

PARADISE Dive Club

January 2004

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Volume 10, Issue 1



President's Log

by Patty Bryant

Recently I was asked how my love of water, and particularly the ocean, came about. I had to stop and think about this one. The real question is, "How did a country girl growing up in land-locked Missouri end up on the West Coast knowing that she could never again live away from the ocean?"

Ever since I can remember, I have loved being in and on the water. I grew up close to the Mississippi River. My family didn't have a boat but my dad loved to go fishing and he would take me with him when I was as young as 5 years old. I'm sure that I did a lot more playing in the water than I did fishing. When I got a little older my mom would take me to the public swimming pool and she always had to threaten me with endless chores to get me out of the water. I loved swimming from the first time that I jumped into the pool.

By the time I was a young adult, my friends and I were boating and water skiing on the Mississippi River. The Lake of the Ozarks was an even better place to go but was reserved for long weekends, since it was a 4-hour drive from where we lived.

I was only 6 years old the first time I came to Santa Barbara and saw the Pacific Ocean. I immediately fell in love. I can still remember my first sighting of the ocean as we were driving to Santa Barbara north on Hwy 1. I was begging my dad to pull over

so we could get out of the car and run down to the beach. He found a good place to stop and I hightailed it to the ocean as fast as I could. Of course, my dad had to come pull me out of the way when a wave that was much bigger than me threatened to take me out.

I eventually moved to Santa Barbara to be close to the ocean but I didn't really know how magnificent it was until the first time I went underneath the waves on scuba. I was blown away. To be able to visit the underwater world is truly amazing to me and I will never grow tired of it. Each dive is special in its own way. The ocean seems to have this magnetic pull on me and though it's hard to explain to some people, I think most of you know exactly what I'm talking about. So I guess my evolution from land-locked Missouri to the Pacific West Coast went from swimming pool to river to lake to ocean with the ocean being the ultimate destination.

I'm looking forward to a New Year filled with great diving experiences. We will start the New Year off right with a dive at Refugio Beach on New Year's Day. Meet at the west end at 10:00am and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after diving. Speaking of Refugio, we will again be participating in the underwater clean-up at Refugio for Earth Day. The dates are not yet definite but it will be a weekend in April and we will let you know as soon as the dates are confirmed. The 5th annual Santa Cruz Island camping trip has been scheduled for May 6-9. This trip always proves to be lots of fun, even when it rains for 20 hours straight! We'll have lots more fun stuff coming up so stay tuned...

Happy Diving in the New Year.

Join the club, enjoy the benefits

- ∅ Monthly meetings with entertainment — they're fun! they're educational!!
- ∅ Raffle prizes (who doesn't like prizes?)
- ∅ Great dive buddy pool
- ∅ Beach & boat dives, including weekly night dives
- ∅ Club BBQs & other activities
- ∅ Free airfills & gear discounts at local dive shops
- ∅ Free use of club's underwater camera
- ∅ Right to proudly wear the official PDC t-shirt (because

Mark your calendars...

We meet on the last Tuesday of every month at:

Rusty's Pizza
(in the lighthouse)

10 East Cabrillo Boulevard
Santa Barbara, CA

6:30 pm - social hour

7-8:30 pm - feeding frenzy, meeting,
raffle prizes, entertainment

Website o' the Month

This month's Web sites are from Bruce King. Check out the Web cam the next time you're wishing you were out diving (or surfing!) instead of at work. You'll still be stuck at the office, but at least you'll know what you're missing.

5-day tide chart courtesy of the City of Santa Barbara:

http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us/public_information/tide/

Live video from Campus Point:

<http://128.111.242.245/video/default.html>

Paradise Dive Club Officers

President - Patty Bryant	684-6342
Vice President - Mark Silva	969-2014
Secretary - Dan Lindsay	964-5020
Treasurer - Denise Foxwell	962-8113
Membership - Bruce King	895-9292
Publications - Stacey Kimsey	637-4487
Sgt at Arms - Mark Dombrosky	647-5245
Entertainment - Mark Bursek	564-1923
Raffle - Ralph Goldsen	681-0400
Webmaster - Ray Janik	637-4486
Photographer - Denise Foxwell	962-8113
Historian - Cheryl Weakliem	967-2827

Sponsors:

Anacapa Dive Center	963-8917
Aquatics	967-4456
DECA Diving	564-1923
Blue Water Hunter	564-6677
Truth Aquatics	962-1127

Visit our Web site at

<http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu>

Webmaster: rjanik@cox.net

E-mail newsletter articles to sdkimsey@yahoo.com

Membership: \$25/year (May-April), includes monthly newsletter. A complimentary subscription will be provided to dive clubs that reciprocate with a subscription to their newsletter; contact the membership coordinator at kingbh@cox.net for details.

