

PARADISE Dive Club

October 2005

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Volume 11, Issue 10



President's Log

by Ray Janik

It's hard to believe how fast the last year has rushed by!

I'm wrapping up my presidency on a high note. Yesterday, PDC joined members of the UCSB Dive Club and the Vandenberg Aqualliers for the annual Coastal Cleanup Day at Refugio State Beach and Tajiguas. As most of you know,

PDC has unofficially 'adopted' Tajiguas. Over the years, we've picked up hundreds of pounds of trash from the parking area, along the railroad tracks, and on the beach. The bad news is that there's always plenty to pick up; the good news is that there's lots less than in years past. I hope this is a sign that people in general are starting to be more thoughtful about where their trash goes, and that by working to keep the area clean, we make it a little harder for people to think it's not a big deal to leave just a little more trash there.

After the hard work of the morning, it was back to the park for barbecue hosted by the Aqualliers, with goodies and drinks from PDC and UCSB. Special thanks to Ranger Danita Rodriguez-Linse for once again coordinating campsites and the morning dive and cleanup at the park.

I can't write a final log without thanking the rest of the board for all their efforts over the last year. Vice President Dan Lindsay has done a remarkable job of coordinating not only most of our club events, but also the Wednesday (now Thursday) night dives; monitoring conditions; and providing opportunities for all of us to keep our diving chops tuned. Dan's agreed to serve as president for the next year, and I'm sure he'll do a great job. Secretary Carl Gwinn juggled keeping track of our board meetings (no easy task), and providing a record for the rest of the board with lightning speed, with growing responsibilities at work. He also put together this year's fish count dive, a big success. Treasurer Mark Silva once again

kept us in the black and amazed us all with his ability to remember every transaction involving club finances with only a few scribbled notes on the back of an envelope to help him keep track. Steve Trainoff brought a lot of flair to his sergeant-at-arms position with an assortment of noisemakers. He also spearheaded the purchase of the club's new projector—a big hit with everyone who's used it so far. Membership Coordinator Bruce King has kept track of who's in, who's new, and who's out while keeping us all up to date with newsletters and air cards. And Stacey Janik has done an amazing job producing a newsletter that looks great, keeps us all informed, and has brought many new members to the club.

I'd like to say special thanks to Patty Bryant, who has served on the board for the past year as "past president." She's been on the board in some capacity since I've been in the club, and from the amount of work she put in this year, you might have thought she was the active president. It's a testament to her involvement with the board—and the club overall—that on the rare occasions when she isn't at a meeting or event, everyone wants to know "where's Patty?"

And, of course, to all the members who have not only made my presidency a ton of fun, but who make the Paradise Club such a special group, thank you for the opportunity to give back for the last year.



Coastal Cleanup Day: the Tajiguas crew—photo by Ray Janik

Join the club, get cool stuff

- ∅ 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, Goleta

in the K-mart Center, 270 Storke Road

6:30 pm - social hour

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

Welcome Home to the *Conception*—by Ray Janik

On August 31, a crowd of Truth Aquatics fans gathered to welcome the *Conception* back to its home in Santa Barbara. After an arduous recovery and months in dry dock, it cruised into Santa Barbara Harbor to heartfelt cheers from a crowd gathered for the occasion. In addition to replacing the keel and much of the bottom, the forward shower area was renovated, new carpet and sleeping pads were installed in the bunk room, and the galley was completely redone.

It's truly great to see this divers' favorite back where it belongs!



For Sale: Dive Skin

"Only used twice. Logo isn't even cracked. Bought for one trip to Mexico. Fits 5'8" to 6', 160 to 200 lbs." If you're interested, contact Dave Mullins at 805-403-1470 or mjewelry@cox.net.

Paradise Dive Club Officers

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| President - Ray Janik | 637-4486 |
| Vice President - Dan Lindsay | 964-5020 |
| Secretary - Carl Gwinn | 968-5694 |
| Treasurer - Mark Silva | 453-2001 |
| 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 - Will Chen | 560-8069 |
| 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.

