

PARADISE Dive Club

July 2004

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Volume 10, Issue 7



President's Log

by Patty Bryant

Summer has arrived in Paradise! Along with it we've had some beautiful weather, some June gloom, and that pesky red tide. Even though the diving conditions haven't been that good, there are still plenty of opportunities to get out and have some fun. I have been taking advantage of the warm weather and long days and spending as much time as possible outdoors. I hope all of you are having fun too.

A few of us went up to Vandenberg over the Memorial Day weekend and had some good fun with the Aqualliers. Although we had some strong winds up there that weekend, we still managed to have a great time. The Aqualliers sure know how to put on a feast, and they made everyone from our club feel like part of their family. I guess we were well behaved because they invited us back for the 4th of July weekend.

Our first beach dive/BBQ of the summer was June 12th at Summerland Beach. True to this dive spot's reputation, the visibility left a bit to be desired, but we cooked up some delicious hamburgers and had a great afternoon just hanging out and socializing. If you missed this one, hopefully you

will be able to join us for the next beach dive/BBQ, which will be at Refugio on Sunday, July 18th. We'll make a day of it, so bring your scuba gear, kayaks, beach toys, and a side dish to share at the BBQ. As always, the club will provide the main course. We'll meet at the west end around 9:00 am. The park fills up fast in the summer so be sure to get there early.

July is also the official Great Annual Fish Count month, and both Truth Aquatics and the Peace are offering discounts on certain days for people who participate in the fish counting. Fish counting is a great way to contribute to research while doing what we love to do. Check out the dates of the discounted boat trips on page 2 of this newsletter.

It's still a couple of months away, but I would like to encourage everyone to start thinking about the upcoming election of board members. Nominations for the positions will be at the August meeting, and the elections are held at the September meeting. The club is in need of your support and participation, so please consider serving a term or two as a board member. Serving on the board is actually a lot of fun. The board gets to plan all of the club events, and we have some great dinners too. If you are interested you can contact any of the current board members for info on the duties of the various positions. Your dive club needs you.

Hope to see you soon at one of our many upcoming events.

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
- ∅ Right to proudly wear the official PDC t-shirt (because we DO have the coolest logo)

SPECIAL NOTICE

In June we will be meeting on the last **WEDNESDAY** of the month, **June 30**—not Tuesday!

Victoria's Café

2220 Bath Street (next to Encina Lodge)

6:30 pm - social hour

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

THE GREAT ANNUAL



FISH COUNT



CORRECTION: the Truth Aquatics discounted trip dates printed in last month's newsletter and in early versions of the flyer circulated by the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary were incorrect. Truth is offering GAFC discounts (30%) on a one-day trip on July 7, a two-day trip on July 14-15, and a one-day trip on July 21. You may want to confirm this when booking. Also, divers need to let the crew know at check-in that they are participating in the fish count; discount will apply after divers turn in completed surveys. Call 805-962-1127 to book.

The *Peace* (out of Ventura) is also offering \$10 off midweek boat trips in July for GAFC divers. Call 866-984-2025 to book.

Great Annual Fish Count Survey Kits are available for check-out at the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary office. For more information, please contact Julie Bursek at 805-382-6141 or at Julie.Bursek@noaa.gov. A complete schedule of GAFC events is available at <http://www.fishcount.org/events/california.html>

July boat dives:

- Sunday, 7/11, on the *Truth*, 6am departure, \$90. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, 7/11, on the *Peace*, 7am departure, \$95. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Wednesday, 7/14, a freediving trip on the *Peace*, 2am departure, \$85. Call Blue Water Hunter, 564-6677.
- Friday & Saturday, 7/16-17, a 2-day trip to Cortes Banks on the *Peace*, 10pm departure on 7/15, \$295. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Saturday, 7/17 on the *Spectre*, 7am departure, \$78. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.

