



# THE PHOENIX and the FLAME



## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSKWA CLUB

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Editors: William Whittenbury and Christian Chiffy

This is the 23rd Issue of *The Phoenix and the Flame*.

#### Locales Covered:

Pasadena, CA  
Manhattan Beach, CA  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA  
Bethlehem, PA

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Members 2

Viva Vaquita!-The Musical 2

Event Calendar 2

Vaquita Carving 3

Project Proteus 3

Social Media Assault

Official Member List 4



## MUSKWA COMPETES AT JPL

*Pasadena, CA*

Muskwa's intrepid engineers, fresh from their victory at the preliminary round of the JPL Invention Challenge, advanced to the finals this month. The final round of competition was held at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. This facility, managed by NASA for CalTech, is home to most of the United States' unmanned space operations, including the *Voyager* probes and the *Curiosity* rover.



Muskwa's team arrived bright and early on December 6, with the great Muskwan machine *Charlotte Pipe's Thundering Double Bogey* in tow. Also competing were other school teams and JPL Engineers, who were in a separate category. One team actually flew all the way from Turkey, and presented the judge with a fabulously beautiful porcelain plate with his name on it (hmmm...no wonder they got third place...). Unfortunately, Muskwa's team did not place in

the finals, but it was a big success to advance that far. Only six teams were able to successfully complete the task during the finals.

However, the real treat came when Muskwa cousin Shannon Vaughn took the Muskwa contingent, consisting of Nick Mitchell (PH), William Whittenbury (PH), Robert Bacon (PH), Cole Bacon (PS) and parents John Whittenbury, Beth Whittenbury, Meg Bacon, Robert Bacon, and Jason Mitchell, on a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility.

The cohort visited the small museum, which featured a video of the complex operation used to land the *Curiosity* rover on the red planet. Next, the Muskwas got to see the clean room, where spacecraft are assembled (including the three recent Mars rovers.)



The Mars Yard was also a treat. Here, the Muskwas got to see the imitation Martian landscape where rovers are taken for test drives. A fully functional prototype of *Curiosity* was on display in a garage, and the Muskwas were amused to learn that the tires on the rover include Morse code for "JPL" in their tire treads.



Yet perhaps the neatest thing on the trip was Spaceflight Operations, essentially mission control of all of NASA's robotic spacecraft. Transmissions were seen coming in from outside the solar system from the *Voyager 1* probe. The Muskwas even got to sit at the operations computers and wear the headsets used by NASA director Charles Bolden.



Overall, the JPL expedition easily ranks amongst the best Muskwan field trips since the practice first began in 2010. All the Muskwas were thoroughly inspired by man's reach for the stars.

What's next for Muskwa engineering? Find out at the Muskwa Engineering Open House on January 4 at the Bacon home, 30203 Via Rivera, Rancho Palos Verdes, from 4-6 PM. Muskwa's rockets will be on display as well as information about the Proteus whale-counting drone. Come be inspired!

# WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

**Muskwa** proudly welcomed two new members in December. The latest additions to the Muskwa Family join the growing cohort of adult members.

**Frances Roberts** had a long and distinguished career

in Public Relations. She signed on to help Muskwa spread the word about the vaquita. We're very fortunate to have her as a member.

**Larry Fukuhara** is the program director for the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

CMA is one of Muskwa's staunchest allies in the effort to save the vaquita. Mr. Fukuhara is a noted scientist and has worked for many years at the facility. We are very honored as an organization by his presence. Welcome to both!



**The Flag of the Secretary of State**

## VIVA VAQUITA!-THE MUSICAL FORGES AHEAD

**Muskwa's** latest harebrained scheme continued to take shape this month. *Viva Vaquita!- The Musical* is already gathering widespread support amongst the South Bay and Peninsula theater communities.

The full-length musical will follow the basic plotline of Muskwa's YouTube serials while injecting lively musical numbers in a Baja California setting.

Muskwa held the first development meeting on December 12 at Peninsula High. President William Whittenbury and local theater veteran Ashley Trutanich

discussed the various aspects of musical production, including costs, sets, and necessary personnel. Muskwa's musical will be original, so the organization will be able to avoid the crippling expenses often incurred by rights purchases.

In addition, Muskwian Hannah Hilden and noted Peninsula newscaster Natalie Edelstein have agreed to join the cast. Many others have also expressed interest. Local parent and talented artist Nancy Parsons has agreed to paint the sets, noting that she has always wanted to paint underwater backdrops.

Ms. Parsons is known for her beautiful sets for the Point Vicente Elementary Variety Shows, which formed a beloved part of many Muskwa's childhoods.

A tentative timetable would see the musical continue development for the duration of the school year, followed by performances in the Summer. All profits will go directly to vaquita charities.

