

PARADISE DIVE CLUB

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Upcoming Meetings

Club meetings at Cody's Cafe

August 26
September 30
October 28

Deco Stops at HBC

5pm, 2nd Friday after
the club meetings

Club Sponsors

- [Truth Aquatics](#)
- [Santa Barbara Aquatics](#)
- [Blue Water Hunter](#)
- [The Eagle Inn](#)
- [Channel Island Dive Adventures](#)

Editor's Note

We're going to breathe some new life into the club's newsletter. The plan is for a quarterly with the occasional special edition as events unfold. The quarterly newsletter will be published mid August, November, February, and May. It will include club announcements and some standard categories such as trip reports, education, science, and history of diving. Not necessarily all in every issue. It depends on what club members submit (yes, that's you!) or what the editor happens to be reading when the publication deadline looms. Therefore, if you don't want to read too many stories about bluegrass or folk music you're strongly encouraged to submit stories about your scuba adventures. The submission deadline is on the 1st of the month of the publication. If you went on a dive trip and want to share a trip report with a few pictures, you are more than welcome to submit it to the editor (by [email](#)) for a special edition. Soon you will receive a trip report of Jacek's trip to Fiji as an example of what we hope to do with those special editions. Stay tuned.

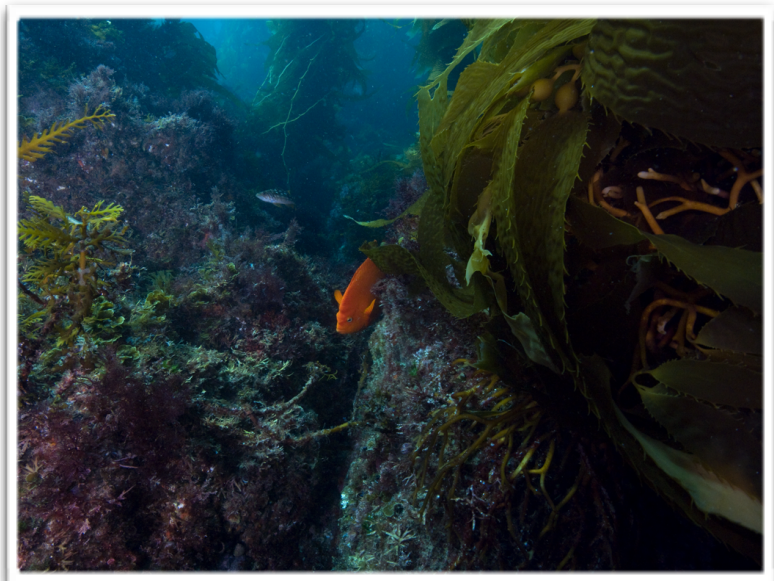


Photo by Jacek Smits

Dive Club Officers

President	Paul Bullock
VP	Christina Grabowsky
Treasurer	Jim Axtell
Secretary	Rich Cirincione
Membership	Ivan Girling
Sergeant at Arms	Lynn Axtell
Entertainment	Juan Beltranena
Webmaster	Jesse Mandel
Newsletter	Jacek Smits

Mission Statement

Paradise Dive Club is a social club whose members are divers with all ranges of experience. We focus on growing our sport and developing new friendships. PDC promotes fun, safe, exciting activities including underwater photography and environmental awareness. PDC was founded to provide social and recreational opportunities to people with mutual interests in SCUBA and skin diving, and to educate and inform its members and the general public in matters relating to diving, particularly in regard to issues involving coastal Santa Barbara County

Connect With Us

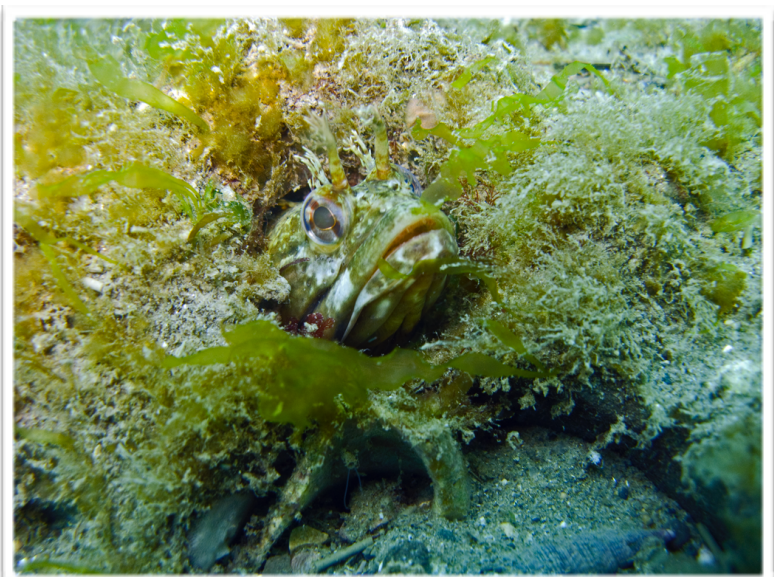
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Club Notes

