

# PARADISE Dive Club

March 2004

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Volume 10, Issue 3



## President's Log

by Patty Bryant

Although the month of February started off with some rain, wind, and choppy seas, the day of our hike up Jesusita Trail turned out beautiful. We enjoyed the sunny day and clear sky, which afforded some incredible views from Inspiration Point. My feet and legs were sore the next day but it sure was worth it. Check out the articles and pictures on another page of this newsletter.

As I write this, I'm thinking about hauling out my camping gear and getting ready for the President's Day weekend campout at Vandenberg. By the time you read this, I will be cleaning up and putting away that same camping gear and reminiscing about the fun we had.

For those of you that were not able to attend our January meeting, you missed a very special invitation from Ray Tarr, the president of the Vandenberg Aqualiers. He invited our club to join them for a weekend campout on the base near Point Arguello. A lot of us are very excited about this since most of us have never seen this part of the coastline. Because we will be entering a military base, Ray needed to get a list of all of the people who would be joining them for the weekend so that the military personnel could run the required clearance checks. Only those people on the list will be allowed on the base; therefore, unfortunately, we were not able to extend the invitation to those

who were not at the January meeting to sign up for the event. But if you missed the campout this time, don't fret – Ray is already talking about planning the next joint club event so I think you'll get another chance down the road.

The month of March is coming up and although the diving conditions can be unpredictable in March, keep in mind that Truth Aquatics has a lot of 1-day open boat trips this time of year, especially if you are lucky enough to be able to go diving on a weekday. The open boat that past president Mark Rogers has picked out for our "last chance lobster dive" is Saturday, March 6th. This is an outer islands trip with a 4 am departure. Call Truth Aquatics directly to reserve your spot.

April 24th is the Earth Day underwater cleanup at Refugio, so mark your calendars now. We will again be allowed to camp on both Friday and Saturday nights, April 23rd and 24th. We will be sharing the group campsite with the UCSB Scuba Club and the Vandenberg Aqualiers. Sounds like another great weekend to me.

Stay tuned for more fun events coming your way.



*Inspiration Point—photo by Barbara Brown*

### 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

## Dispatches from a Wednesday Night Dive

by Dan Lindsay

Last night [Jan. 28] was not too bad. Mark and Paul and I headed to the east end of Hendry's. We dropped down into about 12 feet of water and vis was about average at that spot. Was some structure there, but no bugs. We were able to swim together for quite awhile as vis improved and I could easily see everyone's lights.

We swept over the structures like a flight of three Black Hawk helicopters on a search and destroy mission. We covered every angle. The lobsters had bugged out! Perhaps they had heard us coming, or our infrared sensors were detected, but they knew and they left! There were no places to hide but they were just not there. We had, however, a lot of bait fish in the water and a lot of just regular fish milling about. This was the biggest activity in that are for some time. I ultimately wound up with 16. Yes, 16! Among them were a couple of Titleists.

Getting out of the water was an E-ticket. Are you old enough to remember what an E-ticket ride is? It wasn't bad until you stood up—if you did it too early, it just knocked you down and dragged you back out to sea for a while. I was the last out and had a fun time!

### 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](mailto:rjanik@cox.net)

E-mail newsletter articles to  
[sdkimsey@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:kingbh@cox.net) for details.



*Tritonia Festiva—photo by Dave Burroughs, from Feb. '04 Conception trip*

### March Boat Dives:

- Friday, March 12th, a freediving trip aboard the *Peace*, 2:00 am departure, \$85. Call Blue Water Hunter, 564-6677.
- Saturday, March 20th on the *Truth*, 6:00 am departure, \$90. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, March 28th on the *Peace*, 7:00 am departure, \$90. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.

*Welcome to our new member!*

Barbara Brown





# Hike to Inspiration Point

by Joshua James

Hello everyone, and a special hello to those who went on the hike on the 8th of February, it was a fun one. Although it was indeed fun I must say that when I was told that I would be attending a hike with the dive club, I mistakenly anticipated a nice short hike. Well, nine miles and three blisters later I discovered it was quite the contrary, it was long and steep in some places. But even with the difficulties, the view from Inspiration Point (or shall I say “mound”) was very much worth the hike. I would seriously have to think before I did it again but I’d probably be dragged along anyways, so farewell fellow divers and happy hiking!



*Photos, from top, left to right:  
Ken & Joshua James (Denise  
Foxwell); hikers on the trail  
(Foxwell), Patty Bryant  
(Stacey Kimsey), Paul &  
Jonathan Weakliem  
(Kimsey); Ralph Goldsen  
(Foxwell); two views from  
Inspiration Point (Kimsey)*





# Trip Report - Bora Bora

article & photos by Jerry Sorich

Seven-and-a-half hours in a 747 out of LAX landed us in Papeete. We boarded a 40-passenger puddle jumper for the 35-minute flight to the coral island or "motu"



where the airstrip is at Bora Bora. A 15-minute shuttle boat to the island and a 25-minute ride in an old truck converted into a personnel carrier got us to "Club Med" Bora Bora. Bora Bora is one of the islands in the French Polynesia chain. The island is surrounded by coral reef with only one small opening, which was created by the Navy during WWII. As one flies to Bora Bora, it is hard not to be in awe of the emerald waters surrounding the island. I have never seen ocean water as radiantly green. The island is quite small with very little habitable land. The bulk of the island is a solid mountain of rock with less than a 1/2 mile of flat land surrounding it. It has only one road, on which you can circumvent the entire island in one hour.

