

# PARADISE Dive Club

September 2006

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Volume 12, Issue 9



## President's Log

by Dan Lindsay

“Santa Barbara. Aren't we lucky to live here?” I hear that time and time again—and luck had nothing to do with it!

But we do have an obligation to this area to pay it back for the convenience of shore dives and the nearby Channel Islands. So, in the month of September we have a few public service events coming up that I encourage you to support. First off, on Friday, September 8, we'll be donating blood to the SB Bloodmobile. Jerry Sorich has once again agreed to support us with little “thank you” treats like steak or salmon (you bring the blood—and a side dish, and your ID).

The other big event for us is the beach cleanup of Tajiguas, coming up on September 16. Once again, we get a big treat for doing this—camping at Refugio in the group campsite, courtesy of the rangers at Refugio. Come on out and make a weekend of it with us. It will begin on Friday afternoon and run through noon on Sunday the 17th. Remind the folks at the gate at Refugio that you're with the PDC. We'll rendezvous at 8am for coffee and donuts, and then the general instructions will be handed out at 9 am. We of the PDC will head up to Tajiguas. Bring along some extra leather gloves if you have them. We're going to have a very successful haul this time. The last time I dived there it was a

mess! So come along and give a hand to get that parking area pristine again.

As the soon-to-be-outgoing president of the club, I want to remind you all that we're going to be looking for next year's board. Volunteer yourself (or your spouse) for inclusion in the election. A good club always needs support and fresh ideas for events and outings. So please give some serious thought to helping out the club. I have found over the past year that very little effort is needed to do this work on an individual basis, as long as we all work together to make it a team or club effort.

What does the president have to do? Look inside for descriptions of all the positions.



*Happy divers in Sipidan. Photo by Steve Trainoff, who will present a slide show with Will Chen for our August meeting entertainment.*

### 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

### NEW LOCATION Petrini's, Santa Barbara

14 W. Calle Laureles, off upper State near De la Vina

6:30 pm - social hour

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



## Bulletin Board

- **Labor Day Weekend** campout with the Aqualliers at Vandenberg Air Force Base. All members should have received Evite about this fun event; if not, or if you have any questions, please contact Dan Lindsay.
- **Blood drive on September 8:** see article below for details.
- **Coastal Cleanup Day on September 16:** see adjacent article for details about camping & cleanup.
- **Friday, September 22: deco stop (happy hour) at Sharkeez,** beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, September 23:** back by popular demand, **PDC movie night** (time, location, and movie to be determined—if you have a vote, let a board member know!)

## Coastal Cleanup Day—September 16

PDC is doing our annual campout and beach/underwater cleanup for Coastal Cleanup Day on September 16.

Thanks to Danita and our friends at Refugio State Park, we have the group campsite for Friday and Saturday nights, September 15-16. On Saturday, you can opt to do an underwater cleanup at Refugio, or help out with a beach/parking area cleanup at the club's "adopted spot" at Tajiguas. (If you're not camping, please meet at Refugio at 8am for breakfast and cleanup briefing, or you can meet the group at Tajiguas between 9 and 9:30am.) Bring your gear for a possible dive at Tajiguas or Refugio afterward. Then around noon we will have a BBQ with the Aqualliers and UCSB Dive Club. The Paradise Dive Club is hosting the BBQ this year.

It's always a fun time for a worthy cause—hope you can make it!

## Paradise Dive Club Officers

President - Dan Lindsay	964-5020
Vice President - Steve Trainoff	571-1622
Secretary - Catherine Almo	963-2121
Treasurer - Mark Silva	453-2001
Membership - Bruce King	284-3648
Newsletter - Stacey Janik	637-4487
Circulation - Ovidio Mora	683-4999
Sgt at Arms - Mike Macko	687-7176
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).

