

PARADISE Dive Club

November 2004

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Volume 10, Issue 11



President's Log

by Ray Janik

Welcome to my first President's Log. Wow. If someone had told me I would be writing this a couple of years ago, I wouldn't even have bothered to laugh at him.

I can't write any more without thanking Patty Bryant for her enthusiastic leadership as club president over the last year. She's certainly set a high level of expectations I hope I'll be able to meet. Events went off without a hitch and, as evidenced by our increasingly—um—cozy meetings, our membership grew impressively with her at the helm. She left me some big shoes to fill and has already been a great help to the newbie president with advice on how to get up and running. A word of caution, though. Watch out for her. I know of at least one guy who joined the club to find some new dive buddies and to find some new places to dive locally. Somehow, she managed to talk him into stints as co-membership coordinator, Webmaster and, now, President!

Thanks, too, to our departing board members: Denise Foxwell, who just finished a stint as club treasurer, and also served as newsletter editor prior to that; and Mark Dombrosky, outgoing Sergeant-at-Arms.

This year's board has one new face—Steve Trainoff is our new Sergeant-at-Arms—and a returning member, Carl Gwinn, coming back for another year as Secretary. The rest of the board is filled out by returning members either staying in their

previous positions, or moving to new ones. Dan Lindsay has moved from Secretary to Vice President; Mark Silva has gone from Vice President back to Treasurer. Bruce King and Stacey Janik are continuing as Membership Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, respectively. Ralph Goldsen is continuing as Raffle Coordinator and Mark Bursek is still managing to find intriguing speakers for our monthly meetings as Entertainment Coordinator. He also fulfills the important unwritten club rule that all meetings have at least two "Marks," a job that will take a little more effort as we see less of Mark Rogers, President from 2002-2003 and board member as Past President last year.

As we on the board begin our year together, we're already looking forward to some fun events for the upcoming fall and winter months: The annual Pumpkin Carving Contest will include contestants from the Channel Islands Council of Divers for the first time. We will have a strong advantage with our experience and the fact that most of us won't be partying in Isla Vista the night before the dive, so I'm hopeful we can keep the coveted Pumpkin Trophy in the club during my tenure.

Also in the works are a field trip for the presentation of a documentary on Channel Islands marine life, an open boat trip to the outer islands, and our holiday shindig. I think I heard something about some folks looking for lobster, too. More details in the rest of the newsletter.

I'm really looking forward to the rest of the year and to hearing from anyone who has ideas for events, activities, meeting entertainment or anything else that can keep the club interesting for new and returning members.

Join the club, enjoy the benefits

- ∅ Monthly meetings with entertainment
- ∅ 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)

Mark your calendars...

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month

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

Lobster Opener & Party — article & photo by Dan Lindsay

After a great dinner at the Coral Casino and drinks at the Biltmore, I wandered the half mile down Channel Drive to Butterfly Beach to find a significant collection of PDC members assembling gear and swapping old lobster tales. We were waiting on the clock. At 11:55 p.m. Friday the first of October we entered the water; eight of us braved the Santa Barbara October evening. It would soon become apparent that this was the night of all nights. Granted, many of us dive routinely whether it is lobster season or not, but conditions were phenomenal that night. The stars were out, the water temps were in the upper 60s, and visibility equaled that found at the islands. In short, perfect for bugs! The surge was low, there was little to no current, and entering the water was akin to getting into the hot tub. Some 75 minutes later back on the beach, conversations turned to “how’d you do?” No one was going to starve and some were going to get a little large. We all considered it worthy of our efforts, and it was apparent that bug fever was off and running.



The following day at the Biltmore we gathered again, just in case we hadn’t limited out at midnight! Again, a good choice, as our sworn duty to eradicate this area of bugs was met with a goodly degree of success. That evening, around 7 p.m., we gathered up at my house in the foothills and told more lobster stories and began to decide how to cook the collection of lobster that we had. The confirmed carnivores cooked steaks while the divers and their newfound friends boiled the vast majority of the bugs. Apparently there were plenty of bugs to go around as we actually had leftover lobster! (One of the benefits of hosting the party.) Between the lobster, steaks, cheese fondue, fish tacos, and other delicious side dishes, no one complained about a shortage of treats.

CONGRATULATIONS to our new and returning Paradise Dive Club Officers

President - Ray Janik	637-4486
Vice President - Dan Lindsay	964-5020
Secretary - Carl Gwinn	968-5694
Treasurer - Mark Silva	969-2014
Membership - Bruce King	452-7590
Newsletter - Stacey Janik	637-4487
Sgt at Arms - Steve Trainoff	571-1622
Entertainment - Mark Bursek	564-1923
Raffle - Ralph Goldsen	681-0400
Webmaster - Ray Janik	637-4486
Historian - Cheryl Weakliem	967-2827

Sponsors:	
Anacapa Dive Center	963-8917
Aquatics	967-4456
Blue Water Hunter	564-6677
Truth Aquatics	962-1127

Visit our Web site at
<http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu>

E-mail newsletter articles to
sjanik@gmail.com

Membership: \$30/year (May-April); \$25/year for renewing members. 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.

