



December 2010

## President's Log

One of things I enjoy about diving is the constant opportunity to learn more about it. On a recent trip to Puerto Vallarta, I was able to learn from very experienced divers almost every day! How, you may ask, did I know they were "very experienced" divers? Well, everyone within ear shot knew. Every day it was a different diver who has dived the entire world, been diving for thirty-five years, had a teenager who learned to read at three using the PADI Open Water Manual, etc. Here are a few entertaining experiences of diving with the "experts":

- 1) Our group buddies up before the dive, I buddy with Valerie and I explain that Erwan can stay down for hours, so the DM pairs Erwan with the "expert". At this point the "expert" says that a tank only lasts him about twenty-five minutes on a shallow dive.
- 2) The DM raises his hand excitedly during the dive and points to a location in the rocks. An "expert" swims above the DM, goes perpendicular, and steps right on the spot where the DM was pointing. I am no expert, but I sure understood the DM's hand signals at that point.
- 3) (At the end of a dive where we all safety stop on top of a pinnacle and we surface at will.) I surface several minutes after an "expert" and I notice that he is somewhat stressed. I ask if he is ok and he replies that "I can't find the boat". I ask if he means the boat that is at anchor thirty feet behind him.

I think I will try to stick with the quiet ones. Erwan's best buddy this trip was someone who said hardly a word on the boat, was always in the same relative position in the group, and was always pointing out interesting creatures he spotted. When I complimented him after the dive, all he said was, "I just look around."

As I am still a relatively new diver and observe others in order to learn, he is the type of diver I will emulate and hope to meet on future dive trips.

**Brad**

## Allison the Aquarist

**I think we all enjoyed Allison's presentation at our club meeting. On a regular basis, she writes a description of a Ty Warner center's new "guest". She calls the article the "Catch of the week". The Sea Center just acquired a 2 foot long female leopard shark, and here is what Allison wrote:**

***You can see her cruising through the kelp in the Channel tank. Leopard sharks (*Triakis Semifasciata*) are one of the most common sharks on the coast of California. Growing up to 7 feet long, this slender shark has a silver-gray color with dark brown to black spots.***

***Leopard sharks have a very short, rounded snout and a broad mouth. The range of the leopard shark extends from Oregon to central Mexico and it typically found swimming around rocky reefs, sandy bays, and kelp forests in water no deeper than 65 feet. Unlike other sharks, the leopard shark often travels in schools with mixed species, including smooth hound sharks and spiny dogfish. Leopard sharks feed on a wide variety of species, including crabs, shrimp, clams, worms, octopuses, bony fishes, rockfishes, sculpins, and fish eggs.***

**We tend to take the Sea Center for granted, because most of us have visited it several times, but there is often something new, and something to learn from every visit!**

***Submitted by Valérie Lent***

# What is the etymology of SCUBA?

Even though we all know what the acronym stands for, how much do we know about where it came from?

Test your knowledge by answering these questions:

1. Who is credited with coining the word: The French military? The US navy personnel? J-Y Cousteau?
2. In what year was the acronym SCUBA born? 1939/1945/1948
3. Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus seems English enough. What about the etymology of each of these words? Old English? Latin? Greek? French? Germanic? All of these?
4. In what language is SCUBA called *duikutrusting*? Welsh/Norwegian/Dutch
5. In what language is SCUBA called *autorespiratore*? Portuguese/Italian/ Romanian



## Answers:

1. The US Navy Personnel
2. In 1939, referring to the rebreathers designed by Christian Lambertson ( Although Scuba as we understand it today was invented in France in 1944 by Jacques Yves Cousteau and Emile Gagnan)
3. S for SELF = old English *seolf* ; U for UNDERWATER= Germanic *onder* and *water*; B for BREATHING = old English *æðm* ; A for APPARATUS = Latin *apparare*
4. Dutch
5. Italian

**Valérie lent**

## Dive Club Officers

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## Deco Stop

The Friday the week after  
the monthly club  
meeting at 5:30 PM  
Endless Summer Bar  
and Grill on the  
Waterfront



A Puerto Vallarta moray eel



*photo by Erwan Lent*

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King Angel Fish in Puerto Vallarta



*photo by Erwan Lent*