

Paradise Dive Club

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March 2009



President's Log

Deep Thoughts

Michael Ring
President

I sit in my hotel room while on a business trip here in jolly old England and my thoughts turn to diving. At this time of the month I must compose some prose to keep you, the readers, posted on some topic related to the raison d'être for our Club, and I am stumped. At a loss. Over the edge.

Where will inspiration come from? Where is my muse? How shall I take up the space allotted to me this month? What interest of you the group can I discuss in a way that won't waste your valuable time (not to mention the ink, paper and postage)?

I have scoured the magazines for ideas. Alert Diver. Scuba Diving. Undercurrent. Mad. Nothing comes to mind. I draw a blank, (in itself an interesting oxymoron, after all, if you draw it, is it still blank?)

And then it comes to me. We have this drawing that we do at the end of the year to give away a nice

prize using the contributors to the newsletter as the eligible entrants. To this point in the year the odds are substantially in my favor. I mean come on, who among you has put pen to paper and crafted an article. Who has put mouse to pad or finger to keyboard and told us about why you took up diving? Where you love to go? What remote island getaway is not to be missed?

Folks, we need content! We need contribution! We need member involvement! This is your club newsletter not my soapbox. You the people (sounds patriotic, huh!?) are needed to support your newsletter. We want to hear what you have to say. What makes you tick? I want to hear about dive adventures that others have had, to know where I should go next, or, better still, where I should avoid.

Certainly some of you must have had encounters in the deep blue sea that are worth sharing. You know some twisted tale of wonder or woe. Some close call that can teach us all a lesson. Some embarrassing moment that is just too good not to share.

I am sure that many of us have family members who are not divers who travel with us when we go diving in exotic places. Share with us your stories of which places that you have been that are good for families, some who dive, some who don't. Places which cater to young children. Or ones that would be a big mistake to bring children to. Tell us your favorite dive resorts from a food perspective. What place you have been that catered to your every culinary desire. Or the ones that were so awful you wanted to get on the rocky seas just to clear your stomach of the vial vitals.

Have you been to a place with rooms so small that

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you had to leave your fins outside just to lie down in your bed? Or places that were palatial estates that you got for a criminally low price? The dive shops that know the secret local spots where you can find the seahorses every time. Or the ones where you have to tie the anchor line to assure that they will be there when you surface.

Pictures are nice, too. I know you guys have underwater equipment. I have seen it on the boats. I have heard your comments and complaints at the dive club meetings, so I know that you have the right stuff. Share it with us. Let us publish your masterpieces! Let us bend over backwards to compliment you on your sense of composition. Your eye for the obscure. Your creative use of underwater shadows. I know you have seen many splendid things in the water that will make us all ooh and aaah. Send them in. Give us a look at your beauties of the deep. The amazing tails.

The opportunities for you to contribute come each month. The ideas are only as limited as the number of experiences you have each had, multiplied by the number of you out there. Surely someone has something to say?

You see, I just can't think of what to write about this month, and I need your help. Let's face, what I have to say is really not that interesting. I know you are all too polite to tell me, but it is so obvious to me. So sit down and contribute to your newsletter. To quote Jerry MacGuire: Help me help you. Or at least help me entertain and educate you.

You will find that the experience of writing for your newsletter will be both enjoyable and rewarding. When your words appear in print, everyone will be impressed with your grandiose style. After all, they will be comparing yours to mine, so how can you lose? And the newsletter will benefit, because the President's log will still appear, and you will have added another article. Content, baby. We need content. No matter how

short the article is it will be welcome. Then when the Christmas Party comes in December there will be someone else's name in the hat to draw out for that great prize that we give away. Who knows? It could be you sailing off to Jamaica! ■



Dear Crabby:

Last month my teenage daughter came home with a man who is a scuba diver. She told me that she now wants to get certified to dive, and I am afraid that she will end up getting hurt. What can I do to stop her from taking the plunge?

