

PARADISE Dive Club

December 2005

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Volume 11, Issue 12



President's Log

by Dan Lindsay

The winter swells will soon be moving into Santa Barbara, so here's a chance to do something different with the dive club other than dive.

The annual holiday party is rapidly approaching, so remember to sign up at this month's meeting as well as check in with Kay Silva about bringing a side dish for which you are famous. The party will be on the 11th this year, and a week later we will return to the water with the 2nd Annual PDC Golf Ball Retrieval Invitational at Goleta Beach. Be sure to sign up for that as well! The best part is that you have little trouble finding golf balls at Goleta Beach and they don't fight you like lobsters do. Help us clean up the undersea side of Goleta.

Steve Trainoff has started something new for us by using Yahoo Groups to announce Thursday night dive times and locations. If you want to be clued into that schedule, be sure to contact him for an invitation to the group so that you can access it. He'll be using the group and regular e-mail together for awhile until everyone learns where to go for this.

Your board is busily working on events for the coming year, so be sure to talk to us about the kinds of dives you'd like to see us do as a group. There was a lot of interest a couple of years ago in diving the *Yukon* off San Diego—let us know if there would be further interest for such a "field trip."

Bring your checkbooks (or cash!) to this meeting to pay for the holiday party and...T-shirts and sweatshirts! They will be available at this month's meeting. New colors and sizes will be available for the first time in a couple of years.



Pumpkins & picnickers at Goleta Beach U/W Pumpkin Carving Contest

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 Kmart Center, 270 Storke Road

6:30 pm - social hour

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

A Message from PDC's Membership Coordinator

Hi, I'm Rob Budny, the new membership coordinator for the club. I was hesitant to accept the position, as I am new to diving, new to Santa Barbara, and new to the club. But after thinking about it for a while, it seemed that all of these things that I thought were disadvantages were actually advantages. While many of you have been members of the club for years, and been diving here for years, a lot of our new members are new to the sport, and therefore new to California diving. I hope to relate to their concerns, help to welcome them to the club, and help them to become active divers like you are. One of the reasons that I chose to join the Paradise Dive Club was that it seemed that there was a strong emphasis on giving back to the diving community, which I appreciate and hope to help to facilitate as a member of the board.

I was brought to diving by my love of being outside and enjoying the beauty that surrounds us. I think of diving as underwater hiking, and have been thrilled by the many beautiful animals and plants I have seen on my dives. Over the past several years I have gradually become aware of the many threats facing these organisms. Global warming, pollution, and overfishing are just a few of the problems facing the ocean. For example, I recently attended a talk by Dr. Milton Love, a marine biologist at UCSB, where he mentioned that overfishing has reduced some rockfish populations to 2% of their historic size. The federal government considers it a success when a species is returned to 40% of its historic abundance. Not only does overfishing reduce numbers of organisms, but it can also remove the largest, most reproductively fit individuals from the populations as well. During my first dive in a marine reserve, at Anacapa Island, I was shocked to see a lobster much larger than legal size. From my experience diving in areas where fishing occurs, I had just assumed that lobsters never got any larger than the legal size. These are just two examples of how human activities have had unmistakable effects on the environment.

As divers, you and I are in a position to see these effects first hand, and I hope that motivates each of you to be an advocate for the protection of the ocean for ourselves, for future generations, and for the plants and animals that depend on a healthy ocean for their survival. I hope to write future articles about specific issues facing the ocean, and what we as divers can do to help. If I haven't met you, please introduce yourself to me at an upcoming meeting. I am looking forward to meeting all of you. —Rob

Paradise Dive Club Officers

President - Dan Lindsay	964-5020
Vice President - Steve Trainoff	571-1622
Secretary - Bruce King	452-7590
Treasurer - Mark Silva	453-2001
Membership - Rob Budny	684-5650
Newsletter - Stacey Janik	637-4487
Sgt at Arms - Laurie Van De Werfhorst	685-9710
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. For details or to join, contact the membership coordinator, Rob Budny, at rob.budny@gmail.com.



