

PARADISE Dive Club

May 2006

Visit us at <http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu>

Volume 12, Issue 5



President's Log

by Dan Lindsay

May is right around the corner and signifies the start of better dive weather for us here in Santa Barbara. I encourage you to come out to a Thursday night dive to do a shore dive with

us. You'll get to know the underwater world from Rincon to Refugio—and Tajiguas!

Once someone samples scuba diving, the usual thing to start doing is to acquire equipment. Of course, with today's Internet opportunities, you can shop and compare equipment features and prices a lot better than ever before. I encourage you to talk to other members about what equipment they're pleased with and what has been most reliable for them. Along with their local dive area knowledge, exploit them for their gear knowledge as well. Talk to us, too, about our experiences with the local dive shops—all of which are sponsors of the Paradise Dive Club. There is a synergistic relationship going on here—what's good for our members can ultimately be good for the shops.

This month's meeting entertainment will be courtesy of the Truth Aquatics staff who captain the dive boats based in the Santa Barbara harbor. I've asked them to come talk to us about their boats, what amenities they have, and what their typical daily dive missions are like. I have suspected that we have a lot of new members who are also new to Santa Barbara and who could use an orientation to what Truth Aquatics has to offer us. Like the shops, Truth Aquatics is also a sponsor to the PDC!

Come on out to our meetings. Meet fellow divers and find out more about our local dive opportunities!



Black-and-yellow rockfish at Santa Cruz. 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 (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



Bulletin Board

- **LAST CHANCE:** we have a few more spots available for our **May 11-14 Santa Cruz Island camping trip**. If you want to go, bring your check to the meeting, or call Mark Silva at 453-2001.
- As Dan mentioned at the last meeting, we are soliciting contributions to keep our **monthly raffle** going. Prints from our club photographers have been very popular raffle items in the past (hint, hint). Also, we are going to try an **auction-style raffle on used scuba gear**, so if you have some items in your gear closet that are in good shape but collecting cobwebs, bring them to the meeting—you can help raise money for the club, and maybe you'll go home with some gear you really need!

PDC on the Web

Most of you already know about our Web site at <http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu>. The site includes notices of upcoming events, an archive of past newsletters, contact info for board members, and links to our club members' underwater photo collections and other dive-related sites.

We also have a NEW Yahoo! Groups Web site at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Paradise_Dive_Club. You can sign up here to receive the periodic e-mails we send out about club events or to find past postings.

The Thursday Night Dive group has its own site at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC_midweek_dive. You can sign up here to be notified of the time and location of the weekly night dives. As an extra handy feature, you can also access info about past dive sites in the archives (see the "Files" section for satellite map images, and "Messages" for past postings with other dive site info).

Paradise Dive Club Officers

President - Dan Lindsay	964-5020
Vice President - Steve Trainoff	571-1622
Secretary - Mike Macko	687-7176
Treasurer - Mark Silva	453-2001
Membership - Bruce King	284-3648
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 - 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>

Send newsletter items to sjanik@gmail.com

Membership: \$25/year for individuals, \$40 for families. Membership runs May-April and includes monthly newsletter, free airfills, and other benefits. For details or to join, contact Bruce King at 284-3648 or kingbh@cox.net.

Membership Reminder

One last reminder to not let your PDC membership expire. Dues are only \$25/year—a real bargain for all the fun activities we do every year. Plus it's a great way to meet dive buddies and learn about new dive sites. Membership forms are available at <http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu/membership/membership.htm>, or from Bruce King at kingbh@cox.net or 805-284-3648. Please mail your membership form and a check to Paradise Dive Club, c/o Bruce King, P.O. Box 21311, Santa Barbara, CA 93121.

Get on Board! May Boat Trips

- Sunday, May 7, 7 a.m. departure on *Spectre* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$85. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day), 7 a.m. departure on *Spectre*, \$85. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Saturday, May 13, 6 a.m. departure on *Truth* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$110. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, May 14, 7 a.m. departure on *Peace* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$110. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Friday, May 26, 2 a.m. departure on *Peace* to Santa Rosa & Santa Cruz, \$90. Call Blue Water Hunter, 452-6696.

Between the Storms

article & photos by Steve Trainoff

Winter diving can be hit or miss, and this has been especially true with the unusually active storm season we have had this year. Of course, when you “hit,” it can be amazing with the cool, clear water out at the islands. In February, I was invited by Mark and Kay Silva to go out to Anacapa on their boat *Redemption*. We were fortunate to find a calm between the storms. The Channel was flat, flat, flat! I have never seen it so much like a lake, with hardly a ripple.



