

PARADISE DIVE CLUB



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WWW.PARADISEDIVECLUB.ORG



President's Log

by Steven Trainoff

Well, another year has past and a new one has begun. For those brave (or foolish) enough to hit the water now, there are rewards to be found in the cold clear depths. We started the New Year right with a trip to Refugio State Beach for our annual New Year's Day Dive. The Rose Parade could wait, the water was beckoning. About 10 of us had a nice dive and a picnic on the beach that was enjoyed by all.

Last year ended with a bang. The annual holiday party was a great success. Kudos to Jerry Sorich and Kay Silva for an extraordinary repast. Thanks too, to Jerry's father for lending us his house at the last minute so that we could avoid the rain. I saw a lot of smiles and some clever strategic planning over the white elephant gift exchange. For me, the highlight was Gretchen shouting "Not that one!" as I headed towards one of the gifts that we brought.

For us the diving last year was extraordinary. We reached out to experience that elusive "dive life style" with trips to Malaysia, Mexico, and, of course, our very own Channel Islands. Throw in a club trip to dive the Yukon, and it was a very busy year! I invested in a new camera and housing that I know will take me years to master. Even so, I have been very happy with the images, and found that it has taken my photography to a new level.

I want to thank our sponsors for their support over the last year. We have a symbiotic relationship with our sponsors. They provide the goods and services upon which our sport depends. I don't think anyone is getting wealthy running a dive shop or a charter boat. They do it primarily because they love it. It is in all of our best interests that they prosper. I want to encourage all PDC members to patronize their businesses and let them know how much we appreciate them.

We have a lot of ideas about events for the coming year, but first and foremost we need your participation in club events. I know that when it is cold out, it is hard to think of diving, but make a point of putting club events on your calendar, and checking out the web sites. When it is cold, it is the perfect time to plan, or at least daydream about, a trip to a tropical destination with white sands and crystal clear water.

Finally, I know that there are a lot of divers out there that don't yet know about PDC. The next time you are out on dive boat or in one of our dive stores, and you meet someone who is looking to find dive buddies. Let them know about the club. Invite them to the next meeting. The more the merrier!

Important News!

Remember, your 2006 fishing license expired on Jan 1. If you intend to do any fishing, you need to buy a new one.

Meeting Place

The January 28th meeting will take place at Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara. 14 West Calle Laureles. Feeding frenzy at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm

Welcome to Our New Members!

Bill DeCamp
Adam Pasch

January Meeting Entertainment

Underwater videographer and photographer Jody Helzer Pesepane will be doing a showing of her latest work from all over the world.



Bug Fever

by Paul Weakliem

Mark Silva and I had bug fever early this summer and had signed up for a trip to San Nicolas with the Channel Islands Divers of Ventura. The weekend finally arrived as we made the drive down to the Pacific Star in Redondo Beach where the crew helped carry all of our gear aboard – I think I'll like this trip! We headed out to sea on a balmy evening, catching up with our old friends.

The next morning we awoke at San Nic where we suited up and went in for the first dive, which was nice, but uneventful (in bug terms). Indeed, only a few bugs were brought up until Jeff of CID brought in a stuffed bag – stuffed with a 11.5 pound lobster! Surprisingly nobody was interested in then starting a pool for the largest bug when he suggested it.



After a short move we went in again and the vis. was better, but there was still a lot of surge on the bottom, in contrast to the conditions topside! This area had great structure; big walls, arches, etc. I had forgotten how nice San Nic is for structure. The rest of the day continued the same way, with the occasional bug capture (including a classic Silva struggle with legs and antennas flying everywhere). One thing out there is that the bugs brought back on board were all quality bugs – no clickers!

We then had dinner and tried to get motivated for the night dive. Mark succumbed to the cold and the siren call of the beer and decided to sit it out. That beer looked mighty good as we all discussed whether to do the insanity of getting back in the water or to do a 5am dive at Santa Barbara Island the next day. Joe, the cook, who was cleaning up from the delicious dinner, was listening and when we were just about convinced not to do a night dive here, knowingly said “But the big bugs are here”. That was enough to convince us, so we suited up again. Brrrr.

I quickly came across a large wall loaded with scallops, but reminded myself to focus! I picked up a nice bug and had a good dive and was on my way back to the boat after 30 or so minutes. I saw a set of antennas as I came over a rock, and stuck my head in the hole and the antennas kept going! It was a huge bug in a hole, and I made a grab and he backed up, but not very far. I then got ahold of him and started shaking and (after a quick check to see if I had enough air for this) hauled him out. He grabbed me (mental note, 7mm neoprene not thick enough to protect from large lobster legs) and at I then find myself on the surface not sure who is pushing who into the bag! When I got back to the boat, the crew did their routine of measuring the bugs brought back, and he was indeed legal – as an abalone, the twin brother of Jeff's bug! After some photos I decided that this would be his night and he would go back (Mark figured I must still be narc'ed from all the diving)!

I slept well that night, and when I hauled myself out of the bunk it turned out I missed the first dive and was about to miss the second at SB Island! The rumor circulating on the boat was that after realizing what I had done that I had jumped off as we left San Nic to go retrieve my lobster! Mark and I got ready quickly and jumped in at one of the fantastic pinnacles on the south side. We picked up another bug and some scallops while admiring lots of purple hydrocoral which was everywhere. Ken Kollwitz was so focused during his dive he hadn't seen any! After one more dive it was hard to believe, but the trip was over! We made the 4 hour trip back to Redondo chatting with the other divers and crew, about the great trip. After loading our car, and a quick stop at Tito's Tacos were heading home and waiting for this trip again next year! Keep an eye out for it yourself, or if you're looking for a boat in LA, check out the Pacific Star, it's a nice boat, and a great crew!

Holiday Party 2006

(Photos by Stacey Janik and Steven Trainoff)

From left to right: Lily and Santa (ST), Patty, Craig, and Laurel(ST), Pat (ST), Catherine (SJ), Steven (SJ), Jerry and Kay, our wonderful hosts! (ST), Club members(SJ)



PDC Thursday Night Dives!

To find out where the group will be 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.

February Dive Calendar

Truth Aquatics 962-1127, call for prices boats, and specific destinations

2/3, 2/14, 2/24 4am departure, outer islands, 1 day

2/3, 2/10 4am departure, outer islands, 2 day

2/23 4 am departure, limited load, 3 day

2/4, 2/25 6am departure, Santa Cruz, 1 day

2/17, 2/23 4am departure, 3 day

2/10 4am departure island hike, 2 day



Dive Club Officers

President	Steven Trainoff	571-1622
Vice President	Mike Macko	687-7176
Treasurer	Mark Silva	453-2001
Secretary	Barbara Brown	
Membership	Roy Phillips	968-8452
Newsletter	Gretchen Beckert	571-1622
Circulation	Ovidio Mora	683-4999
Sgt at Arms	Craig Adams	693-5835
Entertainment	Mark Bursek	564-1923
Raffle	Ralph Goldsen	681-0400
Webmaster	Bruce King	284-3648
Historian	Cheryl Weakliem	967-2827

Membership

\$25/year for individuals, \$40 for families. Membership runs May-April and includes a monthly newsletter, free air-fills, and other benefits. For details or to join, contact Roy Phillips - 968-8452

Newsletter

Send newsletter items to Gretchen Beckert
gbgreymutt@cox.net

Website

www.paradisediveclub.org



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