Bulletin Board

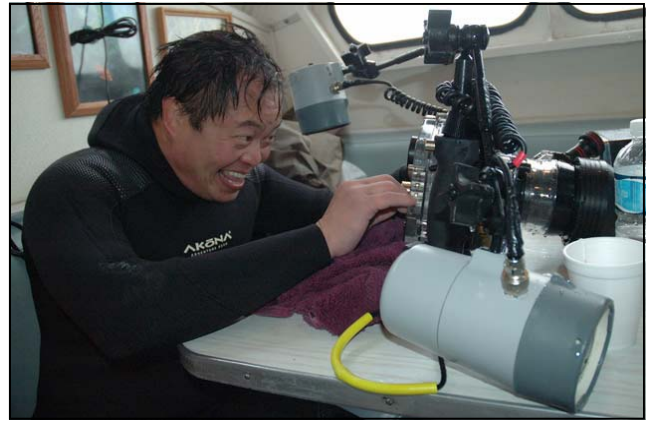
- **The T-shirts are coming, the T-shirts are coming!** Yes, just in time for Christmas, we have a fresh supply of PDC T-shirts and sweatshirts in **great new styles and colors**. Come check them out at our November meeting.
- Congratulations to club member **Nick Martorano**, who swept first, second, and third prizes in the **Los Angeles Underwater Photographic Society's international video competition**. We look forward to seeing some more great footage from Nick when he returns from Palau.
- The **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary** continues their Shore to Sea series with a free lecture on **"Brown Pelicans: A Summary of 35 Years of Research at Anacapa Island"** with Frank Gress, **Tuesday, December 13**, 7 p.m., in the Chase Palm Park Building at 236 E. Cabrillo, and again on **Wednesday, December 14**, 7 p.m., at the Visitor Center at 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor.
- **Tal Ben-Horin** of UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management and Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) is conducting a **survey on the recreational lobster fishery** in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. He is studying the size of the fishery, distribution of gear type (scuba vs. hoopnetting), and total harvest. If you're a lobster diver and interested in completing this survey, talk to Dan or Bruce at the next meeting, or you can get in touch with Tal directly at tbenhorin@bren.ucsb.edu or 774-279-3552.

Diving on the *Spectre* for Fun!

article & photo by Carl Gwinn

I woke five minutes before the alarm and started coffee. It was ready by the time I'd loaded the photo gear into the car, so I poured it into a bike water bottle and tore down the 101 to Ventura Harbor. I parked at the square tower and lugged enough gear to the *Spectre* to define my spot.

On board, I ran into Will: "Great, Carl, I didn't know you were coming with the others!" "Well—I wasn't." "Just chance? Steve is here, and Nick and Lasse are showing up too." Nick also brought along Conny, a dive buddy from his chilly days in Monterey. We were enough to fully occupy the front cabin of the *Spectre*, the prime spot for cameras, despite a nearly full boat. Certainly the underwater cameras on board (at least eight) outnumbered the spearguns (one).



Will seems to be having a good day

tremendously! Too bad, Nick, you won't get much chance to dive video-less for your next six months in Palau!

Nick and Conny reminisced about learning to dive in Monterey, and the one dive that finally convinced them to buy drysuits. They asked about my Mobby's suit, which has been at the factory for two months with a torn cuff. I dove with a wetsuit and managed four dives. Lasse (who seems highly amused when I continually call him Lars) let me into the trick of taking a hot shower after the dive, before drying off. I tore my zipper apart after the second dive. Steve, my buddy, became an expert at zipping past the tear, with help from Lasse.

When I dive, worries about work and daily life vanish as I focus on experiencing the dive, finding the next subject, and setting up the shot. Paradoxically, I forget my existence, merely for my own selfish enjoyment. Completing this paradox, friends above and under water make these dives memorable and, in fact, possible.



Nick, Lasse, and Steve gear up for the next dive

The one person missing was Capt. Ted, who according to the crew had taken his daughter to see the Eagles for her birthday. Scott drove the boat over glassy water to Anacapa and the familiar sites at Goldfish Bowl, Underwater Island, Landing Cove, and Cathedral Cove. Or, perhaps the *Spectre* simply remembers the way after all these years. All sides of the island had calm water and little current. Bill and Mike pulled fins and filled tanks.

My macro setup suited the 20 to 30 foot visibility, although Steve shot through his batteries in a mob of sea lions at Cathedral Cove. Will got some amazing close-ups of nudibranch faces using his Macro-Mate lens. I envied the digital photographers when they looked into their small LCDs with expressions of delight after each dive. To my frustration, my camera stopped at frame 29 on every roll. It wins a trip to Nikon factory service after pulling the same trick at home. In a revolutionary twist, Nick dived without his video, and enjoyed it



California scorpionfish, Cathedral Cove

The Great Pumpkin—by Ray Janik

This year's pumpkin carving contest featured conditions which are pretty much typical: great weather for a barbecue, abysmal conditions for diving.

Our event, again held at Goleta Beach, featured an exceptionally large field of divers from PDC and the UCSB Dive Club, gamely showing up in the middle of the (in)famous Halloween Bacchanalia.