Bulletin Board

- The **Community Environmental Council** is hosting a lecture by Dr. Mike McGinnis on the history and future of our local marine ecosystem, **Sept. 27**, 6:30 p.m., Faulkner Gallery, SB Public Library. Also, on **Oct. 8**, CEC is sponsoring a **Geology Walk** at Hendry's, to explore folds, faults, and fossils along the cliffs at Arroyo Burro with a local geologist—meet at noon at the Watershed Resource Center.
- The **SB Maritime Museum** is holding their **Harbor & Seafood Festival** on **Oct. 15**; also check out the Local Mariners Lectures Series with **Mike Pyzel** at 7 p.m. on **Nov. 1**.
- **ReefCheck California** is hosting a program on **Sept. 28**, 7 p.m., in SLO to present their ideas about monitoring the effects of proposed **Marine Life Protected Areas** between Pt Conception and Monterey. For more info, go to www.reefcheck.org/rc_california/meetings.asp.
- The **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary** continues their Shore to Sea series with a free lecture on "**The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: Charting a Course for the Future**" with Dan Basta and Chris Mobley, **Oct. 11**, 7 p.m., in the Chase Palm Park Building at 236 E. Cabrillo, and again on **Oct. 12**, 7 p.m., at the Visitor Center at 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor.

October Boat Trips

- Sun., 10/9, 11 a.m. departure on *Spectre*, \$85. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Sat., 10/22, 7 a.m. departure on *Spectre*, \$85. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Sun., 10/23, 7 a.m. departure on *Spectre*, \$85. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Sun., 10/30, 6 a.m. departure on *Truth*, \$100 (incl. food). Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917

Chamber Day Dives

- 9/28 on *Conception*, departs 7 a.m. for Platform Holly and Naples Reef, \$85 incl. airfills & t-shirt.
- 11/22 on *Peace*, departs 7 a.m. for Platform Grace, \$85 incl. airfills, food, and t-shirt.

Proceeds support USC Hyperbaric Medical Center at Catalina and CICD's Uninsured Divers' Fund. For reservations, call Angie at 805-650-DIVE.

Trip Report: Bonaire

article & photos by Jerry Sorich

Bonaire is one of the most god-forsaken piles of volcanic rock in the Caribbean Sea. Only two kinds of people go to Bonaire....Dutch people (who will go anywhere to lie in the sun and get a sunburn) and divers. The island is as dry as the Arizona desert and just as hot in the summer. As our divemaster said on the first boat dive we took, "There is no wind today, so none of you will have to go to hell...because you already know what it is like." Fortunately, the wind blows consistently in the summer and the rest of our days were hot but not unpleasant. There are no waterfalls, forests, or rivers to distract you from the 50 dive spots and the 80° water. The major town on Bonaire is Kralendijk, which offers all the ambience and charm of downtown Goleta. There are a handful of restaurants and about five souvenir shops, but that is about it. It is a decidedly untouristy place.



We stayed at a condo complex that specialized in diving. The accommodations were spacious and well kept up. They had a dive shop, pier, boats, and gear storage room on the premises. Our package

included the condo, a Nissan five-person pickup truck (which was the vehicle of choice over most of the island), one boat trip per day, and all the tanks you wanted. They had tanks all over the pier and at the dive shop that you simply helped yourself to. The handy dive gear room had plenty of pegs and hangers where you just hung up your gear and nobody messed with it. They locked up the gear room at 9:30 p.m. and opened it at 7:00 a.m. The staff was friendly and helpful. Most of the boats had only eight to ten divers. The staff would load all the tanks ahead of time so all you did was jump in, get shuttled to one of the less accessible shore dives or a site off "Klein Bonaire," a small atoll a mile from shore.

