

# Paradise Dive Club

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## President's Log

*A New Year*

Michael Ring  
President

### A NEW YEAR...DIVE IN.

As 2008 draws to a close I thought that I would use this space to do a little looking back and looking forward. 2008 was a mixed bag for us. So many events that we could not have anticipated. The Gap Fire. The Tea Fire. Me being elected President of the Dive Club.

No matter your political leanings, the election of Barack Obama has historic significance that cannot be ignored. Only time will tell whether his administration will be able to bring about the "Change" that has been so bantered about in the media. Here's hoping that it goes well for us all.

As a dive group, we certainly should welcome an administration that has a greater focus on the environment, and what that can mean for both our local diving and

the areas around the world, where reports say that the fish and reefs are threatened. As a relatively new diver, I do not have sufficient knowledge of what it used to be like, but I can understand the fears and concerns of many of the old guard who say we need to be proactive to rehabilitate the areas that have been damaged already and protect the areas that are left.

The sport of diving has grown exponentially in the last 20 years. One on-line blog said that scuba diving is being referred to by some as the new yoga. I am sure we all can attest to the stress reducing qualities of diving. Will its increased presence around the world help bring awareness to the need for attention to the underwater realm, or result in too much pressure on the pristine areas that have not been visited previously? Will other influences destroy native habitat and endangered species, or will the global conscience step forward and protect our wet world of wonder?

As 2009 unfolds, we should also remember that we need to keep ourselves fit for diving. Each of us has a responsibility to ourselves, our dive buddies, and our families to ensure that when we get into the water to dive we are physically able to handle ourselves and our buddies. Not just with the skills we all learned in the certification classes, but also making certain that we maintain our physical and mental health so as not to put extra risk into the experience. How many of us could not use to lose a few pounds here or there? Or to do those extra few miles in the gym? Or on the bike? Or simply resisting that extra piece of chocolate at a party that is simply to die for?

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2009 will also present many challenges as the economy struggles to recover from one hell of a year. The New Year will bring about issues that we cannot even imagine having to deal with as of this writing. Who among us would have predicted all the issues we saw in 2008? The mortgage crises? The gasoline prices soaring, and then coming back down? The stock market plunge? What will come our way next year? Will we be ready?

As a Club, we seem to be strong and resilient. I am told that we are solvent. Our membership is strong. Of course we could use more turnouts at our meetings and functions, but we usually have a good crowd. With the cyclical disappearance of the dive club at UCSB we could reach out to the student body there and bring in more divers. Even if they are only here for a few years, they would be welcome. Imagine the new ideas they might bring into the group for activities we could hold. Who knows, maybe they will write an article or two for the newsletter.

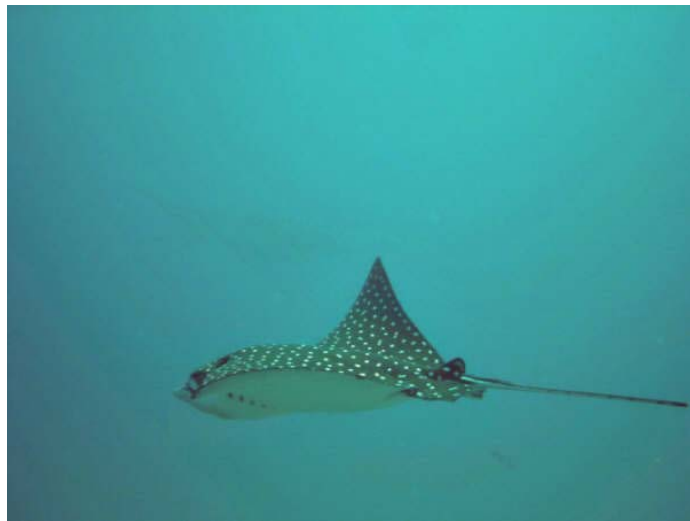
Suffice it to say that 2009 holds the potential for being a very interesting year. ■

### Dive Logbook: Puerto Vallarta

- Photos by Tim Graham

October 24, 2008. Diving at Chimo was one of the most exciting dives I have ever had. It was like a petting park/zoo for Manta Rays... see attached images.





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### BOARD MEETING

TIME: JANUARY 15, 6:30PM

Club officers to discuss 2009 plans

### MONTHLY MEETING

PLACE: PETRINI'S

TIME: JANUARY 27, 6:30PM

Dive in to the food, stay for the entertainment.

### THE 28TH ANNUAL AVALON UNDERWATER CLEANUP

Date: February 21, 2009.

This is the 28th Anniversary of the Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup. This premier dive event has grown to be one of the largest in Southern California. Approximately 550 divers from across California and neighboring states join in this annual endeavor to clean Avalon's spectacular harbor of accumulated junk and lost overboard "treasures". Divers compete for the prizes awarded or raffled in a ceremony after the dive. The proceeds from the event are for the benefit of Catalina Island Conservancy's Bob Given Ocean Conservation Fund and the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, a life support recompression chamber on Catalina that serves the thousands of divers who frequent the nearby waters.

In addition to a fun dive, we will have a lot of great prizes that we will be raffling and giving away at the afternoon award ceremony.

Please register online individually by going to [www.catalinaconservancy.org](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org), or, to enter a group, please contact Tom Turney @ [turney@newcap.com](mailto:turney@newcap.com).

All registered divers will receive a confirmation package of information regarding the dive prior to the event.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Conservancy at 310-510-2595 x 123, or e-mail at [avalonharborcleanup@gmail.com](mailto:avalonharborcleanup@gmail.com).

### Call for Articles!

Articles and photos are needed for future newsletters. Remember the newsletter is here to inform *and serve* the club. If you have any ideas you'd like to pass along, let your editor know. Write me at [scubadawg61@gmail.com](mailto:scubadawg61@gmail.com) Thanks and have a safe and happy holiday season. See you next year!

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

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