

PARADISE Dive Club

March 2006

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Volume 12, Issue 3



President's Log

by Dan Lindsay

We're off to a slow diving season this year with the swells and rains, but it shouldn't be enough to keep us from *thinking* of diving. If that's not suitable you can always join us Thursday evenings throughout the year for a shore dive in the Santa Barbara area.

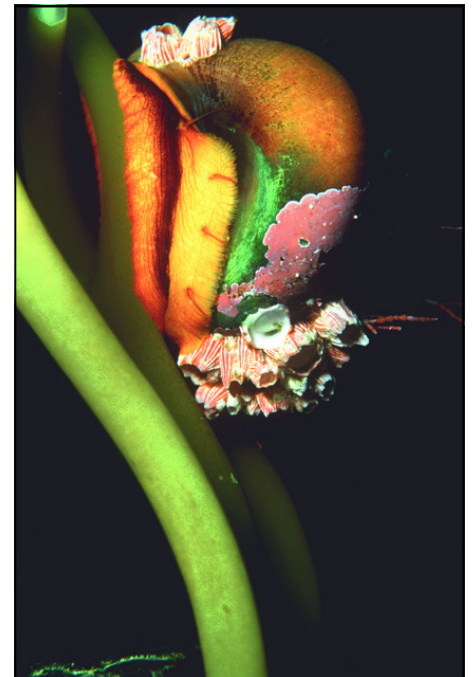
In the meantime we hope to keep you suitably psyched up with our club meetings, where the topic is always dive related. If you know of someone who you think could be a particularly effective speaker, let me know and we can see about bringing them into a future meeting. Santa Barbara is loaded with divers and dive industry people, so we should have several years of entertainment right here!

For new members and new member prospects, we appreciate your dropping into the meetings. I encourage you to sign up for some of the events that we are supporting this year, like the trek to Santa Catalina, the San Diego dive trip, the Santa Cruz Island campout, and

so on. Check during the meeting for circulating sign-up sheets and put yourself on if you think your schedule can support it.

We have been tossing around the idea of a lobster closure dive near March 5—it's coming up before you know it. Make sure you have the latest California fishing license and we'll try to steer you to the best spots near Santa Barbara to eradicate those nasty critters.

Welcome to the Paradise Dive Club!



*Norris' topsnail on
giant kelp, Sandstone
Reef, Santa Cruz
Island—photo by
Carl Gwinn*

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

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

Reminder: Catalina Trip in April

There's still room on Ed Stetson's Catalina trip, April 28-30. Looks like the cost for PDC members opting to stay at the Atwater and do group taxis down to Casino Point will remain the same as last year, \$225. This includes round-trip transportation on the *Catalina Express*, 2 nights hotel, divemaster-supervised diving at Casino Point (bring \$\$ for airfills), and a BBQ at Bird Park. There will be opportunities for wreck, night, and deep diving; you can also hop on board one of Avalon's dive boat charters (at your own expense). For more info or to sign up, call Ed at 805-687-4771.

Scuba Classifieds

Dennis Casey is offering the following; contact him at 805-688-3493 if interested:

- Xcel wetsuit, men's medium, 2001, polar tri-density (7-6-5), built-in hood, about 40 dives on it, great condition, toasty! \$145.
- Xcel 3mm front-zipper vest, men's large, brand new, never used (on my hanger for a year), \$60.
- Steel 72 tank, needs visual inspection and hydro (should pass), free
- Classic blade fins, well used but rock solid, XL, foot opening, \$30.

Malcolm, an acquaintance of Carl Gwinn, is looking for a basic used regulator to make into a hookah system, so that he can clean the bottom of his boat. He needs a first and second stage. If you have one to sell, you can contact him c/o Tom Webster at tomwebster@cox.net.

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.

Helpful Web Sites for Divers

Jacek Smits, one of the divemasters at Anacapa Dive Center, has started a new Web site on local diving; check it out at <http://www.SBDiving.com>. He invites PDC divers to contribute by posting stories, questions, dive site descriptions, and dive reports.

Dan Lindsay recommends these links that "tell the surf story around Santa Barbara for the purpose of dive planning."