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

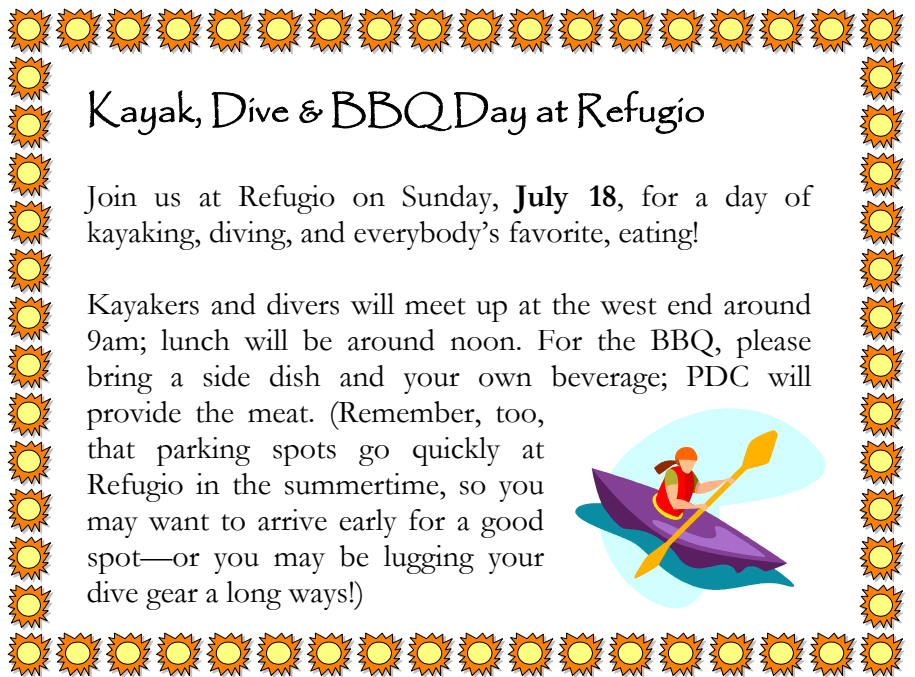
Sponsors:

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>

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.



Kayak, Dive & BBQ Day at Refugio

Join us at Refugio on Sunday, **July 18**, for a day of kayaking, diving, and everybody's favorite, eating!

Kayakers and divers will meet up at the west end around 9am; lunch will be around noon. For the BBQ, please bring a side dish and your own beverage; PDC will provide the meat. (Remember, too, that parking spots go quickly at Refugio in the summertime, so you may want to arrive early for a good spot—or you may be lugging your dive gear a long ways!)



WELCOME to our new members:

Anthony Sandoval
Curtis Simpson
Laurel Mehler

Important Notice re: June Meeting

Due to a scheduling conflict, we will be having our meeting this month on **WEDNESDAY, June 30**.

Next month we'll be back to our regular meeting day of the last Tuesday of the month. Location remains the same—Victoria's Café, 2220 Bath Street. Hope you can make it!

To Shoot or Not to Shoot? ... That is the Question!

by Jerry Sorich

It was either William Shakespeare...or pop singer Shakira who first posed this question. Lobster season closed and we divers can no longer spend our undersea time foraging around the rocks and holes for elusive bugs. What then are we to do as we burn our aluminum 80s? You could take a 54" solid-teak, four-band, removable-tipped, stainless-steel-shaft, self-rewinding, no-recoil spear gun and dissolve a 6" rockfish into chum before your eyes. Or...you could sneak up on a Spanish Shawl with a macro lens and capture its beauty forever. In the less than ten years that I have been diving, I have seen the decline in size and abundance of the fish and scallops in our local waters. Taking photos instead of food has increased my enjoyment of diving.



Deck of the Oro Verde, Grand Cayman—digital photo by Jerry Sorich

I began underwater photography with a Nikonos IV film camera and an Ikelite flash. The first three dive trips I took with the camera provided no usable pictures. Nothing is more disappointing than spending all day underwater taking pictures, then getting the film back the next week from the processor with bad results. With practice, film will give you the best images for enlargement—but film is also sensitive and unforgiving. There is a decided learning curve and investment of time to master the correct settings and flash to get good results.