After a leisurely gathering, divers prepped their pumpkins and headed in. Seas were calm, but did we mention the really bad viz? Fortunately artistic vision isn't subject to turbidity. After about an hour, divers began to emerge with pumpkins transformed into everything from traditional jack o'lanterns to an impressive UCSB logo and a two-part whale sculpture.

After the works were arrayed and surveyed appreciatively, picnickers from the site next to ours graciously agreed to act as judges. As they narrowed the field, tension mounted. Then...yes...a *sweep* for PDC. After the presentation of generous prizes (adroitly gathered by UCSB) to the top three finishers, it was time for a relaxing barbecue and plans for next year's rematch.

Top row: Carl Gwinn, 1st place; Mark Silva, 2nd place, and Julie Bursek, 3rd place; Laurie Van De Werfhorst, diver's choice with angler fish. Middle: UCSB crew; Stacey & Ray Janik; Laurie Van De Werfhorst & Melissa Johnson. Bottom: pumpkin lineup; judges. Photos by Steve Trainoff.



PDC Holiday Party—by Dan Lindsay

There was considerable success with the format and location of last year's party, so we're doing it all over again. It will be at the clubhouse of Winchester Commons (with Steve Trainoff and Gretchen Beckert as our hosts) on Sunday, the 11th of December. Since we don't have a staff of workers in this club, we will need your help to decorate, cook, and clean up. Be sure to sign up as soon as you can to help us get an estimate of interest. Kay Silva will run the show but we'll all be there to do the work. To keep prices down we're asking more from each of you, with things as simple as bringing ice to as complex as bringing (prepared) a large dish of something that you are skilled at making!

Kay will have a sign-up sheet at the November meeting of things that will be needed, and an Evite has been sent out as well. Please be sure to let us know what you're bringing so we don't have 15 of one thing and nothing of something else. We are really encouraging everyone to bring something homemade this year, or if that's not possible, to coordinate with Kay ahead of time so that you can sign up for other needs.

Unlike a lot of events in the PDC, this is truly a family event, so plan on bringing the kids along—especially since I have it on good authority that Scuba Santa will be dropping in for air fills. We will be doing our annual white elephant/dirty Santa gift exchange again this year, so don't forget to bring a wrapped gift.

Things will get started at 3 pm, with decorating and organizing beginning about an hour prior. Check with Kay to see if you'll be able to help with that. We can always use cleanup people, too. (We want to make sure that we can always use this spot again!)



Winter Deco Stop/Happy Hour December 2 at the Fishhouse

Join us after work on Friday, December 2 (5 p.m. or so) for a wintertime decompression stop at the Fishhouse.

If the weather's too gloomy for diving, you can drown your sorrows in a great martini; if skies and oceans are clear, you can plan your next dive with all your favorite dive buddies.



The Fishhouse is at 101 East Cabrillo, across from East Beach (where the old Charthouse used to be).

2nd Annual Golf Ball Dive December 18 at Goleta Beach

Pretty much everyone who's dived at Goleta Beach knows it's an underwater haven for golf balls. Here's your chance to clean up the ocean and have fun doing it—plus the chance to win fabulous prizes!—with an underwater scavenger hunt for golf balls. Steve Trainoff was our winner last year with 142 golf balls and an anchor. Dan Lindsay was a close second with 135 golf balls, and Mike Macko made an impressive showing by hauling in a bowling ball in addition to his goodie bag full of golf balls. Maybe we'll have a consolation prize by weight this year, or for the most unusual object collected.

See if you have what it takes to bring home this year's trophy; join us at Goleta Beach, by the pier, at noon on Sunday, December 18.


December 2005

Don't forget...
MONTHLY MEETING

November 29

Rusty's Pizza in Goleta

NO DECEMBER MEETING!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Happy hour, Fishouse	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 PDC holiday party	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Golf ball dive	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26		28	29	30	31

Nov. Entertainment

James Forte will present a slideshow on Baja

Upcoming Events

- Deco Stop/Happy Hour at the Fishouse, 12/2, 5pm
- Holiday Party, 12/11, 3pm
- 2nd Annual Golf Ball Dive, Goleta Beach, 12/18, noon

December Boat Trip

Sunday, 12/11, to Anacapa & Santa Cruz on the *Peace*. Call Anacapa at 963-8917.

Welcome to the Club!

Richard & Claesen Wyckoff

THURSDAY night dives: To find out where the group is diving or to be added to the night dive e-mail list, contact Steve Trainoff at strainoff@cox.net or 571-1622. *Note change of day.*



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