Bonaire is some of the easiest and most relaxing diving I have ever done. There was no surf on the west side of the island. The beach accesses are well marked, and all the entries are close to where you can park. The reefs surround the islands less than 200 yards from the water's edge. With no wetsuit needed, we would pull



our little truck up to a dive spot, put on our gear, and wade in. The beach dropped to 35 feet at the edge of the reef wall. The reef falls off to 70-90 feet with almost no current. We would just drift slowly up and down the reef until our turn and then saunter back. The deepest dive we did the whole week was 92 feet to the

bottom of the *Hilma Hooker* wreck. We would get up in the morning, load eight tanks and our gear into the truck, head off to a couple of sites, and return in time to catch the 2:00 boat.

We would generally get back at 4:30, jump in the swimming pool to rinse off the salt, take a nap, and then head downtown for dinner.

The diving was typical of the Caribbean. The reefs were in excellent condition and teemed with small fish. There was a broader array of fish over all the dives than I had experienced when diving in the Caribbean previously. Each of the 15 sites we went to offered something new that we hadn't seen before. We saw squids swimming in formation, turtles, scorpion fish, and lizard fish, as well as the fabled sea horses.

At "Angel City," there are two parallel reefs about 100 yards apart. The current between them draws schools of jacks and perch together. The water seemed to boil with different schools at the apex of the two reefs. We observed many camouflage techniques that we hadn't seen before. A lot of different fish would assume a



head-down position near the corals to appear as part of them. I saw my first "cleaning station," with a good-sized grouper being serviced. At one of the sites I saw a cloud of "coral

sand" and thought that something had rolled down the wall; when I got closer I discovered that it was a patch of coral mating! The coral sent clouds of eggs and sperm into the water at the same time. Getting it on videotape was a highlight of the trip.

We searched the entire week for the elusive "sea horses." Bonaire is known for the "sea horses." But after 14 different dives, we had begun to believe that the sea horses were a come-on for American divers. The last boat trip we were to take before leaving was headed up by our most accurate divemaster. He asked where everyone on the boat wanted to go, and I said that we were leaving the next day and had not seen any sea horses. He said that he knew where some were and would take the boat there. Sure enough, halfway through the dive he pointed out a pair of six-inch seahorses, giving more credence to the benefit of being with someone who is very familiar with the area.

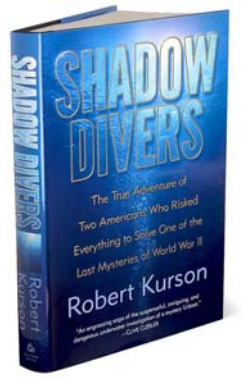
All in all, I highly recommend Bonaire for a great opportunity to dive a lot but at your own pace. The waters are warm, vis is great, and the sea life diverse.



Book Review: Robert Kurson's *Shadow Divers*

by Rob Budny

Shadow Divers tells the story of a group of divers who find a German U-boat 60 miles off the coast of New Jersey, and spend the next six years trying to identify it. The sub was found in 1991, in 230 feet of water. This was in the days before tri-mix, so air was used for the dives. As you are aware, penetrating a wreck, in cold water, with poor visibility, while suffering the effects of narcosis is dangerous, and several fatalities occurred during dives to the sub. After the sub's initial discovery, two of the divers became obsessed with it, and went to great lengths to identify it. There are very detailed records kept on confirmed and suspected sinkings of U-boats, but this boat did not match any of them. Several trips were made to review records in Washington, and one was made to Germany, all in hopes of finding information which could be used to identify the sub. Many penetrations of the sub were made before the conclusive piece was salvaged, and the sub positively identified. *Shadow Divers* is a well-written book, and is recommended to divers and non-divers alike. While the diver will enjoy reading all of the details of the dives, the book is really about our obsessions, and what lengths we will go to satisfy them, and that is something that we can all identify with.