New Year's Day Dive

Ring in the new year the right way—come diving with us on January 1. The plan is to meet up at the west end of Refugio at 10 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch for afterward.

January boat dives:

- Sunday, 1/18 on the Spectre, 7 am departure., \$75. Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Sunday, 1/25 on the Peace, 7 am departure, \$95 including food & air. Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.



Anacapa Dive Center's 2004 Dive Vacations

Winter weather got you dreaming of a warm-water dive trip? Imagine entering some of these exotic locales in your dive log:

Cozumel - January 10-17(6 dive days). \$1399 includes diving, airfare, and accommodations at Fiesta Americana.

Galapagos - June 10-17 aboard the Aggressor (sold out - taking names for waiting list). \$2895 includes diving, meals, accommodations (aboard boat only). Airfare & hotel stays not included.

Fiji - August 1-8. \$1999 includes airfare, diving, meals, transfers, and garden view accommodations at Wananavu Beach Resort.

Coming in 2005: Cayman Brac, Bikini Atoll, Papua New Guinea.

For reservations or info, call Anacapa Dive Center at 963-8917.

Aquatics Trip to Catalina

Santa Barbara Aquatics is running a trip to Catalina January 30-February 1. Cost is \$220 and includes ferry, lodging, and airfills for shore diving at Casino Point. Call Aquatics at 967-4456 for more details or to sign up.

Correction: a line was inadvertently left out of last month's pumpkin carving contest article by Cheryl Weakliem—the all-important sentence announcing Mark Rogers as this year's carving master! Apologies to Cheryl & Mark.

Here's a pic of Mark's winning pumpkin, Nemo. More photos on the PDC home page:

<http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu/>



Lobster Tales

by Dan Lindsay

This is the third in a series on lobster hunting for the scuba diver.

For the past two months I have attempted to pass on some tricks of the trade at catching lobsters that have been passed on to me by some of the best bug hunters in the club. These elusive creatures are truly creatures of habit, and their routine is important to understand if you're to maximize your take underwater.

Rocks. The popularity of lobsters along the Maine coast is attributed to rocks! Lots of rocks. Lobsters, like all other sea creatures, are always in a battle for their lives, so hanging out in protective habitats is critical. You'll find few lobster along a sandy bottom (unless it is en route to a rocky outcropping), but when you come up on a rocky area with a hole at the bottom—look out! Ledges, quite popular in our subterranean geology, are perfect habitats for lobster. For us in Santa Barbara, that translates to Mesa Lane, Thousand Steps, and the west end of Hendry's Beach. If you start to find ledges, you have to find lobsters. BUT, don't ever forget to look UP! Many times lobster hang out on TOP of rocks and even clinging to kelp.

Seasonal changes. As the winter progresses, lobsters begin to seek deeper waters. They're looking to escape the diluted (and somewhat disturbed) waters along shore that contain runoff from our local creeks and streams. You're going to have to go to the 20-foot level soon to find them. What this means to the scuba diver is a reduced hunting time. While you could easily stretch 90 minutes out of your 80 cu. ft. tank bobbing around in 4-8 feet of water, the deeper hunts will obviously cut that working time down.

Physiology. Lobsters are about 7 years old by the time they are of legal size. This is a tremendous thing when you consider that they are constantly under the stress of predators during that time. Their diet consists of mussels, clams, snails, polychaetes, urchins, worms and each other! When you come across an area teeming with this sort of habitat, keep your eyes peeled! In Maine, lobster fishermen bait their traps with herring. When they dump some of that off of their boats (when it gets bad), it is grabbed up by lobsters. Lobsters love to eat herring. If I could invent a non-water-soluble herring perfume for scuba divers, I would—they would almost leap into your bag! The dumped herring along the Maine coast are credited for the 'bulking up' of lobster in that area. Clearly, an area with lots of food in the water will result in larger bugs. Can we replicate that here? Probably not, in an open area, but it does teach us that hunting in areas of substantial diet sources will give us a better chance of seeing larger lobsters. Thus, in the areas immediately surrounding the Channel Islands, we see larger bugs.

Winding down. The bug season is winding down for divers. The water is getting colder, and it's just getting a bit more difficult to find them close in. One thing I can guarantee you, however—you will NEVER catch a lobster by just thinking about it! The more you dive, the more you will see and ultimately catch. Keep in mind that January 1 marks a new fishing license year, so remember to get your license to stay current, and remember, too, to get the additional stamp required for our region. I hope to see you some Wednesday evening!

Footnote: During the winter months, the Wednesday night dive sites are selected that day. This is not intended to dissuade potential divers, but to take into account the rapidly changing nature of the surf during this more volatile period. Clearly, conditions change daily and we make an effort to select spots that are friendly for divers during these months.

