

# PARADISE DIVE CLUB



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[WWW.PARADISEDIVECLUB.ORG](http://WWW.PARADISEDIVECLUB.ORG)



## President's Log by Steven Trainoff

What a difference a month makes... Suddenly summer has burst onto the South Coast. The water has warmed up to 63F and conditions have been beautiful. Diving off of the shore has been nearly as nice as diving at the islands, and much more accessible. Last month we teamed up with the United Pier and Shore Anglers of California for an underwater cleanup at Goleta Beach. The fisher-folk supplied the picnic and we supplied the divers. Goleta Beach is a great place to dive since there are good facilities and the beach entry is usually easy. However conditions are often less than ideal since the silty bottom gets stirred up at the drop of a hat. When clear, it is a great dive.

The cleanup dive was amazing. On the pipeline was a thick growth of kelp that lit the water with an iridescent green shimmer. There was an abundance of rockfish and surf perch swimming through the canopy. Overhead in the shallows were big schools of fat mackerel. Noah Phillips and I found a friendly octopus willing to play. I put out my hand and he crawled over my glove. I almost regretted not bringing my camera, but we had a job to do. Festooned over the pipeline was an assortment of fishing weights, hooks, lures, and mono-filament, in addition to the usual collection of golf balls, beer cans, and bottles.

The event was very well attended with approximately 14 divers in the water and another 6 attending the picnic. Collectively we brought up a big pile of fishing paraphernalia, much of which was potential entanglement hazards. At one point during this dive, I wound a long strand of mono-filament around my glove so that I could stuff it in my bag. I discovered that I had wound it a little too tightly and has essentially tied myself to the bottom. Fortunately, with a little wriggling, I was able to slide it off my glove, but it highlighted why it is important to bring a dive knife with you. You might not need it to fend off a white shark, but it is a great comfort to know that if you do get tangled up in fishing line, you can cut your way free.

Our thanks go out to Boyd Grant the members of the Pier and Shore Angler Association for the wonderful BBQ. The Tri-tip was cooked to perfection. We will definitely plan to do this again next year.



I have also made a few trips out to Naples Reef with Mike Macko to take advantage of the photo-ops our shore waters provide.

My advice to you is take advantage of the nice weather and dive. After all, we live in paradise.

...Steve



## Meeting Place

The July 31st meeting will take place at Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara.  
14 West Calle Laureles.

Feeding frenzy at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm

Entertainment by Claire Fackler from NOAA, Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary!

**APOLOGY!!** Many apologies to Ralph Goldsen and Cheryl Weakliem whose names were unintentionally dropped from the list of PDC officers in last issue of the PDC newsletter. No disrespect was intended. - Gretchen Beckert, editor



# Paradise Dive Club Events

Sunday, July 29  
Fish Count with REEF

It is not too late to book passage with Truth Aquatics!  
They are offering a 20% discount per spot for anyone going out to do the fish count.

Sunday, August 18th  
Dive at Hendry's Beach, 10am dive, potluck BBQ at noon

## Something To Look Forward To!

It's never too early to think about bug season - and you may recall the San Nic. trip that Mark Silva and I went on last October with the Channel Islands Divers. That's the one where I caught (and released!) a 11+ pound bug! Even without the big bug, it was a great trip, with a good group of divers. Ken (from CID) is working on finalizing trip and has invited PDC along again. This year it's Oct 20/21 (a rare Sat/Sun 2 day trip) for \$310 (for club members) on the Pacific Star out of Redondo Beach. It's a good boat, with a great crew, and I highly recommend this trip. Contact Ken at 486-1533, or talk to Mark or Paul if you want to hear the tall tales!

## PDC Thursday Night Dives!

To find out where the group will be diving, or to be added to the night dive e-mail list, sign up at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC\\_midweek\\_dive](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC_midweek_dive), or send e-mail to [PDC\\_midweek\\_dive-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PDC_midweek_dive-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).



## Local Dive Calendar August 2007

Truth Aquatics 962-1127 call for prices, boats, and specific destinations, or go to their website; [www.truthaquatics.com](http://www.truthaquatics.com).

