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# The Dolphin gazette

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION PROJECT

*The Dolphin Communication Project (DCP) is focused on the dual goals of scientific research and education. Our mission is to promote the scientific study of dolphins and inspire their conservation.*

## Wrapping up 2021 and savoring the season!

Dear Reader/DCP supporter,  
Happy Holiday season to all of you and thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for DCP and our research and education programs! It seemed like 2021 was mostly “more of the 2020 same” with respect to travel and research. But, we focused on education with our webinars and on data analyses to allow for more writing and dissemination of our research. And, we did get back into the field - to Roatan (AKR, RIMS) - especially with four trips completed and one more to go this year! We have opportunities identified in 2022 for ecotours to Roatan and to Bimini with DCP. And, we welcomed new students into our mix to share what we have learned and what we continue to understand about dolphin behavior and communication. I hope you have a delightful season and enjoy reading this issue of the Gazette ... maybe with a nice cup of tea or cocoa! Happy Reading!

Cheers!

~Kathleen



Not exactly the “3 wise men” but maybe they could whistle jingle bells?!

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Ecotour | Patron Adoption & Sponsor  
A Classroom | Spotlight on Speedy |  
New Coloring Page

#### Mailing Address

Dolphin Communication Project  
P.O. Box 7485  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34985  
USA

FL Solicitation of Contributions  
Reg. #: CH42894 (also see page 10)

#### Thank You volunteers & students!

Thank you to to Manon for her continued dedication. Thanks also to Brice & Mary, our master’s students and Savanna, our undergrad volunteer. Your contributions to our research and education programs are very valuable!

#### Internships

If you are interested in interning with DCP in the field next summer, apply for an SFE or full summer internship. Please note, most other internships are office-based and do NOT include field work. Check out the web site before contacting us at [info@dcpmail.org](mailto:info@dcpmail.org).

# Update from the Field: DCP at RIMS/AKR in Oct

Submitted by Kathleen Dudzinski, PhD (DCP Director)

DCP and Kathleen have spent LOTS of time on Roatan at Anthony's Key Resort (AKR) and The Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS) this year! Student groups were with us in January and June, while ecotours were the roster for May and October. Everyone had a splendor time and we collected oodles of data. The most recent trip to Roatan was the second week of October with eight participants for a week of diving, snorkeling, and dolphin observations. We had many regulars (Don, Jill, Bill, Ron, Chris, Dave & John) and one newbie (Louise), who assures me she plans to return with us and to bring friends and family!



DCP's October 2021 Ecotour Group!

Since this was an ecotour and later in the year, our days did not begin as early as in June! We were in the water taxi and on our way to Bailey's Key by 6:20-6:30 each morning. And, the dolphins were ready with sea grass and sea weed to entice our observers into games of fun!



About to depart for Bailey's Key one morning for data collection!

We collected at least one session of underwater video data each morning with the MVA. We also chatted about our various research projects using data collected on these dolphins over the years. And, our divers thoroughly enjoyed the good visibility and critters on each dive. Bill was our only die-hard who did the night dive! Our time at AKR/RIMS in 2021 is not over yet. Kathleen returns with a school group at the end of November for a week, rescheduled from March 2020. Stay tuned for updates!



Blue shrimp - from John A.



Upper left: Elli with sea grass. Upper right: Lenca, Champ & Stan. Lower right: Sandy jawing at Tank. Lower Middle: Isamar at sunset. Lower left: Jill about to do a shore dive!

# 'Tis The Season

Support DCP with holiday shopping & end-of-year giving!



## Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin:

Order a print kit (\$35) and receive 3 DCP stickers - free\*!  
\*while supplies last, of course. And, no extra shipping fees!

Each year, DCP Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin print and electronic kits have been updated with new video for streaming that feature the Bimini dolphins. Due to our interrupted Bimini 2021 field season, we are unable to create this year's adoption video. We hope you'll still consider supporting DCP via our Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin program; kits continue to include great dolphin info, photos, past videos, and more. And, as a special thank you, all Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin print kits starting now and throughout 2022 will come with 3 DCP stickers\*, free!

## Give the Gift of Membership!

What to get that person who is just so hard to shop for?

A DCP membership, of course!