- <http://facs.scripps.edu/surf/images/maps/projperanim.gif>
- <http://facs.scripps.edu/surf/images/maps/ganimnep.gif>
- <http://www.wetsand.com/swellwatch/swellwatch.asp?CatId=295>
- http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/Maps/Southwest_inset.shtml
- <http://cdip.ucsd.edu/?nav=recent&sub=nowcast>
- http://cdip.ucsd.edu/?nav=recent&sub=nowcast&xitem=barb_hs
- <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox>
- <http://www.opl.ucsb.edu/satellite/maps/sb/sbday.gif>

Diving for Golf Balls

by Stacey Janik

Our February 12 underwater golf ball scavenger hunt at Goleta Beach turned into more of a scavenger hunt for any visible reference point—the bottom? the pipeline? the pier? hey, where’s my dive buddy? I found the waves a bit daunting, but decided it had just been too darn long since I’d been diving, so in we went. Ray and I made our way quickly through the surf zone during a lull in sets, just like they always show in the diving videos (you know, the ones where they show two divers in bright tropical suits, doing a “challenging surf entry” in water where the water is sorta lapping at their calves). OK, that wasn’t so hard—though a couple divers behind us got biffed by a larger wave and lost their dive masks (so if you happen to find a dive mask on Goleta Beach, bring it to our next meeting!). We swam out on the surface, parallel to the pier, occasionally looking below to see what could be seen. Which was... nada. The surf had churned up the bottom quite a bit, taking visibility down to, oh, a few inches. Should we call the dive and swim back to shore? But then I heard the voice of Mark Silva in my head, repeating his mantra: “oh, just a little farther out there was this real nice clear spot...” So on we swam, past the end of the pier, and dropped down. Here the visibility was up to nearly one-quarter foot! There might have been hundreds of golf balls surrounding us, but we saw nary a one. In fact, Ray and I soon discovered that we could either navigate by our compasses, or keep track of each other, but not both. We resurfaced. A harbor seal that had been swimming along with us bobbed up too—he was some distance away, but I’m pretty sure he was laughing at us. Ray and I decided we would swim back on the surface, so we inflated our BCs, flipped over on our backs, and began kicking. And kicking. And kicking. “Um, honey? That pier isn’t getting any closer,” I observed. Ray agreed that we were not making any actual progress. There was a strong outgoing tidal current, and we were caught in a little eddy. We altered course and swam parallel to shore for a short distance and were soon out of it. Now we could half-kick, half ride the swells back in to shore. Well, it may not have been much of a dive, but it definitely was an aerobic workout! It was also a good opportunity to practice those winter beach diving skills that I admit have gotten a little rusty for me. I noticed that our Thursday Night Dive group handled the conditions with ease—another good reason to keep diving, even when it’s less than ideal. I also must extend hearty congratulations to our scavenger hunt winner, and proud new recipient of the Pyramid o’ Golf Balls Award, Mike Macko. The ten balls he collected might sound paltry compared to the 300+ balls that he, Dan Lindsay, and past winner Steve Trainoff brought in last time, but considering the conditions, it was a truly impressive haul! Carl Gwinn came in second with five balls, and I think the rest of us all returned with empty goodie bags. As you can see in the picture below, Joey was so proud of his dad he was turning somersaults.



Top photo: Carl Gwinn exiting surf—photo by S. Janik. Left: Christine and Joey celebrate with Mike Macko, receiving the trophy from past winner Steve Trainoff—photo by Dan Lindsay. Below: Bruce King, Christine and Joey Macko enjoy the beach—photo by S. Janik



