

July 2011

## President's Log

It took me a while, but I managed to find the keys to a good vacation. All it takes for me is warm weather, good diving, good value, and a different culture to discover. Believe it or not, I found all of the above right here in the lower forty-eight.

Valerie and I just spent two weeks enjoying air temperatures in the mid-nineties and water temperatures in the mid eighties, diving off Key Largo. We had heard several less than rave reviews of Keys diving, but we found it much to our liking.

As with most dive destinations, I had a short list of the local sea life that I wanted to spot. One of the "big" fish on my list this time was the Goliath Grouper. This fish has earned its name, with a normal maximum length of up to six feet, with a few recorded up to eight feet and nine hundred pounds. We saw several of these impressive specimens in the four foot range on some of our shallow dives (shallow dives being the norm in the Keys) but we were greeted by the awesome sight of two in the six foot size range while doing a deep dive on the Spiegel Grove wreck. These fish are now protected in Florida waters. So, many more people should be able to enjoy seeing them in the future.

As mentioned earlier, most of the diving is of the shallow reef variety. As most of the diving takes place in MPAs, the fish populations are amazingly big.

We also had a good time experiencing the "foreign culture" (to us) of the south east. We even spent a day exploring Key West, which again, has a culture all its own. Aside from its partying, festive atmosphere, Key West also has a lot to offer in terms of its quaint architecture.

Valerie and I also tried, and enjoyed, a new (to us) dive culture experience. We did our diving with a large operator who runs "cattle boats". I never would have thought that things could go so well and so smoothly with twenty plus divers on a boat at one time. Our operator did an excellent job, and as we spent so many days with them, their crews all got to know us, and the captains would always give in to Valerie's requests, when picking the dive sites.

If you like shallow diving, and your budget may be more directed to a US vacation, you definitely want to give the Keys a chance.

