

PARADISE DIVE CLUB



VOLUME 17, ISSUE 5
JUNE 2008

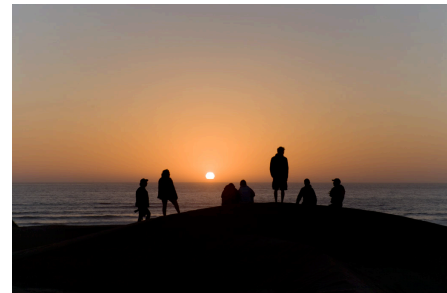
WWW.PARADISEDIVECLUB.ORG



President's Log by Steven Trainoff

What a difference a couple of months make... The water this winter has been very cold, so early this year we decided to try a non-diving, but water related, activity. We planned a Kayak trip in the Morro Bay estuary. The bay is a magnet for bird life all year long, but in the winter many birds use the shallow calm waters as a refuge from the winter storms, or at least so I have been told. On March 1st, we made our first foray onto the water. The weather, on the other hand, had other ideas. A cold wind was blowing so fiercely that even paddling with all of our might, we weren't making much headway. The whitecaps and the spray drenching the boat were also good clues that this just wasn't working. With discretion being the better part of valor, we tucked out tails between our legs and turned back to the dock.

Fast-forward a couple of months to May 17th. With fresh enthusiasm, we again met at the docks. This time Poseidon was smiling on us. The weather was hot and clear, with only a gentle breeze. On the water it was just perfect. Although it was mid-tide and there was a current running, we had no problem paddling against it. We ran across a colony of harbor seals sunning themselves in the shallow water, as well as a whole host of water birds: cormorants, pelicans, egrets, herons, etc. After a couple of hours we paddled up to the dunes that separate the Bay from the ocean. Our hosts, Central Coast Outdoors, had a delightful meal of BBQ sausage and vegetables and a selection of fresh salads. After a dessert of homemade brownies, we clambered up the powder soft sand of the dunes to the top. From a height of around 150ft, we had an absolutely gorgeous view of the ocean complete with a blood red sunset. On the quiet paddle back in the slowly darkening twilight Gretchen and I coasted up to an otter snoozing on his back, tied to a strand of marsh grass. He looked quizzically at us and went back to sleep as we drifted back to the docks. Yes, it was just another day in Paradise.



YE OLDE MEMBERSHIPPE PITCHE

Hear Yea! Hear Yea! Harken to me, fellow Aquanauts, it is once again tyme for the tithe. All we ask for is a share of your livelihood, not your children, not your immortal soul, nor your glorious honor. Nay, we merely require you give a fraction of what you've earned this year, just so long as that fraction equates to \$25 (\$40 for families). Is that not a pittance? Is that not a bearable burden in exchange for all you receive?

The membership year began May 1, so please get your forms in right away and don't forget to sign the waiver. A copy of both the membership form and waiver is attached to the newsletter and can also be found on the website.

The Membership Officer

THE FRENCH CONNECTION by Michael Ring

On March 21 my family travelled to Cassis on the Mediterranean coast of France for a two week adventure. The plan was to stay in an apartment that we rented, and then do day trips around the southern areas, taking in the sights, the food and, of course, the wine. In anticipation of the trip I contacted a few dive shops in the area to see what I could see. Two shops responded to my emails, in various forms of English. One seemed quite friendly, so I chose to dive with them.

The flying part was fairly uneventful. We did get to upgrade to business class, which I highly recommend if you are taking a 10 hour flight. While the seats were not the individualized cubbies that they had in First Class, they were very comfortable as they reclined almost fully horizontal and had nice foot rests. Any way you slice it, 10 hours from LAX to Frankfurt is a long flight. It was a little intimidating when we got to Frankfurt and the Immigrations agent asked me for my "papers." Flashes of The Great Escape went through my mind. Fortunately, I did not try to flee. From Frankfurt we travelled on to Marseille.

Marseille is a very large city, and a huge seaport. We got there on a Friday. In the evening. The Friday before Easter. Imagine my wife's surprise that we had traffic leaving the airport. Who'd a figured that!

To make our lives easier, or so we thought, we bought a Garmin GPS before the trip, with the Europe maps card. We were set! What could go wrong? Well, have you ever heard an American computer try to pronounce French street names? Now that's funny! The only problem was that by the time we figured out what it was saying we were frequently on the wrong exit from the round-about. We got used to it. Eventually. We also got used to the Garmin saying, in an exasperated tone, "Re-calculating." I never knew a computer could get pissed off.

As we all like to boast, Santa Barbara is the Rivera of the Pacific. The analogy is quite accurate, both above the surface and below. See the attached picture of Cap Canaille out our living room window and you will see what I mean.