With options from \$20 - \$500 and monthly or one-time payments, there is something for everyone. [Just click here.](#)

## End-of-Year T-Shirt Fundraiser

Coming Soon! Stay tuned to our website and social media for details.

## Amazon Smile

As always - start your Amazon shopping at [Smile.Amazon](#). Make sure you have a registered charity selected, like Dolphin Communication Project, wink, wink. It's easy - and you only have to do it once. [Click here](#) to head straight to Smile Amazon to select DCP as your charity of choice.

## Donate

Whether it's a gift in someone's honor or part of your end-of-year giving plan, please consider making a donation to DCP to support our research and education efforts. [Just click here.](#)

## **Stream2Sea: More than just reef-safe sunscreen!**

[Stream2Sea](#) specializes in reef-safe sunscreen, but they now offer a wide range of products, from hair care to hand sanitizer. They are also great supporters of ocean research and conservation.

Use coupon code **dolphincomm** and DCP will receive a donation based on your purchase - at no additional cost to you!

# Meet Mary & Savanna!

We are happy to welcome two new NSU students to the DCP team.



Hello! I am Mary Gad and I am a Masters of Science: Marine Science student at Nova Southeastern University, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. I am currently working in Dr. Amy Hirons' lab: Charismatic Megafauna and Oceanography Laboratory. I have recently joined DCP to work with Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski on dolphin social behavior. I am originally from Staten Island, New York, and I have lived by the ocean my whole life. From constantly being around the water, I knew that my career was meant to be in marine biology. I have always been fascinated by studying behavior, because it gives us an inside look into the life of these seemingly mysterious animals. I did my first on-site research looking at coastal conservation and management in my home of New York City. I graduated with a bachelor's in environmental science with a concentration on marine conservation. I am excited to now be working with DCP and Dr. Dudzinski and to become more engaged in more marine work to understand more about the behavior of animals I have loved my whole life!

*~Mary*

Savanna Duda has recently joined the DCP team as an undergraduate honor's student from Nova Southeastern University (NSU). With the support of Dr. Amy Hirons of NSU, she will be exploring different types of contact between mothers and calves among the RIMS dolphins, which will be her undergraduate honor's research thesis. Savanna grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she loved spending time outdoors, hiking, and swimming on her grandparents' lake. Throughout her childhood, her love for animals was sparked by going to zoos and aquariums every chance she could. Eventually, she realized that the ocean was calling her, and she dived into Marine Biology. Just before heading off to college, she got her PADI scuba diving certification in Belize and never looked back. She left the middle of North Carolina to go to NSU, right on the sunny coast of South Florida, to begin her marine science education. Savanna joined Dr. Hirons' Charismatic Megafauna and Oceanography Laboratory (CMOL) in her sophomore year to start getting involved in hands-on research. After doing some work with heavy metals in Humboldt Penguins, Dr. Hirons introduced Savanna to Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski so she could explore behavioral research with DCP. She's really hit the ground running and can't wait to explore more with DCP!



"I find dolphin communities fascinating and I can't wait to really dive into exploring their behavioral patterns."

*~Savanna*

# Bucket List Alert!

*Swim with wild dolphins in The Bahamas*

**Sunday 17 July -  
Friday 22 July 2022**

We had a successful & COVID-safe Bimini program in 2021, and we're ready to get our group together for July 2022! We hope you'll join us! [Click here for pricing & more info.](#)

### **What is a Bimini ecotour with DCP like?**

Programs are 5-nights, but **we encourage guests to add a 6th night and arrive on 16 July**. This will help ensure you don't miss anything on Sunday the 17th. Guests stay at the small, locally owned and operated Sea Crest Hotel & Marina. Each morning, there is an optional DCP-led activity: presentation, round table discussion, or beach clean-up - or free time to explore Bimini's reefs, mangroves, or beaches. Each afternoon, we head out with the most experienced local boat operator to see the wild dolphins of Bimini.

### **What else is included?**

All meals, beginning with lunch on Sunday and ending with breakfast on Friday. We also have tasty snacks and drinking water during boat trips and an optional glass of wine with dinner. While rental snorkel gear may be available, we recommend folks bring their own to ensure the best fit. All of your Bahamian taxes are included.