## Blood Drive—September 8

Our biannual blood drive will be September 8 at Shoreline Park. The blood mobile will be taking blood from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Jerry Sorch will once again generously be providing salmon or ribeye steaks for all who come to participate. Everyone is welcome—even if you can't give blood, we had a great time and beautiful night last time. We will be at the west end of Shoreline Park. Bring something to share at the BBQ, and save a life through your giving.

## Get on Board! September Boat Trips

Lobster season starts September 30!

- Monday, 9/4 (Labor Day), 7 a.m. departure on *Spectre* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$85. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- 9/5-6, 2-day freediving trip (no tanks) to Cortes Banks & Santa Barbara Island on *Peace*, departs 9pm on Monday, 9/4, \$275 Call Blue Water Hunter, 564-6677.
- 9/16-17, 2-day trip on *Peace* to Catalina & Santa Barbara Island. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, 9/24, 6 a.m. departure on *Truth* to Anacapa & Santa Cruz, \$110. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- 9/30-10/1, multi-day bug hunt trip on *Spectre* (sold out, but you may be able to get on waiting list). Call Aquatics, 967-4456.

## Elections are Coming!

New board members will be nominated at our August 29 meeting and elected at our September 26 meeting. We depend on volunteer service to keep the club going, so if you've been a member for awhile and enjoy the benefits of the club, please consider joining the board. If you're a new member, we have a couple of "entry-level" positions that don't require much time commitment or experience, and are a great way to get to know your fellow members and become more involved with the club.

Board members meet once a month on the Tuesday evening following the general meeting for dinner and to discuss board business. Board members take turns hosting those meetings. In addition to the duties described below, all board members contribute ideas, help with event planning, and take on special assignments throughout the year.

### **Board positions:**

**President:** Develops agenda and presides over general meetings and board meetings. Attends all meetings and club functions or arranges for coverage by another board member. Oversees annual calendar of events and solicits ideas for new club activities. After one-year term, serves as **Past President:** for one year to provide continuity, share information about past practices, and provide other assistance as needed.

**Vice President:** Runs club/board meetings when President cannot attend. Coordinates sign-ups for club events. Reserves picnic spots. Organizes Thursday night dives (this duty may be assigned to another board member in future, depending on interest and availability). Moderates online discussion groups. Acts as club representative/liason with charter operators. Responsible for LCD projector and screen for entertainment at general meetings.

**Secretary:** Takes minutes at board meetings and distributes to board members in a timely manner, usually within a few days following the board meeting.

**Treasurer:** Tracks club finances. Collects money from raffles, membership dues, and event sign-ups. Deposits checks and reconciles bank statements. Issues payment for boat reservations and other club functions. Provides monthly report to the board.

**Membership Coordinator:** Greets guests at club meetings and provides information about membership benefits. Oversees annual membership drive and collects membership dues. Maintains current club roster. Issues membership cards.

**Newsletter Editor:** Solicits articles and photos from board and club members. Edits articles and designs layout of newsletter. Writes articles about upcoming events and other filler material as needed. Uses Microsoft Publisher or similar software to produce print-ready monthly newsletter; sends to printer and to Webmaster for posting. Assists with preparation of posters and other printed material.

**Circulation Coordinator:** Picks up newsletter from Wootton Printing on Modoc. Runs mail merge from current membership list to create mailing labels. Prepares newsletter for mailing within 1-2 days of pickup. Hand-delivers newsletters to local dive shops. Prepares air cards for distribution at general meetings.

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Preserves order at general meetings and board meetings.

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The club also has a few appointed positions. These do not come up for annual re-election, but if you're interested in helping out in one of these capacities, please talk to a board member.

**Entertainment Coordinator:** Lines up speakers for general meetings. Coordinates any special equipment needs.

**Raffle Coordinator:** Maintains good relations with the dive clubs that sponsor our club; solicits donations or discounts for raffle prizes. Conducts raffle at general meetings.

