

MAKING A DIFFERENCE – Cont.

starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lennon. When two male musicians witness a mob hit, they are forced to escape disguised as an all-female band. Watch as mayhem unravels when troubles arise as this duo attempts to keep their true identities hidden.

On August 11, come watch *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (1954) a Walt Disney classic and the first science fiction film shot in CinemaScope. In this film, a naturalist, Professor (Pierre) Aronnax, his assistant, Conseil, and a professional whaler, Ned Land, join a US expedition which attempts to unravel the mystery of why so many ships have been lost at sea.

Admission to Movie Nights is free, with a \$15 State Park day use fee per vehicle, and all ages are welcome to attend. Each film begins at 8pm. Don't forget to bring a beach chair and/or a blanket! Retro style candy and refreshments will be available for sale.

FROM THE FIELD

THE BLUES ARE BACK!

As thousands of vacationers flock to Crystal Cove's beaches for the summer, a group of much larger visitors arrives in our waters as well. Blue whales, the largest animals to have ever existed, are a common sight during the summer months in California.

These giants can grow up to 100 feet in length, and can weigh nearly 200 tons. Their tongue alone weighs as much as an elephant, and their heart is the size of a car. Despite their size, blue whales feed exclusively on tiny krill that are less than an inch long. A single blue whale will often eat up to 4 tons of krill a day!

The local group of blue whales that passes by Crystal Cove is known as the eastern North Pacific population, and they travel between Alaska and Costa Rica, spending the summer months near California's coast. The population is estimated to be around 2,500 individuals, and it is the only population to have recovered to its original population size since whaling was banned in the 1960s.



For the best chance at spotting these ocean giants, hop on a whale watching boat run by CCA's partners at Newport Whales! Newport Whales offers four 2.5 hour whale watching trips a day. Visit newportwhales.com to reserve your spot!

THEN AND NOW

THE COLONY BY THE SEA - CELEBRATING THE 4TH OF JULY AT CRYSTAL COVE

"Bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other" was how John Adams said the Declaration of Independence of the 13 original colonies should be celebrated, and at Crystal Cove — an original seaside colony at one end of the continent — this was exactly how the Fourth of July was celebrated for decades. Like the firecrackers and 40-cent hamburgers once sold at Crystal Cove's seasonal store, or the illuminated flotillas once made from wooden planks and highway flares, bonfires are now part of a bygone beach era — but visitors still return to the timeless Cove traditions of community and freedom on the Fourth of July.

The outdoor circumstances of the colony at Crystal Cove helped inspire its unique community customs. The hand-built cottages and summer tents originally pitched on the then-private Irvine Ranch land were simple shelters. Their main feature wasn't luxurious beach seclusion but temporary indoor quarters for outdoor living. This common outdoor living created connections among neighbors from all walks of life — to each other and to a shared place.

The community-building effect of the Cove's scrappy vernacular settlement is reflected in its year-round celebratory spirit where there was always a reason to gather family and friends. From the raising of the martini flag to the annual tree-lighting, the cultural customs inspired by tide, sun, and season have always been festive, but they've also been

opportunities to strengthen community with returned-to traditions and holidays like the Fourth of July. For a place where every night was Saturday night, and every Saturday night was New Year's Eve, the shared outdoor holiday of Fourth of July was also a fitting farewell to an era in Cove history. As the last official holiday celebrated by the resident cottage community in 2001, that Fourth of July marked the transition of an 80-year idyll for cottage families, and the beginning of a new era of a larger community at Crystal Cove, built upon and inspired by the historic one. Just as tent campers returned every summer to enjoy the Cove's carefree lifestyle and reunite with friends back then, now families return on Fourth of July to do the same. Today, visitors might gather at a vintage restored cottage instead of a thatched-roof shack, or raise an umbrella instead of a tent at a favorite spot on the sand, or share a picnic instead of a cookout, while still carrying on the Cove's timeless practices of community.

The historic district of Crystal Cove State Park now preserves the artifacts and cottages of the original seaside colony, as well as its spirit of carefree community — a legacy that shines as brightly now as a Fourth of July bonfire on the beach did then.



Become a Member

Become a member of Crystal Cove Alliance!

Our partners are all in this together! For as little as \$50, you can become a member of Crystal Cove Alliance.

Our new program includes benefits such as discounts at the Park Interpretive Store, invitations to special events, a one-day parking pass, up to four shuttle passes, the CCA monthly newsletter and lots more.

Don't miss out – [sign up](#) today as a new member to be entered into a drawing for a two-night stay for two in a Crystal Cove Cottage.



**CRYSTAL COVE
ALLIANCE**