### **What is not included?**

Transportation to/from Bimini, gratuity for hotel staff & boat crew, additional drinks, snacks & gifts, travel insurance, COVID-19 insurance, travel visas, pre-trip testing (if required), return-to-US testing (if required)

### **Why choose this as my vacation?**

DCP participants get all the fun of a swim-with-wild-dolphins vacation, but they learn much more and their participation gets DCP much (much!) needed boat time to collect data on these amazing creatures. Win-Win!



### **What about COVID-19?**

While occasional cases of COVID-19 do still pop up, the use of masks, encouragement of social distancing, and testing/vaccine requirements for visitors has helped reduce transmission on Bimini. And, many Bimini residents have gotten vaccinated. DCP will have strict and clearly communicated COVID-protocols, to keep program participants and the local community safe.

**Contact DCP today if you are interested in registering!**



# RIMS Program Updates

*DCP's 2022 dolphin studies on Roatan*

## DCP's Research Continues through Ecotours to Roatan!

**Join Kathleen on Roatan at Antony's Key Resort (AKR):**

**June 4 - 11, 2022**

**October 8 - 15, 2022**

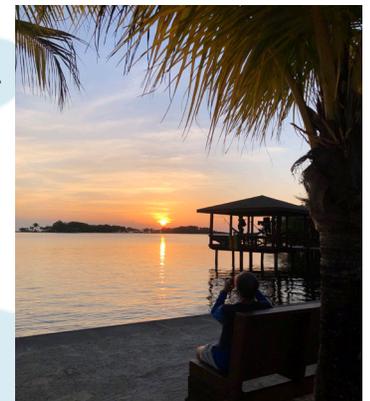
DCP will return to Roatan twice in 2022, with ecotour participants to collect data (& dive, snorkel & relax!). One trip will be in June (4-11 Jun) and the second will be in October (8-15 Oct). We have reserved rooms on the hill and on the key.

As always, spaces are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, but we still have a spot for you!

Check out our [field blog](#) for more details about our experiences at AKR and RIMS. You can also contact DCP by email for more information.

Check out the [RIMS Eco-tour page](#) (look under the Education tab) to learn more about logistics and other details. Or send DCP an inquiry by email ([info{at}dcpmail{dot}org](mailto:info@dcpmail.org)).

[www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org)

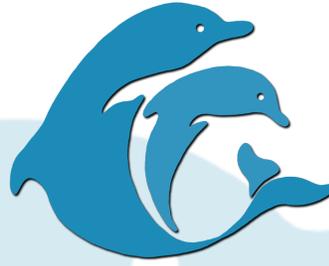


# Online Dolphin Education

Something for everyone!

**DCP webinars:** We continue to offer live programs in addition to recordings of each program.

(Dolphin Lessons have a password; contact DCP if you have not already received it.)



## DCP webinars

A huge thank you to everyone who joins live and those who catch the recordings. We have enjoyed our Fall programming and look forward to 2022. Stay tuned!

[Webinars on DCP Website](#)

[Webinars on DCP's YouTube Channel](#) (subscribe now!)

**The Dolphin Pod** is appropriate for all dolphin lovers and our recent relaunch adds a comedic angle. [Click here to have a listen](#) directly on DCP's website, or find *The Dolphin Pod* wherever you get your podcasts.

**Kids Science Activities** are accessible on our website - [just click here](#). From interactive activities for elementary school students to word searches, jumbles, and coloring sheets, there is something for everyone.

Check Page 8 in this issue of the *Gazette* for details on [Sponsoring A Classroom](#).

## SMM Conference: Postponed

### SMM2021 delayed ... now 1 - 5 August 2022

Last issue, we shared our research topics that had been submitted and accepted for presentation at this biennial conference. We're thrilled with our acceptances and look forward to sharing our results with the scientific community. We just have to wait a little longer!

Here is the statement from the Society of Marine Mammology:

"The SMM2021 Conference Team has been closely monitoring COVID infection and vaccination trends throughout the pandemic. The global surge of infections related to the Delta-variant and the slow and inequitable rollout of vaccines compromises our ability to maximize participant safety and inclusivity."

