

# PARADISE Dive Club

May 2005

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Volume 11, Issue 5



## President's Log

by Ray Janik

One of my favorite things about PDC, in addition to great dives—and dive buddies—and fun events, has been the opportunities we get to go behind the scenes with people who get to explore the underwater world for a living. In addition to the great speakers who provide entertainment and education at our meetings, in the past few years we've been lucky enough to tour the Aquarium of the Pacific and see the work put in behind the magnificent exhibits there, and to tour the *Shearwater*, the new vessel built from the waterline up for research in the Santa Barbara Channel. Just this last weekend, at the suggestion of club member Jerry Sorich, and with the hard work of Mrs. President, we were treated to a tour of the new home of the Marine Science Institute at UCSB.

Led by Amelia Picciotto, the Institute's Director of Development, we got to see the brand new building including the high-tech conference room, seawater-supplied labs, and administrative offices. The building was designed so that nearly everyone who works in it is treated to an ocean view—which was particularly spectacular during our visit. Although the building's just been occupied, plans are underway for its next phase: a new headquarters for the regional offices of NOAA, which will feature expanded community outreach and education facilities. I found myself a little jealous of the cool field trips local school kids have in their futures. We then got a guided tour of the new REEF, the MSP's outreach and education program, which is run by Scott Simon, former

president of the UCSB dive club. It was great fun to see local sea life in fresh seawater filtered to crystalline visibility, and to watch the youngest PDCers have an opportunity to handle everything from urchins and sea stars to fair-sized swell and horn sharks. The REEF facility is open the public on weekends and available for group visits. If you have kids or young relatives who didn't get to visit with us, you should definitely think about a visit in the future.

As Scott pointed out, this is as close as most people will ever get to the amazing world we're lucky enough to visit on a regular basis. It was a great reminder of how lucky we are to have and share these experiences. In the next few weeks, we'll have a chance to do our part to keep things nice—onshore—at our Tajiguas cleanup; get wet with Ed Stetson's Catalina trip; and visit Santa Cruz Island, where just about every type of aquatic enjoyment is available. See the rest of the newsletter for more info, and some great stories of recent dive adventures from other club members. See you in the water!



*Some of our younger PDC members get a close encounter of the fishy kind at UCSB's touch tanks.  
Photo by Stacey Janik.*

### 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**

**NEW LOCATION—Goleta Rusty's**

in the K-mart Center, 270 Storke Road

6:30 pm - social hour

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

Dear Members,

The end of April marks the end of another year of membership with the Paradise Dive Club. Membership runs from May 1, 2005, to April 30, 2006. There have been quite a number of new members who joined this past year. I hope that being a member of the club has been both beneficial and enjoyable. As you consider renewing your membership and supporting the club, please think of some of the benefits that our members receive:

- Our monthly newsletter
- Opportunities to meet fellow divers and others interested in diving and related activities
- Free airfills (6/month) & gear discounts at participating dive shops
- Member rates for many great club events, including the Santa Cruz Island campout May 12-15, 2005

Renewals received before July 31, 2005, qualify as renewal memberships with dues of \$25 per year. New membership and renewals after July 31 are \$30 per year. To renew your membership, follow these steps:

1. Complete a membership application form (available at <http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu/membership/membership.htm>, and at the next meeting)
2. Pay the membership dues (\$25 per year until July 31, 2005; \$30 per year afterward)
3. Send both to the address below, or bring both to one of the club meeting (always the last Tuesday of the month)

Send membership applications and payment (checks payable to Paradise Dive Club) to Paradise Dive Club, P.O. Box 21311, Santa Barbara, CA 93121. Questions about membership can be sent to me by e-mail ([kingbh@cox.net](mailto:kingbh@cox.net)), or I can be reached by phone at 805-452-7590. Thank you for supporting the Paradise Dive Club.

Cheers,  
Bruce King, PDC Membership Coordinator

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:kingbh@cox.net) for details.



## Bulletin Board

- Jerry Sorich is helping to organize another blood drive on June 10 at Shoreline Park; details will be announced at the meeting and in our next newsletter.
- Summer's almost here, and that means it's time for a club dive and BBQ! We'll be meeting at Henry's Beach (Arroyo Burro) for a 10 a.m. dive on Sunday, June 26, followed by a BBQ at the grassy picnic area.

## Classifieds

Former PDC member Ryan Mitchell is offering a steel tank for sale. He says, "It has been used less than five times and is in great condition. I don't dive much locally so I don't have any use for it anymore. These tanks retail for ~\$300 new. I'd be willing to sell it for less, of course. It only needs a new visual inspection. If anyone is interested, please have them contact me." Ryan can be reached at 805-685-8686 or [ryan.mitchell@verizon.net](mailto:ryan.mitchell@verizon.net).