**Webmaster:** Maintains the PDC Web site. Posts newsletters and information about upcoming activities.

**Club Historian:** Keeps archive of board minutes, newsletters, and other club documents.

Sound like a lot of work? Not really. Maybe a couple of hours a month for most jobs. A recent fringe benefit has been that most board members are fantastic cooks, so the board meetings are more like dinner parties than meetings. It's a great way to get more involved with what direction the club takes.



*PDC board members hard at work—photo by Julie Bursek*

# PDC Great Annual Fish Count

by Paul Weakliem

This summer I was extra careful before the Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC) trip—you might recall that last year I stepped on a tank valve and ended up with stitches, out of commission for the dive trip! The injury karma stayed constant for the Weakliems, though, with Jonathan breaking his leg in early July—so perhaps I owe him for my getting to go.

We boarded the *Truth* on Saturday night with our toasty warm summer weather. After checking out photos of Dan's car (oh yes, and trip to Europe), we hit the bunks, with only a brief awakening at 4am when the boat left the harbor. I woke up the next morning and stumbled upstairs to look out on...well, some island. Soon I realized we were in the passage between Rosa and San Miguel, on our way to the backside! I hadn't dived back there for years—perhaps since the last fish count that the club did back in the last millennium. We had our briefing, being introduced to the always-great crew of the *Truth*. It reminded me why it's always so nice to be out on these boats!



On board the *Truth*; Will Chen gearing up for dive. Photos by Bruce King.

The first spot, with plenty of kelp and flat water, was at Crook Point. I remembered that this was a pretty good spot for abalone, but tried to keep my focus on fish. We suited up and dived in—the water was chilly, but not the typical sub-50° San Miguel. Within a minute I was wishing I had brushed up more on my fish ID, but I jotted notes for when I was topside again. Bruce and I swam along the huge boulders and canyons that make up this area of Miguel, and did come across probably a dozen large red abalones (yes, of course we fed them). I thought to myself that it was a good sign—perhaps when Jonathan's my age, he'll be able to dive for abs in Southern California again. We saw quite a variety of fish, and some large sheephead and vermillion rockfish as well as several lingcod. *Feeding kelp to red abalone. Photo by Bruce King.*



Back on the boat, everybody was busy filling out the fish count forms. I admonished Stacey for getting her forms wet—those of us at UCSB should have special reverence for scantron forms!



Paul Weakliem & Ray Janik between dives. Photo by Stacey Janik.

Akiles proved to be a natural, quickly filling out his first-ever GAFC

form! After a short move we were at Wycoff Ledge, another nice dive spot. Again Bruce and I dived in, and were quickly checking off fish...in one sense it was pretty easy—there were so many, we generally could quickly jump straight to the “many” or “abundant” category! Somewhere along the line we picked up Steve, and we all meandered along pointing out interesting fish and creatures. This is another beautiful spot, and too quickly it was time to be back on the boat (or at least on the surface, where air is plentiful). The crew made a very quick move to a spot just to the east of Pt. Bennet, and as the sun came out we were greeted by many sea lions as the boat anchored. We figured there wouldn't be many fish, but there were still plenty—they were just a bit more wary! Back on the boat, we heard about the marine mammals harassing Ray and Stacey (well, OK, they were playing), and swapped stories, as divers do.



Ray Janik using slate to conduct fish survey. Photo by Stacey Janik.

On the trip back, we filled out more forms, and checked out the photos that Will had been shooting. It was hard to believe the dive day was over—but it was great to be out on the *Truth* with a bunch of PDC friends for a good day of diving. San Miguel had only 82 existing REEF surveys, many from our PDC trip a number of years ago; but between this trip and the one in early July, we added 30-some more surveys to the database!

If you missed it this year, be sure to come out next year—part of the beauty of the GAFC is that you don't have to be a devoted fish expert to do this, you only need to be a devoted diver!

