



## President's Log by Steven Trainoff

Gretchen and I just returned from the Philippines on a trip organized by Anacapa Dive. The trip was well organized and everything went smoothly. During the long trip back, I spent some time thinking about photography and dive travel. Let me share some of my thoughts.

We stayed in the Atlantis resorts in Puerto Gallera and Dumaguete. At both locations, we dove primarily in marine parks, which are specifically set aside to preserve the underwater habitat. As far as I know, the marine parks were established with dive tourism in mind. The sites we dove were healthy and incredibly biodiverse despite the fact that that Philippines overall has a spotty record when it comes to conservation. Elsewhere dynamite and cyanide fishing is still common.

The marine preserve at Apo Island was lush with enormous corals and schools of fish, but not all was right in paradise. In order to support the fishermen on who live on Apo (and to get them to support the marine park), it is legal for them to fish with traditional bamboo traps. The dive guide explained that since they are made of bamboo, they are environmentally friendly. If lost, they will decompose. That may be, but from what I can tell, bamboo lasts a long time underwater. Worse is that the fish traps are weighted with heavy rocks to make sure they stay on the bottom. Then the traps dropped directly on top of the corals. Most of them have ropes attached so they can be pulled up. The ropes get tangled on the coral heads. I don't even want to think about what happens when they are pulled up.

I also found a large abandoned net, approximately 150 feet long, which was smothering a large section of the reef. I told the dive operator, who was unaware of its presence, even though from the growth on the net, it must have been down there for quite a while. They told me that the preserve management would remove it, but one can only hope.

Overall the Marine Park system appears to be working, but I couldn't help but want more protection. Upon reflection, I realize that it takes a lot of Chutzpah for tourists to tell people how to fish and live. On the other hand, I feel strongly that the ocean needs all the help we can give it. What is one to do?

I believe that the best way to convince people to preserve their reef is to give them a clear economic incentive to do so. This is where dive tourism comes in. By visiting remote locations, and spending money there, it gives people a better way to make a living. It makes clear that they can make more money from protecting their resources than by exploiting them. I spoke with several of the dive masters about this and they pointed out that in Puerto Gallera dynamite fishing used to be common, but it stopped about 20 years ago when it became a popular diving destination. Some of the former fisherman are now dive guides.

The diving was pretty amazing. The Philippines is in a part of the world that is biodiversity hotspot. I saw more new things than on any previous dive trip. It was incredible. There were seahorses, frogfish, scorpionfish, pipefish, devilfish, and nudibranchs galore, turtles, mandarinfish, spotted stingrays, mantis shrimp, morays, anemonefish, etc, etc, etc. What is more, we saw many different types of each. On one dive I saw four different types of seahorses, including both pink and yellow pygmies that were only about the size of a grain of rice.

At Apo, we were surrounded by a tornado of jacks and a wide diversity of beautiful corals. I will definitely be going back. I just hope that the marine parks continue to protect some of these amazing places.





## Clam Diving at La Janelle by Noah Philips

Saturday, Nov. 3, the Paradise Dive Club embarked on a dive to hunt the elusive Pismo Clam. Our expedition was set to depart from La Janelle, a cursed site due to the tragic 1970 grounding of the luxury cruise ship of the same name resulting in the near loss of 2 souls. That morning the air was thick with fog, we could just make out the breaking waves and the wreck itself was lost in the mist. We could hear a boat moving about beyond the surf, perhaps the ghost of the La Janelle, perhaps a rogue vessel of nefarious purpose. There were six of us gathered there: Mike "The Hunter" Macko, a swarthy character with a reputation as dangerous as the 18" blade he carried; Mark Rogers, a wise salt with a deep and mysterious knowledge of the sea; "The Axtell" a man and wife team of pirates from the Spanish main; and your humble narrator.



In the heavy fog one could just make out numerous surfers on the crashing waves. That was enough for "The Axtell", they're superstitious about shoulder-high surf and fog. The remainder of our party pressed on, entering the water in the grip of a powerful rip current, threatening to take us out to sea. We managed to descend into the depths and found ourselves at 2 fathoms on the sandy bottom. Assuming a line abreast formation, we began our search for the Pismo Clam. Our search progressed westward out to beyond 3 fathoms netting only a few sea cucumbers masquerading as clams.



I began to despair of ever finding our quarry, or of even finding our way home, but my colleagues were made of sterner stuff. At Mike's impatient behest we turned north into murky waters. The deepening gloom made staying together more and more challenging. Mike soon disappeared in a cloud of sand kicked up from his bayoneting search strategy. A few minutes later the thin hairs of the feeding Pismo clams appeared, in the ensuing frenzy Mark and I were separated. Left to my own I soon captured ten prodigious specimens all at least a hand-span in breadth. Having had my fill, I began to make my way back to shore, slowly dragging my leaden booty along sea floor.

