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A Monterey gathering of submarines for BLUE Ocean event

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There's a yellow submarine sitting outside the Portola Hotel & Spa in Monterey. Another sub, a two-seater, is next to the front doors and two more manned underwater vessels are parked in the lobby.

These diving machines are visiting Monterey as part of this week's BLUE Ocean Film Festival & Conservation Summit. Used for deep sea exploration, scientific research or just cruising under the ocean, these vessels have traveled the world, taking passengers as deep as 2,000 feet for up to eight hours.

"This is a working sub," said Joe Lepore, a former Navy diver, referring to the red, two-man underwater vehicle that he pilots. The sub is owned by the Waitt Institute of Discovery in La Jolla. He drives the machine with foot pedals and calls the claustrophobic-looking seating arrangement "comfortable" because the bubble top seats have a 360-degree view. His passengers are scientists who want to collect samples, shoot video or map new underwater territory.

The canary yellow sub called Antipodes is a party boat. Once used for tourist diving adventures, the vessel has bench-style seating for five. Owned by OceanGate, an ocean exploration company, it is part of the BLUE outreach program and will be traveling under Monterey Bay this week, taking students and other guests to local water spots such as the Art Riedel Sr. wreck and The Barge. This is a repeat visit for Antipodes, which took out local middle school students last fall.



Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence
New Hope Baptist Church Presents an Awareness Workshop on Domestic Violence, featuring speakers from the community.
Saturday, October 20, 2012
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

New Hope Baptist Church
1304 Sonoma Ave.
Seaside, CA 93955
Rev. ML Carter, Pastor

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Date: **October 20, 2012**
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Used oil must be stored & transported properly in a clean uncontaminated container.