Fortunately, we are diving in an age when digital camera technology is blossoming. The price is falling as the quality is improving on digital cameras. Most computers come with photo handling and enhancing software. You can edit and alter your photos with a variety of programs. Affordable photo-quality printers make it possible to process completed pictures from your home. You can also post your pictures on the Web, e-mail them, or burn them to CD or DVD for viewing on your TV. I assure you that slapping in a DVD slide show of your Grand Cayman photos on your widescreen is a great way to spend a rainy day.

More importantly, underwater housings are a bargain now. Just a few years ago, one of the biggest obstacles in getting into underwater photography was the fact that housings cost more than the cameras. A cheap housing for a Nikon or Canon SLR camera started at \$800. Today you can purchase a digital camera housing for less than \$300. Add a good quality camera for \$400 and you are ready to shoot.



Clownfish—digital photo by Jerry Sorich

Start with finding a housing that is affordable *before* you purchase the camera. More and more of the large camera companies (Nikon, Canon, Olympus, Sony) are providing, or have after-market vendors that make, clear plastic housings for their digital cameras. Go online and find which housings are available for the brand of camera that you prefer. You can also search under “underwater housings” or try www.uwpmag.com (a Web-based magazine for underwater photography). A good all-plastic housing that has buttons to access all the controls on your digital camera and is rated for 100 to 140 feet will work fine. There are housings out there that are very cheap and only rated to 30 feet or so; these are for the “went-to-Maui-on-our-once-in-a-lifetime-vacation-from-Wisconsin-and-going-to-take-pictures-of-everything” crowd. Also, see if the housing will support other lenses and what kind of flash units are compatible with the housing.

Jerry Sorich's guide to digital photography, cont.

Once you know that a housing is available, go looking at the cameras more seriously. What you are going to do with your pictures has a lot to do with which camera you purchase. If you are going to just keep them on your computer and send them over the Web as jpegs, almost any camera will do. If you are going to do print work, you need to purchase according to the pixel count. For a good quality print (with your printer), use the following as a guideline: 3 megapixels will make a quality print up to 4x6, 4 megapixels will do up to 8x10, 5 meg and up will do larger formats. If you try to print photos larger than these you will tend to get pixelization. This is when you can see the squares of the digitization. Below 4 megapixels, you won't be able to crop photos down as far either. I bought a 4.3-meg Olympus, which has been more than adequate for print work. Other questions to answer about the camera are: disposable or rechargeable batteries? size of screen? how many manual controls are available? All cameras come with a storage card of 16 to 32 megabytes. Forget this card—you will need at least a 128-meg card, preferably two of them.

You will also need an external flash, and that can cost as much as the whole camera and housing put together. In the clear waters of Hawaii and the Caribbean, I didn't use my external flash. I got great results with just the internal flash. Here on the coast, where the water is murkier, the flash is more important. The external flash is the most challenging part of underwater photography. You need to learn to balance the proper camera settings with the flash.

The great thing about digital is that you see the picture right after you have taken it, and if it doesn't turn out...reshoot until you get it right. I shoot a *lot* of photos. With a 128-meg card, I can shoot over 100 pictures at high resolution. I check out most of my shots while I'm underwater and reshoot lots and lots. When I get up on the boat, I review the shots and erase the blatantly bad ones to save card space. It costs nothing to shoot with digital, so the more photos you take, the higher the odds that you will get some really good ones. Remember: if you get 3 great photos and 10 really good photos out of a day of diving, you are doing well. You should have another 15 to 20 that are usable if you have shot 100 or more photos.

After you have photographed the basics around the islands here and on a couple of your exotic dive trips, you will start looking for specific shots. I don't just cruise when I am underwater anymore. I am looking for new fish or wildlife. I search for the unique shots or fish that I haven't captured before. It is much more rewarding diving, and you haven't diminished the sea life wherever you have gone.

Ed Stetson's 11th Annual Sea of Cortez Trip—August 22-29, 2004

Ed says, "We plan to dive with the pelagic fish and marine mammals attracted to the warm summer waters in the Sea of Cortez. We'll also have the opportunity to dive the shallower coral reefs off La Paz. The *Don Jose* liveaboard trip will allow us to travel to distant islands and seamounts, including Isla Las Animas."

