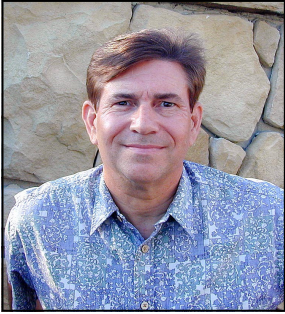


# PARADISE Dive Club

June 2006

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

Volume 12, Issue 6



## President's Log

by Dan Lindsay

Welcome to the Paradise Dive Club! As the largest scuba club in Santa Barbara, we're sure to be able to help you find a dive buddy for any situation. As you know, we have regular Thursday night dives each

week (see the back page of the newsletter for info and link to the Yahoo Groups site), but we also dive routinely on the weekends, particularly as the water warms up and the visibility improves.

We have a dive and barbecue coming up in June to mark the start of the summer. If you have any dive gear that you would like to trade or sell, be sure to bring it along to Hendry's Beach on June 11.

Regulator free flowing a bit? Get with our sponsors and get your gear in for an overhaul before the crowds affect the overhaul schedules. We have a limited number of qualified repair people here in Santa Barbara, so plan accordingly.

Be sure, too, to take advantage of the fact that the Channel Islands are right next door. Boats leave every weekend!

We'll soon announce plans for a new meeting location! The board has met, sampled, and found an even more central location that we think will provide everyone a better

opportunity to make it to our meetings, as well as a broader choice of dinner menu options. Stay tuned for more! (Our May 30 meeting will still be at the same location, Rusty's Pizza in Goleta.)

Also coming up soon in June, just after the BBQ, is our trek to San Diego. Some 20 lucky divers will get a heck of a deal for \$50 to make three dives, starting with the *Yukon*. We'll discuss car pooling and hotel options during the May meeting. Unfortunately, I won't be able to make the San Diego trip this year due to important business on the other side of the world.

My final pitch this month is for board members. Before you know it our next year's board will have to be elected, and we need fresh ideas and energy to keep the PDC on top!



*Kayaking to Scorpion Harbor, Santa Cruz Island. Photo by Bruce King.*

### 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

- It's time for a **beach dive, BBQ, and our annual scuba swap meet** at Hendry's (Arroyo Burro) on **Sunday, June 11**. Divers meet at 10am; lunch will be around noon at the grassy picnic area. Clean out your closets and bring all that unused scuba gear to swap or sell. For the BBQ, the club will provide the meat; please bring your own beverage and a tasty side dish to share.
- **Sign up now** if you want to go **wreck diving** with the club in San Diego on **Saturday, June 24**. We have chartered the entire boat, but spots are limited and are first come, first served. At \$50 for a day of diving on the *Yukon* and other wrecks, including food, tanks, weights, and air, this is a great deal. Bring \$\$ to the meeting, or call Mark Silva at 453-2001.
- And as long as you're headed down south for the weekend, you might want to consider stopping by the Long Beach Convention Center for the **June 24-25 Long Beach Scuba Show**, advertised as the largest dive expo in the Western U.S. We'll have \$1-off coupons at the meeting, as well as event schedule and other info (inside *CA Diving News*).

## Photo Printing Web Site

Steve Trainoff mentioned this site at one of our meetings and several members expressed interest in getting the link. Check out the great prices for large-format prints at [http://www.elcocolor.com/hot\\_internet\\_only\\_specials.htm](http://www.elcocolor.com/hot_internet_only_specials.htm).

Steve says, "I have been very impressed with the image quality, and you just can't beat the price. In my last order I tried compositing nine 8x10 images into a single 24x30 print. Other than having to cut them apart manually, they came out very nice. It was a pretty good deal for \$1.33 each."



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

## Last Call to Renew Your PDC Membership!

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 form are available at <http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu/membership/membership.htm>, or from Bruce King at [kingbh@cox.net](mailto:kingbh@cox.net) or 284-3648. Please mail your membership form and check to Paradise Dive Club, c/o Bruce King, P.O. Box 21311, Santa Barbara, CA 93121.

## Get on Board! June Boat Trips

- Sunday, June 4, 6 a.m. departure on *Truth* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$110. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, June 18, 7 a.m. departure on *Peace* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$110. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, June 25, 7 a.m. departure on *Peace* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$110. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, June 25, 7 a.m. departure on *Spectre* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$85. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.

# Santa Cruz Island Campout

May 11-14, 2006

We saw more fog and mist than sun and blue skies this year, but four days on Santa Cruz still made for a great getaway. Our thanks to Truth Aquatics for accommodating our small group — we enjoyed smooth crossings both ways, and a helpful and friendly crew as always.



