

PARADISE DIVE CLUB



VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2
MARCH 2007

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President's Log - by Steven Trainoff

A serious drawback for anyone who loves the sea is the bane of seasickness. I know. I love boats, but they don't love me. I have had more than one dive ruined because I hate the drowsy feeling of anti-nausea medications and I thought I could "tough it out." If you have ever spent a couple hours clutching the gunnels heaving your guts out, you know what I mean; you feel like you want to die. In the last few years I have found that Marezine works pretty well and doesn't completely whack me out. Even so, I don't feel quite normal when I take it. One downside of the fear of seasickness is that I have studiously avoided live-aboard dive vacations. The thought of being sick for days at a time and having to stay medicated was a strong counter-incentive. All of the diving I have done to date has been on day trips.

I finally confronted my demons and went on a true live-aboard dive trip. Gretchen and I joined Ed Stetson's trip to the Revillagigedo Archipelago aboard the Nautilus Explorer. This was a 9 day cruise to San Benedicto, Socorro, and Roca Partida islands which are located about 250 miles SSW of Cabo San Lucas. This was a serious open ocean voyage. At the very last minute Ed got sick and couldn't go. It was a little odd that almost everyone aboard knew Ed but not each other.

I am happy to report that my fears were unfounded. I didn't get sick and we had a great time. Of course, rather than push my luck with a small pitching boat, we started at the top of the live-aboard food chain. The Nautilus Explorer is a gorgeous 116' yacht which has a flume tank stabilizer that really reduces the pitch of the boat. We were cutting through 4-6ft seas like a hot knife through butter. Of course we supplemented this with Scopolamine and didn't have any problems.

The trip itself was AMAZING. One advantage of braving the open ocean is that you get to dive sites that only a handful of people ever see. They are very nearly pristine. There are only two boats that regularly visit these islands. The Revillagigedos are known for their large animal encounters, especially the giant Manta Rays which can get as large as 22ft across. Not only are they big, beautiful, and gentle, they are actively curious about divers and will often come very close and interact.

On one memorable dive a giant Manta circled me for about 15 minutes staring me in the eye. At one point I had to put down the camera and simply enjoy the experience. As the wonderful dive was winding down and I headed back to the ascent line the most amazing thing happened. Only the dive master and I were left in the water when four wild bottlenosed dolphins buzzed us at close range; clicking and whistling. Then they started to mimic our motions. We were blowing bubbles, so they blew bubbles. We were hanging on the ascent line, so they hung on the ascent line. Finally they came to within four feet of the dive master and hung motionless and stared her in the eye. I kept my wits long enough to memorialize this interaction with a photo.

The rest of the trip was equally amazing with memorable high points of night snorkeling with silky sharks, hearing humpback whale song thrumming through the water, and seeing sharks galore (silky, white tips, silvertips, Galapagos, and hammerheads). One freediver even got face to face with a Tiger shark.

Remember, on any dive trip, someone will see something cool that you will completely miss. Eventually it will be your turn. More at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/drsteve> and <http://web.mac.com/gbeckert>

◀ Important News! ▶

Meeting Place

The February 27th meeting will take place at Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara. 14 West Calle Laureles.
Feeding frenzy at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm

Lights! Camera! Action!

A portable projector screen could be yours if the price is right! How better to show off views of your latest dive trip to friends and family than in your own home on your own projector screen! PDC will be accepting bids on our gently used, older projector screen. It has served us well, but is in need of a kind and loving home.

Club Events

Saturday, March 17

Trade in your fins for a pair of hiking boots! PDC Members will hit the trail to Inspiration Point on Saturday, March 17, 10am. Meet at the parking lot for the start. Directions will be available at the Feb. 27th meeting.

Saturday, April 21st

The annual Earthday Beach Clean Up at Tajiguas will take place again this year at 10am. We will follow with diving, camping and eating at Refugio State Beach at noon. Please bring gloves for the clean up and wear sturdy shoes.

Upcoming Events

Ed Stetson will be hosting a trip to Catalina this Spring. Dates are April 27th- April 29. The cost is \$235 double occupancy. Please contact Ed at (805) 687-4771. For more information and to make reservations for this popular trip.

There will be a rig dive at Platform Grace aboard the Sunfish on Saturday, March 10th, 95\$. RSVP by

Breathe! - review by Dan Lindsay

Recently the Santa Barbara Film Society had a very early unique film come up in their connection. Several of the members attended the premiere of "Breathe!" a dive film directed by Don Murray. Don Murray is best known for his Oscar nomination for his work on "Beverly Hills Cop" and "The Untouchables". Some actors effortlessly make the transition into directing (like Clint Eastwood, and Ron Howard) some never do. Unfortunately, Don Murray's directing and control over this production resulted in a very amateurish film. All the actors are first time actors including two of his sons. The film is video, shot in High Definition, and of a high technical quality, but the acting is contrived and suffers perhaps by a seriously weak screenplay, written by one son who admitted that he spent about two weeks on the writing.

