learning & Lunches session at the Whitney Early Childhood Education Center.*

### Anacortes STEM Foundation's STEM Camp 2017

PacMam researchers are in the final days of teaching at the week-long STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Camp at the Anacortes Middle School. 6th-8th grade students were given a variety of workshop options and chose two to attend over 5 consecutive days. Workshops ranged from robotics and engineering to kitchen science and recreation, as well as (of course!) marine biology. Organized by the Anacortes STEM Foundation, this Summer day-camp

offers hands-on workshops that are a fun, interactive way for students to learn and experience new activities. We have had a great time sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm with the students so far and hope to continue to develop our STEM classes in the future!



*One of the many activities students participated in during the STEM Camp workshop: plankton races! Students had to make "plankton" that could sink the slowest - it's harder than it looks!*

### *Society for Marine Mammalogy Conference - Halifax 2017*

We have spent quite a bit of time in the last month working on our submission for the upcoming Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM) conference taking place in Halifax, Nova Scotia this Fall. The conference is attended by marine mammalogists from all over the world and is always a fantastic week of networking and learning about the latest research in our field.



Our submission required us to think outside of the box this year, which has been a fun and rewarding experience...stay tuned for more details on this and some related PacMam-projects in the very near future!

## Coming Soon...



*Harbor seals lounging in the dog-days of Summer.*

As always, check up on our [Facebook](#) page to stay up to date with the latest from the field and further afield - find us under "Pacific Mammal Research - PacMam".

We also LOVE posting on [Instagram](#) (find us under "PacificMammalResearch"), sharing cool shots from the field, and on [Google+](#) (under "Pacific Mammal Research - PacMam"), so make sure you get connected! And, as always, our [website](#) is there for you to read more about what we do, upcoming events, and how YOU can get involved with PacMam.

From all of us here at PacMam enjoy the rest of your Summer, we'll see you in September!

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