The language difference was a little bit of an issue, but I had taken French when I was in high school (ok, a while ago), and my wife, who is fluent, went with me the day after we got there to help me get established. The owner of the shop spoke a little English, very little, but the woman dive master could speak English better, so together we muddled through the communication process. I had to shown them my C-card and a certification from my doctor saying that I was physically fit to dive.

The boat departs at 9:00 a.m. each morning except Wednesday when they do their marketing and do not go out. There was only one dive each trip, but you could go out in the afternoon as well if you wanted. Their tanks are Din, but the valve stem off the tank leads to a Y attachment, and they have an adapter that will convert to yoke. I got to get me one of those. You could use air or Nitrox. They mix right at the shop. No sense having to deal with all the extra issues of new sights, new systems, foreign language and staying alive. So, for the initial dives I decided to go with air. I was signed up to dive Monday morning. How cool. I was going to dive the Med!

For those who have never been to France they have this weather phenomenon called 'Le Mistral' and it is amazing. You see, the wind comes down from the arctic along the Rhone river valley and exits between Marseille and Nice. Basically, right where we were. And when I say wind, I mean wind. 60+ miles per hour. Non-stop. All day. All night.

That night I was excited to get to sleep so I could wake up and go diving! Of course, Le Mistral had other plans. My god that wind can make noise. Incessantly. The local legend is that it was Le Mistral that drove Van Gough to cut off his ear. I believe it! The only time that the wind stops is when it is going to rain. Tough choice. (cont. on page 3)



Paradise Dive Club Events

Boat dive June 22nd on the Vision

Local Dive Calendar

June 2008

Truth Aquatics 962-1127 call for prices, boats, and specific destinations, or go to their website; www.truthaquatics.com.

- 1 day dive St. Cruz, 6am dep., 6/6, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29
- 1 day Outer Islds, 4am dep., 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28
- 2 day hike & kayak 4am dep., 6/21
- 2 day Island Excursion, 4am dep., 6/29
- 3 day limited load, 4am dep., 6/19
- 3 day 4am dep., 6/12 6/26 (1/2 trip is Truth Aquatics)

Anacapa Dive Center 963-8917 All dives are onboard the Peace (Ventura) and leave at 7am.

1 day dive to Santa Cruz, 6/1, 6/15

Trips to Exotic Places!

Anacapa Dive Center 963-8917,

Indonesia, with add-on to Bali

May 2009

Aquatics 967-4456,

Fiji - Beqa Lagoon

July 3-July 15

(cont. from page 2)

Bright and early the next morning I got up and silently left the bedroom to gear up. I looked out our living room window. What the???! It was snowing! Not just a flake here and there, but a full fledged snow storm! I grew up in Minnesota and I know snow. This was a hell of a lot of snow. You could not see Cap Canaille. You could not see the sea. Heck, all you could see was snow! Well, I dived in hail in Ireland, what the heck.

I went down to the shop and got checked in. Then we went down to the boat. There were 6 other divers, the captain and the dive master. The others were native.

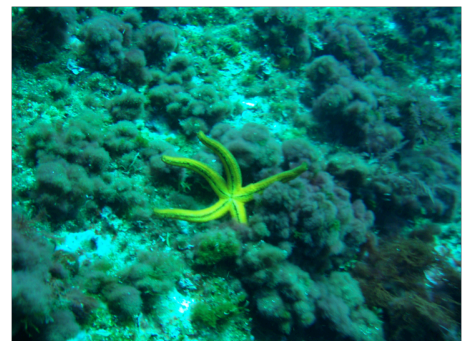
Speaking French together. Laughing. Gearing up. The dive master and I were going to buddy up. She wanted to make sure I could dive, so we had to go in together and I had to flood my mask and purge, etc.

I tried to tell her that was not necessary, especially with my dry hood and 5 mil gloves that would make it hard for me to get a fresh seal on the mask once in the water. She disagreed. At least I think she did. In any event, I had to stride in, flood my mask then purge. Fine. I took my gloves off to put the mask back on to get the seal. No big deal. The water temp was 52 degrees. A bit chilly with no gloves. But it was over. Down we went.

The viz was very similar to the SB Channel; between 30 and 60 feet. The topography was different. No kelp, just shear cliffs, with red soft coral swaying in the surge. Because of the winds we stayed near shore and travelled a ways west of the cove that is Cassis. We saw many, many octopus.

We saw purple conger. We saw various star fish, and urchins, and nudibranch.

Some of the colors were different than that of our local variety.



All in all, the diving was great. I went out 6 days and logged my 200th dive of my short career. The language was not a problem, and was even a source of learning and amusement, mostly for my French friends. The people were very welcoming and the food was wonderful.

Given a chance, I would go back and do it all again.

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

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

Newsletter

Send newsletter items to Gretchen Beckert gbgreymutt@cox.net

Website

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

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