*Kayaker exiting sea cave. Photo by Bruce King.*



*Ralph & Emelia, intrepid snorkelers. Photo by Bruce King.*



*The "view" from Montañon Ridge. Photo by Ray Janik.*

*A misty overlook from Cavern Point. Photo by Ray Janik*



*Island fox. Photo by Dave Burroughs.*



*Fran & Jeff with rock fossil at Smuggler's. Photo by Bruce King.*

*The sun breaks out on our last day—of course! Photo by Ray Janik.*



# Reef Check California: Monitoring the Health of California's Rocky Reefs

by Vanessa Sih

As a relatively new diver and thus still very unfamiliar with—yet concerned about—California's marine environment, I thought it would be a great idea to sign up for Reef Check California field training. Until I started diving last year and meeting experienced divers, I had never heard about the staggering abundance of abalone in the past, followed by their near disappearance from over-harvesting and disease; nor about how regions that were once kelp forests are becoming urchin barrens due to the declining numbers of large fish, lobsters, and sea otters that would naturally keep the sea urchin population in check. Although such anecdotal evidence is very compelling, policy must be based on data, and it is long-term scientific monitoring that will inform decisions on environmental regulations and marine reserves.

Reef Check was founded in 1996 with the purpose of monitoring the health of coral reefs worldwide in order to determine the extent of human impact and global warming, and over the past year, Reef Check has been developing a peer-reviewed scientific protocol for surveying California's marine environment by recording the abundance of target fish, invertebrates, and seaweeds. In order to ensure the quality of the data obtained by volunteer divers, the Reef Check training is rigorous and includes a weekend of classroom training and a weekend of field training, with a species identification exam and evaluations. In the classroom training, we learned about marine ecology, how to conduct a Reef Check survey and set up band transects, and how to identify 32 fish species, 25 invertebrate species, and 9 algal species. A pool session in the UCSB dive pool on the second morning showed us how to lay out our transect lines and practice identifying, sizing, and counting abalone, sea cucumbers, and other invertebrates printed on weighted flash cards while recording our counts on our dive slates.

The field training consisted of a three-day trip on the *Explorer*, out of Ventura harbor, to Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands. In total, we were sixteen students and five marine scientists. The highlight of the trip was getting to know the other divers, who were all committed volunteers and eager to learn. The first dive was the most difficult and overwhelming, because we were fighting surge to stay on the transect line, still confused over the

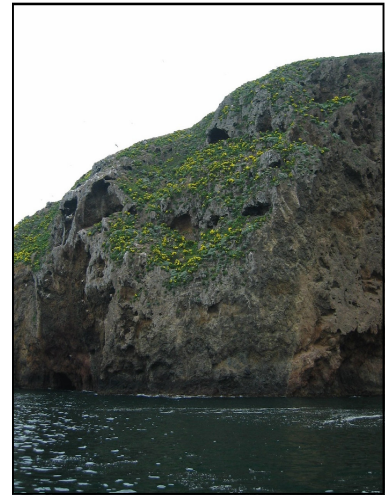
differences between some similarly described species, and getting used to recording our counts on our dive slates—but after every

dive, our teachers would patiently de-brief us on our experience, compare our counts with theirs, and offer advice or corrections if we were mis-identifying something. The second dive was another invertebrate and seaweed count at the same location, but it was much easier because we knew then what to expect. On the third dive of the first day, we practiced a uniform point contact transect, in which we had to record the substrate, cover, and rugosity (a measure of vertical relief) at every meter. After the third dive, we had time for a fun dusk dive at Fish Camp, where we anchored for the night, and I was excited to come across a large horn shark, the first I have seen while diving (and also one of the target fish for Reef Check!).

For the first dive of the second day, the instructors set up a transect with fish “laminates,” or pictures of fish printed on transparencies and positioned with floats and weights so that we could practice identifying, counting, and sizing some of the target fish species. This exercise helped clarify some of the distinguishing features between similar-looking fish (brown or copper rockfish?) and the procedure for doing fish transects, in which buddy pairs swim side by side and both count fish within one meter of either side of the transect line and within two meters from the bottom. The second dive was an evaluation of our invertebrate and seaweed transects, and the third dive was an evaluation of our uniform point contact transects. For the evaluations, the instructors went over our counts with us individually and identified whether we had any biases or confusions about the protocol. I had some under-counts because I was underestimating two meters and thus was counting within an effectively smaller band.