The tale is about a dive that went terribly wrong at Santa Cruz Island several decades ago when three divers set out for an evening of bug diving near Painted Cave on the North coast. Tom Campbell, his new wife Cindy Campbell, and a friend named Bruce headed into an underwater labyrinth of caves to hunt and found themselves turned upside down and trapped in an underwater air pocket which ultimately gave them a new lease on life. But that reprieve had its limitations, and ultimately a decision would have to be made by the three in order to ever escape with their lives. Could they give up their individual tanks and regulators to Tom so that he could make a single effort to find his way out and effect a rescue? Would the air in the pocket last? Would Tom even find his way out?

Jody Pesapane, from the Anacapa dive shop, worked as a crew diver and body double in several scuba scenes for Cindy Campbell's actress. She filled in several of the blanks about the film, which didn't follow the actual tale due to artistic license I suppose. Cindy and Bruce remained trapped in the air pocket for 18 hours because Tom discovered that the Coast Guard was tied up with another rescue far to the South. Would they even survive that long?

Tom Campbell is best known for his underwater cinematography. Most, if not all, of the underwater scenes were shot by Tom. He was a former US Navy Seal and at the time a member of the California Highway Patrol. Cindy Campbell was a realtor in the city of Santa Barbara. The technical quality of the underwater stuff is first rate.

It's unfortunate that Don Murray told this tale with such a low budget. It's a story that could have easily made it to the bigger screen, albeit with a further investment in proper screenwriting and real actors. As a result it's a fairly hokey production that forced me to roll my eyes on more than one occasion.

Once again, the evidence of the smallness of Santa Barbara crept into this movie for me. Aside from knowing Jody, I also happened to have gone to high school with Cindy Fanning Campbell and her sister Kathy!

March Local Dive Calendar

Truth Aquatics 962-1127 call for prices, boats, and specific destinations. Go to their website for information on trips with non-local dive groups. www.truthaquatics.com.

1 day dive, outer islands, 4am dep. 3/4, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24

1 day dive, Santa Cruz, 6am departure 3/11

1 day dive, Wreck dive, 4am departure 3/3

1 day dive, rig dive (Grace), 6am departure 3/18

1 day dive, bug dive, Outer Islands, 4am depart., 3/21

2 day dive, 4am departure, 3/3

2 day dive, lobster closeout, 4am departure, 3/20

2 day ISLAND HIKE, 4am departure, 3/24

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

3 day dive, limited load, 4am departure, 3/9

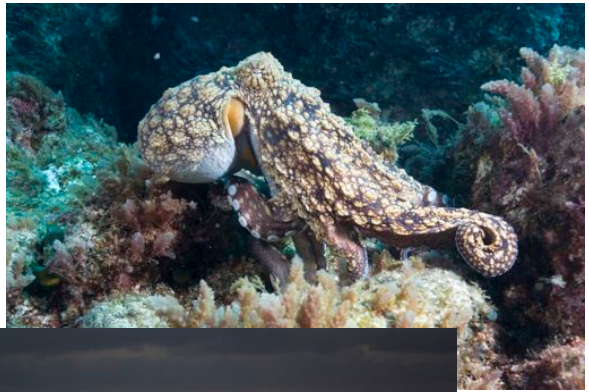
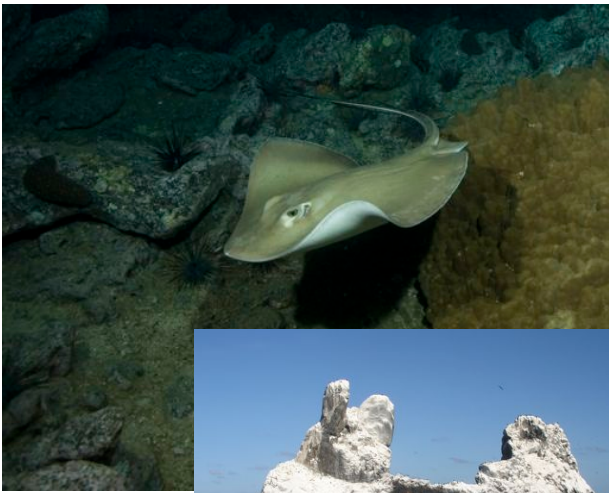
3 day dive, Cortez Banks, lobster, 4am departure, 3/16



Anacapa Dive 963-8917

1 day dive, Santa Cruz, 6am 3/24

Festival was in town and a particular schedule that has a local flavor. Several of the members of the PDC attended the world that centered upon events that occurred many years ago. Don Murray, in "Bus Stop," opposite Marlon Brando in the motion picture and television actor turned into the directing role. While



Photos 1-5,8 by S. Trainoff, photos 6,7,9 by D. Burroughs

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.

Congratulations!

Congrats to Steve Trainoff who won an honorable mention in the WetPixel/DivePhotoGuide DEEP 2007 International Photo Competition in the compact camera category for a photo of a California Garibaldi. This is a stiff international competition with some amazing photos in the winner's circle. Amateurs compete head-to-head with the pros. See Steve's photo and other amazing work at <http://www.underwatercompetition.com>

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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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