- 1 day Santa Cruz Island, 6am dep., 8/31
- 1 day Outer Islands, 4am dep., 8/12, 8/30
- 2 day Island Excursion, 4am dep., 8/10
- 3 day Island Excursion, 4am dep., 8/19
- 3 day dive, 4am dep. 8/9
- 3 day dive, 1/2 of the boat is Truth Aquatics, 4am dep. 8/5
- 4 day San Clemente Island dive, 1/2 of the boat is Truth Aquatics, 10pm dep. 8/7, 10pm dep. 8/25
- 5 day San Clemente Island dive, limited load 10pm dep. 8/18

**Welcome New Divers!**

Philippa Dixon  
John Kushman

**Willkommen!  
Benvenuto!  
Boa Vinda!**

## Little Cayman by Michael Ring

If you have never dived Little Cayman you should. I went there this June with a group of 12 divers from SB Aquatics, including our host, Curt Weissen. On arrival at Little we were taken to Little Cayman Beach Resort, our home away from home. The facility is nice; there are only about 40 rooms on property, so it is never crowded there is also a restaurant, bar and pool.

The dive shop is on property, with all that you need to make your experience a good one. At least half of us were diving Nitrox, and their standard is 32%. They showed us how to test the tanks, and then we were on our own.

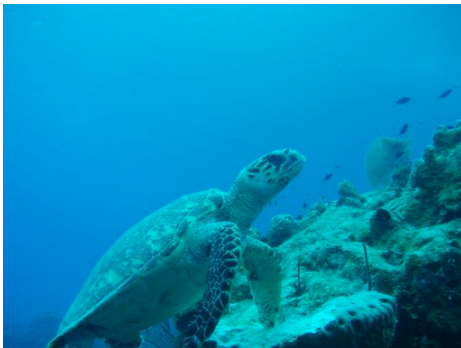
The resort has 4 nice dive boats. They are configured for about 24-36 divers, but we generally had only 12 on each boat. The staff would take all of your gear to the boat set you up at a station. Each day we have three tanks, two for the morning dives, one for the afternoon. A night dive, was available too on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

The resort is located on the South side of the island, about 2/3 of the way to the West end. There is a huge shallow lagoon in front of the facility that you do not want to enter. The breakers are about 1000 yards off the dock, and there is a fairly narrow opening through which the boats exit and enter the lagoon. When the waves are rough you had better hold on as they hit the opening at the exit of the lagoon into open water. The first day it was like surfing double overhead waves as we exit. Wooooo hoooo. What a rush!

This is lazy diving. When you reach the dive sites the crew gets your BCD and tank and you sit on the platform at the stern of the boat by the swim step. You put on your fins and mask and they put you into your BCD. You stand up and stride into the water. At the end of the dive, you climb up the swim step, sit down, and the staff takes off your BCD, brings it to your station and changes out your tank. It's very exhausting. The crew consists of two people; one will be drawing up the dive area on a board while the other is gearing up to go in as the guide. They alternate roles during our week's stay.

The water is amazingly clear and warm. The bottom varies between white sand and coral, with a depth range of 30 to 50 feet. At the edge of the coral is the wall. So, day one we are out at the first of the day's dive sites. Our dive master was a sweet young gal from England - Annabel. She is very experienced, and draws the dive sites with perfect descriptive ease. She then tells us that the walls at Little Cayman are 1000 feet deeper than the Grand Canyon in Arizona (GB - check this) She reminds us all to watch our buoyancy as we go over the wall. We are told to swim over the edge of the wall and go out about 30 yards, then look back to see its size. All I can think of is the movie "The Abyss" when Catfish says: This here's a bottomless pit, baby- two-and-a-half miles straight down. ... " While that may not be the case here, frankly, I don't want to find out.

The wall is huge, and plunges straight down. Not sloped like Cozumel, but straight down. I am awe struck. I feel so very small. The scale is beyond anything I have done before. Knowing that I am diving Nitrox, I remember that I have to watch my depth. We descend down the wall checking out the sponges, and coral, and rock formations. The colors span the rainbow. About this time I look up and swear that it seems I am only at 50 feet. But I am not. I look at my computer and realize that without even noticing it, I am at 115 feet. Holy S—. I had planned to stay above 110. I ascend slowly keeping watch on my depth. At 100 feet I feel more comfortable. Now I can relax and enjoy the dive.