Captain Silva at the helm

Aboard were Mark, Kay, Paul Weakliem, and myself. This was a very different dive experience than I have been used to. The biggest difference is that I was diving, quite literally, out of Mark and Kay’s living room, complete with recliner and TV. The pace was relaxed. Unlike the commercial boats, there was no rushing about since there was no “gate time” that must be obeyed, and no chiding about being too frugal on air and holding up the rest of the boat.

There is also something about diving that makes the air seem clearer, the sun brighter, and the appetite heartier. Although the *Peace* and the *Truth* boats have good food,



Octopus showing his false eye

they don’t hold a candle to Kay’s gourmet catering. Club picnics notwithstanding, I have never been so well fed before, during, and after diving. Kudos to Kay!

Both dive sites were on the backside of Anacapa Island, which is only 11 miles from the Channel Islands harbor. The first site had cold, clear water and a host of photogenic critters awaiting my camera. It is rare that I get so many good photos from a single site. I am usually content if I get one or two.



Sea hare feeding on algae—note his tiny eye

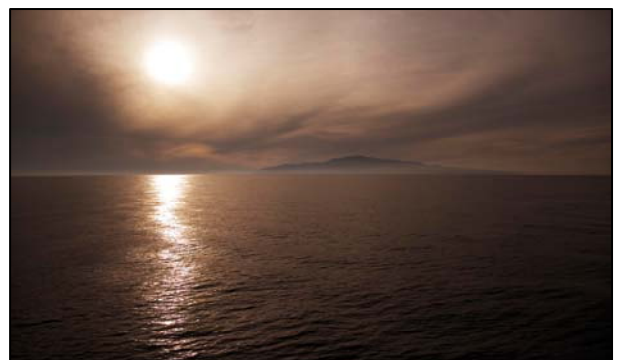
At the second site, the visibility was not as good as the first, so I decided to go scallop collecting. Being a novice hunter, I tried to pry them off the rocks with my dive knife. Much to my surprise, I found that scallop glue is stronger than stainless steel, as my knife broke in



Blackeye goby in his cast-off scallop shell home

half. I later learned from Mark and Paul the trick of using a thin metal blade to harvest the scallop meat while leaving the shell behind. This worked much more effectively, and I soon had enough for dinner. It turns out that this is also much more environmentally friendly, since it leaves the shell intact, where it can form a home for other bottom dwellers. I found a shy goby that was using an old scallop shell this way.

At the end of the day on the way back, we were treated to a beautiful island sunset. Red sky at night, sailors’ delight!



The end of a glorious day, with Santa Cruz in the background

Why Dive?

by Lance Rennka

Divers go against 2+ million years of survival programming: “If you breathe with your face in water, you DIE!” So why do we dive? For some divers, it’s the adrenaline rush associated with facing a survival threat. “In the beginning . . .” we were accused of having a death wish, but we were just hungry for fresh seafood. For some people, diving is about the camaraderie of sharing the experience. Diving is also an ego trip, because less than 5% of the population will even try it—bragging rights in the bar. For whatever reason, to spend the time, effort, and money it takes to dive, diving must have its rewards.

Santa Ana winds, clear sky, the hum of the engine as the Peace hissed through the glassy water to the west end of Anacapa Island. A gentle, long-period swell raised and lowered the kelp bed slightly. Watching from the bow, the anchor could be seen descending all the way to the sloping rocky bottom, 80 feet down. The instructional staff briefed the advanced students on their deep dive. Open water students were advised to assemble their gear and observe the advanced divers and staff, but were not allowed to participate—their turn would come later.

I reviewed the hand signals with my Deep Diver students and said, “Notice how excited the instructional staff is today?” The divers looked around and all replied, “Yes. Why is that?” “Today, on this one dive, you will experience why we love to dive. It only takes one dive like this is going to be, every few years, to rekindle your desire to dive,” I said. “I’m going to stop you at about thirty feet during the descent, have you adjust for neutral buoyancy, relax, close your eyes, count to ten slowly, and then reopen your eyes and observe the sensation.”

With the deep dive training completed and the overly excited divers back on board and ready for the debriefing, I said, “So tell me what you noticed when we established neutral buoyancy in mid-water.” “When I opened my eyes, I had no sensation of motion, but everything around me was moving,” one diver replied. “The fish were just hanging in mid-water, fingers of light playing through the kelp and lighting up the bottom. I felt like I was in an envelope, suspended motionless in space while the fish, the kelp, the bottom were all in fluid motion,” another diver chimed in. “I’ve never before felt or experienced a sensation like that on land or even while flying in a plane.” Another diver added, “It just made me feel great. It was awe-inspiring, I didn’t want to do anything but hang there and look around. It made me feel good.” There was a chorus of “Let’s stay here and do that again!”, “That was exciting!”, “I’m hooked!”, “What was that all about?”, and many more exclamations. “OK,” I said, “let me explain. You just went to church, or at least felt what church should do for you. You had a ‘spiritual experience.’ Your soul is trapped in a body, trapped in two dimensions, trapped in gravity—and it hates it. The soul loves weightlessness and three-dimensional mobility. When the soul can have these experiences in the body, the soul’s batteries get recharged—that’s the feeling you experienced. The sensation of being in an ‘envelope’ with you not moving but everything around you moving enhances and magnifies the weightless feeling.” Just then, a surfacing staff member yelled out, “Now *that’s* why we dive!”

