



President

Michael Ring

Presidents Log

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH

I sit here at my desktop thinking about writing my final President’s Log in this, the last month of my second term as President of Paradise Dive Club of Santa Barbara. I am amazed that two years have gone by since that surprising moment when Steve Trainoff “nominated” me for president. Time flies. I’ll let you decide if we were having fun or not.

I look back at the last two years. There have been some changes. The meeting place has moved to Sizzler, which, frankly, has some advantages: better meeting room, an in-room screen, more variety of food, cheaper. The membership has been affected by the economy, mostly downward, but we are starting to grow again. Hopefully that will continue as the UCSB students come back and realize we are right in their backyard.

We have done some fun things over the past two years. The La Janell, the Yukon, kayak trips, SBCC Marine Tech. BBQs. There were some fabulous pumpkin carvings. We have had an impact with our efforts to clean our local beach – every year we have been the top gatherer for Coastal Cleanup, taking hundreds of pounds of trash away each time.

The meetings continue to be fun and educational. We have had many speakers on topics as diverse as trips to exotic locations, the latest in dive equipment, or photography lessons. All in all, it has been a good time for me, and, hopefully, for you.

As I look forward to handing over the reins to a new president, I hope that the Club will continue to grow, bringing in new members from all walks of life. Young and old. New divers, and experienced old sea dogs. I hope we will continue to help make our dive community better, and to remain solid in our efforts to protect the ocean environments that we all love so much.



As for me, I look forward to having the Club continuing to educate our members and readers on dive safety and new developments in the field. I know that I will continue to contribute to the newsletter as I am able, to discuss trips that I am fortunate enough to take, or updates that I become aware of that others in the Club might want to know about.

I will look back with great fondness to the time that I had the privilege of being the President of this wonderful group. Of the meetings where I got to speak to you, and listen to you, and learn from you about my very favorite topic: Scuba Diving.

My love for diving has taken me all over the world. But it is the time I have spent with Paradise Dive Club that will keep me grounded to my home here in Santa Barbara.

And, so there is no mistake, if asked to serve another term as your president, I will proudly respond to those waiting for my answer, as every diver should: Don't hold your breath!

Off the Beaten Sea

by Valerie Lent

You won't find it in one of those "Best dives in the World" books and it is better that way, as the locals prize this well kept secret to themselves for the benefit of the unique marine environment, and of the lucky few divers who hear about it. This secret spot is called the Arcachon Basin. This "basin" is an almost enclosed sea, a slit along the Côte d'Argent, the Silver Coast, the Atlantic Coast line of Southern France. It looks almost as calm as a lake, but don't be deceived by the flatness of the surface. A French adage says "Méfiez-vous de l'eau qui dort", Be wary of sleeping waters. The Basin is actually a piece of the ocean which got trapped into a bag shut almost tight. The straps of the bag, called the passes or passage, are a sometimes impassable gate for the ship, and almost every year sailors and boats die there for underestimating the weather forecast and tide whims. Indeed, here the tide rules, and determines the oyster farmers 'schedule. If you sail out into the Basin from any of the numerous harbors all around it, you have to take into account the three hours or so that you will be stranded, right in the middle of what looked just like the deep blue when you arrived and anchored. No need to anchor actually. Your boat is not going anywhere for a while, and you can jump from it into the silt and sand. How does it affect divers? Well, imagine the power of the force that can drain an interior sea, or flood a

desert of mud, in six hours. This force is a little difficult to beat for a human, even with the strongest thrust fins. This means that most dive adventures take place at the étal, the forty-five or fifty minutes at either high or low tide when the sea takes a nap, so there is finally no current. The dive operator will give you a very specific meeting time, and won't allow you to linger getting ready, because if you miss the étal, your dive is cancelled. This also means that you don't pick the time of day you will be diving. Don't go to an operator asking for a morning dive on a specific day. The dive center will tell you what time of day, and which day too, because they will have checked the tide coefficient. If it is higher than 80, there will be no diving at all for a couple of days. Are you beginning to wonder why bother?

Because the Basin offers the unique experience of exploring World War Two wrecks you do not get to see elsewhere: the Atlantic Wall's Blockhaus or blockhouses, built upon the sand dunes, descending the famous Dune du Pilat, the highest sand dune in Europe, until they sank down to their resting place at the entrance of the Basin, near the passes. In one dive you usually two or three of them. Aside from their historical interest and the thrill you get from witnessing the vestiges of troubled times, you will be dazzled by the colorful display of corynactis viridis which cover the once dull gray, sinister concrete walls of the bunkers. These multicolored anemones have turned the walls into a most talented and most joyful quilt maker's pattern. Even though "viridis" means "green" in Latin, these corynactis come in many vivid hues. Entire facades have become a jigsaw puzzle, or an Andy Warhol style painting of lightheartedness making fun of darker times. Huge congers have made all the bunkers' orifices their homes, and the separate blocks of concrete all round the main structures are living

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quarters for uncountable huge spider crabs. You will spot octopi on every dive there too.