Signed
Bothered

Dear Bothered

I am not sure what you mean? Getting hurt diving or by her new beau? Either way, I think it would be a mistake to try to stop her from learning to dive. It is a great sport, and offers a lifetime of adventure. If you really have to meddle, then tell her that you want to get certified too, and offer to take the classes with her. If that doesn't stop a teenager from doing something, nothing will. Or, maybe you will learn to dive together and you can chill out. Sounds like you need it.



Dear Crabby:

My husband is a new scuba diver, and I think he maybe cheating on me. I keep hearing him talk about getting bugs and the crabs, and it bothers me that he is willing to risk our lives together on an unclean tramp. What to do?

Worried Sick

Dear Sicko:

Wow, are you off-base! If he gets some bugs, then boil them up. He must be referring to lobsters. If not, then he better watch out where you pour the scalding water!



Dear Crabby:

I am a dive widower and I have had enough. My wife goes on all these scuba adventures, and I am left home to deal with the dog and the kids. I have tried getting her attention, but she has more time for her "buddies" than for me. Whatever happened to "until death do you part."?

Jilted

Dear Jilted:

Your wife seems to have her priorities straight and you need to decompress. Get certified before it's too late. Heck, let the kids deal with the dogs. Otherwise you might stay in the Doghouse!

Our Story.....

by Roy Phillips

It was 1972.

I had been here in Santa Barbara for a couple of years, and I had a great time in the ocean.

So, I decided to take a SCUBA course and try it out. I was a strong swimmer so the pool test was easy.

With my new certification in hand, I went to Bob's Diving Locker and got a tank, backpack, regulator and gauge for about \$135. With a top and pants from yard sales, I was ready to go down. I did not have a buddy, so I would go to the east end of Hendry's with my sling and bring back bass and perch.

Two years later, I got a used sailboat and started doing channel crossings. Paula was certified, so we would anchor in one of the coves and do our dive and get stuff for supper. There was plenty of life in those days; calicos, abalone, lobsters and sheephead. On one vacation, we stayed at different anchorages and went right around Santa Cruz. We have done dives on our trips to Hawaii and when visiting family in Puerto Rico. Crossing in a sailboat is five hours of either boredom or white knuckle terror. So eventually, I sold the boat and later got a small Boston Whaler. I was able to cross over in one hour and twenty minutes instead of all day. I would leave early in the morning, do my dive and be ready to head home around noon. That way I would avoid most of the nasty seas. I went to Anacapa a lot from Channel Islands harbor. On a very calm day, with extra gas, I took off from here to Santa Rosa. I knew there were monsters under all that water but I did not see any. After my dive, I was very happy when my outboard started for the way back. I don't have the power boat anymore, but since 2001, I have been on several trips to the Caribbean and once to Fiji with the local dive shops. I am ready to fly again to the warm waters; perhaps this summer!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING

WHEN & WHERE: TUESDAY APRIL 28, 6:30 AT PETRINI'S

BOARD MEETING

WHEN & WHERE: TUESDAY APRIL 7TH, 7:00PM AT STEVE TRAINOFF'S

MONTHLY DECOMPRESSION STOP

WHEN & WHERE: FRIDAY APRIL 10, 6:30 AT LONGBOARDS
SCUBA SHOW 2009

PLACE: LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER, LONG BEACH, CA

TIME: MAY 30-31, 2009

THIS IS THE 22ND YEAR OF THIS POPULAR EVENT.

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, or send e-mail to 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.

Newsletter

Send newsletter items to Stuart Ponder at:
webmaster@paradisediveclub.org

Website

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	info@paradisediveclub.org
Vice President	Geof McFarland	
Treasurer	Mark Silva	
Secretary	Akiles Ceron	
Membership	Noah Philips	membership@paradisediveclub.org
Newsletter	Stuart Ponder	webmaster@paradisediveclub.org
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Anacapa Dive Center

22 Anacapa St
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Many thanks to our sponsors for their generosity including air!fill donations and gear discounts!

Meeting Place

The March 31th meeting will take place at
Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara.
14 West Calle Laureles.

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