Brad

## Erwan's What's it?



**Answer to June Erwan's What's it:  
Pacific Mutton Hamlet (Juvenile) in  
Puerto Vallarta**

*Valérie Lent*

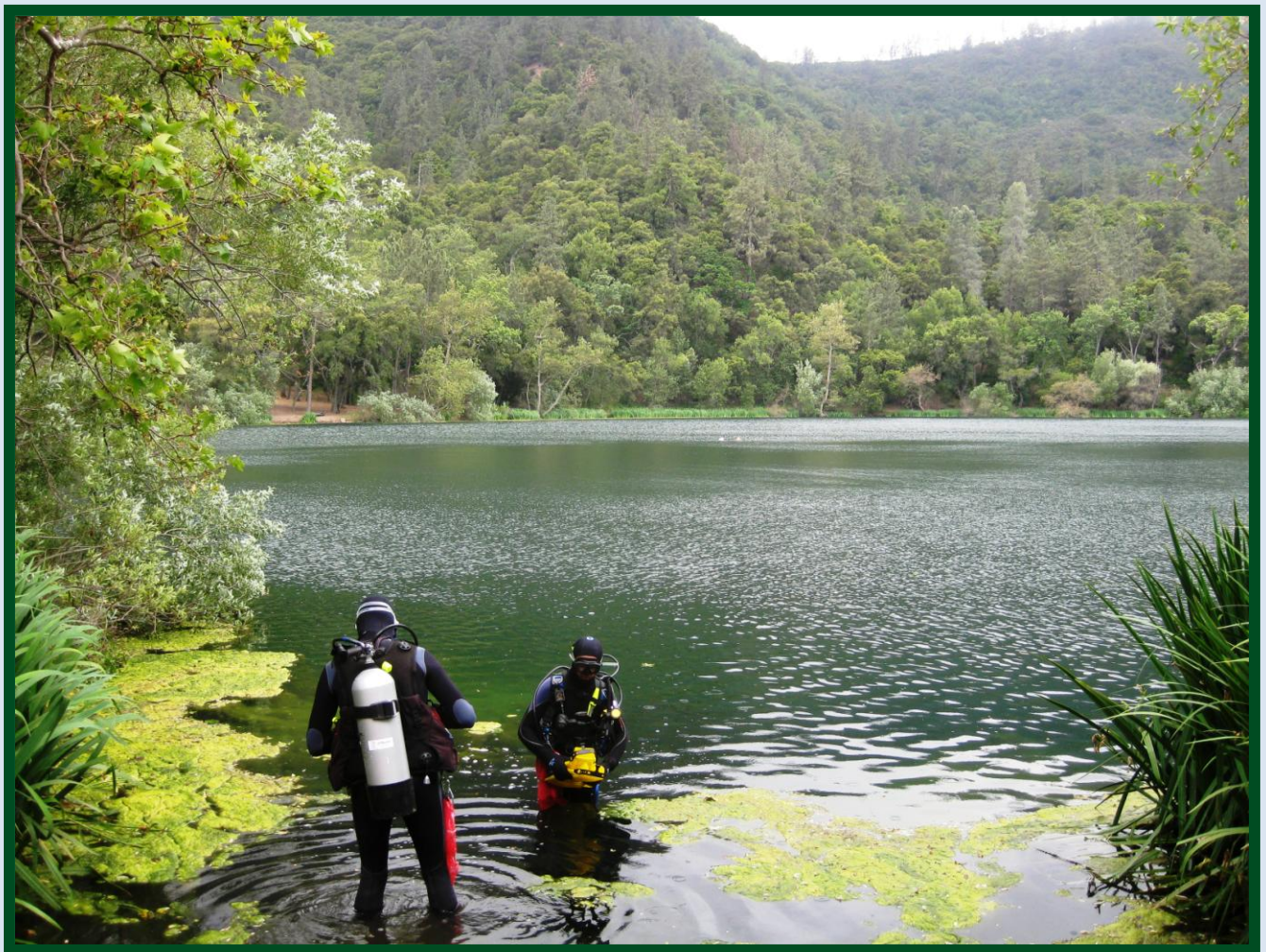


## The Zaca Lake Garbage Collection Dive

Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, a few club members gathered at Zaca Lake for a clean up dive. Although the weather did not quite cooperate, those in attendance can attest to a fruitful, rewarding and fun day. The volunteers did go above (well, under) and beyond in order to remove as much trash as possible from this pristine lake, set in an idyllic location. Thank you all who worked so hard to extract not only many snorkels, masks, vintage booze bottles, but also a huge tar barrel, and even a lounge chair, and a school desk, from the depths. In addition to their scuba equipment or free diver skills, Paradise club members resorted to kayaks, a rowboat, ropes, and to their ingenuity. We have already been invited for next year, and hope more will join us as this event deserves more popularity.