April Meeting Entertainment—Truth Aquatics

Join us for our general meeting on April 25 for a special presentation by the good folks at Truth Aquatics. They have been leading single- and multi-day trips out to the Channel Islands for more than three decades. Their broad experience as well as their love of the ocean and the diverse marine life of the Santa Barbara Channel ensure that any trip on one of their vessels (*Truth*, *Vision*, and *Conception*) is sure to be a memorable one.



Remember, new PDC members receive a free Truth Aquatics gold card; after five stamps (five one-day trips), you get a \$75 credit toward your next trip!

Truth Aquatics is on the Web, with a calendar of upcoming trips at <http://www.truthaquatics.com>.

Road Trip! Yukon Dive on June 24

The PDC will be heading south in June for a day of diving on the *Lois Ann*. We have booked the entire boat for our club—so we need people to sign up! We will be diving on the *Yukon*, a 366-foot Canadian Destroyer Escort that was intentionally sunk in July of 2000 by the San Diego Oceans Foundation as part of the artificial reef project. This is a great wreck dive even for those who are not certified for penetration diving, as it was specially prepped for divers; with plenty of holes and access points, there is lots to see without entering enclosed areas. Because of the depth and the typical murkiness of the water, though, this is not a novice dive. The wreck lies at 105 feet, with an average minimum depth from bow to stern of about 75 feet along the starboard side. If you're Nitrox certified, you may want to consider reserving a couple of Nitrox tanks (\$8 extra per tank). The other two dives of the day will be on the *Ruby E.* and the Tower, also great wreck dives.



Tanks, weight belts, air fills, food & drink are all included and provided on board. Boarding time is 7:30 a.m., and return time is around 2 p.m. The *Lois Ann* is not quite as roomy as some of the local dive boats we're used to, so pack accordingly. We'll discuss further details at the meeting, including local hotel options and opportunities for carpooling to San Diego. For directions and other info, visit www.loisann.com.

April 7 Blood Drive

by Jerry Sorich



Many thanks from the Santa Barbara Blood Bank to the intrepid donors at our April blood drive. Eighteen pints of blood were collected from PDC folks and local residents who came by the blood mobile at Shoreline Park. As it turned out, we had a beautiful warm evening on the bluff. Those who showed up for the blood and BBQ stood

around in t-shirts and shorts and watched a cloud-free sunset. The salmon was tender and the rib eye was juicy as the donors finished their task. The blood bank staff once again thanks PDC and its members for a successful and fun blood drive.

Cozumel in July with Aquatics

Curt from SB Aquatics invites PDC members to join him for a week in Cozumel this July. The trip will be July 22-29 and is an all-inclusive package at the Reef Club—\$1,639 double occupancy, \$1,849 single, or \$1,609 triple covers airfare from LAX, hotel, diving, food, and alcohol.

Curt writes, "Cozumel is famous for the second largest barrier reef in the world, with spectacular drift dives along the walls and caves. The night life is fun also. The Cozumel residents have been nothing less than spectacular in getting the town back into shape after Hurricane Katrina. You shouldn't notice a difference topside. The deep reefs were not affected much and the shallow reefs are coming back very quickly. I expect the diving to be the same as always by July. This is a great trip and I'm going to enjoy diving, dining and playing with you again."

To sign up or get more info, contact Curt asap at crwiessner@earthlink.net, 452-4718 (cell) or 967-4456 (Aquatics).


Classifieds:

- Anyone need a tent for the Santa Cruz camping trip? 2-person Kelty tent for sale, \$50 (incl. tarp & rainfly). Contact Stacey or Ray Janik (637-4486 or 637-4487).



May 2006

Don't forget...
MONTHLY MEETINGS
April 25 and May 30
 Rusty's Pizza in Goleta

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Thurs. night dive	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Santa Cruz campout	12 →	13
14 →	15	16	17	18 Thurs. night dive	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thurs. night dive	26	27
28	29		31			

Upcoming Events

- Annual campout on Santa Cruz Island, May 11-14
- *Yukon* dive, San Diego, June 24

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.



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 805-564-6677
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