[Click here](#) for more information.

# More Options to Support DCP!

We are proud to offer a variety of ways to support our mission - and spread dolphin joy!

## Patron Adopt-A-Dolphin

DCP's Patron Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin program allows you the opportunity to adopt one of four specific dolphins from our Bimini, The Bahamas, field site to have an even greater impact on DCP's mission. The extra money raised from these kits will be funneled directly into DCP's Bimini field site research and related education programs. As a thank you for purchasing a Patron kit, DCP streamlined the kit design to make the details more concise and access more direct to our adoption content, including several video/audio files as electronic links online (or available on USB drive for the print version of this Patron Adoption Kit). Choose from Tina, Prince William, Vee, and Paul - four long-time residents of the warm turquoise waters near Bimini!



Patron Adoption kits:  
Electronic version: \$135  
Hardcopy version: \$169

[Click here to be among the first Patrons](#)

## Sponsor A Classroom - *Dolphin Classroom Connection*

By Sponsoring a Dolphin Classroom Connection, you support DCP's research, education, and conservation efforts financially, AND you bring DCP directly into a classroom of your choosing!

Anyone can Sponsor a Dolphin Classroom Connection. Have a child? Sponsor their classroom! Homeschool your kids? Sponsor your own classroom! Have a niece, grandson, neighbor who is a student or a teacher or a student teacher? Sponsor their classroom!

Want to Sponsor a Dolphin Classroom Connection, but don't know any kids or teachers? That's okay! We'll find a classroom for you!

Dolphin Classroom Connection kits come in print versions (\$500) and electronic versions (\$300). Choose what works best for your chosen classroom. Both options include a 45-minute Internet connection with a DCP scientist!

[Click here to start your sponsorship.](#)

### Print Version

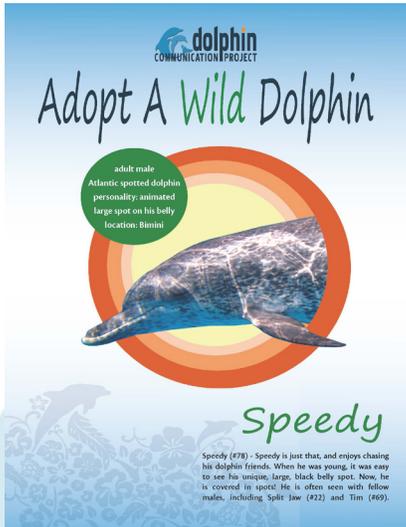
- \*Welcome Letter
- \*USB drive with Educational Materials
- \*Print Dolphin Adoption Kit
- \*30 DCP Info Booklets
- \*30 DCP Trading Cards
- \*45 min. Internet Connection with a DCP Scientist

### E-Version

- \*Welcome Letter with Links to:
  - \*Educational Materials
  - \*Electronic Dolphin Adoption Kit
  - \*PDF of DCP Info Booklet
  - \*PDF Photobook
- \*45 min. Internet Connection with a DCP Scientist



## Spotlight on: Speedy



Speedy is now a young adult dolphin who, without major scars, is recognized by his unique spot patterns. When he was young, his big belly spot always stood out, but now this spot is surrounded by others! Speedy frequently seen with “the boys,” Split Jaw (#22), Prince William (#64), and Tim (#69).

Join us in [Bimini](#) 17 - 22 July, 2022- and search for Speedy and all the Bimini Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphins!

Speedy was named in 2010 by Jenni MacArthur for Mark Tse.

[Click here to adopt Speedy!](#)



**Notice:** Each year, DCP Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin print and electronic kits have been updated with new video for streaming that feature the Bimini dolphins. **Due to our interrupted Bimini 2021 field season, we are unable to create this year's adoption video.** We hope you'll still consider supporting DCP via our Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin program; kits continue to include great dolphin info, photos, past videos, and more. And, as a special thank you, all Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin print kits in 2022 will come with 3 DCP stickers\*, free!

\*while supplies last, of course. And, no extra shipping fees!

The spotted dolphins around Bimini are ready for adoption all year round! Great gifts for little ones, even teenagers and grown-ups love seeing the images and video of each dolphin. Plus, you can feel good about making a purchase that directly helps dolphin research, education, and conservation.