Since the visibility was deteriorating at Anacapa, the captain decided to move us to Santa Cruz to anchor for the night. It was a great decision, because while we had around 15-foot vis at Anacapa, those of us who went for the fun night dive had nearly 30 feet of visibility at Pelican Anchorage. It was also the first dive that I've been on at Santa Cruz, and it was really awesome. We came across blacksmith, treefish, kelp rockfish, garibaldi, and lobster hiding under ledges, and watched two octopuses moving slowly between the boulders. After the dive, we had a great dinner and another debriefing and then got to experience the solitude of being out at the islands, seeing krill attracted to light on the surface of the water, and hearing a sea lion coming up for air while hunting.

On the third day, each buddy team was sent into the water to be evaluated on their technique in doing a “live” fish transect and then given assignments to help with conducting an actual Reef Check survey. My buddy and I performed two of the eighteen fish transects required for a full survey and came up with



*Coreopsis bloom on Anacapa Island*



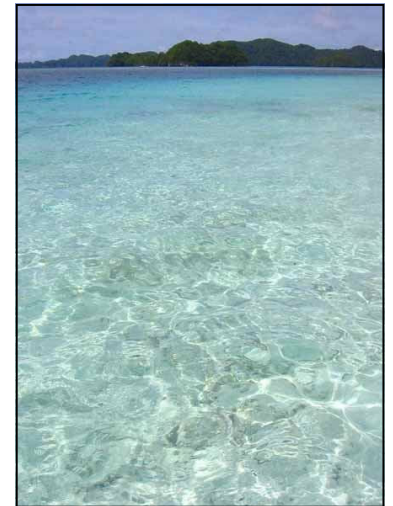
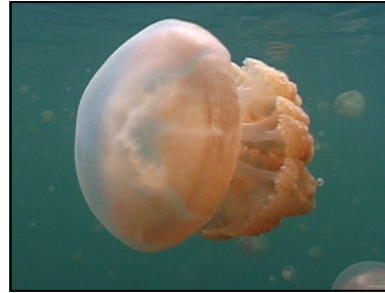
*Reef Check CA group photo*

*(article continued on next page)*



## May Entertainment: Nick Martorano

If you've had a chance to check out Nick's photos or u/w videos before, you know we're in for a treat. Factor in the fact that he just got back from several months in Palau and, well, trust me, you don't want to miss this meeting.



---

## Thanks to our Earth Day Cleanup Crew!

Kudos to all our club members who dragged themselves out of bed on a (potentially) rainy day and came out to collect trash with us at our "adopted" spot at Tajiguas. We did a good deed for Mother Earth, then rewarded ourselves with a delicious BBQ (thanks, Silvas!).

*photo by Dan Lindsay*



---


## Reef Check by Vanessa Sib, continued from previous page

reassuringly similar numbers and sizes for our count. On the second dive, I got to do some urchin sizing, which involves measuring the test of the urchin to the nearest centimeter using calipers; this helps determine the age distribution of the urchins at a particular site. Since it didn't matter where in particular we were urchin sizing, and I had heard that some people had seen a large lingcod hanging out near one of the fixed transect lines, we decided to go find this lingcod, especially since it was one of the target fish and I had never seen one. Sure enough, the lingcod was well over a meter long (we're scientists now, so we use metric!), had gorgeous leopard spots, and was still sitting under the same red gorgonian that the other divers had described! It eyed us warily but didn't bother to swim away.

After sizing some urchins, it was time to head back to the boat and then back to the Ventura harbor. It was a busy weekend, but I have a greater appreciation now for marine life (and marine scientists!), and I can't wait to help conduct another survey. I am very optimistic about the Reef Check California program, but it relies on the support of volunteer divers and concerned citizens. If you are interested in volunteering or supporting Reef Check California, you can find more information on the Reef Check Web site ([www.reefcheck.org](http://www.reefcheck.org)).

# June 2006

*Don't forget...*  
**MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
**May 30 and June 27**  
 Rusty's Pizza in Goleta

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Hendry's dive/ BBQ	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Yukon dive
25	26		28	29	30	

### Upcoming Events

- Hendry's Beach dive (10 a.m.), picnic (noon), and scuba swap meet, June 11
- Yukon dive, San Diego, June 24
- Zaca Lake freshwater dive—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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC_midweek_dive) or send e-mail to [PDC\\_midweek\\_dive-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PDC_midweek_dive-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).



P.O. Box 21311  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93121



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  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
 805-962-1127  
<http://www.truthaquatics.com>

*Special thanks to our sponsors for their support, including airfill donations and gear discounts!*