*Welcome to our new members!*

Christian Hallock, Tina Rector, Gil Chavez

# The Mexican Galapagos

by Patty Bryant

About 250 miles southwest of the tip of Baja lies the Revillagigedo Archipelago, more commonly known as the Socorro Islands and affectionately called the Mexican Galapagos by those who have been there. Recently, I was fortunate enough to visit this very special place aboard the *Nautilus Explorer* on a trip that Ed Stetson put together.

We were scheduled to board the 116' custom dive boat in Cabo San Lucas, but due to typical Mexican bureaucracy we got a chance to see the scenic countryside between Cabo and La Paz as we were driven in a van to board the boat in La Paz. Once at the La Paz harbor, we were greeted by the friendly crew members of the *Nautilus Explorer*, and thus began an incredible week of being pampered and catered to by the crew and captain of this outstanding vessel.



*Manta ray with diver—photo by Dave Burroughs*

We departed La Paz around 6:00 in the evening and after a 36-hour boat ride, arrived at San Benedicto Island, the first island of the three that make up the Revillagigedo Archipelago. Our first dive of the trip was an easy check-out dive where we were greeted by manta rays and white tip reef sharks. Then the fun really began. The rest of the day was spent diving “the boiler” with the manta rays. These truly magnificent animals loved to interact with divers, sometimes to point of following us around as if to say, “Please come back and play with us some more.”

The next day we moved to a spot called “The Canyon,” where we saw lots and lots of sharks. There were two silky sharks that hung out under the boat all day, big Galapagos sharks were frequent visitors to a cleaning station, and there was even an occasional spotting of a hammerhead.

The next day took us to Socorro Island, the biggest island of the chain. After checking in with the Mexican Navy, which has a base there, we were free to go diving. At this island, we



*Silky shark—photo by Dave Burroughs*

were treated to many whale sightings. We never did see one underwater but on one of our dives, we heard the whales singing the entire dive. A highlight for me at this island was when a few dolphins came by to play with us at one of our safety stops. Way cool!

After an overnight trip, we awoke to find that we were at Roca Partida. Three hundred miles from Cabo San Lucas, this island is the farthest and the smallest island of the archipelago. It literally is a rock in the middle of nowhere and is small enough to swim around it twice in one dive. This is by far the most remote place I have ever scuba dived and it was truly amazing.

That night we headed back and stopped at San Benedicto again for our last day of diving. All too soon it was time to jump in for that last dive of the trip and then we were underway for our 24-hour crossing back to Cabo San Lucas.



*San Benedicto Island—photo by Dave Burroughs*

I can't say enough good things about the *Nautilus Explorer*. Not only it is an awesome dive boat, but the captain and the crew are top shelf. They run a great operation, and I hope to be able to join them again someday for another fabulous dive experience.

# Last Day of Bug Season

by Mark Silva

Paul Weakliem and I decided that no matter what, we would dive the last day of the season. The weather leading up to the last day was wet and cold, and I was getting nervous. I was happy that Wednesday morning when I awoke and saw the sun coming up. I got up and drove down to Carpinteria where we keep our boat. I hooked up and raced back to the house to pick up Paul and our gear. We loaded up, kissed J. D., and then we were off to the harbor. All went well, the boat fired right up, and we were on our way. Greg Ballou had been talking to Paul about the bugs he had gotten a couple weeks earlier at Santa Rosa Island, so we decided to try there first if we could get there. We started across the Channel and it was smooth as glass. We got to the potato patch between Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa and it was still smooth as glass. We were treated to a show by a half-dozen humpback whales just hanging out there. After we watched them for a little while we decided to get down to the business of getting lobsters.

At the southeast end there was some surf coming in, so we opted for the northeast end. The area between the two points is now a preserve, so we were careful not to get ourselves in trouble. We anchored up at a spot that looked like it had good vis and bugs. Well, we were wrong on both counts. We did find some scallops there. We decided to try the backside of Santa Cruz, so away we went. We anchored up again in a giant kelp bed that looked great. It was very cold when we jumped in and we were sure that meant the vis would be great. Wrong! Once again, poor vis, and we were skunked on bugs. As we were looking at the map deciding what to do next, Paul said excitedly, "Hey, Painted Cave is a reserve, but bugs are excluded, and only sport divers can take them, not commercial guys." I agreed, saying, "Even we should be able to get some there." Off we went, anchored, and jumped in. The water was even colder, but the vis was much better. We should have started there and saved a lot of time. Oh, well, next time. We stayed together through the whole dive, just like they taught us in class. Paul got two bugs and I got one. Just as we were starting to run out of air, we were starting to find them. Isn't that the way it always is? Well, they are safe 'til next year, and we had a lot more fun than going to work that day. See ya in the water.

