

PARADISE Dive Club

January 2005

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Volume 11, Issue 1



President's Log

by Ray Janik

Happy new year, everyone! As I write this, and most of you read it, it's still 2004, but '05 is just around the corner. Here's wishing all of us a year full of great adventures under the water.

I'm sure December is a busy month for all of us, so I want to thank everyone who made time for this year's holiday party. It was great to see some members who've been scarce for one reason or another lately, and to see that the next generation of Paradise divers is well on its way. Thanks, too, to all the great cooks who helped provide the ample and delicious feast. We really couldn't have done this without Steve Trainoff and Gretchen Beckert's generous offer of their clubhouse for the gathering site. Gretchen also played head elf in putting together gifts for all the children who attended. Mark Bursek once again showed he knows everyone by arranging for Santa to drop by. And, of course, Kay Silva did her usual fantastic job in the kitchen doing last-minute prep and overseeing the presentation of all the good eats. Finally, thanks to everyone who came early or stayed late to set up and/or clean up. Your many hands did indeed make the work light.

In addition to the great meal and camaraderie, we also had a great gift exchange. It never fails to amaze me how much fun it is to clean out our closets in this way. I've already got at least one gift lined up for next year. You'll all have to plan on being there to see if it's worth trying to swipe! The holiday party has also been, for the last two years, our opportunity to thank all the club members who have contributed to this newsletter. I'm always impressed by the breadth and...ahem...depth of our club members' underwater experiences and the way they share them so well. Not only is it a great way for us to stay up on what we're doing internally, I think it's also a fantastic way to bring new members into the club. I was remiss at the party in not mentioning that the raffle prize for the last two years—a one-day boat trip—was generously donated by Glen Fritzer at Truth Aquatics. Jesse Rogers, our club's luckiest member, has picked up the trip two years running. Remember, the

more you submit, whether articles, or photos, the better your chances for winning.

I'm writing this just before our golf ball dive at Goleta Beach. I'm hoping the conditions will be a little better and that the 'hunting' will be good. While I haven't seen anything definitive on the impact of golf balls in the water, a recent *L.A. Times* article mentioned that cruise ships and the navy have switched to biodegradable balls. Club member David Mullins rightly observes that they seem to be the only thing that the environment doesn't seem to adapt around. We've all seen critters from algae to octopi on and in various things that have been dumped or dropped, but nothing seems to find the golf balls too accommodating.

We'll be starting out 2005 with a dive at Refugio. This has been an on-again, off-again tradition for the club in the last couple of years. Even if the conditions aren't great, I've found it immensely satisfying to make time to get in the water on the first day of the year. I hope to see a lot of you there at noon. In anticipation of less-than-ideal dive conditions and a likelihood that we'll need a little down time in January, we'll be having a deco stop (happy hour) at the Fishhouse on January 14.

So, here's to a great end to 2004, and my best wishes for an even better 2005!



Juvenile horn shark, spotted by Brian Hall during eelgrass restoration project at Frenchy's Cove. Photo by Carl Gwinn. For more info on the project, see Carl's article on next page.

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

Tending the Eelgrass Garden

article by Carl Gwinn, photos courtesy of Channelkeeper

After the pounding 2-hour trip across the Channel on the 26-ft *Magic*, we anchor at Frenchy's Cove and quickly don scuba gear. The water is so clear we can see the gray silty bottom and, yes, even a float at one end of the transect Jessie Altstatt set up 2 years ago. Jessie, Penny Owens, Brian Hall, and I are here to check on eelgrass that Jessie and many Santa Barbara Channelkeeper volunteers have replanted here. Once the bottom of this cove was covered with eelgrass, but a freak boom in white sea urchins in the mid 1980's wiped it out. Seeking to restore the eelgrass bed, Channelkeeper first set plants here in the spring of 2002 and has been returning nearly every month to check on them.