News from Dept. of Fish & Game

There's been a lot of activity at CDFG this month. A brief summary, courtesy of Paul Weakliem:

- No more ocean-only fishing licenses.
- Fee increase in Ocean Only and Abalone stamps—basically, fishing licenses for divers going from about \$20 to about \$40.
- 2004 rockfish regs for the Southern Rockfish and Lingcod Management Area (Pt. Conception south to California-Mexico border:) currently set as follows:
 - ⇒ Closed January and February.
 - ⇒ March through December open to water depths out to 360 feet (60 fathoms).
 - ⇒ California scorpionfish (sculpin) closed January and February as well as May through October.
 - ⇒ The open seasons apply to California's sport fisheries for rockfish, cabezon, greenlings, scorpionfish (sculpin), and lingcod in nearshore waters statewide.
 - ⇒ The sport-fishing seasons for all Rockfish and Lingcod Management Areas will last until Dec. 31, 2004, or until annual harvest limits have been reached. (in the last few years it has closed in mid-Nov.)

More info available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/>.

Abalone Alert!

by Mark Rogers

Just a reminder to all you "mollusk molesters" that you need to send in your abalone report cards. As it cheerfully says on the back of your card...

"You are required by law to return this report card to the Department of Fish and Game by December 30, 2003."

Mail the card to:

California Department of Fish and Game
19160 S. Harbor Drive
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Hmmm, that reminds me, now where is that Panko, olive oil and lemon?

Welcome to our new members!

Jerry Nishimura
Mike Macko
Sharin Bender



Paradise Club Does the Yukon

by Juan M. Beltranena

Diving a new site is always exiting! This time, however, my apprehension was a bit higher than usual. A couple of years away from the coast had kept me from diving regularly with my PDC friends and although we had recently done a few shallow dives, this would be a deep dive. En route to San Diego, my old dive buddy Carlos would pick me up at CSU Channel Islands and we would later meet up with John and my son Chepe... just like old times!

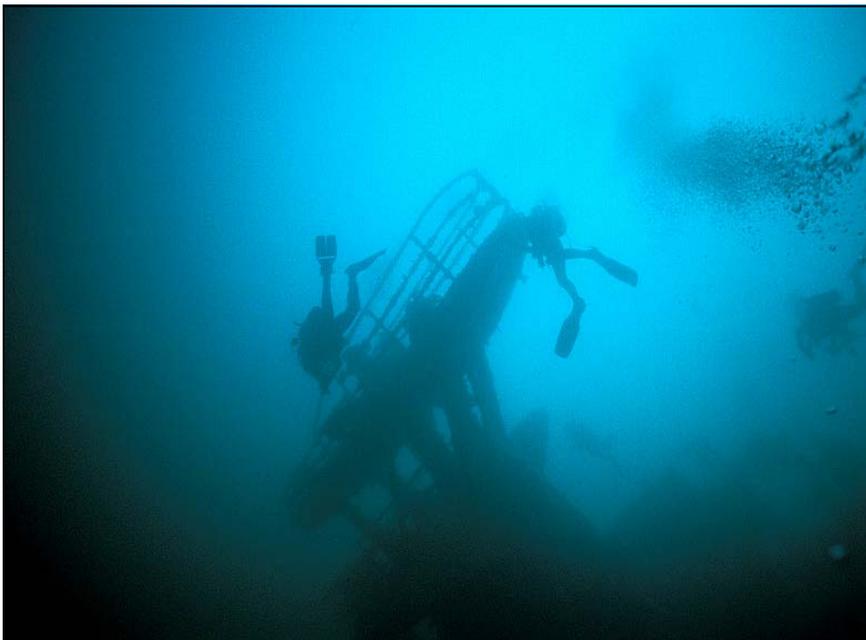


Carlos and I arrived in San Diego late that night and checked into the hotel right behind Marcos, Mark, Dan and others. Chepe and John arrived the next morning just in time to get some breakfast and join the rest of the Paradise Club divers aboard the *Lois Ann*. This PDC trip would take us to dive the *Yukon*, the *Ruby E.* and an old toppled electronics tower off the coast of San Diego.

The weather looked OK. Air temperature was 74°, foggy, with a mild chop and a bit of red tide on the surface but exceptional visibility below. You could easily see 35 feet or more! Aboard the *Lois Ann* came the standard instructions about safety and diving conditions and so on, and so forth. ...the keel sits in 110 feet... yada, yada, yada, frankly it was hard to believe. The shore was so close by that one could swim there and back, how could it be that deep this close? Well it was. What a great dive!