Over the years, divers on this trip have dived with hammerhead sharks, whale sharks, manta rays and mobula rays, black marlin, bluefin and yellowfin tuna, sperm whales, pilot whales, bottlenose and common dolphins, sea lions, turtles, Goliath grouper, and more.

Cost is \$1450-\$1650 for a week on the *M/V Don Jose*, including all meals, drinks, snacks, tanks, and weights, plus one night at Los Arcos Hotel at end of trip. Airfare is additional (about \$275 from LAX).

Space is limited, so please call Ed right away if you're interested: 687-4771.

From Shore to Sea Speaker Series

Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary are sponsoring a series of free programs "designed to bring evolving knowledge about the Channel Islands to the public."

When: first Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Where: Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center, Ventura Harbor, 1901 Spinnaker Drive

Upcoming speakers:

⇒ July 7: Brent Stewart, Seals and Sea Lions of the Channel Islands

⇒ August 4: Pat Smith, Channel Islands Shipwrecks

⇒ September 1: Tim Coonan, State of the Island Fox

Thanks to Paul Weakliem for sharing this with the club!

Summerland Dive & BBQ

by James Libhart

The Summerland Beach rummage sale/BBQ/dive went very well for many a PDC member. Some great deals were had by a few—Dorothy, interestingly enough not Paul, got a spear gun with impeccable bands—while burgers were had by all. There were some PDC members I had not seen for quite some time like Juan and Gil, and the usuals like Mark and Paul.

The dive was better than expected: pairs didn't even get separated if they stayed within three feet of each other and wore really bright neon fins (and if you don't have a pair, Dan has a leftover rummage sale set of yellows for \$30). Reports of rays, sheep crabs, and a few bugs were heard after everyone dried off. Now to help out my fellow PDC'ers, the bugs were towards the far left of the beach when you are facing the water. Good luck come the season!



Summerland Beach—photo by Dave Burroughs



Left: Ray & Stacey at Summerland; Right: beach dive & BBQ group. Photos by Dave Burroughs.

Classifieds

12-foot inflatable boat for sale—with 10hp Honda motor, new trailer, new anchor, fuel tank, etc. First \$1,500 OBO in cash takes \$3,000 worth of investment! Motivated to sell quick! Contact Brett Walker, 805-451-1986, brett.walker@prodigy.net. Boat is in Carpinteria if anyone would like to check it out.

Sea & Sea MX10 complete underwater system—camera, strobe, fiber optical strobe extender cable, macro lens and framer, close-up lens, wide-angle lens with sportsfinder, color filter, lens caddy, and Pelican case. \$800. Call Stacey at 637-4487 or e-mail sdkimsey@yahoo.com for photos and more info.

Scubapro Seawing fins—blue, size medium, \$20. Call 637-4487. Can bring to meeting if you're interested.

Newsletter Contributors Contest

Here's our half-year tally of entries earned for the newsletter contributors contest:


Paul Weakliem (3)	Jerry Sorich (2)
Juan Beltranena	Cheryl Weakliem
Andre Terroux	Ilya Nemenman
Dave Burroughs (5)	Jesse Rogers
Carl Gwinn (2)	Ken James
Barbara Brown	James Libhart (2)
Joshua James (2)	

Each article or photo submission for the newsletter gets you one entry in the 2004 contest; winner will be drawn at our end-of-year holiday party. Board members are not eligible.

Please send submissions to the newsletter editor at sdkimsey@yahoo.com.

July 2004

Don't Forget...
MONTHLY MEETING
June 30 and July 27
 at NEW LOCATION – Victoria's Café

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Kayak/ dive day at Refugio	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26		28	29	30	31

Upcoming Events

- Kayak/dive day at Refugio - July 18
- Group campout at Refugio - Sept. 17-18

Wednesday night dives

To find out where the group is diving or to be added to the night dive e-mail list, contact Dan Lindsay at edgy01@aol.com/964-5020, Carl Gwinn at carlgwinn@yahoo.com/968-5694, or Mark Silva at 969-2014.



P.O. Box 21311
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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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