



# The Emerald Bay Chronicle

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## Camp Emerald Bay Goes Virtual

“Necessity is the mother of invention” goes the old trope. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused lots of necessity and unique invention, especially concerning the traditional summer camp experience. The leaders of Camp Emerald Bay, Camp Whitsett and Camp Josepho combined forces and came up with a virtual summer camp called TriCamp. TriCamp gives Scouts a chance to work on merit badges, work together with other Scouts on projects and activities and participate in colors ceremonies and campfires. All of this is accomplished in a safe, virtual world courtesy of the internet. Each session lasts a week and is carefully programed from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Scouts utilize Google Classroom, Zoom and Mozilla Hubs throughout the week to connect with camp staff, other scouts and their leaders. The TriCamp team has even created a virtual “world” with elements that reflect all three of the camps where Scouts can communicate with other Scouts and roam around freely in a safe online environment. While exploring the virtual camp, Scouts can experience, through video and chat, the Campfire Circle, Chapel, Aquarium, Parade Ground, Dining Hall, Waterfront, Nature Lodge, Trading Post, and Health Lodge.

Scouts earn merit badges by joining a “merit badge cluster” where the merit badge requirements are embedded in the cluster activities. For instance, Scouts can join the Hollywood cluster where they will make a short movie and in the process can earn the Photography, Animation or Movie Making merit badges. There



Scouts can experience a “virtual” Waterfront during their experience at TriCamp.

are twelve clusters ranging from Trail to First Class to Video Game Design.

The Western Los Angeles County Council has teamed up with “partners” to make the virtual camp a reality, including the Emerald Bay Association (EBA). Thanks to generous donations, the EBA funds camperships that enable Scouts to attend who might otherwise not be able to because of the economic downturn.

Does TriCamp take the place of traditional summer camp? No, but it is an inventive and satisfying alternative until attendance at a brick and mortar camp is possible. The TriCamp leaders are commended for developing a safe, immersive and comprehensive summer experience for participating Scouts. For more information visit the TriCamp website at <https://tri-camp.org>.

**The ever popular Memorabilia Auction is moving online, with carefully selected items you're sure to love! Keep an eye on <https://emeraldbayalumni.org/auctions/> -- we'll send out an email when you can start bidding to get great Camp stuff. All proceeds support the Emerald Bay Association!**

## Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy Goes Digital

The ambitious beginning of the Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy that began in the spring of 2019 has been curtailed by the efforts to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. As of the writing of this article, school groups are unable to travel to Emerald Bay and participate in the onsite programs. They will miss out on the incredible natural location, snorkeling in the clear and vibrant coves, exploring Parson’s Beach and the quiet hillsides and the well trained staff who guide them through those adventures.

The good news is that school groups, or anyone who has internet and a browser, can still get a taste of the amazing environment and benefit from the knowledgeable staff by navigating to the Academy’s Facebook page and viewing the various videos



that have been posted. The videos discuss the flora and fauna of Emerald Bay and Catalina Island, the kelp forest and other topics that relate to marine biology and environmental science. The link (See Academy on page 2)



## Abalone Return to Catalina

In the 70's and 80's, the black abalone were so plentiful that at low tide in Doctor's Cove a person armed with a pry bar could collect dozens or more legal size abs without getting his or her feet wet. If you were willing to dive, green and pink abs were also easy prey and easy to find. In the ensuing years, this would all change. Several types of abalone that can be found in California are almost extinct and marine biologists are struggling to repopulate the marine snails. For now, the entire abalone fishery in California is closed to both recreational and commercial fishermen.

To understand how we got to this point and what the future might hold for the abalone, we have to learn a little about the animal and look at the history of abalone fishing in California. Abalone are a type of marine snail that grazes on algae that it finds on rocks or the bottom of the sea. They grow slowly, do not move very quickly and need a fairly dense and close together population of animals to reproduce. Beside man, sea otters are their main predators. They have been around for millions of years.



Scientists estimate that native peoples have lived along the coast of California for at least 12,000 years. Seafood, mainly what they could gather at the seashore and a little fishing, was a main food source for the native peoples. Huge middens, or trash piles, created by the native peoples that contain large numbers of abalone shells have been discovered, but the native peoples had little effect on the abalone population. Even with sea otters eating voraciously, the abalone population remained stable. A large midden can be found on Doctor's point in Emerald Bay. Careful inspection of the dirt shows both the soil blackened by cooking and a large amount of shells.

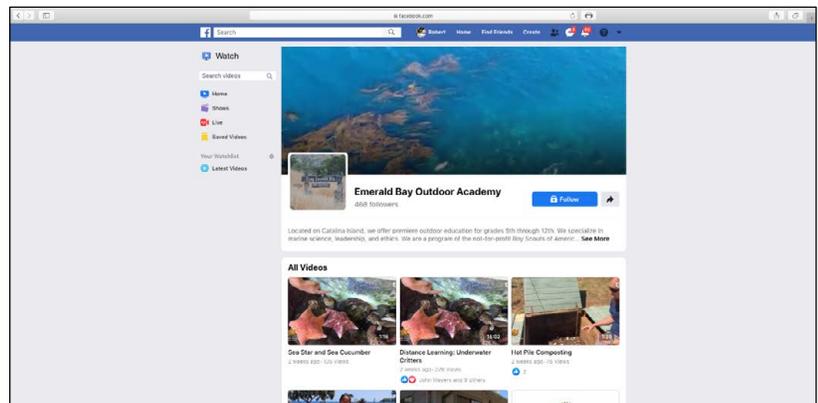
That delicate balance would be changed forever in the 18th century. Russian and other fur traders would decimate the otter population. In 1769, the Franciscan friars would begin to establish the missions along the California Coast. They needed help so they utilized the native peoples. The Spaniards did not eat abalone, thinking it was poisonous and they discouraged the native peoples from eating it too.

