

Volume 19, Issue 5

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President

Presidents Log

GEARING UP

As summer approaches and we get more active with diving, I started thinking that it would be a good idea to talk about preparing your gear for diving. In that vein, I contacted Anacapa Dive and spoke with Jeff Baker to find out what the experts recommend for the various equipment that we all use. He provided me with the following.

As we know, the most important part of your gear is your regulator. It keeps you alive while in the water. Jeff indicated that most manufacturers recommend that you get your regulator serviced once a year for best performance. That will entail taking it apart, cleaning or replacing the o-rings and diaphragm, testing the pressure to assure that it breaths properly, etc. The cost usually runs about \$30 per stage plus parts as needed. If you do not want a full service, Jeff recommends that you at least bring it in once a year to have them do a visual inspection, which they generally will not charge for. They will look for nicks and cuts that might indicate a more serious problem. If there are any they will recommend you have a full service at that point. In any event, you certainly should have it serviced at least every other year.

With BCs they also recommend a yearly inspection, and service if required. Again, that will run about \$30 plus parts. If they find any punctures in the bladder, they generally recommend replacement, but they will send it out for patching if that is what you want. The main point is safety under pressure. One thing that might not seem obvious is that if your BC inflator hose is also your octo, then that is another regulator that should have an annual servicing just like your main. If your inflator hose does not serve as your octo, then you generally will only need a visual, unless problems are detected. They will look to see that all the buttons

and valves are working, and if so, fine. If not, then replace as needed.

Tanks usually require a visual inspection annually. That is fairly straight forward, and they do not charge for that. A full inspection, including removing the valve and checking the inside is generally a good idea every couple years. That runs \$30 plus parts as needed. (Do you detect a pattern here?) If it needs a hydro inspection, they will send that out for others to perform.

Service for dry suits entails visually inspecting for punctures and tears in the fabric and neck or wrist seals. They can repair/patch a tri-lam suit in house, but if you have a neoprene suit they send that off property. The same holds for neoprene seals, but they can replace latex seals in house. They will also make sure your inflator and purge valves are functioning correctly. Again, the cost will depend on what is needed.

With dive computers, they can replace most batteries for you, but other repair requires that the computer be sent to the manufacture for service. Generally they do not do anything with a depth gauge other than a visual. If it leaks, you have to send it to the manufacturer.

As to fins and masks, checks out your straps to make sure that they are not worn out. It's always a good idea to keep an extra set in your save a dive kit. Other items, such as knives, flashlights, etc., are pretty much serviced as the need arises.

And that is pretty much it. Once you have given your gear the full service you should be ready to go. However, as Jeff said, "Remember, it's a recreational sport, but it is dependent solely on life support equipment. So why take chances?"

New Club Meeting Location

We are meeting at the
Sizzler

on Hollister Ave In Goleta.
5555 Hollister Ave (Hollister and 217)

You order your food as you come in and then go to the back room.

We are trying this new location out and will be looking for feedback after this months meeting.

Santa Cruz Campout

We have reserved group campsite "C" at Scorpion Harbor Campground on Santa Cruz Island for Friday and Saturday evenings July 23 and 24. Total cost \$80.00. Contact Rich Cirincione@ngc.com for more info.

Platform Grace Rig Dive

We are working on a rig dive with Truth Aquatics. They haven't scheduled one yet. We have indicated that the club would buy 10 to 15 spots if they can arrange it.



Liquid Image Video Mask

Rated to 130ft, HD video and High Res Photos. Uses 4 AAA batteries.
Cost4 \$249.00

Scuba Tank Inspection cheap and quick for peace of mind.

In the US, every year you are expected to have a scuba tank inspection. This should not be confused with a [hydrostatic test](#).

A visual inspection of your scuba cylinder is usually performed at your local dive shop where they will inspect for any visual damage from moisture or impact.

Visual Tank Inspection - Exterior

When the scuba tank is inspected, the valve, tank boot and any bands must be removed so that the technician performing the scuba tank inspection can see the tank in it's entirety.

The tank's exterior is inspected first, it is rolled on a padded table to see if it has any bulges or bows in the outside of the scuba cylinder. They then hold a straight edged rule to the side of the tank from head to toe to determine if there are any dents or bulges. If light can be seen between the rule and the tank wall then you know there is a dent or a bulge.

This test will also find if the tank has a curve. depending on the size of the dent, bulge or curve the scuba tank maybe condemned.

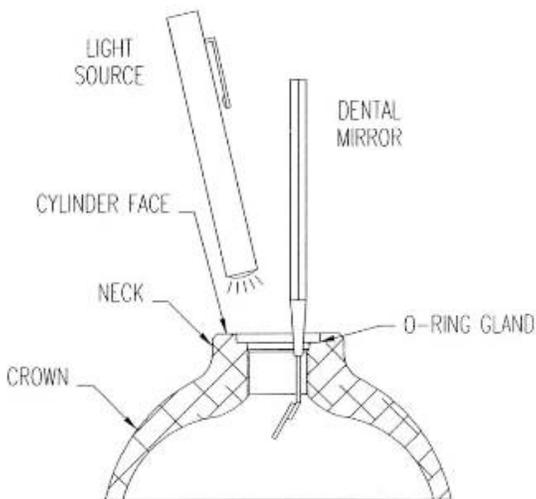
Cuts and scratches are also searched for and the depth will be measured, depending on the depth will determine if the scuba cylinder will pass.

Visual Tank Inspection - Cylinder Thread

The thread of your scuba tank, the part where the valve screws into the tank, is checked for metal loss, corrosion or cracking. It is important that the thread is smooth and clean to ensure a proper fit between the valve and the tank.

It is also important to ensure the thread has not cracked, the technician will use a dental mirror with a torch to provide light so he can properly inspect.

Visual Tank Inspection - Interior



The naked eye has no chance to see inside a scuba tank. The access point through the tank valve thread is tiny, which is why the use of dental mirrors is so important and a light source of course.

With the use of the light and dental mirror, the tank technician has the ability to visually inspect the interior of the scuba tank. He is looking for any irregularities in the inside wall of the scuba cylinder, or if there is any corrosion or pitting. Generally if the technician is unable to see the interior wall of the scuba tank he may have to have the scuba tank *tumbled*.

Tumbling my scuba tank?

If during the visual tank inspection, corrosion is seen on the interior of the tank, the tank may require tumbling. Tumbling is where the technician places an abrasive material inside the tank, the tank is then spun over and over until the corrosion has been removed.

This process removes a thin layer of the scuba tank and a [hydrostatic test](#) should be performed afterwards. The technician should always ask you prior to *tumbling* your scuba cylinder.



Manta Ray in Maldives

Photo by Michael Ring

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 Sharon Coffield at:

membership@paradisediveclub.org

Newsletter

Send newsletter items to Jerry Sorich at"

jasorich@cox.net

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

info@paradisediveclub.org

President	Michael Ring
Vice President	Akiles Ceron
Treasurer	Jim Axtell
Secretary	John Kushwara
Membership	Sharon Coffield
Newsletter	Jerry Sorich
Circulation	Rich Cirincione
Entertainment	Steve Trainoff
Webmaster	Stuart Ponder
Sgt At Arms	Steve Senesac

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201 W. Cabrillo Blvd
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-962-1127



22 Anacapa St.
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Meeting Place

**The May 25th meeting will take place at
The Sizzler at 5555 Hollister Ave, Goleta**