

# Paradise Dive Club

Volume 17, Issue 9

September 2008



## President's Log

### *Inaugural Address*

Michael Ring  
President

It is the night after I have been elected President of the Paradise Dive Club of Santa Barbara. As I sit here thinking about this astounding occurrence I realize that it is now up to me to write the President's Log column each month for the news letter. This will be my "inaugural" attempt.

I think of all of the columns written by Steve and how informative and creative he has been over his two years of stewardship of the Club, and I am daunted by the task of keeping the flame burning. What words can I write in this column that will reflect the spirit of the club? How will I express the ideals of the club? How will I keep the members interested in reading these letters?

I guess it should start as it always does when one brings up the topic of scuba diving. Why do we dive? Why do I dive? For me, it started a few short years ago. After my daughter Iris got certified while in college she called me on the phone with an overwhelming sense of excitement in her voice. "Dad, I know you love to snorkel, but you have to get scuba certified. It is so much better. You can stay down forever. And the things you can see close up. You gotta do it."

Of course, I brushed her off with a litany of standard reasons why I could not do it. I can't equalize my ears. I don't really like to swim. I might explode if I get too much stomach gas while ascending. You know; excuses. She persisted. Finally, Christmas 2004 we were in Cancun. My wife, Susie, my son, Jonathan and I. There was a dive shop at the resort. We had no excuse not to try it. All went as normal. A couple hours of class and pool training, then on to the boat.

Of course it was not that simple. Our initial dive master did not speak very good English, and we were not that conversant in Spanish. Especially not the jargon needed for diving, at least not in Spanish.

The boat was small. The seas were a bit rough. Susie got seasick. Jon could not equalize correctly. I was focused on them. The whole time I was worried that something would happen to one of them, so I did not relax and enjoy it for a moment. It got so bad that after we surfaced and got back to the resort Susie ended up vomiting. Right on top of me, (as I was below her, having already gotten out of the boat). Quite the first encounter.

The deal was that if you liked the first dive, you could go on the second one for free. Neither Susie nor Jon wanted to go. I thought I would give it another try. So I signed up for the next morning's boat. That night I had a very vivid dream that I drowned the next day. I woke up before the others and got into my swimming trunks. "Take care of your mother for me." I told my 14 year old son. "Remember, you are the man of the family, so mind your mother." I said a hesitant, somewhat tearful goodbye and went off to what I presumed was to be my death.

Well the dive master was perfect for the job. He was Swiss. He was very patient. He spoke impeccable English. It was just the two of us. No other divers from our resort were going that day. We got on the boat with another instructor and two other divers from another resort and headed out to sea. The day was absolutely perfect. Blue sky. No wind. No waves.

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We got to the site. After getting a bit of instruction and what our plan was going to be, we got into the water. The instructor gave the sign to descend. At that point I did not have either Susie or Jonathan to be concerned with. Only me. No one else for me to focus on. Now it was all internal.

As we started to sink my dream from the night before came rushing into my consciousness. I got a bit spooked and signaled that I wanted to ascend. When we hit the surface, the instructor asked me if I was ok, and I told him I needed a moment. He gave the perfect response. "Don't worry. This is your dive. Take as much time as you need. When you are ready, we will continue."

With that calming influence I took a few breaths and was ready to descend. The rest of the dive was as perfect as one could ask for. We were down to about 35 feet for about 30 minutes. It was glorious. I loved it.

After we got back to the resort and I had said goodbye to the instructor I started to head to our room to tell the others of the experience. While walking the halls I had the overwhelming sensation that my life had changed forever. Those words actually came into my consciousness. "My life has changed forever."

Now, only a few short years after that, I have logged hundreds of dives, and cannot wait to get into the water in some exotic location again. The inner peace that we find while diving is intoxicating and addictive. The sense of weightlessness and freedom are compelling. The solitude and splendor of the various dives sites cannot be ignored nor resisted. It is a legal high that just keeps getting better and better.

As divers we all have shared that special something that simply cannot be explained to a non-diver adequately. It is as though we have a dirty little secret that we keep, and yet are more than willing to let others in on it.

The social rapport that divers have is incredible. No matter where you go in the world, other divers treat you as brothers or sisters, welcoming you and helping you in whatever way you need while on the boat, or walking into the surf. They willingly share your excitement as you relate your stories of a recent dive, or a planned trip to somewhere no one has heard of.

There is camaraderie in the diving world that is universal. From my trips to Ireland, or France, or Fiji, or just right out here in the Santa Barbara Channel, I

have met people who have immediately welcomed me without hesitation.

And that is it. There is the answer to the constant question. Why do I dive? I dive because of all of the wonder and the beauty that I get to see both above the water getting to my destinations and below the water once I am there. I dive because of that absolutely gratifying physical and mental sensation that I feel when in the water. I dive because I can do double or triple summersaults under the water, and not only do I not get hurt, no one tells me to stop and behave. I dive because it has changed my life forever.