The abalone populations grew without much disturbance until the middle of the 19th century and the arrival of Europeans and other immigrants to California in response to the Gold Rush. Though the Europeans did not eat abalone, the Chinese and later the Japanese immigrants, did. They discovered the animals in easy reach and began harvesting great amounts of abalone and sending it overseas where the animals had been fished out. As the abalone near shore was harder to find, the Japanese began to dive for the animals using rudimentary diving equipment. The abalone divers pioneered hard hat diving and began the diving industry. The dive operations moved up and down (See Abalone on page 3)

## Academy (from page 1)

to the Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/EmeraldBayOutdoorAcad/>.

The Academy also has a website with information about the now on hold residential program. There is information about how the program works and the course modules that are offered. The modules are all tailored to take advantage of the island location and correlate to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS.) The Distance Learning videos displayed on the Facebook page can also be accessed on the Academy website. The website has lots of pictures and short video clips of the Camp and the activities offered that nicely show off the natural beauty and attraction of Emerald Bay. The link for the website is: <https://www.emeraldbayoutdooracademy.org/about-us/>. Check out the clip of Lee Harrison teaching Archery. Who knew?



The Emerald Bay Outdoor Academy has much to offer. Hopefully the virus is a temporary diversion and the Academy can begin again soon. Until then, we will have to satisfy our Island fix with browsing the Academy web page or Facebook page.



## Abalone (from page 2)

the coast harvesting abalone.

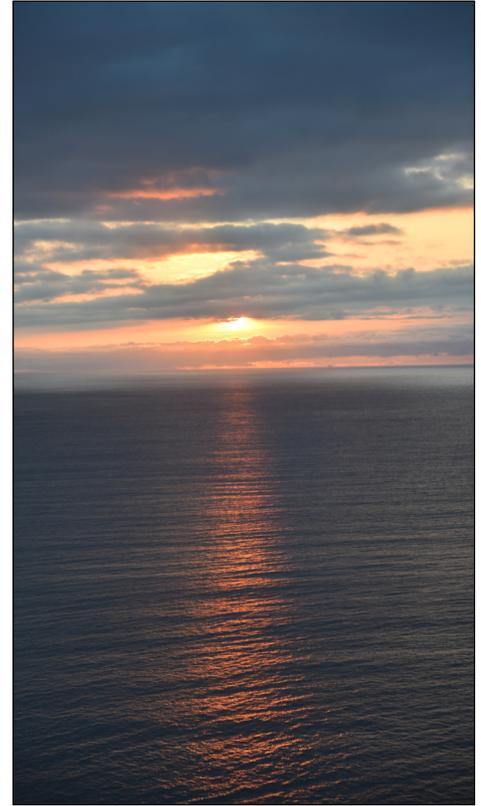
In the early 20th century, fried abalone became a trendy delicacy and the consumption of the animals increased. The Japanese divers were displaced during WWII and most of the dive operations were taken over by Anglos. By the 1960s, recreational diving for abalone became popular and abalone became harder to find. A wasting disease killed most of the black abalone, various environmental problems and overfishing did the rest. Limits on both recreational and commercial abalone fishing slowed the process, but by 1997 Fish and Game closed the fisheries in Southern California and eventually all of California to give the animals a chance to recover.

There are several groups that are raising abalone and releasing them in the wild along the coast and around the Channel Islands, including Catalina. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, staff at Emerald Bay will once again be able to find abalone in greater abundance in Doctor's Cove and the waters around Catalina.

## Where in Emerald Bay?



You get extra credit if you know what building this was and where it was in Camp. It was torn down and replaced in the 60's with a larger building in almost the same place. There is a little bit of the retaining wall and some pieces of cement left from the original building. It was the original Dining Hall located on the southeast edge of the Parade Ground.



The sunset viewed from Arrow Point



Yes, I want to support Camp Emerald Bay during this time of crisis.

I am enclosing: ( ) \$50      ( ) \$100      ( ) \$250      ( ) \$500      ( ) \$1000      ( ) \$\_\_\_\_\_

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To learn more and donate online, please go to [EmeraldBayAlumni.org/donate](http://EmeraldBayAlumni.org/donate).

Emerald Bay Association  
P.O. Box 959  
Venice, CA 90294

AddressCorrectionRequested



Emeraldbayalumni.org

## Leeward - Memories from Summer 2019 (before COVID-19)



The afternoon traffic jam at the Emerald Bay docks. All of these pictures are from the summer of 2019.



The Bike Shop staff makes sure the bikes are maintained in tip top shape.



Scouts learning about nature by playing a game in the Nature area.



Archery instructors teaching the finer points of shooting arrows.