My Favorite Dive Site

by Lance "The One Armed Bandit" Rennka

When asked, "What's your favorite dive site?", my brain does an immediate review of all the diverse sites I've experienced and sorts by: plants, terrain, and critters. The result is always the San Simeon Reef. San Simeon Bay is picture-post-card spectacular, with a crescent-shaped beach and wooded cliffs to the north side of the bay. Add in the sound of waves gently brushing the protected sand beach, ocean smells, a gentle breeze, a sunny day, and you're in heaven.

From the pier, straight out, there's a big, black navigation buoy that marks the end of the reef extending out from the cliff. The outside of the reef is 40 feet deep and the inside is 30 feet deep. The 100+-foot-wide, ¼-mile-long top of the reef comes up to within ten feet of the surface. From the pier, caves are obvious along the cliff wall. The bay bottom is sand. The reef is composed of rocks the size of two-story houses with vertical walls, cuts, overhangs, tunnels, caves, and plenty of critter holes. Most of the over 200 species of California algae can be found on the reef, including an expansive kelp forest. Algae provide not only food, but also protection for the smaller fish, which are part of the food chain. Migratory fish rest and many species spawn at the reef/bay. The California Current flowing down the Pacific Coast brings plankton and food along the outside of the San Simeon Reef. (Calm + protection + food = lots of critters.)

The sand, rock, surf, and pier (watch out for hooks) habitats mean a variety of species in a small area. The reef- and kelp-protected harbor offers "normally" calm water with smaller swells and better visibility, providing photo and hunting opportunities. So why dive San Simeon? Shallow dives (warmer and more time); the biggest lingcod I've ever seen—two over five feet long; cabezon; greenling; all the Central Coast rock cod; 25+-pound vermilion cod; blue snapper; red snapper; wolf eels; perch of all species three-foot diameter sun starfish on sheer walls; invertebrates, with halibut, clams, and Dungeness crabs in the sand just behind the surf; and fun beach recreation for the whole family.

The disclaimer:

1. Some of the "sneakiest" waves I've ever encountered—you can't see the big ones coming until they reach shallow water, right at the beach.
2. A quarter mile to reach the reef. A long paddle—by kayak or rowboat—unless you launch a motorboat (see above and read my book). Or you can hike down the beach (carrying your gear) and along the cliff, then swim out.
3. I've seen three different whites—about seven feet long—from the surface.
4. A little bit colder than SB, but warmer than Monterey.
5. Visibility can vary greatly (best after first storm in fall).

Suggested access: row boats, kayaks, or small outboards (be prepared to deal with a motor dunking if surf launching). Take two tanks per diver to the reef with fluids and food. Bag and tie everything you take to the boat/kayak—enough said? From this, you'd think I'd flipped boats in the surf. Take care when anchoring (the wind can become fierce) and be prepared to dive to retrieve your anchor (save some air). Call the state park service to find out if the pier boat launch is operating. The next nearest boat launch is Morro Bay. Camping and motels are available between San Simeon and Cambria Pines. Nearest air-fill stations are Cayucos or Morro Bay. Gas, snacks, and food are available in San Simeon. A possible weekend club function for this fall/winter?

The Octopus Tattoo

by Carl Gwinn

I was floating 55 feet below the surface of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, sketching a beige sculpin that I did not recognize, when I saw a strand of red kelp drifting by. I noticed a line of white suckers running along it. Next, something heavy dumped on my head. Another tentacle with delicate suckers curled in from below and pulled my mask away from my face, flooding it. I felt other tentacles squeeze the right side of my face and pull my hood up. I'd last seen my dive buddy peering into a crevice—he didn't appear, although I turned around a couple times hoping he might take a photo. I tried to brush the octopus off my head, but he squeezed all the tighter. When he tried to pull my regulator out, the aggressive response took over. "OK, buddy, let's see how you like breathing air!"



I drifted to the surface, maintaining the <60 feet/minute safe ascent rate, and clearing my mask a couple of times on the way up to check. I surfaced with u n u s u a l headgear and

saw the dive boat nearby. The octopus actually continued to squeeze my head, but finally my efforts to brush him off persuaded him to leave. I cleared the mask again and looked down to see him swimming away; only about 2.5 feet long. When the boat captain finally spotted me, he seemed not to believe my shouted explanation, but directed me to my buddy's bubbles. Once near the bottom, I checked off: 1 Giant Pacific Octopus.