# Channel Islands in the Summertime

article and photos by Jerry Sorich

For those of you who have not been to the Channel Islands lately, you are missing the best water we have had in years. Water temperature in the 70s is a pleasure I can't remember at the islands. Paul, Dorothy, Patty, and I were able to go to Anacapa and Santa Cruz on the *Redemption* on August 6-7. The sea was flat and the trip to Anacapa was a breeze. We anchored off the preserve and dived into 60-foot+ visibility. The great thing about our entry was the absence of the "cold rush" syndrome we are all used to. The water was so warm, it felt like Cozumel. We had a great dive with big bugs out in the open giving us the finger. Lots of sheepheads and other fish. The highlight was the sighting of a 400-pound black sea bass. I have never seen a fish that big in any ocean. As it meandered by Mark Silva, we could all see that it was as long as him and a full 3 feet from belly to back. The monster cruised us a couple more times as it patrolled the area. Fortunately, all of us were diving together and got to share the experience. Unfortunately, my battery had gone dead on my camera and I wasn't able to photograph it.



We went to the backside of Santa Cruz for our next dive and anchored for the night at Scorpion's. The swell came up late that night and made sleeping a bit of a chore. In the morning we dived on the backside of Anacapa, and Paul found an anchor with chain. The intrepid group spent over three hours working to bring up the anchor. On the first try, we couldn't get the anchor loose. Then we lost the buoy marking it. We were getting kicked around by the swell and were hungry, so we went to the front side, had lunch, and then returned. Paul and Dorothy relocated the anchor and, with everyone pitching in, we were able to raise the anchor and chain. Mark was delighted, while the rest of us were beat but satisfied with a great weekend of friendship and diving.



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## Mendocino Abalone—article & photos by Bruce King

I've been told that about 20 years ago, abalone were abundant in places like Santa Barbara and the Channel Islands. Nowadays, they can hardly be found in local waters, with occasional sightings made at the outer islands. The second half of abalone season started in August and goes until November. Harvesting of abalone requires a fishing license and abalone permit or "ab card," and abs can only be taken while freediving north of the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay. Popular places to find abs are in the areas around Fort Ross, Salt Point, Mendocino, and Fort Bragg because of their proximity to the Bay Area. Because of the long drive from here, it takes most of a day for the trip up and again for the trip back, so it's easier to make it a 4-day trip instead of just a weekend. And it's often more enjoyable to break up the drive by stopping in the Bay Area and staying with friends.

In early August, I took a couple of extra days off, met with friends in Alameda, and continued on to Mendocino County. This far north, the water is always cold, and more often than not the coast is socked in with fog. But this time we lucked out, because the sun was shining and conditions were fairly calm. Our friends showed us a couple of places I had not dived before, and we brought scuba gear so after a day of freediving we found a spot for a nice scuba dive. Toward the end of the weekend, we headed to some of our favorite places to freedive near the Navarro River and the town of Elk, bagged three abalone apiece, and headed back home. I should mention that there are many good wineries near the town of Boonville and throughout the Anderson Valley along Highway 128.


If you haven't been to the Northern California coast, I highly recommend it. The scenery is quite beautiful as there are redwoods and cypress pines right along the coast, and the remoteness of this rugged part of California make for a nice getaway.



*Left to right:  
Mendocino  
Headlands,  
Russian Gulch,  
red abalone.*

# September 2006

Don't forget...  
**MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
**August 29 and September 26**  
**NEW LOCATION:** Petrini's in Santa Barbara

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Campout, diving & BBQ at VAFB boat house with Aqualliers Dive Club	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Camping @Refugio	16 Coastal Cleanup Day
17	18	19	20	21	22 Deco stop @ Sharkeez	23 Movie night
24	25		27	28	29	30

### Upcoming Events

- Labor Day Weekend: Get-together with the Aqualliers Dive Club at Vandenberg; see Evite for details
- Saturday, 9/16: Coastal Cleanup Day—annual campout at Refugio and beach/underwater cleanup
- Friday, 9/22: Deco stop (happy hour) at Sharkeez, 5:30pm
- Saturday, 9/23: Movie night (location and movie 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@yahogroups.com](mailto:PDC_midweek_dive-subscribe@yahogroups.com).



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