

# Paradise Dive Club

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## President's Log

### *Responsible Diving*

Michael Ring  
President

Diving responsibly. What does it mean?

As a social club, we at Paradise Dive Club of Santa Barbara enjoy our monthly meetings and our various activities, whether they be actual dives or shore clean ups. But is there more that we as divers need to pay attention to? Should we think about the issues subsumed within the activity of diving? I think we have a duty as a club to visit the topic of responsible diving at least every so often to remind us all that we are engaged in a sport that by its very nature is dangerous.

The question of how safe scuba diving is inevitably leads to the question of the responsible nature of the diver involved. According to studies, the vast majority of diving injuries and death are the result of some failure on the part of the diver to act in accordance with training or proper protocol. According to Health and Safety Executive (UK) the risk of death as a result of scuba diving is 1 in

200,000 dives. While that may not seem like a high percentage, when you consider how many divers are out there each year, the odds can be greater than you think.

As a diver, we each have the responsibility to assure that we are prepared for any given dive. That includes keeping yourself physically fit, emotionally fit, checking to ensure that our equipment is in working order, and that we are fully familiar with our own equipment and that of our dive buddy. All too often we do not bother to go through our standard procedures and check lists before getting in the water. When was the last time you as a diver checked to see if you understood the weight belt release on your buddy's system? Or had your own equipment checked by a qualified professional? When was the last time you and your buddy actually practiced buddy-breathing in the water? Or even reviewed with your buddy the hand signals that you might use on a given dive?

Do you take it all for granted? Would that be the case at 120 feet when either you or your buddy has run out of breathing gas and don't think you can make it to the surface without shooting up like a volcanic eruption?

How many of us subscribe to the various scuba diving magazines? What percentage of those who subscribe read the articles, other than the ones that talk about the island getaways that are of interest? Do you actually read Alert Diver and its tales of woe about some fortunate and other not so fortunate divers who get themselves into trouble in the water? Those articles could save your life some day, or that of your buddy.

I know it sounds juvenile, but it really does help to

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practice those basic skill drills that we all had to learn during our certification courses. Steps that we take to make sure that we are prepared for the unexpected that pops up while we are down.

Yes, diving is a great sport and a wonderful way to relax and see the world. But the privilege of diving comes with responsibilities to take care of ourselves and our dive buddy. It does not take much time or effort to focus on the tasks that are needed to ensure that you dive safely. Otherwise, you might become a statistic. ■

### Pictures from the Beach Cleanup

- Laurel Mehler



### A Little History of Scuba

- Jerry Sorich

I thought it would be interesting to do some research on the origin and workings of some of the essential equipment that we use in this sport we love. Over the next few months we will review the history of how our gear came about and evolved.

We will start at the beginning.

Ancient swimmers used cut hollow reeds to breathe air, the first rudimentary snorkel used to enhance our abilities underwater.

As told by the 5th century B.C. historian Herodotus (and quoted in numerous modern texts), "During a naval campaign the Greek Scyllis was taken aboard ship as prisoner by the Persian King Xerxes I. When Scyllis learned that Xerxes was to attack a Greek flotilla, he seized a knife and jumped overboard. The Persians could not find him in the water and presumed he had drowned. Scyllis surfaced at night and made his way among all the

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ANNUAL GOLF BALL CHALLENGE

PLACE: GOLETA BEACH

TIME: NOVEMBER 8 10:00AM

Hello all you scuba golfers.

Remember to mark your calendars for the Club's Golf Ball Challenge Dive at Goleta Beach. The festivities will start at 10:00, so be there early to gear up. The Club will host a barbeque after the dive. We will provide the meat and drinks. Please bring a side dish of your choice. The event is always a good time and a chance to show off your skills in the water. Plus there will be prizes for the top flite finishers.

### MONTHLY MEETING

PLACE: PETRINI'S

TIME: NOVEMBER 25, 6:30PM

Dive in to the food, stay for the entertainment.

### THE 28TH ANNUAL AVALON UNDERWATER CLEANUP

Date: February 21, 2009.

Once again the Catalina Conservancy Divers and the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber are holding an annual contest for the T-Shirt Logo Design. The contest is open to any and all who have an interest and a talent. The rules of the contest are simple. The design must include no more than two colors. The winner will be acknowledged in the marketing of the event as well as at the event itself. Deadline for entries is **December 1, 2008**. The winner will be announced on January 15, 2009.

ships in Xerxes's fleet, cutting each ship loose from its moorings; he used a hollow reed as snorkel to remain unobserved. "

Breathing through a hollow reed allows the body to be submerged, but it must have become apparent right away that reeds more than two feet long do not work well; difficulty inhaling against water pressure effectively limits snorkel length.

Around 1300, Persian divers were making rudimentary eye goggles from the thinly sliced and polished shells of tortoises.

In the 16th century people began to use diving bells supplied with air from the surface, probably the first effective means of staying under water for any length of time. The bell was held stationary a few feet from the surface, its bottom open to water and its top portion containing air compressed by the water pressure. A diver standing upright would have his head in the air. He could leave the bell for a minute or two to collect sponges or explore the bottom, then return for a short while until air in the bell was no longer breathable

In the late 16th century England and France, full diving suits made of leather were used to depths of 60 feet. Air was pumped down from the surface with the aid of manual pumps. Soon helmets were made of metal to withstand even greater water pressure and divers went deeper. By the 1830s the surface-supplied air helmet was perfected well enough to allow extensive salvage work.

In 1771, British engineer, John Smeaton invented the air pump. A hose was connected between the air pump and the diving barrel, allowing air to be pumped to the diver.

Emile Gagnan and Jacques Cousteau invented the modern demand regulator and an improved autonomous diving suit. In 1942, they redesigned a car regulator and invented a demand regulator that would automatically provide fresh air when a diver breathed. Divers used the aqualung to locate and remove enemy mines after World War II. A year later in 1943, Cousteau and Gagnan began selling the Aqua Lung and coined the term SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus). ■

# 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	



PO Box 21311  
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

### Sponsors!

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#### 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 airfill 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