Viva Vaquita has also given us the go-ahead to use their name for the show, so it will be officially titled *Viva Vaquita!- The Musical*. Go Muskwa!

### EVENT CALENDAR

**January 4:**  
**Engineering Open House**  
30203 Via Rivera,  
Rancho Palos Verdes, 4-6 PM  
30213 Via Borica,  
Rancho Palos Verdes  
6-8 PM

**January 25:**  
**Steering Committee Conference**  
30213 Via Borica,  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA or video call  
5-6 PM Pacific time.

**January 26:**  
**Whale Fiesta Vaquita Table**  
Cabrillo Marine Aquarium  
3720 Stephen M White Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90731

## RAINBOW SHELTER DRIVE A SUCCESS

**Muskwian** Nick Mitchell Successfully Spearheaded an effort to gather canned food for the Rainbow Shelter, which provides a home for victims of domestic abuse. Nick did a great job spreading the word, and it showed with our biggest haul yet! Muskwa successfully collected 38 cans for the shelter and dropped them off right in time for the holidays. Way to go Nick!







**Bethlehem, PA**  
Muskwa dad Wayne Lomicky carved this beautiful wooden vaquita.



## PROJECT PROTEUS

### Hermosa Beach, CA

Muskwa's drone project has faced a tumultuous course on its way to development, but the effort to build an unmanned whale-counting aircraft is back on track!

Muskwa's Project Proteus is headed by Nikos Villarreal-Styles of the Mira Costa Chapter in Manhattan Beach, CA. Nikos has been working on a major component of the vehicle, an adaptive wing, over the past year.

The Proteus air vehicle intends to use adaptive wing tech-

nology to use thermals in the air to stay aloft, like a glider.

One intended mission profile for the aircraft is a census of Pacific gray whales migrating to Mexico around the western coast of Catalina-not visible to mainland-based whale census trackers. Muskwa hopes to base the drone on the Isthmus of Catalina, allowing it to track the whales using advanced software.

In order for this to happen, much work has to be accomplished. Considerations include

FAA regulations, conditions, and cost. However, a team working together can accomplish anything.

Ancillary projects to Proteus will include the construction of a Wind Tunnel and a naval expedition to Catalina to study atmospheric conditions.

Those interested in the project are encouraged to attend the Muskwa Engineering open house at 30203 Via Rivera, Rancho Palos Verdes, on January 4, 2014, from 4-6 PM.

Go Muskwa!



**The Proteus drone is intended to search the sea west of Catalina for gray whales.**

## MUSKWA LAUNCHES SOCIAL MEDIA ASSAULT

### Rancho Palos Verdes, CA/ Bethlehem, PA

One of the most important fronts in the continuing battle to save the vaquita exists in the realm of cyberspace. As Muskwa Aidan Bodeo-Lomicky stated, social media "is the only way to easily spread information across the globe in seconds."

To this end, Muskwa convened a roundtable on social media at Muskwa HQ on December 15. Muskwa's Wil-

liam Whittenbury (PH), Jarred Dahlerbruch (PH) and Hannah Kim (PV) discussed a wide range of options. It was decided that a unified social media platform was a must, and that vaquita-specific efforts should come from a vaquita-specific source. To that end, Muskwa established a separate "save the vaquita" Twitter account. Muskwa also plans to expand into Vine and to create a vaquita sweatshirt that will act "as a walking billboard."

Meanwhile, Aidan

Bodeo Lomicky (BT) launched an effort to create a vaquita tweetstorm on New Year's Day. A tweetstorm is an event when many people promote the same hashtag at once- in this case, #SaveTheVaquita. A similar effort to raise awareness of the endangered Maui's dolphin attracted over 11,000 retweeters, surpassing Beyonce.

Please join the force working to bring the vaquita to Twitter on January 1!



# OFFICIAL MEMBER LIST

## CALIFORNIA



### Palos Verdes Peninsula High School Chapter (PH)

#### Rolling Hills Estates, CA

Robert Bacon (11)  
Ruipeng Bai (11)  
Nick Borzi (12)  
Jennifer Choi (11)  
Cindy Chura (9)  
Nicole Chura (12)  
Zoë Council (11)  
Jarred Dahlerbruch (11)

Sean Furuta (10)  
Nicole Gibson (11)  
Ali Halawa (11)  
Donya Hashemi (12)  
Hanna Hilden (11)  
Heather Johnston (11)  
Carina Kan (11)  
Rebecca Kan (9)  
Taehyun Kim (11)  
Kiichi Kuboshima (12)  
Alitza Maarek (11)  
Rafael Maarek (11)  
Jacob Maarek (11)  
Ben Malit (11)