Thursday Night Dive Report: February 2

by Steve Trainoff

We met at the west end of Isla Vista. It was another beautiful evening. In attendance were me, Bruce, Akiles, Cesar, and Scott. The entry was straightforward. We had decent visibility and again did a good job staying together. The water was 55°F, which was a touch warmer than the previous week. We saw lots of baby bugs, but only a few of bigger ones. We also witnessed a new defensive behavior. We peered into a hole in the rocks and saw a good-sized bug, but he was nuzzled up against two horn sharks. They didn't seem to mind each other's presence. I was a bit reluctant to stick my hand down into their lair. The sharks *will* nip at you if you stick your hand in their face. Besides, I didn't want to harass them for a bug that was barely legal (if that). I also saw a large olive rockfish and a lavender sculpin. All in all, it was a nice dive. The only problem we had was that one of our divers had to bail out early. His reg started to suck water at 20ft. He recently had it "serviced" (not at one of our local shops), which is supposed to make it work better, but in fact had the opposite effect. That is another reason to join the Thursday Night Dives (TNDs). They are a perfect opportunity to check out your gear on a local beach dive instead of getting out to the islands or an exotic dive location, only to find out that your gear isn't in tip-top shape. At 15 or 20 feet, you can always make a controlled direct ascent.

Several people have told me that they have been getting late notifications of the TNDs. There are a number of reasons why this might be the case, including intermittent mail servers along the way. If you don't get a reminder by Thursday afternoon, visit the group site (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC_midweek_dive) and read the message in the archives.



February 9 TND at Tajiguas Beach. Left top: Tim (from Vandenberg); left bottom: Dave Burroughs and Ray Janik; below: Akiles Ceron, Tim, and Steve Trainoff. Photos by Dan Lindsay.



Welcome to our new PDC members!

Kymerli Drummond, Jeff Hillery, and Lee Savage

Whale Watching

article & photo by Steve Trainoff

Recently Gretchen was complaining that with all of the trips we make out the Channel Islands, we almost never see whales. To remedy this situation, we decided to go on a whale-watching trip. I just got a new Canon 5D camera, and don't yet have a housing for it, so I was itching for a good opportunity to try it out. On January 23 we took the *Condor Express* to the gap between Anacapa and Santa Cruz. It certainly was a *different* crowd than one gets on a dive boat. Also the boat was **fast**. We were out to the islands in under an hour!



As seems to be our fate, we didn't see anything for the first 2¹/₂ hours, and were beginning to wonder if this was such a good idea. But it was a beautiful day to be out on the water. The sun was shining and the water was flat. It was a shame to be on top of the water, rather than under it.

Then things heated up. First we ran across a school of about 30-40 Risso's dolphins. Then we came across a huge school of common dolphins. There must have been 600-700 churning up the water all around the boat, but still no whales. Just as we thought we were going to get skunked, the captain found a pod of four grey whales. We spent about 15 minutes with them, when the captain announced that we were leaving! I was a little disappointed that we got so little time with them, but he explained that the reason we were leaving was that he had gotten a radio message that a pod of five orcas had been spotted close by. Sure enough, in a couple of minutes we were alongside them. According to the crew, they only see orcas about once a year. What a rare treat! The orcas were near a school of dolphins that you can see in the background. I wonder if the orcas were hunting them, or they were both hunting the same school of fish.

Get on Board! March Boat Trips

- 3/25 on *Truth*, 6 a.m. departure to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$110 (includes food and airfills). Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- 3/17 freediving trip on *Peace*, 2 a.m. departure to Santa Rosa & Santa Cruz, \$90. Call Blue Water Hunter, 564-6677.
- Check the Truth Aquatics calendar at www.truthaquatics.com/calendar.htm for open boat dives and extended trips.

Santa Cruz Island Campout


We're taking sign-ups for everyone's favorite PDC event, our annual campout at Santa Cruz Island. Truth Aquatics will be taking us out to the island on Thursday, May 11, and returning us to the SB harbor on Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day).

Santa Cruz is a beautiful place to explore in the springtime, whether you choose to hike, kayak, snorkel, or just sit on the beach (most of us manage to get in a little of each).

More details will be announced at our next meeting and in the April newsletter. Let us know if you're interested, and remember, cash money confirms your spot.

March 2006

Don't forget...
MONTHLY MEETINGS
 February 28 and March 28
 Rusty's Pizza in Goleta

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		29	30	31	

Night Dives

Upcoming Events

- Annual campout on Santa Cruz Island, May 11-14
- San Diego/Yukon dive trip—date tbd

Thursday night dives: To find out where the group is diving or to be added to the night dive e-mail list, sign up at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC_midweek_dive or send e-mail to PDC_midweek_dive-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.



4530 Carpinteria Ave. #27
 Carpinteria, CA 93013



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
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