What next? There, about 15 feet below me is a 6 foot Caribbean Reef Shark. It is not interested in me. My focus is exclusively on it. I watch its direction. I don't care if it goes right or left, just not up! It disappears into the depth and I am reminded to keep my attention more focused on the world around me.

Swim throughs are a frequent occurrence during our many dives. Some are very narrow, others grandiose. Some start on the hard pan at about 50 feet and end down through the wall at 100 feet, others start on the wall at depth and take you up to the top, coming out on

the hard pan like a gopher in a farmer's field.

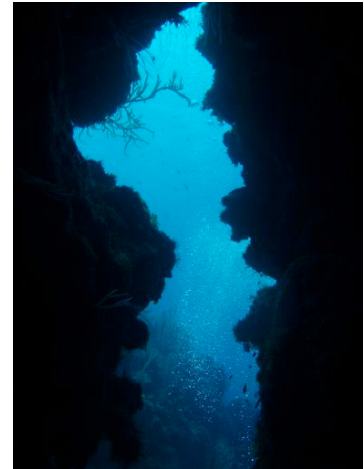
In some areas there are more fish than you can count, and too many varieties to mention. There are lots of barracuda with us during our dives. All are over 5 feet long, with very big teeth. Some like to stay right under the boat as we come up from our safety stops. They do not seem to care when we dive close, but then again, let's not get too close.

Back at the resort the meals are spectacular. They have a world-class chef who likes to dazzle us with his culinary creations. There is a buffet set up with a selection of several main courses; steak, chicken, lamb, as well as fish. Fresh caught fish yield fresh sushi almost every day. Pasta dishes with rich and flavorful sauces are also available. And the desserts! Don't get me started. The sign of a truly fine chef is at least one chocolate choice for dessert. Yummmmm. So much for keeping my girlish figure. We were truly spoiled by the food.

At night the bar is a popular place. There is music and drinking, and Karaoke. The dive staff hangs out with us in the evening, so we get to know them and more about the island. One night they have a Trivia Contest. Our group has squared off against the others, with a few guys who went to Virginia Tech together as the other main competition. Ok, they cheated. Once they had a guy run to his room and Google a question that we got wrong, but to no avail. In the end we won, but it was close.

The weather was quite kind. No rain to speak of during our entire stay. Temperatures stayed in the 80s - both in and out of the water. The bugs were mostly non-existent.

As you can see, Little Cayman was a great place. The diving, the food, the facility. No problems at all. If you have never been there, you have got to go. If else but for the walls. And if you need a dive buddy, let me know.



## Join the coolest club in town!

1. Monthly meetings with entertainment.
2. raffle prizes (we all need new dive stuff)
3. Great dive buddy pool
4. Beach and boat dives, AND weekly night dives
5. Club BBQs, and other activities
6. Free air-fills and gear discounts at local dive shops
7. Right to proudly wear the official PDC T-Shirt (nobody has a logo as cool as ours).



## Dive Club Officers

President	Steven Trainoff	571-1622
Vice President	Mike Macko	687-7176
Treasurer	Mark Silva	453-2001
Secretary	Barbara Brown	
Membership	Noah Philips	(626)-221-2056
Newsletter	Gretchen Beckert	571-1622
Circulation	Ovidio Mora	683-4999
Sgt at Arms	Craig Adams	693-5835
Entertainment	Mark Bursek	564-1923
Raffle	Ralph Goldsen	681-0400
Historian	Cheryl Weakliem	967-2827

## Membership

\$25/year for individuals, \$40 for families. Membership runs May-April and includes a monthly newsletter, free air-fills, and other benefits. For details or to join, contact Noah Philips at (626)-221-2056

## Newsletter

Send newsletter items to Gretchen Beckert  
[gbgreymutt@cox.net](mailto:gbgreymutt@cox.net)

## Website

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



P.O. Box 21311  
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

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5822 Hollister Ave  
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Santa Barbara, Ca 93109  
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#### Truth Aquatics

301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805-962-1127

#### Anacapa Dive Center

22 Anacapa St  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
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