Hammerheads in the Channel?!?!?

Strange but true—hammerhead sharks have been spotted in our local waters. The first report, documented by these photos, was by anglers who caught a 13-foot hammerhead off Anacapa Island on September 18. Water temp was a toasty 74.3°. Another sighting was recently reported by Island Packers.

Does this portend an El Niño winter ahead? Time will tell; in the meantime, enjoy the water and watch out for sharks!



Welcome to our new members!

Cynthia Rhodes, Justin Leach, David Mullins,
Jack & Peter Dawson, JP Domjan

Seniors on SCUBA

article & photos by Dan Lindsay

Amid an array of walkers and wheelchairs, Past President Patty Bryant entertained approximately twenty members of the Isla Vista-based Friendship Manor retirement home with a demonstration of SCUBA. The senior citizens were shown equipment and dive techniques. Instructor Ed Stetson of UCSB and Erin Davies rounded out the SCUBA demonstrators and lecturers.

The 90-minute demonstration included the teaching of a first-timer on SCUBA. With help from Ed, she rapidly moved on to proper breathing and buoyancy techniques, and by the end of the lesson was gathering objects off the nine-foot bottom of the home's outdoor pool. (I think Patty liked it because the water was 84 degrees!)

Friendship Manor is located in Isla Vista and home to several hundred senior citizens. Outside lecturers and demonstrations are often guests of the manor residents. Many thanks to Ed and Erin for their assistance in this worthy program!



Congratulations to Lori & Tony
Crestfield on the birth of their
daughter, Lily Nicole,
(7 lb., 12 oz., 20.5")
on October 2, 3:09 a.m.



Get on Board!

Join the PDC on Saturday, November 13, for a one-day trip to the outer islands on the *Vision*. Call Truth Aquatics at 962-1127 to reserve your spot!

Other boat dives for November:

- Saturday, November 6, on the *Explorer*, 8 a.m. departure, \$85. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, November 7, on the *Spectre*, 7 a.m. departure, \$79. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Saturday, November 20, on the *Explorer*, 8 a.m. departure, \$85. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, November 21, on the *Spectre*, 7 a.m. departure, \$79. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Sunday, November 28, on the *Spectre*, 7 a.m. departure, \$79. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.

Platform Grace Trip Report, 9-19-2004

article & photos by Steve Trainoff

The story you are about to read is true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent. Dum ta-dum dum-dum. It was Wednesday. My name isn't Friday. The place: Channel Islands Harbor, on board the *Peace*. The time: 6:50 a.m. Where the hell is my dive buddy? Off in the distance, "Bob" appears, hauling his dive gear. "What happened, Bob? You know the *Peace* leaves at the stroke of 7?" "Uh, I overslept, sorry." In retrospect, it might have been better if he had missed the boat.

The weather was calm, with low clouds that cleared early. The water was glassy. It was an ideal August morning. We had an uneventful passage out to Platform Grace. Even though it was midweek, the boat was filled. There was a trimix class planning a series of technical dives to 250 feet. There were several rebreathers, and most of the rest were diving nitrox. Having just completed a nitrox class, I was anxious to try out my newly acquired skills and dive to 100 feet to practice photography.

The boat was filled with a wide array of photography equipment, but the clear favorite seemed to be the Olympus C5050z. There were at least five of them, including mine. Upon arrival at the platform, the boat crew explained that since the boat doesn't moor with the platform, they run the prop continuously to position the boat. Therefore, we had to giant stride into the water from the bow. To get the camera gear, they load all of it into a zodiac before the divers enter the water. I jumped, swam to the zodiac, got my camera and clipped it to my BC. Bob jumped, swam over to the zodiac, got his camera and cinched the wrist lanyard. He then realized that he was bobbing a little low in the water and started fumbling for his inflator. "Where's my inflator? Where's my inflator?" he asked. I swam behind him and handed him his inflator. He filled, and then asked, "Where's my camera?!" At this point, I figured it was probably around 100 feet and accelerating. The bottom is an inaccessible 340 feet.

With that inauspicious beginning, we began our descent to 100 feet. Keeping track of depth was easy since the platform has cross braces every 33 feet. On the surface, the temperature was around 64° and the visibility was 40-50 feet. I was maybe two pounds over-weighted since I had been doing so much shore diving. It certainly seemed like the BC took a lot of air to arrest the decent. At about 60 feet there was a distinct thermocline. The temperature dropped to 55-58° and the visibility opened up to an astounding 80 feet. Even at 100 feet, there was plenty of light to observe the enormous scallops and metridium anemones. We spent the entire first dive on a single stanchion of the platform in a linear vertical space. I was as happy as a scallop, fiddling with the camera, when I noticed that Bob was substantially higher in the water column. The narcosis that was making me feel at peace with the world was giving him tunnel vision. Time to ascend.