The exit from through the surf, evading surfboards and struggling to stay afloat against the weight of nearly a dozen ill-tempered clams is tale for another time. Top-side, the sun was shining; we'd each escaped the sea with our lives and a bounty of 10 Pismo clams. The only casualty was an offering of a dive mask and snorkel made to Poseidon in the surf zone by Mr. Rogers. The veil of mist had lifted to expose the mysterious boat prowling offshore: Captain Silva's vessel, The Redemption. After a cordial exchange of semaphore, we all went our separate ways, gleeful and ready for our next adventure.



## Local Dive Calendar

### December 2007

Truth Aquatics 962-1127 call for prices, boats, and specific destinations, or go to their website; [www.truthaquatics.com](http://www.truthaquatics.com).

- 1 day dive to Santa Cruz, 6am dep., 12/16, 12/30
- 1 day Outer Islands, 4am dep., 12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 12/31
- 2 day dive, 4am dep., 12/1, 12/22, 12/31 (New Year's Dive)
- 2 day Island Hike, 4am dep., 12/15
- 3 day dive, 4am dep. 10/29
- 3 day limited load dive, 4am dep. 12/7
- 3 day dive, 1/2 of the boat is Truth Aquatics, 4am dep. 12/8, 12/29

# Paradise Dive Club Events

## December

### Golf ball Invitational

Saturday, December 1st, Goleta Beach  
Challenge at 10am, lunch at noon



Bring a strong dive bag to hold your "loot" and your lunch with something to share



### Holiday Party and White Whale Shark Gift Exchange

Sunday, December 9, 3pm, the cost is \$10/person  
Winchester Commons Club House in Goleta  
Bring a side dish to share and a gift for the exchange

## Coming Up in 2008!

### January

#### New Year's Day Dive

High Noon, Tuesday, January 1 at Refugio  
Bring your lunch and something to share



#### Deco Stop

Friday January 18th, 5:30pm, Beachside Cafe at Goleta Beach

### February

February 16-17, Kayaking in Morro Bay

**Welcome New Divers!**

**Mark Soler**



*Check This Out!*

*Acquire Holiday Gifts and Help a Few Good (local) Causes*

The Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center will be hosting its yearly fund raiser and lecture on Friday, December 14, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol. There will be something for everyone! Talks (Guest speakers include Jean-Michel Cousteau, photographer Bob Talbot, videographer Earl Richardson, and a special surprise guest!), artist booths, silent auction, as well as information booths from other local non-profits working to protect and enhance the local environment. All proceeds from the event will go to the SMMC and the other attending non-profits. Doors open at 6pm, talks begin at 7pm. Tickets are \$18 for SBBC members, seniors and children under age 13, general admission is \$20.

# 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](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)

**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 Noah Philips at [nphilips@gmail.com](mailto:nphilips@gmail.com)

**Newsletter**

Send newsletter items to Gretchen Beckert [gbgreymutt@cox.net](mailto:gbgreymutt@cox.net)

**Website**

[www.paradisediveclub.org](http://www.paradisediveclub.org)

**Dive Club Officers**

President	Steven Trainoff	571-1622
Vice President	Geof McFarland	685-6001
Treasurer	Mark Silva	453-2001
Secretary	Jim Axtell	685-9025
Membership	Noah Philips	<a href="mailto:nphilips@gmail.com">nphilips@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Gretchen Beckert	571-1622
Circulation	Ovidio Mora	683-4999
Sgt at Arms	Akiles Ceron	564-1230
Entertainment	Mark Bursek	564-1923
Historian	Cheryl Weakliem	967-2827

**Join the coolest club in town!**

1. Monthly meetings with entertainment.
2. raffle prizes (we all need new dive stuff)
3. Great dive buddy pool
4. Beach and boat dives, AND weekly night dives
5. Club BBQs, and other activities
6. Free air-fills and gear discounts at local dive shops
7. Right to proudly wear the official PDC T-Shirt (nobody has a logo as cool as ours).



P.O. Box 21311  
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

**Sponsors!**

**Aquatics**

5822 Hollister Ave  
Goleta, Ca 93117  
805-967-4456

**Blue Water Hunter**

117-D Harbor Way  
Santa Barbara, Ca 93109  
805-564-6677

**Truth Aquatics**

301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805-962-1127

**Anacapa Dive Center**

22 Anacapa St  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805-963-8917



*Many thanks to our sponsors for their generosity including air-fill donations and gear discounts!*

🚫 Meeting Place 🚫

The November 27th meeting will take place at  
Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara.  
14 West Calle Laureles.

Feeding frenzy at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm