

# Paradise Dive Club

Volume 17, Issue 11

November 2008



## President's Log

### *Tea and Sympathy*

Michael Ring  
President

I have been wondering all month what I would write about for my next President's Log in the newsletter. Various ideas were floating around in my mind, but nothing really grabbed me as a topic. Then, the fire hit. And as I was driving home after two days of evacuation status it struck me that this is the topic that needs to be covered now. I will take this opportunity to describe our experience, and then give some thoughts of what we all can do to be prepared for something none of us wants to have to go through.

As I got home Thursday night around 6:30 p.m. there was a definite odor of smoke in the area. My wife was out on the deck watering the plants. Our son was in class at City College. I asked my wife about the smoke and she had no information. Soon thereafter a friend called and told us of what he had heard on the news and suggested we consider leaving. We immediately turned on the local news and saw the growing devastation. The decision was

made immediately to begin evacuating. I called our son and had him leave class and come home.

We spent the next 90 minutes deciding what to take and what to leave behind. During that time the power went out several times, in some cases for many, many minutes. Fortunately, we have a number of lanterns and flashlights handy. They saved us from quite a bit of trouble and potential panic.

Ultimately we got to the point where we had what we felt we needed and loaded the cars as full as we could. As I loaded the last items into the back of my car I looked up to the sky. There were large plumes of smoke that was glowing bright yellow-orange from the reflected flames. It was obvious that the fire was close.

The entire event got me to thinking. One of the most important things in diving is creating an emergency action plan. During our training we are constantly reminded of the importance of planning and repetition of the skills you learn in training. You can extend that logic to your home. If you spend time, like a good diver does, creating an emergency action plan for dive travel, you should also do that at home. Keep it simple and to the point. Think about the things you need to take, the phone numbers you will need to get information.

Times like these make you truly re-evaluate your priorities. It is important to remember that material things, as pleasant as they are, can generally be replaced. Loved ones cannot.

So as each of you approaches this upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, remember, it is the people in our lives who make our world special. Do not

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Log
- 2 Pumpkin Carving Contest
- 3 Calendar

*Continued on page 2*

take anyone you care about for granted for one single moment. They may not be there tomorrow.

As with diving, plan ahead if you live in an area that is prone to potential disaster, whether it be from fire, flood, hurricane, tornado or otherwise. We were fortunate to have had the time to gather our things in a relatively calm fashion. Some items were placed in a way that was easy to get to them. The less we had to think about what to do, the easier it was. Take the time to think about what you would do if it happens to you. Make sure that the important items that you really do want to save are kept in a way that allows you easy access to them, and makes them easy to grab in a hurry and load into your car. Make sure that you have easy access to battery operated lighting. When the power went out at our house, we had our camping lantern at the ready, and it saved us from having to gather and pack in the dark. I am sure that the stress level would have been exponentially higher without that simple tool. I strongly recommend to all to have several battery powered lanterns in the house where they are easily located.

Some things are simply not important enough to risk your life saving. Other things can easily be gathered and taken if you have the time. I recommend that you get a fireproof safe that is portable that you keep your important papers in so that when the time comes you can grab it and run. Then there are the one-of-a-kind items that you just do not feel you want to lose. Paintings done by the kids when they were young. Or by some now deceased loved one. Photos of family that are not digital. Passports. These are the things that you may want to grab. If you have the time.

The experts all talk about having a disaster plan, and doing drills so that you can know what to do when the time comes. Not many of us actually do that. We all should! It truly does reduce the potential for panic.

Not only should you know where things are at home, but you should also make plans as to your exit strategy. During this event, we did not know if

we could get out either down or up Eucalyptus Hill Road, our street. But we knew Alston was open. While we had a number of offers from friends to stay at their homes, we simply could not count on being able to go in their direction.

If you have pets, take a few moments to locate lodging that will allow animals. There was no way we were going to leave without our dog, and that limited where we could stay. Susie has started to make a list of places in the tri-counties that will allow dogs. It is something worth having if you are confronted with the reality of evacuating. Once it is finished I will happily email it to anyone who wants it.

Figure out a way to keep people informed of your whereabouts and intentions. Both immediate family and friends will be anxious to know how you are doing. If you can, designate a single family member as the one to disseminate information. Otherwise you may find yourself repeating the same story to lots of people who are worried about you. If you have a laptop, that will help as you can send an email to lots without relatively little effort.

Hopefully we will not have to deal with this again. But if we do, we have learned something about how to deal with it, and to plan it out for the next time.

And when you get a chance, show your local firefighters some appreciation. They literally put their lives on the line every time they are called out to their jobs. They may save your home or your life someday.

Here's hoping it does not happen to you.

Michael Ring. ■

## Annual Pumpkin Carving

- Steve Trainoff

-Photos by Michael Ring

Oct 25, 2008 Dateline: *Goleta Beach*. Five divers entered the water, three came out... with prizes. That's right it was the annual underwater Pumpkin

Carving Contest. The goal was create a piece of Halloween art using nothing other than a pumpkin, dive knife, and dive gear. Oh, and did I mention that all of the carving had to be done underwater? It is a difficult task that the highly trained Paradise Dive Club team was eager to tackle.

We assembled at Goleta Beach at 10:00am. Although the beach had a dense fog layer hugging the slough, it burned off by lunch treating us to spectacular vistas of the islands. It was enough to make out-of-towners green with envy.



The trick with underwater carving is that pumpkins are very buoyant. Even with the provision that

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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.

pumpkin can be cored and cleaned before the dive, it is notoriously difficult to hold in place. One slip and you either have a pierced hand or the incomplete Jack o' Lantern makes an out-of-control buoyant ascent; neither of which conforms to PADI's rules of safe diving. My solution, which worked like a charm, was to affix the recalcitrant squash to the sea floor with a 4lb dive weight.

Our pool of entries consisted of a wizened Caesar (mine), a merry Jack o' Lantern, an incised sunken-relief tropical isle, complete with palm tree, a cross eyed creature, and the kelp monster. It seemed, from the passersby's comments that the use of green building material (*i.e.* kelp) added to the diving theme and that once again, PDC members had sunk to new lows of artistic expression. But for a dive club, that is high praise indeed. The winner was judged to be the kelp monster, by Eyal Nahmias.



We celebrated with a sumptuous picnic BBQ prepared by our club's president, Michael Ring. A good time was had by all. One suggestion for next year: Start the judging only after everyone has exited the water. ■

# 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!

### 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 25th meeting will take place at  
Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara.  
14 West Calle Laureles.

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