We made two more dives on the platform. The tide had changed and the visibility dropped, making the whole structure morph into an eerie waterscape. If you squinted, the columns began to look like an ancient Greek temple, and you could almost believe that you had stumbled across the lost city of Atlantis. As the dive drew to a close, the sea lions, which had been basking on the mooring platform, decided to dive-bomb us and show off just how graceful they are. I stopped trying to be a photographer and simply put the camera on high-speed sequential capture and held the shutter button down. The vast majority of the images are horribly motion blurred, except for one gem.

The trip wound down with clear skies and a bright sun. The hot tub was un-crowded since most were diving dry. Their loss was my gain. Another day in paradise...



Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest by Patty Bryant

The Annual Interclub Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest will be held at Goleta Beach on **Saturday, October 30**. This year we have invited the Channel Islands Divers to join in on the fun, which will add a new dimension to the intense rivalry between the Paradise Dive Club and UCSB SCUBA Club. Mark Rogers was last year's 1st-place winner, putting the coveted winner's plaque in the hands of the PDC once again after being held by the UCSB Club the previous year. Let's sharpen those dive knives and get those creative juices flowing so we don't lose the plaque again.



We will get started at **10:30 a.m.** All participants should bring their own pumpkin and a dive knife (not one of those fancy pumpkin carving tools) with which to create their masterpiece. Cleaning out your pumpkin ahead of time is recommended, but drawing on your pumpkin before you get in the water is not allowed.

We will have a BBQ afterward, and the three clubs will provide the main course. Just bring a side dish to share and whatever you want to drink. Come on out and join us for a day that always proves to be lots of fun. We do need to get a head count for the BBQ, so sign up at the next meeting or call Dan Lindsay at 964-5020 to sign up if you can't make it to the meeting.

Wednesday Night Dives (WND) by Dan Lindsay

With the arrival of lobster season has come a significant rise in numbers of our WND participants. (Is there a correlation there?) Conditions continue to be extremely good with visibility and water temperatures all too good to be true. Aside from a significant swell that arrived from the Gulf of Alaska two weeks ago, our shore dives have been outstanding. The bug collecting has also been very successful. I know of two divers in this club who already have more than 30 lobsters apiece for the season! (No names, but they go by "Mark.") If you have ever wanted to try your hand at lobster hunting, come on out to a WND. We promise to show you good spots! When conditions are as good as they are, we broaden the Wednesdays to Thursdays and even Fridays! Stay tuned in via e-mail—let Dan Lindsay know and he'll put you on the advisory email list.

Classifieds—Scuba Gear for Sale

- Stacey Janik is selling a Sea & Sea MX-10 package, including MX-10 camera, YS-40A strobe, macro lens, close-up lens, wide-angle lens, color filter, lens caddy, fiber optic extension cable for strobe, and custom-fitted Pelican 1450 hard case, all for \$750 (retail value \$1464). Will consider selling items separately. See sample photos taken with this system at www.geocities.com/sdkimsey. Contact Stacey at 637-4487 or sjanik@gmail.com for more info; will bring to PDC meeting for anyone who's interested.
- Some of you may know Bob Kirby from the Wednesday night dives. He is unable to continue diving due to health reasons and is selling a full array of dive gear, including a steel 80 tank (3442 psi), USIA trilam drysuit with undergarment, Zeagle Ranger BC (medium), Aeris dive computer, Atomic regulator, spare air, dive knife, hood, gloves, boots, dive lights, the works. He says all are in excellent condition and less than 2 years old. Contact Bob at 805-588-7906 or kirbyrl@yahoo.com.

October Entertainment


George Steinbach, Executive Director of the California Artificial Reef Enhancement Program (CARE), will be making a presentation at our October 26 meeting.

CARE is a non-profit group that conducts research and outreach on artificial reefs and their role in the marine ecosystem.



November 2004

Don't Forget...
MONTHLY MEETING
October 26
 and **November 30**
 at Rusty's Pizza

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 La Jenelle dive with CICD
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Outer islands trip on Vision
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

Upcoming Events

- October 30:
pumpkin carving
contest at Goleta
Beach, 10:30am
(note time change!),
followed by BBQ
- November 6: Shore
dive at La Jenelle
with Channel Islands
Divers, 8:30am
- November 13:
1-day outer islands
trip on the *Vision*,
4am departure; call
962-1127 to reserve
your spot!

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 or 964-5020.



P.O. Box 21311
 Santa Barbara, CA 93121



22 Anacapa Street
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101
 805-963-8917
<http://www.anacapadivecenter.com>



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



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



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

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