



## President's Log by Steven Trainoff

Wow. What a topsy-turvy month this has been. Between the Gap Fire and looming deadlines at work, I haven't been diving much. However, the other day I stumbled across my original dive log, and in a fit of nostalgia, I was reminded of how I started diving.

In 1983 Caltech offered a two semester Naui course as one of the Physical Education options. With the luxury of time, the course covered basic and "advanced" open water certifications, although things were a little different in 1983. Perhaps because this was a physical education course, or because it was Naui course, or because the whole philosophy of diving was different then, but our instructor Clinton Dodd put us through the paces. We had to swim a mile and do a dead man float for 30 minutes. Of course since I was 20 years old at the time, this was relatively easy. (In comparison the current PADI requirement is only a 10 minute float and a 200 yard swim.) We spent innumerable sessions doing lifesaving and the usual basic scuba skills.

Finally the day of our first dive dawned. We rented gear from Sports Chalet, which at the time was the only shop within 50 miles that rented scuba gear. It all seemed so high tech. I had a manual inflate Mae West BC, a super stiff 7mm wetsuit, weight belt, regulator, and a steel 72. A power inflator or octopus was a luxury that only *rich* divers could afford. On a student budget a Dacor mask, Mares PowerPlana fins, hood and gloves had set me back so far that I was looking at several months of PB&J sandwiches to make ends meet. Even so, I was going to go DIVING! Whoo hoo!

We drove from Pasadena to Laguna Cove and set up on the top of the cliff. We donned our gear and tried not to die of heat stroke while climbing down the stairs. Once on the beach, our hearts sunk. A large swell had generated 5-6ft breakers. It looked more conducive to surfing than diving. Even so, we had driven for a two hours and rented expensive gear. We weren't going to let something as trivial as surf stand in our way. We timed the sets and rushed through the waves unscathed.

My mask leaked, my BC leaked, I was over-weighted, and had trouble with buoyancy control. Whenever I moved, a lightning bolt of cold water poured down my spine. During our exit, I got tumbled by the waves. In short, I loved it. My second and third trips were much the same.

Then disaster struck. Back at school, I was juggling a busy schedule. On the side I was helped build sets for the student musical. We just completed a successful show of Brigadoon and I was helping disassemble the stage when a part that I was standing on collapsed underneath me. My arm broke and I had a cast on it for a couple of months. The glow of those first few dives faded. The school year ended and I never finished my certification.

Things stayed that way for the next 14 years until one day Gretchen and I were on a vacation in Hawaii with my family. We were looking for ways to get away so that I wouldn't strangle my niece and nephews. The hotel offered an *explore scuba* course that looked like a perfect way to spend some quality time away from them. In retrospect, the course was entirely inadequate, and I never recommend them to others, but we had an amazing dive. We saw sea turtles, lava fingers, and an octopus. It only lasted about 30 minutes, but it fanned the long burning embers of the glow from 1983. I was hooked. When we got back to Santa Barbara I convinced Gretchen to do it the right way. We signed up for a course at California Watersports (where Aquatics is now) in Goleta and the rest is history.

## Name That Fish; Dive Trip With REEF - Paul Weakliem

On Sunday July 13th a group of us joined a bunch of divers from REEF and from a shop in West LA (Eco Dive Center) on an outer islands trip on the Truth. A number of us were participating in the Great Annual Fish Count, doing REEF fish surveys. On Saturday evening we had a fish ID class, with a great turnout of divers! After some catching up with Dan at Sea Landing, and some of the other divers, we turned in.

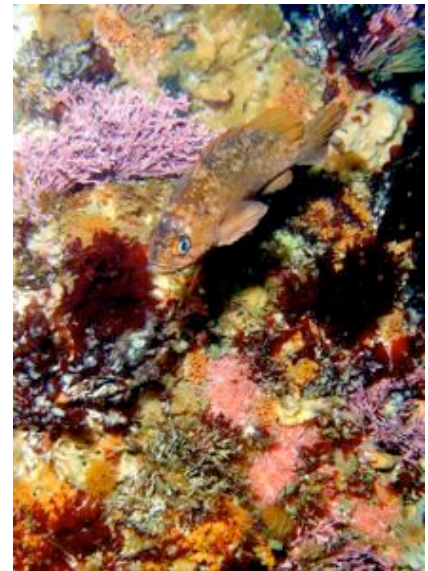
We awoke the next morning to a smooth ride, and those of us who have been to San Miguel before knew what this meant; a flat day calls for a dive at a pinnacle! The Conception was already at Wilsons Rock, so we headed a bit further up the island to Oil Springs, another beautiful spot. It consists of a pinnacle with 20' deep canyons with sheer walls; an incredible spot. I regretted not having my light (I had raided it from my BC pocket during our recent power outages!), but it was a spot I definitely want to visit again. Too soon we were out of time, and back to the boat. We compared notes with the other fish counters (Ray and Stacey, and Jerry from PDC, and several REEF divers from around the state) on the short trip back towards the island and our second spot (Nifty Rock).



This is a large rock just offshore, surrounded by kelp. Claire (of NOAA) and I found an overhang that was full of large vermillion and copper rockfish, and even a few lingcod! We would have been happy to just stay there, but since it was at almost 80 feet, that wasn't in the cards.



After scribbling furiously to count the many fish, it was back to shallower water where we dabbled around in the sunlit kelp. After a delicious (and quick!) BBQ lunch, we were on to do our final dive at Hare Rock, and we started off leisurely to one side of the rock. We kept going, as the dive got better and better until we figured out we were clear around the other side of the rock! After another 20 minutes of prowling around, we popped up, and the inflatable from the Truth was right there; so we weren't too proud to be 'Limo Divers', and got a ride for the last 200 feet around the kelp bed.