Bora Bora is well known for its shark and manta ray dives. We had signed up to do both before leaving the States. The dive boat took eight of us to the outside of the reef at 9:00 in the morning. The French divemasters explained that there would be blacktip reef sharks ("as big as a man") and lemon sharks ("bigger than a man"). I have to admit that I was a little intimidated at the thought of swimming with sharks, but what the heck—"They wouldn't sell tickets if it wasn't safe," I thought. After a brief orientation we enjoyed the luxury of simply donning a weight belt, buckling on our BCs, and jumping into the 82-degree water. Visibility was well over 150 feet, which made it easy to see that we were surrounded by sharks from the moment we entered the water. "Maybe this wasn't the best idea I ever had," I thought.



We descended 80 ft to the bottom and were surrounded by 30 or 40 sharks. The dive masters had told us not to get too close and "don't wiggle your fingers at the sharks!" We were told to swim around as we normally would. I have seen videos of other shark dives where the divers had to stay on the bottom or hang onto a rope. Swimming with the sharks was much more exciting. The dive

masters did a little feeding to get the sharks to converge in the area and then left them to comb the reef. The large lemon sharks would sometimes come uncomfortably close to the divers. After spending most dives keeping an eye out for predators, we all found that it took about half a tank of air to get our adrenaline down. Once we did, the spectacle of gliding with 10-foot sharks was absolutely thrilling. I kept my camera going the whole time I was down, since the water was alive with sharks the entire time. This was the best dive I had ever experienced.

We returned to the dock to refresh our tanks and headed out to the opening of the reef to dive with manta rays. The visibility was much less because of the rush of water coming from the open sea into the sheltered area of the island. We glided over the reef in 60 feet of water for about 10 minutes before we saw a shadow appear. The divers paused as a giant manta slid into view. With a wingspan of 12 feet, it was the largest creature I had ever seen underwater.



The manta glided right at us with almost no movement. It veered off about 10 feet from the group. Almost immediately, another appeared from the distance. Singles and pairs of mantas cruised us for the next 25 minutes. They would come within 10 to 12 feet and then bank off. Occasionally, the water would get dark and I would look up to find one swimming directly above my head as I was filming. The ballet of their effortless movement captivated all of the divers. We were all filled with a calm sense of awe at being in the vicinity of the enormous mantas. As we began our ascent I noticed a group of maybe 12 blacktip sharks encircling us all the way to the boat.

In the boat there was a very different atmosphere compared to the previous dive. There was a tranquility that is rare for a group of divers just out of the water. The mantas had placed us all under their spell. Chalk that up as another wonderful underwater experience.

I dove again another day at different locations around the island. The reefs were extremely healthy for all the diving that takes place on them. Myriad tropical fish abounded within the folds of the coral. There were many brilliantly colored giant clams wedged in the crevices of the coral. Their mantles were vibrant blue, red, orange, and green. Stingrays were all over the reefs, as well as clownfish, angels, triggerfish, and trumpet fish. Coming back to the boat we found a Napoleon fish. This is a large fish with a very unusual shape.

I have to say that after years of diving, we come to a point where we are looking for new and different underwater topography and creatures. Bora Bora provides a great opportunity to experience the unique. It proved to be one of the high spots in my diving adventures. I highly recommend it to any of you.

## Berserk in the Antarctic

Club member Gretchen Beckert thought members might be interested in a special film showing at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum on February 26.

*Berserk in the Antarctic* is the incredible story of three young men who risk their lives again and again on board their little yacht, the *Berserk*. The destination is Antarctica, the captain is 21-year-old Jarle Andhøj from Norway, and the crew consists of two chance adventurers from the USA and Argentina who've never sailed before. From day one, the voyage is a fight for their lives in the teeth of hurricanes and ice floes in a 25-year-old yacht, which is falling more and more apart and has no engine, because the latter only works when the sun is shining.....Dave Mercy, one of the adventurers, will join us for a viewing of the film and a question and answer time following the showing.

Time and location: 7pm at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Munger Theatre, February 26, 2004.

Cost: \$6 for SBMM members, \$8 general admission.

Tickets and information: Call the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum Store at (805) 962-8404 ext. 116.

## Classifieds

For sale: Oceanmaster Dry Snorkel, blue, \$10.

Scubapro Seawings, Medium, \$15.

Call 637-4487. I can bring to meeting if you'd like to try out.



## Scuba Rangers Program

Kandie at Santa Barbara Aquatics sent along this flyer on the Scuba Rangers program, starting in June.

Kandie writes, "Scuba Rangers is a way cool kids club for children ages 8 to 12. Programs run in week-long sessions and will begin in June. Each session is from 9 am to 1 pm. Cost is \$250 per week. All sessions take place at Santa Barbara Aquatics in our indoor pool."

Contact information: Kandie Rodgerson, Open Water Instructor/Scuba Rangers Instructor, (805) 331-0843.

## Scuba Rangers

@ Santa Barbara Aquatics

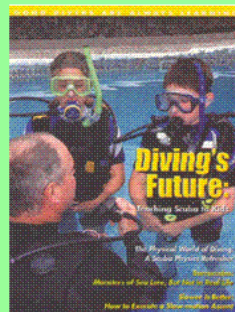
A way cool kids club for kids ages 8 to 12



Make new friends



and learn a cool new activity



Become a Scuba Ranger today!


Contact Kandie Rodgerson  
805.331.0843



Dedicated to diving and dive safety Santa Barbara Aquatics has a 23 year perfect safety record

March 2004

Don't Forget...  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
 at Rusty's Pizza  
 February 24  
 March 30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Last Chance Lobster Dive
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29		31			

**Upcoming Events**

- April 23-24 - Earth Day campout and underwater cleanup at Refugio
- 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](mailto: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  
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 Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
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