Eelgrass beds may be important nurseries for fish and other marine creatures, and in fact are protected by law as Essential Fish Habitat. Eelgrass is not an alga, but is a flowering plant (one of only four marine plant species in our region); as you might imagine, pollination is difficult underwater and seeds rarely germinate. Like mint or iris, eelgrass spreads via rhizomes: tough roots from which genetically identical individual shoots and leaves sprout. Eelgrass may spread to other areas via individual plants torn up by storms, a few of which might land in favorable habitat. Last year, with the plan to create a new patch of eelgrass, we drove the *Magic* to Smuggler's Cove on Santa Cruz and (with permission from several agencies, including Fish & Game and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary) uprooted 100 plants. Using dive knives, we cut plants, with as much rhizome as possible, from the dense mat of rhizomes under the sand. We shoved the plants into goody bags before they could float off. The hard work reminded me of how I'd strained my back tearing up mint roots in a home herb garden. We then drove to Frenchy's and replanted them on the next dive, fastening them to the seabed with inverted U's of coathanger (actually baling wire).

Over the years, Channelkeeper volunteers have tried different planting patterns: a long row (marked by the transect and floats), open circles, and dense patches. For this new bed, we spaced the plants evenly about a foot apart in a grid. Now, a year later, we roll off the *Magic*. Jessie and Penny carry bags of plastic spoons, Brian and I cameras. At 35 feet the bottom is beige silt, covered with brittlestars. Curious pikeblennies peer from empty wormtubes. It's rare to see these Orangethroat Pikeblennies north of Mexican waters, and it was a special treat on this dive. We find three lonely eelgrass plants, now sagging under the weight of brittlestars, the only remnant of the hundreds planted along the transect. Brian and I shoot photos and then follow Jessie and Penny toward shallower water.

In 20 feet the replanted eelgrass is flourishing. Some of the denser beds now have several times the 100 individuals originally planted. New patches are springing up nearby. Jessie and Penny count them by placing a spoon next to each plant, then gathering the spoons and arranging them in rows: mathematics is harder under water and every little bit helps! They run out of spoons: too many plants to count exactly. I see a juvenile giant kelpfish in one small clump, with another trying to drive it away. A third juvenile keeps watch from a nearby clump. Brian counts seven sarcastic fringeheads; perhaps objecting to the spoon Penny placed nearby, one bites her thumb and won't let go. Predatory crabs lurk in the shade. Tiny snails cover many blades: they are microcarnivores, cleaning the blades of bryozoans and other life growing on them. The replanted eelgrass is flourishing, and creating a welcome home for a host of young marine creatures.

Channelkeeper is again accepting applications for volunteer divers—e-mail jessie@sbck.org if you are interested.

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.



Welcome to our new members!

Michael Cogan, Bob & Cody Davis

Paradise Dive Club Holiday Party

Thanks to everyone who joined us for this year's holiday festivities. It was a great way to wrap up the year. Special thanks to Steve Trainoff and Gretchen Beckert, for hosting us at the clubhouse; Kay Silva, who planned the party masterfully as usual; Mark Silva, who showed up and did whatever Kay told him to; and of course Scuba Claus (aka Mark Bursek's dad), the star of our party and bringer of treats to children and adults alike. Also, congratulations to Jesse Rogers, who for the second year in a row took home the newsletter contributors raffle prize—a day of diving at the Channel Islands, courtesy of Glen Fritzler at Truth Aquatics (thanks, Glen!).



January 2005

Don't forget...
MONTHLY MEETING
January 25 at Rusty's Pizza
No December meeting!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's dive
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Deco Stop	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Upcoming Events

- New Year's Day dive, Refugio, noon
- Deco Stop, Fishouse, January 14, 5pm
- Film screening at Maritime Museum, February 5

Get on Board!

- Sunday, January 23, on *Peace*, 7am departure, \$100. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917
- Catalina trip, January 21-23, \$259 (includes round-trip ferry, two nights lodging, shore diving at Casino Point). Advanced certification class available. Call SB Aquatics, 967-4456

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



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 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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