Hard Copy (Print) Editions: \$35 (free shipping in USA, \$20 international shipping)

Includes printed biography, personalized certificate, 5x7 photograph, 2 randomly selected dolphin trading cards, the DCP info booklet, plus links to dolphin videos featuring your adopted dolphin and its Bimini friends!

Electronic Editions: \$30 (same price everywhere)

Includes link to 3 PDFs: the DCP info booklet, a Photobook featuring the adopt-a-dolphins, plus Adoption Kit PDF with biography, photo, personalized adoption certificate, and links to dolphin videos featuring your adopted dolphin and its Bimini friends!

Visit [www.AdoptAWildDolphin.com](http://www.AdoptAWildDolphin.com) to select your dolphin and kit edition today.

# DCP Announcements!

## Publication Updates

Kel & Kathleen gave several informal talks since last issue:

Kel shared DCP's work with the [Bimini "SharkLab"](#) and a Virginia dive shop.

Kathleen gave lectures on communication and cognition to Mystic Aquarium's Seminar on Marine Mammals in October and a departmental seminar on communication and DCP's research at RIMS to Dr. Chris Ribic's Ecology group at the University of Wisconsin, Madison

**Plus several manuscripts in revision, review, or prep for publication consideration, including:**

Hill, HM, Yeater, D, Highfill, L, Bolton, T, Henriquez, W, Dudzinski, K, Gutierrez, M, Birk, D. (in revision). Effects of Human-Dolphin Interactions on Tourist Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors about Dolphins and Conservation. (to - *Society & Animals*)

Melzer, DK, Yeater, D, Bradley, M, Manitzas Hill, H, Guerra, G, Bolton, T, & Dudzinski, KM. (in revision). A Comparative test of Creative Thinking in Preschool Children and Dolphins. (Submitted to: *Animal Behavior & Cognition*)

Danaher-Garcia, N, Connor, R, Fay, G, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Dudzinski, KM. (in prep) Using social network analysis to compare the association and interaction networks of Atlantic spotted dolphins around Bimini, The Bahamas (to - *Behavioural Processes*)

Danaher-Garcia, N, Connor, R, Fay, G, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Dudzinski, KM. (in prep) Tactile exchanges between Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) around Bimini, The Bahamas. (to - *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*)

Hill, HM, Weiss, M, Brassuer, I, Manibusan, A, Sandoval, IR, Robeck, T, Sigman, J, Werner, K, Dudzinski, KM (in prep) Killer whale innovation: teaching animals to use their creativity upon request. (to - *Animal Cognition*)



THE DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION PROJECT CHARITABLE SOLICITATION NUMBER CH42894, MEETS ALL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY THE FLORIDA SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, OR 850-410-3800 WHEN CALLING OUTSIDE THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

## In-Kind Donations: Our Wish List

**Do you have access to any of this equipment? Contact DCP to make an in-kind donation today! (Yup, in-kind donations are tax-deductible, too. Contact your accountant to learn how.)**

\* Compact HD Projector (high vis) \* Underwater still cameras \* SD flash cards \* GoPro \* Handheld GPS \* Office supplies \* Frequent flyer miles \* Laptop \* Giftcards

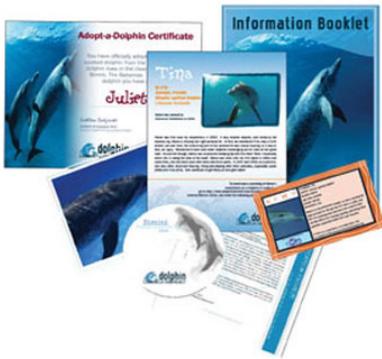


*DCP's Florida Solicitation of Contributions registration number is CH42894.*

# Adopt a Wild Dolphin

[www.adoptawilddolphin.com](http://www.adoptawilddolphin.com)

## What's in your Adoption Kit?



An official adoption certificate

Photograph or PDF photobook of your adopted dolphin

Details on how to download dolphin vocalizations from the Bimini adopt-a-dolphins as a ringtone or audio file

