

Paradise Dive Club

Volume 18, Issue 11

November 2009



President's Log

Responsible Diving

Michael Ring

President

DIVE PEOPLE

Years ago I had a case involving a deep sea diver who was suing a dive company here in town over various issues. The facts are not important for our purposes. When I took the deposition of the president of the company, a somewhat irascible old coot, I wanted to ask him about my client's extensive training in diving, and the equipment he not only was trained on, but in some cases invented. So I asked the witness "What kind of equipment do they use in diving?" His answer was evasive, but leads to this month's article. He said "Dive equipment." Who would have known? While his answer was quite glib, I thought of it when deciding what to write about.

What kind of people scuba dive? While the answer "Dive people" would certainly apply, it does beg the question. When you think about it, it is a good question. What kind of people dive?

In the short period of time that I have been diving, I have been fortunate enough to have traveled the world and met hundreds of divers. They come from "diverse" backgrounds. (Ok, cheap humor. What did you expect?) Without exception though, they have one thing in common as far as I can tell.

They are all some of the most friendly people you will ever want to meet.

I remember my first experience as a post certification diver. I was newly back from Hawaii, where I got my C-card and decided I wanted to start experiencing our local dive sites. I called Spectre and signed up for a day trip to Anacapa. Not wanting to miss the boat, I decided to go down to Ventura the night before and sleep on board. I got there about 8:00 p.m. and stowed my gear on a bunk. Being hungry I went to the Italian restaurant at the Harbor and asked for a table for one. The hostess put me next to a group of several very boisterous people who were having quite a good time. Eventually they noticed me sitting alone and we started to talk.

It turns out they were a group of divers from Bakersfield who were in town to go out on Spectre the next morning as well. When I told them I was a newbie, going on my first trip, they adopted me into their group. They were loud and happy and amazingly supportive and fun. It made that first experience without an instructor absolutely fabulous. I could not have asked for a better start.

And it has continued on ever since. Each time I go out diving, whether it is here in the Channel or at some exotic locale, I meet the coolest and nicest people. Not one time have I been unable come up with someone to buddy with when I am on my own. I have never, not had someone help me with my gear, or answer some silly question, either mine or someone else's. The guys and gals who go out on the boats are simply beautiful people.

And the stories? Hell, I don't think I have ever been as fascinated as when I am listening to some story being told by someone I have met on a dive trip about some experience they have had under the waves. Whether it is a tale of splendor about a Caribbean paradise, or a story of a near miss, screw up that happened, the descriptions are always so vivid it's like you are there.

And the laughter? Can you honestly tell me that the stories you hear about diving are not some of the funniest anecdotes you know? And you know that they are not embellishing. Ok, maybe a little, but the entire group is usually rolling in the aisles.

But when things get serious, you know that the people you

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Log
- 2 San Clemente and Santa Barbara Islands
- 3 Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest

Continued on page 2

find diving are always there to help. Your life literally may be in their hands, and you know that is generally ok. Because these are dive people. Some of the best men and women you will ever meet.

So go on. Get out there and join in. And don't forget to tell the tale to our club. Feel free to embellish a little. We probably won't believe you anyway. But it sure is fun.

Diving San Clemente & Santa Barbara

By Stacey Janik

Living in Santa Barbara means that we almost always have access to a good dive within a few minutes, and *really* great diving within a couple of hours. Even better, we have access to world-class diving most people would consider a trip of the year, if not of a lifetime. A few weeks ago, we enjoyed a trip like that on one of our favorite boats, the *Peace*. Club sponsor Anacapa Dive Center does a yearly trip to the southern Channel Islands we've thought about a number of times, but this year a combination of free time and not having been diving for weeks made it impossible to pass up.

We left Ventura Harbor at 10 pm on Friday night and had a very smooth crossing. So smooth, in fact, that we slept until the *Peace* was almost at the first dive site. We had time for a little coffee before the morning briefing and the boat arriving at our first site of the day--which took a little finding as the crew sought to keep us out of as much current as possible. After a little maneuvering around both sides of the east side of the island, we dropped anchor at Sun Point and began a long but very enjoyable day that totaled six dives. Even with a busy, busy schedule--including one night dive--the always-helpful crew, never let us feel rushed; long gate times meant everyone had plenty of time to get in and out.

San Clemente is renowned for its exceptional visibility, and although those with more experience said conditions weren't as good as they could get, the combination of 40 feet or more of visibility and water temperatures getting as high as 70F, they seemed pretty great to us. Even relatively warm water can take a lot out of you on repetitive dives, so we were glad to have our trusty drysuits.

The kelp and fish populations were really healthy. In addition to the usual local suspects we saw a small school of barracuda, several yellowtail, a handful of octopuses--including a couple out cruising the reef or bottom during the daytime--colorful juvenile Garibaldi and blacksmith, and even a large green moray.

The kelp and fish populations were really healthy. In addition to the usual local suspects we saw a small school of barracuda, several yellowtail, a handful of octopuses--including a couple out cruising the reef or bottom during the

daytime--colorful juvenile Garibaldi and blacksmith, and even a large green moray.



Photo by Stacey Janik

Sunday was cooler and grayer, which, combined with the smaller island's more exposed location, made for colder, murkier water, but the diving was still quite nice. The day's first two dives, at Sutil Rock and Webster Point, were sea lion rookeries and we were treated to some great interaction with curious and playful juveniles. Webster was especially fun with a dozen or so animals coming out to swim around with us on the rocky flats. We wrapped things up at Cat Canyon, a really pretty spot with more healthy kelp and interesting rocky reefs filled with plenty of fish.