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## Sea Trials with the Dive Club

by Dan Lindsay

Under sunny Santa Barbara skies in late March, the firm of Goodrich had a massive undertaking to accomplish—get the sign-off by the FAA on their escape slide design for the new, massive Airbus A380, the largest passenger airliner to attempt FAA certification. Ideally, they are hoping for certification to carry a total of 853 people!

Goodrich contacted the PDC in an attempt to hire a few water-friendly 'white rats' with whom to test the slide and buoyancy capabilities of their slides. For two days Goodrich's special barge with A380 fuselage mockups and escape slides were used to demonstrate to the FAA that their design would work. In typical engineering overkill, we were all outfitted in wetsuit and airline-style water wings



*Airbus A380 fuselage mockups—photo by Cheryl Weakliem*



*Buoyancy test—photo by Cheryl Weakliem*

with an objective (to our dismay) of not having a single person fall into the water. This flies in the face of common sense to divers, of course. Wear a hot wetsuit and then NOT get in the water? Well, the PDC came through with the test objectives and cooperated, contributing about 10 divers to the tests. None went into the water but all were happy to do the slide routine and then bob up and down about a mile or two offshore as FAA evaluators and Goodrich engineers took notes. As white mice, we were treated to breakfast and even lunch as we were herded around to mostly queue up for the tests. By the second day their learning curve had accelerated; we managed to finish the work in seven hours, and were out by 1:30 pm. (A couple of us went diving later that afternoon, taking advantage of the extra daylight.)

All in all, there were no complaints about the work and we each came away with a fun day goofing off on a boat--and being paid for it as well!



*Thanks again to Amelia Picciotto and Scott Simon for a terrific and informative tour of UCSB's Marine Science Research Building and touch tanks (see President's Log for details). Photos by Stacey Janik.*



## *Diary of a Sea Captain's Wife*

book review by Mark Silva

If you like Santa Barbara history and tales of Santa Cruz Island, then you must read this book, written by Margaret Holden Eaton. She moved to Santa Barbara in 1902 and this book is the diary she kept. The book starts with her childhood in Quebec. She was the daughter of a tugboat captain on the Saint Lawrence River. When she is five years old, her mother dies, and her father sends her and her siblings to live at a convent. Her father dies about eight years later, and she realizes that she needs to take care of herself. She gets a job as a lady's maid with an elderly, semi-invalid woman. A year later the woman dies, and again she loses someone close to her. A short time later, while trying to figure out what to do, she runs into some old friends from the convent. They tell her they are going to San Diego, California, and that they have jobs at the Coronado Hotel. They ask her to go with them. California seems so far away, and she is reluctant to go without being sure she will have a job and a place to live. However, two weeks later the girls write and assure her she has a job as a waitress and a place to live, so off she goes. Two years later she is introduced to a man named Mr. Potter who is looking for waitresses for a new hotel he is building in Santa Barbara. Margaret is off again. Arriving in Santa Barbara, she is sure she has arrived in heaven, until she makes her first trip to Santa Cruz Island. The diary ends with her death in 1947.

I highly recommend this book if you would enjoy learning more about Santa Cruz Island and Santa Barbara in the early 1900s. It's a fun and easy read. If you have read *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, it is similar in history, but this book reads like an adult diary as opposed to a 4<sup>th</sup>-grade textbook.

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## **Santa Cruz Campout, May 12-15, 2005—just a few spots left!**

And speaking of Santa Cruz Island...

We have three spaces remaining for our May camping trip on Santa Cruz. This is a great trip, so don't miss out!

For those who've signed up but not yet paid up, now's the time. If you can't make it to the meeting, please call Mark Silva at 969-2014 to make arrangements for payment. We will send around an e-mail before the trip, but the general plan is to board the *Truth* the night before for an early a.m. departure on Thursday, May 12. We will return to Santa Barbara Harbor late in the day on Sunday, May 15.


Don't forget...

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**April 26 and May 31**

Rusty's Pizza in Goleta

**May 2005**

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	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Upcoming Events**

- Santa Cruz campout, 5/12-15
- Blood drive at Shoreline Park, 6/10
- Hendry's Beach dive and BBQ, 6/26

**Get on Board!**

- Sun. 5/8, on *Peace*, 7 a.m. departure, \$100. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sun. 5/15, on *Truth*, 6 a.m. departure, \$100. Call Anacapa, 963-8917.
- Mon. 5/30, Memorial Day dive on *Spectre*, 7 a.m. departure, \$79. Call 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.



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