Link to video of the Bimini dolphins

Biography of your adopted dolphin

Welcome letter and registration info

Information Booklet with Atlantic spotted dolphin fact sheet and info about the Dolphin Communication Project

Dolphin trading card sample (hard copy only)

Holiday gift ideas  
[www.cafepress.com/holidaydolphin](http://www.cafepress.com/holidaydolphin)

## Dolphins currently up for adoption



## Adopting a wild dolphin with DCP helps to fund:

The purchase of new research equipment (e.g., cameras, underwater microphones)

Conservation and education programs on Bimini, in the US and around the world

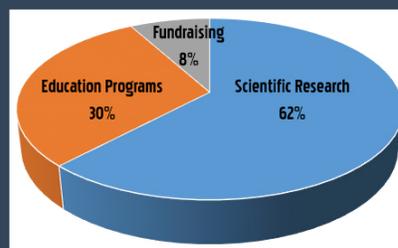
Publication and dissemination of DCP's research results to the scientific community and the general public

Maintenance of the DCP website, field reports, and our podcast The Dolphin Pod

Classroom education programs for school-aged children including DCP Youth Program, Dolphin Research Trainee, Classroom Connections

Volunteer, ecotour and internship opportunities for the public

## Where does money raised from donations, dolphin adoptions and field courses go?



Adopt-a-wild-dolphin t-shirts  
[List of shops here](#)



# DCP's Adopt-a-Dolphin Program

DCP currently has ~25 dolphins from our catalog of Atlantic spotted dolphins residing around Bimini, The Bahamas available for adoption. While adoptive parents do not get to take their dolphins home, they will receive a certificate of adoption, a photo of their adopted dolphin, some facts about Atlantic spotted dolphins, information about DCP and our research around Bimini and a dolphin video. They will also receive the most recent edition of the Dolphin Gazette, DCP's quarterly newsletter, announced quarterly by eblast. Be sure to send us your email address, or subscribe online at the newsletter page!

*All dolphin adoptions through DCP help support our dolphin research throughout the world, and the creation and implementation of local, national, and international education programs for students of all ages.*

*Each adoption costs \$30/\$35 and lasts for one year. Become a spotted dolphin parent today & support valuable scientific research!*

**Yes! I want to adopt a dolphin!** Some of our dolphins are listed below. For a complete list & all dolphin biographies, check out [www.adoptawilddolphin.com](http://www.adoptawilddolphin.com)  
 Juliette | Niecey | Paul | Swoosh | Milo | Cerra | Inka | Tina | Weiloo | Lil' Jess | Kiwi | Split Jaw | Tim | Prince William | Sulfur | Vee

I would like to adopt a dolphin: \$35 for one year. **Dolphin name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please cut out and mail your order form, with check, to DCP at P.O. Box 7485, Port St. Lucie, FL 34985.  
 Credit card payment is available online through our web site at [www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org)

Please **SEND** my adoption package to: If this is a gift, please note gift **GIVER** address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## Postcards

\$1.00 each/ 3 for \$2



## Iruka Gear

To purchase Iruka gear visit [www.cafepress/irukagear](http://www.cafepress/irukagear)



## Membership

**Sustaining Memberships:**  
 Donate from \$5 to \$100/month to receive a special gift!

**Annual Memberships :**  
 Student: \$20  
 Individual: \$30  
 Family: \$45  
 Supporting: \$75  
 Contributing: \$150  
 Patron: \$500

Supporting, Contributing & Patron Members receive a DVD copy of *Dolphins - The Lighter Side*. Contributing & Patron Members also receive a photo album featuring images and information about all of our adopt-a-wild-dolphins. All gifts subject to availability and may change.

Visit [www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org) to become a member today!

## Notecards

\$2.50 each/ 3 for \$6



## DCP Gear

To purchase DCP gear, visit [www.cafepress/dcpgear](http://www.cafepress/dcpgear)



*Support DCP's research efforts buy purchasing some of the many products that we offer for sale. All products seen here are also available on our website: [www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org) All profits from the sale of these products will directly fund DCP's research and education efforts. DCP is a nonprofit organization.*



# Happy Holidays!

Thank you to Ranke for once again creating an awesome coloring sheet for us. It will make a great holiday card too!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!