I had always been curious about Northwest diving, and the REEF fish-counting trip seemed like an ideal opportunity to try it. The diving was in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, off the Makah reservation at the northwest corner of Washington State. REEF paid for the boat and lodging; we were responsible for transport, food, and air fills. Conditions were excellent: that meant flat water, sunshine, moderate to strong current, and 44-47°F water. My dive buddy, Stan Kurowski, wore a neoprene drysuit filled with argon (lower thermal conductivity than air) and inflatable dry gloves. With enough fleece underneath, my trilam drysuit seemed up to the cold, although my wet gloves were chilly: after 20 minutes, my hands began to sting, and after an hour they really complained! I'd torn a wrist seal the day before meeting the octopus; Stan and Doug Biffard glued a seal from one of Stan's old dry gloves over the old one, saving my trip.

The above- and underwater landscape is volcanic, with big boulders, walls, and crevices. Sea palms and single-bladder nereocystis dominated the kelp forests. Although the diversity of fish is less than Southern California, black rockfish, kelp

greenlings, and lingcod were relatively plentiful and often huge. In the last minutes of my last dive there, I saw a wolf eel with a head the size of a dinner plate. Sculpins were far more diverse than in California, although usually hard to spot and identify. Small nudibranchs and giant plumose anemones were common. We saw many



whales swim nearby above water, none below, although on a couple of occasions the people on the boat saw them blow less than 15 feet from our bubbles. The water was often thick with large and small krill, and in places the visibility was consequently less than a foot, although more commonly about 40 feet.

We took advantage of the great conditions to dive off Tatoosh Island, just off the northwest corner of Washington state, and even "around the corner" on the Pacific coast of Washington state. Captain Troy Sterrenburg maneuvered his dive boat *Dash* skillfully through the live-boat drift dives, necessitated by changeable and sometimes stiff currents. The tides set our dive sites and times. The *Dash's* stern ladder and jet drives gave us confidence in safe exits.

The Makah were celebrating Makah Days during our trip: the occasion for a parade, fireworks, and contests for several age categories of Ms. Makah. Posters featured ancestries of the candidates. Sanctuary Education Specialist Greg McCormack arranged some special events for us: we watched teenagers perform traditional dances at the gym, and an older Makah woman told us about earlier days, and the advent of schools and roads. The Makah were skilled hunters, and eight-man teams of specialists went after whales. Things are harder now, with less fishing, although I found some excellent smoked salmon.


When I climbed on the boat after meeting the octopus, Captain Sterrenburg laughed and reached for his camera. Small red hickies covered a third of my face. The giant Pacific octopus I met was one of two we counted; apparently the males are quite territorial, and will attack encroachers. The one I encountered was the most aggressive anyone on the boat had heard of. Trip leader Brice Semmens snapped a few photos.

I'd heard about the trip through REEF's AAT (Advanced Assessment Team) listserv. To become a subscriber, you must complete at least 50 REEF fish counts, and take the Level 4 or 5 multiple-choice examination on fish identification. REEF runs quite a few trips, with varying destination and costs; they provide opportunities for diving in unusual places, meeting interesting people, and—yes!—new tattoos.



October 2005

Don't forget...
MONTHLY MEETINGS
September 27 and October 25
 Rusty's Pizza in Goleta

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 Lobster season opener |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 |  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Pumpkin carving contest | 31 | | | | | |

September Mtg Entertainment

Jerry Sorich will show photos from his trip to Bonaire

- Upcoming Events**
- Lobster season opens, 10/1
 - Underwater pumpkin carving contest, Sun. 10/30, 10:30 a.m., at Goleta Beach
 - Holiday party, 12/11

THURSDAY 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. *Note change of day.*



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