**Valérie Lent**





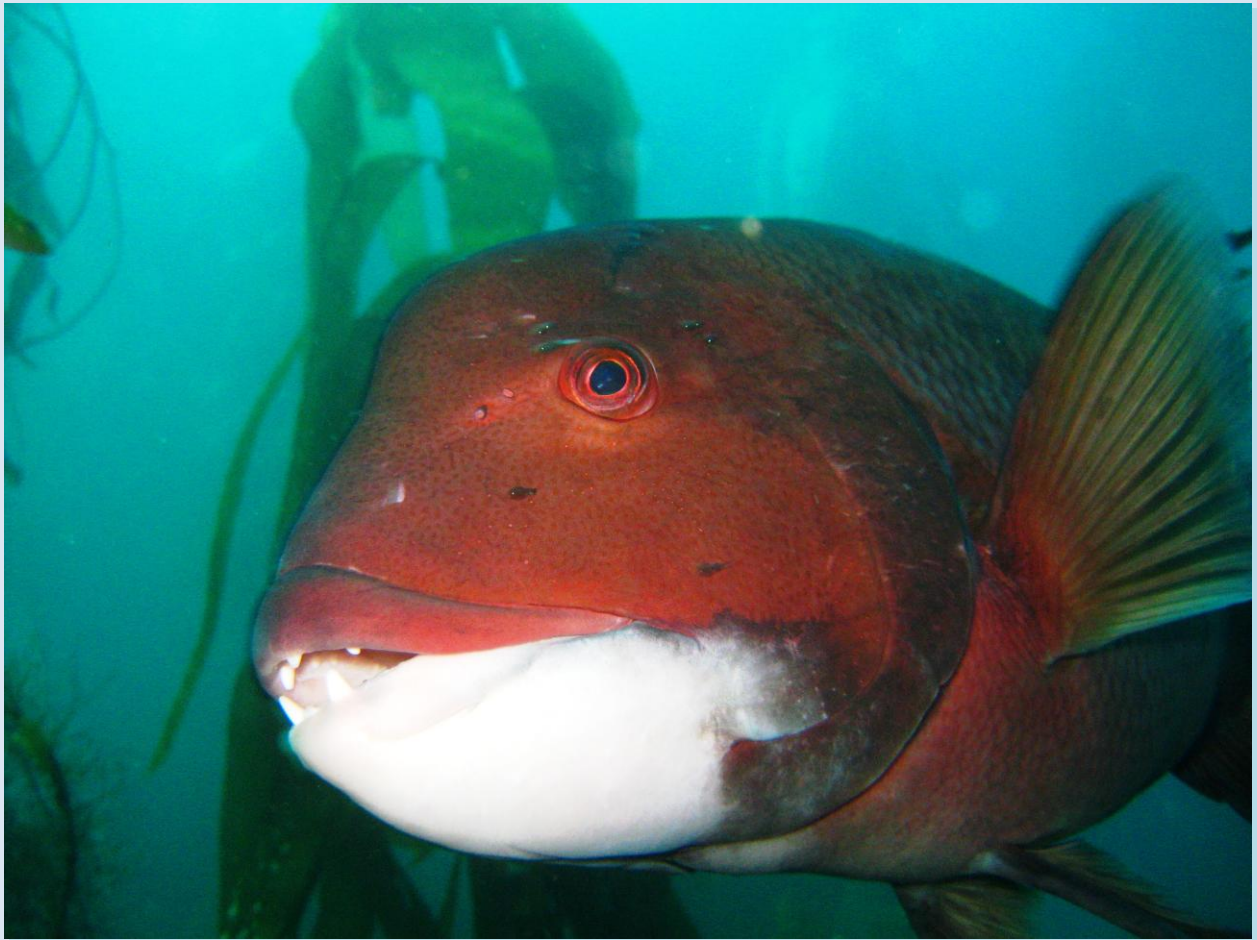
**Reminder:**

If you like to identify your Dive Gear go to [www.JakeID.com](http://www.JakeID.com) and as Paradise Dive Club members, you can get a **20% discount**. Order your items, then put in the coupon code **PDC**, then click on “recalculate”, then check out. It will also be free shipping to PDC members. At the July club meeting, we will have samples to show you.

Submitted by Valérie Lent

*Photos by Erwan Lent*





**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\\_MID  
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E-MAIL TO

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**Photo by Valérie, in the Florida Keys. Sting rays showed up on every dive!**



### **Deco Stop**

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

### Dive Club Officers

President	Brad Lent
	<a href="mailto:info@paradisediveclub.org">info@paradisediveclub.org</a>
Vice President	Steve Senesac
Treasurer	Jim Axtell
Secretary	Rich Cirincione
Membership	Jim Axtell
	<a href="mailto:membership@paradisediveclub.org">membership@paradisediveclub.org</a>
Newsletter	Valerie Lent
	<a href="mailto:brdlent@yahoo.com">brdlent@yahoo.com</a>
Circulation	Valerie Lent
Entertainment	Steve Trainoff
Webmaster	Nathan Walter
	<a href="mailto:webmaster@paradisediveclub.org">webmaster@paradisediveclub.org</a>
Sgt At Arms	Kellen Tobin



[www.paradisediveclub.org](http://www.paradisediveclub.org)

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