The *Yukon* is a 366 foot Canadian Destroyer Escort that lies on its port side in about 110 feet of water off Mission Beach. She was intentionally sunk in July of 2000 by the San Diego Oceans Foundation as part of the artificial reef project. Before sinking, the ship was prepared for divers and an abundance of entry and exit holes were cut into her to increase accessibility and diver safety. Penetration is readily available and fun! While Chepe and John went off to explore the ship's bowels, Carlos and I weaved in and out of the holds on our way to the bow. The entire ship extended from the top railing to the bottom of the bow in one elegant, smooth swoop--all the way to the sand 35 feet below. There is plenty to see on the outside as well. On the port side (or should I say the topside) the diver can see the cargo hold openings, the superstructure, the forward and aft gun turrets, deck, rails and command stations being invaded by sea-life of all forms. A very large Lingcod has taken up residence in the holds of the *Yukon* and was getting ready to hang his NO VISITORS sign on the side of the ship. The starboard side is completely exposed and has a smooth eerie look. There are penetrations on this side as well and we explored a few of them on our way back to the stern line for our ascent. We logged 42 minutes of bottom time in 60° water. Visibility was so good one could see a lot of the other groups of divers frolicking around the wreck with abandon.

The November update on the *Lois Ann* web page indicates "The *Yukon* has no less than 1,000 *Metridium Anemones* growing in the 70-100 ft. depth range. There are also a lot of anemones and small soft corals taking root, a giant Broomtail Grouper living under the bow with a huge Spider Crab, and an abundance of fish making the wreck home."



Our second dive was close by, just as spectacular, but not as deep. The *Ruby E.* sits in 85 feet of water. The ship is a 165-foot long Coast Guard Cutter that was also sunk as part of the Artificial Reef Project in July 1989. She sits upright on the bottom and is intact and penetrable. All the hatches have been made larger and most rooms have an exit to the outside. It was very easy and safe to penetrate the ship and go from one hold to the next to exit a different hatch. Although the visibility was also fantastic, I thought this dive was much colder. We started our ascent after only 30 minutes of diving. Most of the wreck is covered with growth, such as strawberry anemones and a small kelp bed on top of the wheelhouse. I can't describe to you how exhilarating it is to see your entire dive club playing in the deep around an old sunken boat; you have to try this for yourselves!
(cont. next page)

More photos from the Yukon . . .

Thanks to Andre Terroux for the great topside photos, and Dan Lindsay for the amazing (and somewhat spooky!) underwater images. See the PDC Web site for more images, at <http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu/events.htm>.

Juan's story, continued...

Our last dive took us to a much less spectacular site, but a good dive nonetheless. On the bottom all that is left of this wreck are a few mangled pieces from an old steel structure. In 1988 a strong winter storm knocked down the Naval Electronics Lab ("The Tower"), a research tower which had been a fixture ½ mile off the San Diego coast since 1959. The tower looked very much like an oil rig and was always a good dive because it attracted many fish and was home to a multitude of small marine life. Now the entire structure lies in 60 feet of water and is still home to many species of marine life. Noteworthy among these were lobsters... Charlie and Johnny... hidden inside a partially submerged pipe, and seemingly out of reach, they taunted us to go for it. On thinking about how we could have... seems to me that if I had gone into the hole fins-first, I might have had a chance to spook them out of their safety and into my bag... well, you don't have too much time to figure these things out at 60 feet. This dive lasted 52 minutes, and visibility was still very good. This is a good site for new divers, although entanglement hazards do exist.

This dive trip is a must for Paradise Club members, it was a lot of fun and the crew of the *Lois Ann* treated us to a very good day of diving. If you have an opportunity to go on this PDC trip don't miss it! We highly recommend it!



January 2004

Don't Forget...
MONTHLY MEETING
 at Rusty's Pizza
 January 27
 (No meeting in December!)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day dive	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26		28	29	30	31

January meeting entertainment:
Dave Burroughs
 Slide show on his Guadalupe trip

Upcoming Events

- New Year's Day dive at Refugio, 10 a.m.
- Plan ahead for our annual Santa Cruz campout - May 6-9

Wednesday night dives

Call Mark Silva at 969-2014 or Dan Lindsay at 964-5020 for details, or send an e-mail to Carl Gwinn at carlgwinn@yahoo.com if you'd like to be added to the night dive e-mail list.



P.O. Box 21311
 Santa Barbara, CA 93121



117-D Harbor Way
 Santa Barbara, CA 93109
 805-564-6677
<http://www.blueh20.com>



Sea Landing - 301 West Cabrillo
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101
 805-962-1127
<http://www.truthaquatics.com>



5822 Hollister Avenue
 Goleta, CA 93117
 805-967-4456
<http://www.sbaquatics.com>



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<http://www.decadiving.com>

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