Even having as much fun as we were, after nine dives, we were ready for the longish trip home. Fortunately, the crossing was again very pleasant--topped off by large pods of dolphins coming to surf the bow wave and great views of Anacapa and Santa Cruz from different angles than we usually see as we returned.

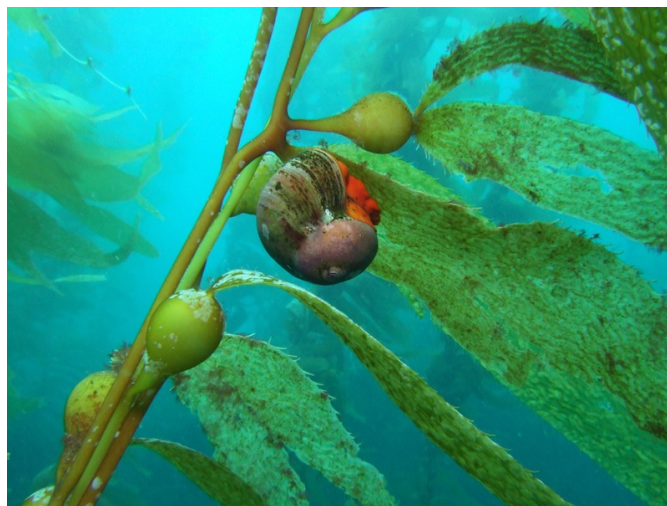


Photo by Stacey Janik

Underwater Pumpkin Carving

By
Rich Cirincione

The day dawned bright and sunny. It was one week before Halloween and time for the Paradise Dive Club's annual underwater pumpkin carving contest.

Contestants and fans gathered at Goleta Beach County Park at 10 am Saturday morning October 24th in anticipation of this year's competition. It was going to be an exciting event as three veterans and two first time contestants prepared pumpkins and gear alongside the Goleta pier. The water temperature was in the mid sixties with a visibility up to one arms length. Perfect conditions to ensure that no ones design could be copied. The crowd grew hushed as the contestants one by one backed into the surf. And then the wait...while the intrepid carvers worked their magic.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEC 5TH CLAMMING AT LA JANELLE

Meet at Silverstrand Beach in Oxnard at 11:00 AM

DEC 6TH PDC XMAS PARTY

At Jim and Lynn Axtell's House 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

The club will have Turkey and Salmon. Please bring a Side dish to share and your own Beer or Wine. Soft drinks and water will be provided. A map will be sent to everyone and be available at the meeting. Cost will be \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Bring a \$10 white elephant gift for the exchange.

JAN 1ST NEW YEARS DAY DIVE AT REFUGIO 10:00AM

Gear and Gizmos

Black 20mil Pipe Wrap Tape is better than duct tape. A 50' roll 2" wide is about \$6. It is totally water proof and sun proof. Tape weights together in bundles for your BC. Tape the straps on your scuba pro fins so that they don't catch on kelp. Any thing that you use duct tape for, the Pipe wrap will work for and is more permanent.

Send in your suggestions for new dive Gear and Gizmos.

REMEMBER THERE IS NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

MONTHLY MEETING

PLACE: PETRINI'S

TIME: JANUARY 26TH 2010, 6:30PM

Dive in to the food, stay for the entertainment.

Back on shore, club president Mike (hey, watch out for that rail... D'Oh!) Ring was preparing a feast of chicken and sausage for everyone.

Steve Senesac was the first to emerge onto the beach followed shortly by contestants Rich Cirincione, Michelle Stamme and Jerry Sorich. Jerry reported having been hooked by his BC by an ambitious angler but was quickly thrown back because he was out of season.

When the grub was ready the crowd tore into it. Shortly into the meal someone noticed that there were only 4 pumpkins displayed for judging. A quick head count determined that Chris Vestuto was not yet out of the water and everyone went back to eating.

Around the time dessert was being passed around, an ominous figure emerged from the murky water. It was Chris carrying what would eventually be judged the winning entry. Apparently he was so impressed with what he had accomplished underwater he had a hard time deciding if he should come out and share his work with the rest of the us. Lucky for us he did. What a pumpkin! And the thing with the shells for teeth... sheer genius!



Someone decided the top three pumpkins, photos were taken and prizes awarded. The winning entries were crafted by: Chris Vestuto 1st place, Michelle Stamme 2nd place and Rich Cirincione 3rd. Everyone agreed that the contest was a success. The weather was great, the food was tasty and the company delightful. The November Golf ball Invitational to be held at the same site promises to be just as much fun!



Photos by Rich Cirincione

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	Jim Axtell	
Secretary	Akiles Ceron	
Membership	Noah Philips	membership@paradisediveclub.org
Newsletter	Jerry Sorich	webmaster@paradisediveclub.org
Circulation	Rich Cirincione	
Entertainment	Steve Trainoff	



PO Box 21311
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

5822 Hollister Ave
Goleta, Ca 93117
805/967/4456

1171D Harbor Way
Santa Barbara, Ca 93109
805/564/6677

301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805/962/1127

22 Anacapa St
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805/963/8917

Meeting Place

The January 26th meeting will take place
at
Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara.
14 West Calle Laureles.