The one bummer about San Miguel is the day is always over too soon, and we started the long ride back to shore. It was a great day, on a great boat, and we met a lot of new buddies. We also accumulated 30 REEF surveys! If you're down in the WLA/Culver City area, near Titos Tacos, and Johnnie's Pastrami, stop on in to EcoDiveCenter to say 'hi' (after getting a bite to eat!). We hope to see them up in Santa Barbara again soon!

(All photographs in this issue were taken by Ray and Stacey Janik. Thanks guys!)

a. Sea Anemone b. Rock Fish c. Kelp Rock Fish

## One Fish, Two Fish - Raymond Janik

I have a confession to make: a lot of the time when I'm in the water, and hunters are stalking something delicious and photographers carefully framing the perfect subject, I just like to float around and think "ooh, pretty." So, when fish count season rolls around, I have to shift mental gears a bit and look at things just a little more closely—which is actually a lot of fun.

REEF, the Reef Environmental Education Foundation, has been coordinating volunteer fish-counting surveys around the world since 1990, and every summer it holds the Great Annual Fish Count, encouraging divers to take part in dives organized around completing a survey.



Club member Paul Weakliem put together our July 13<sup>th</sup> dive aboard the *Truth*, working with Eco Dive Center in Los Angeles, and we had 8 divers, 4 from PDC, aboard.

The night before the dive, Paul and NOAA representative Claire Fackler conducted a fish ID refresher seminar for us and many of the other divers from the charter. After the review, we had a quiz, complete with prizes, and headed over to the boat. The trip was scheduled for San Miguel and, since conditions looked very good, we were hopeful we'd actually make it there—which is never a sure thing.

Turns out we had nothing to worry about. The crossing was so calm I was surprised to get the wake-up call for the pre-dive briefing!

Our first stop was Wilson Rock, but conditions were bad, so we moved to Oil Springs and followed up with dives at Nifty Rock and Hare Rock. Conditions all day were excellent: water in the 50's, viz in the 30's and fish in numbers to keep us counting for as long as we wanted. It was impressive, as usual, to see what happens to fish if you put them in hard-to-get-to places and don't let people kill them: they get big. The rockfish we saw there dwarfed most that I've seen at the inner islands. The actual counting of fish is simplified by REEF so that the dives are not at all like work; it's actually a great way to stay more attentive to what's going on, without doing too much more than the aforementioned appreciation of how pretty things are underwater.



After three dives, we reluctantly prepared for the long crossing back to the harbor, thankful that the water was still flat and the sun had come out to wrap up a truly excellent day of diving.

If you're interested in fish-counting, be sure to check out REEF's web site ([reef.org](http://reef.org)). Or talk to Paul or Carl Gwinn, both of whom are West Coast REEF superstars, leading almost all other divers in the number of surveys they've completed. Carl's set up another REEF trip August 9-10, but you can do a survey on any dive, and the program's roving diver format means you can do it for as little or as much of any dive as you want.

a. Ray Counting Fish b. Happy Hunters - Ray and Stacey Janik, Paul Weakliem, Jerry Sorich

# Paradise Dive Club Events

September 2008

20 - Coastal Clean Up Day  
The Vandenberg Aqualiers will be joining us for this event

## Local Dive Calendar

September 2008

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 outer islands dive, 4am dep., 8/29

1 day inner islands dive, 6am dep., 8/28

1 day kayak/snorkel 9am dep., 8/5

1 day Oil Rig dive (Platform Grace), 6am dep., 8/8

2 day limited load dive 4am dep., 8/26 (1/2 trip is Truth Aquatics)

3 day dive 4am dep., 8/3, 8/18 (1/2 trip is Truth Aquatics)

4 day limited load dive to San Clemente, 10pm dep., 8/23 (1/2 trip is Truth Aquatics)

5 day limited load dive to San Clemente, 10pm dep., 8/23

### Trips to Exotic Places!

Anacapa Dive Center 963-8917,

Indonesia, with add-on to Bali, May 2009

**Don't Forget!** Next month we will be electing our new club officers and a new newsletter editor. Its time to have your ideas be heard. Become a Club officer and shake up our Club.

## New Adventures For Danita - Paul Weakliem

Most of us know ranger Danita Rodriguez from the days when we frequented Refugio State Beach for our summer BBQs, as well as beach cleanups. She had been the head ranger of the parks of the Gaviota coast, and the person who helped many of the events happen over the years. Back when PDC was a young club, Danita started the gatherings of local dive clubs (some now defunct) from Santa Maria, Lompoc, Vandenburg, and PDC, starting friendships that remain today. The clubs jointly helped with setting up some of the displays that now show the dry visitors to Refugio what exists just a few feet offshore. There were countless beach cleanups too, and this tradition lives on when the clubs gather for Coastal Cleanup day in Sept.

Danita has recently been promoted to a supervisor of the Marin district of the CA State Parks. We will miss her and her husband Curt (who many of us know since he's also a diver and member of the north county dive clubs) and wish them the best in their new endeavors.

## PDC Thursday Night Dives!

To find out where the group will be diving, or group/PDC\_midweek\_dive, or send e-mail to

to be added to the night dive e-mail list, sign up at [http://groups.yahoo.com/PDC\\_midweek\\_dive-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](http://groups.yahoo.com/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 [gbgreymult@cox.net](mailto:gbgreymult@cox.net)

### Website

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

Join

the

coolest club in

town!



### 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

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





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 July 29 meeting will take place at  
Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara.  
14 West Calle Laureles.

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