## Grand Opening of the Goleta Pier Angler Center

- Paul Weakliem

[United Pier and Shore Anglers of California \(UPSAC\)](http://www.upsac.org)  
[www.upsac.org](http://www.upsac.org)

[Santa Barbara County Parks](http://www.sbparks.org)  
[www.sbparks.org](http://www.sbparks.org)

'Grand Opening' of the Goleta Pier Angler Center was September 12, 2008 at 2:30PM.

Goleta Pier is the 1,450-foot-long recreational pier and centerpiece attraction of Santa Barbara County's most popular park, Goleta Beach County Park. The pier saw the dedication of the new 'Goleta Pier Angler Center,' on September 12.

The Center is a unique partnership between Santa Barbara County Parks and United Pier and Shore Anglers of California and is designed to provide a community multi-purpose marine center for a variety of educational activities. The UPSAC staffer at the Center will be identified as a Pier Host, similar to the camp host position within the State and County park systems.

The Pier Host will:

- Teach both new and experienced anglers (especially children, families and at-risk teens) to fish successfully and responsibly, using environmentally friendly techniques and equipment.

- Sponsor angling clinics and provision of on-pier assistance and loaner poles for use by community

## REMINDER

With lobster season coming up soon **NOW** is the time to check all of your gear for needed repairs, have your tanks inspected and get a new fishing license if you don't have one. Also, make sure that you know the rules for which bugs can be taken and which ones remain free for next year's season!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### START OF LOBSTER SEASON DIVE

PLACE: BUTTERFLY BEACH

TIME: SEPTEMBER 26, 11:00PM

Let's get the bugs out of the system (and by system we mean the ocean)! PDC will gather to open the Bug season which begins at midnight.

### LOBSTER / CHICKEN BAKE

PLACE: STEVE AND GRETCHEN'S HOUSE

TIME: SEPTEMBER 27, 6:30PM

Time to cook what you caught - or talk about the ones that got away.

### UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING

PLACE: GOLETA BEACH

TIME: OCTOBER 25

Go for a dive, carve a pumpkin, and stay for a post dive BBQ.

### ANNUAL GOLF BALL CHALLENGE

PLACE: GOLETA BEACH

TIME: NOVEMBER 8

Dive in to round up the most golf balls. No carving or baking involved. Stay for the post dive BBQ.

groups and other privately organized outings.

-Encourage anglers and other visitors towards a better appreciation and understanding of the marine environment found at piers like Goleta – and the ecological relationship between the Goleta Slough (nursery area), Goleta Bay (and kelp), adjacent pipe-reef, and sandy-shore bottom environment.

-Oversee the UPSAC Line Recycle Project and line bins designed to prevent injury to sea birds from stray fishing line as part of its ongoing efforts to mitigate angler impacts.

-Pier Host will also be responsible for daily pier cleaning, discarded tackle removal and assistance with injured birds and other marine wildlife problems. A list of emergency numbers and after hours contacts will be posted on the exterior wall.

-Be an on-site resource for both California Fish and Game and NOAA publications. Included will be fishery regulation booklets, fish identification charts, and pamphlets showing safe catch-and-release practices and how to safely handle birds.

The overall goal of the Angler Center is to make Goleta Pier a welcoming and safe place for all visitors – and an example of best practices for other piers.

For information contact Ken Jones at 209-327-6254 or the current Pier Host, Boyd Grant, at 805 637-6708. More information is available at the Goleta Pier website: <http://www.pierhead.freeservers.com>. ■

## Channel Islands Divers San Nic Trip.

- Paul Weakliem

Looking for something new to do this bug season? Channel Islands Divers is again doing their two day trip to San Nic. It's Oct 4/5, which is a rare Saturday/Sunday trip, so you don't need to take days off work even! This is the trip that Mark Silva and I did a few years ago where I caught (and released) the 11+ lb bug; he's still out there, and now bigger, so go see if you can find him again! San Nic. is a great place to go bug diving, where 5 pounders are routine. The cost of the trip is \$350 which is a good deal, and the Channel Islands Divers are a great bunch of people to go on a trip with. If you are interested or want more information, email Ken at [dive@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:dive@channelislandsdivers.org)

# 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: [membership@paradisediveclub.org](mailto:membership@paradisediveclub.org).

## Newsletter

Send newsletter items to Stuart Ponder at: [webmaster@paradisediveclub.org](mailto:webmaster@paradisediveclub.org)

## Website

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

## 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).

## Dive Club Officers

President	Michael Ring	<a href="mailto:info@paradisediveclub.org">info@paradisediveclub.org</a>
Vice President	Geof McFarland	
Treasurer	Mark Silva	
Secretary	Akiles Ceron	
Membership	Noah Philips	<a href="mailto:membership@paradisediveclub.org">membership@paradisediveclub.org</a>
Newsletter	Stuart Ponder	<a href="mailto:webmaster@paradisediveclub.org">webmaster@paradisediveclub.org</a>
Circulation	Jim Axtell	
Entertainment	Steve Trainoff	



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

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