Myrl Marmarelis (11)  
Zissis Marmarelis (11)  
Rachel Martinez (12)  
Nathan McPhaul (11)  
Nicolas Mitchell (10)  
Michael Oh (12)  
Austin Pak (11)  
Audrey Pillsbury (11)  
Sydney Ropella (12)  
Kimberly Rowghani (11)  
Kelly Russ (12)  
Kim Sover (11)  
David Steinberg (11)  
Alex Swanson (10)  
Ryan Tsang (11)  
Maddy Utrecht (12)  
Camille Verendia (11)  
Annie Wang (11)  
Tyron Watanabe (11)  
William Whittenbury (11)  
Ryan Wong (12)  
Lynn Xu (11)  
Emily Yan (11)  
Jeannie Yang (9)  
Austin Yeh (12)

### Palos Verdes High School Chapter (PV)

#### Palos Verdes Estates, CA

Jimmy Applewhite (11)  
Kristalyn Benson (10)  
Ihwa Choi (11)  
Aimee Bruening (11)

Peter Cunha (10)  
Shelby Fredricks (12)  
Krista Galleberg (12)  
Annie Graziano (9)  
Anika Jensen (11)  
Hailey Kim (10)  
Hannah Kim (11)  
Leonora Meroth (9)  
Cody Nicholson (12)  
Trevor Nicholson (9)  
Walter Stedman (10)  
**Palos Verdes Intermediate School Chapter (PS)**

#### Palos Verdes Estates, CA

Tommy Applewhite (8)  
Cole Bacon (8)

#### Ridgecrest Chapter (RC)

#### Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Noam Elroi (6)  
**Point Vicente Elementary School Chapter (PT)**

#### Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

#### Cornerstone Chapter (CS)

#### Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Helena Kim  
**San Pedro Marine Magnet Chapter (SM) Los Angeles (San Pedro,) CA**  
Jessa Meza  
Cheyenne Newallis

#### San Pedro High School Chapter (SP)

#### Los Angeles (San Pedro,) CA

Quincy Turner (11)  
Marykathryn Stahnke (11)

#### Mary Star Chapter (MS)

#### Los Angeles (San Pedro,) CA

Emily Buczko (12)  
**Rolling Hills Prep Chapter (RH)**  
**Los Angeles (San Pedro,) CA**  
Patrick Moore (12)  
Ray Estrada

#### North Torrance Chapter (NT)

#### Torrance, CA

Will Kee-Rivera (10)

#### Torrance Chapter (TO)

#### Torrance, CA

Jeannette Sherman

#### Mira Costa High School Chapter MC

#### Manhattan Beach, CA

Nikos Villareal-Styles (12)

#### LACHSA Chapter (LC)

#### Palos Verdes Estates, CA

Caleb Collins (11)  
**Long Beach Poly Chapter (LB)**  
**Long Beach, CA**

Lily Steitelman (11)

#### Riverside Chapter (RV)

#### Riverside, CA

Evan Kelly (9)

#### Saratoga Chapter (ST)

#### Saratoga, CA

Bobby Gloner (11)

Michael Gloner (8)

#### Cupertino Chapter (CU)

#### Cupertino, CA

Dominique Solomon (11)  
Rebecca Solomon  
Jacqueline Solomon

#### UCSD Chapter (SD)

#### San Diego, CA

Aidan Browoliet (F)

#### UCSB Chapter (SB)

#### Santa Barbara, CA

Jessica Solomon (S)  
Samantha Solomon (S)

## CONNECTICUT

#### Ivoryton Chapter (IV)

#### Ivoryton, CT

Michael Sisson (8)

## MARYLAND

#### Hamilton Chapter (HT)

#### Baltimore, MD

Christian Chiffy (11)

Kyle Chiffy (8)

## NORTH CAROLINA

#### Northwest Guilford High School Chapter (GB)

#### Greensboro, NC

Aadam Haque (11)

#### Wake Forest Chapter (WF)

#### Wake Forest, NC

Matt Park (12)

Sara Park (10)

## PENNSYLVANIA



#### Bethlehem Chapter (BT)

#### Bethlehem, PA

Aidan Bodeo-Lomicky (8)

#### Hill School Chapter (HS)

#### Pottstown, PA

Youngbin Kim (11)

Youngmoo Kim (10)

## VIRGINIA

#### Virginia Beach Chapter

#### Virginia Beach, VA

Jada Jones

Tyler King

#### ADULT MEMBERS:

Beth K. Whittenbury  
John Whittenbury  
Rachel Whittenbury  
Elizabeth Whittenbury  
Don Eichhorn  
Linda Solomon  
Milt Lane  
Frances Roberts  
Larry Fukuhara