The other favorite dive spots in the Basin include several ship wrecks, all of them fishing boats or chalutiers. The most interesting fish you will be proud of spotting is the prized daurade royale (sparus aurata). This is the only "dorade" which has the privilege of being spelled "daurade". These are plentiful and will no doubt be very close to you, but they are hard to spot, because very fast. Expect them to hide inside the boat cabin or behind a pillar and take them by surprise. You will see them for only a second or two. If you miss them, you get a second chance to observe them, in your plate at one of the nicer restaurants, or at the stand of a good fishmonger's. We thought they did not look so regal there, even though the fishmonger pointed out the golden crown on the daurade's forehead, giving it its name.

Another favored dive site is the Hole of Saint-Yves or le trou de Saint-Yves. You can access it from the shore with good navigation skills. In the old days, nobody knew the depth of the hole, and it was believed to be bottomless. So, when a boat was getting old and needed to be disposed of, it was taken to the Trou, and sunk there. Only recently did divers venture there and find the bottom, at only forty meters. Three wrecks are still in good condition and are enjoyed by congers and divers, and by an extremely diverse marine life, large and small. My son found several nudibranchs there. You can ask a dive boat to take you there if you do not want to dive from shore. It is safer if you think you may not return to the exact entry point, a narrow alley between two villas. You must also avoid surfacing anywhere but close to shore, as your parachute, an essential accessory on the Basin, may not be enough to signal your presence to the many pleasure boats.

Several spots in the Basin offer you the opportunity to admire seahorses. The hippocampus was top of my husband's to-see list, and we got lucky, thanks to our guide who managed to spot the elusive creatures for us. Once spotted, you can watch the hippocampus for a long time, as its ability to swim is limited. It slowly drifts and dances nonchalantly. Local divers will tell you the best spots to get a chance to see them.

The Basin offers wonderful diving in a unique environment, if you are prepared not to have excellent visibility at all times. We even did one dive in Goleta Pier visibility, and yet managed to see many, many things thanks to our guide who knew the environment well enough to guess where things were and point his light at them---at very close range.

A Fun Thursday Night Dive

5 divers explored the Del Playa Beach dive site in Isla Vista on Thursday night, July 29th. Brad, Erwan, Steven, and two newer members, Kellen and Nathan were there, and all reported having an exciting dive where they spotted angel sharks, lobsters, an octopus, big jellyfish and much more. It was definitely worth the surface swim and the 53° water temperature. Thank you, Steven, for leading this fun dive!

Valérie Lent



Refugio Photo Book

Erwan Lent is making a photo book of Refugio underwater. He has contacted the parks department and received a free parking pass thru October. This resourceful young diver is saving his Mom and Dad a bundle while Valerie and Brad take turns taking him to Refugio almost every day!!! As a club, we should all congratulate Erwan for his devotion to diving.

The following are a few of the great photos he has taken so far. I think that Ernie Brooks is sweating!!!!



Refugio Dive and Kayak by Jerry Sorich

Sat Aug 14th we had a great turn out for the Refugio Dive and Kayak day. Jim Axtel, Roy Philips and my son and I kayaked up the coast while Steve Senesac, Brad, Valerie and Erwan Lent did a beach dive. Steve and Gretchen Trainoff dove later with Roy. Jim turned around and went out on a tandem kayak with Lynn when the first group returned. The beach was beautiful, the water was calm and visibility was pretty good. The divers saw a good diversity of sea life. Everyone got a chance to get wet (one way or another) and a good time was had by all.

Earth Day Clean Up

Once again, we will clean up Tajiguas Beach on Sat Sept 25th. Meet at Refugio beach for coffee, donuts and to get bags. Then we will go to Tajiguas to do the cleanup. Afterwards, we will have a BBQ and beach dive at Refugio. Bring gloves and a pickup stick

Deco Stop

Friday Sept 3rd 5:30
Endless Summer Bar and
Grill

PDC Board Elections

The September Meeting will be the election of New Board Members.

We need NEW people for the Board to take over.

Please consider volunteering for one of the positions available .

Board duties are a once a month board meeting.

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

SGT at Arms

Newsletter

Webmaster

Distribution

Your club can benefit through your participation!!!

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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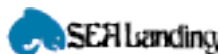
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Meeting Place

**The Aug 31st meeting will take place at
The Sizzler at 5555 Hollister Ave, Goleta**