Changing Of The Guard

During the July club meeting changes to the dive club officers line-up were voted into place. First of all a big thanks to Kellen Tobin who was president for the past three years. It is an unenviable task and, in addition to the constant heckling during club meetings, he had to deal with several venue changes. He did a great job for the club and received a big round of applause for all his hard work. And, of course, a big thanks to all others who worked on the board to make this another successful year for the club. A list of the current club officers can be found on the left.

Photo Contest



Winning photo by Jacek Smits

On July 12 eight club members joined at Refugio State Beach to participate in the club's 1st Annual Photo Competition. In the end four divers submitted one photo each in a single category: Underwater Photography. After a first round of voting immediately after the dive it was a tie between two photos and after a run-off round of voting it was still a tie. Remember, the World Cup was still going strong! The decision was made to do a final round of voting at the club meeting on July 29. At that meeting 19 valid votes were cast and a winner was declared by a

slim margin: 10-9. The winner was Jacek Smits with Dave Burroughs as runner-up. The price Jacek won was a position on the club's board as the editor of the newsletter. That and a \$25 club gift certificate which he will use to buy a new club t-shirt at next month's meeting.

Local Beach Dive: Tajiguas

On August 2 five club members and a few guests got together at Tajiguas to participate in the Great Giant Sea Bass Count of 2014 organized by [researchers at UCSB](#). None of us really expected to see one at Tajiguas and we were not disappointed. But the count was going on that week and it was as good a reason to go diving as any other. Conditions were a little green and murky shallow, but it opened up past 15 feet and got better towards the end of the dive. There was some surge, but entries were easy and with water temperatures around 65° it was a very nice dive. Lots of small to large critters were seen including nudibranchs and up to octopus, lobster and a halibut. A claim of a Megalodon sighting was also made. There's still plenty of kelp and the rocky shale sticking out of the bottom always makes for interesting structures to dive around. If you're new to the area or the club and have not dove Tajiguas yet, ask at the next club meeting. It's the best local beach dive we have and it'll be easy to find club members who are willing to take you there.

By the way, if you went diving during the week of 1-7 August and saw a black sea bass, don't forget to submit your observation with [this form](#).

Lobster Season Is Coming Up

The first day of the recreational spiny lobster season is September 27.

Technically the recreational lobster season opens at 12:00:01 AM on the Saturday preceding the first Wednesday of October and closes at 12:00:00 PM on the first Wednesday (night) after the 15th of March. There's lots of information to be found on the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife's](#) web site. Be sure to get all the necessary licenses you need and that you know how to measure a lobster properly. Taking without a license, out of season, or undersized is subject to heavy fines (thousands of dollars) and possibly jail time. If this is the only time in the year you make a few dives, it might be a good idea to take a refresher course. Also, if you haven't done a night dive in a long time you may want to get back into night diving without the distraction of the lobster hunt first.



Photo by Jacek Smits

Request For Contributions

Following up on Kellen's ice breaker during the July club meeting (reminder: you were asked where you want to go diving next year), we would like to request that you submit a short reason (75 words or less) for going back to a dive destination you have already been at least once before. Or write a short review of a day trip to one of the channel islands you took recently. Sharing good stories of worthwhile dive destinations is an important function of the dive club. You're not just a member for the free air-fill cards, are you? So get to it and tell your fellow club members where the good diving is. Besides, you really don't want to read that many stories about bluegrass and folk music, do you?

Catalina Trip Report

By Jacek Smits

Casino Point Underwater Park

On July 25 I went on the first of (usually) two annual day trips to make a few dives at Casino Point in Avalon, Catalina Island. I do these trips with my good friend and dive buddy Petrula out of Los Angeles. We always pick a Friday to do these trips. The place gets too crowded on the weekends which makes it less attractive and more cumbersome. We take the 10am ferry from Long Beach to Avalon for an 11am arrival and tend to be in the water by noon for a one hour dive. We do a second hour long dive around 2:30pm. After that we clean ourselves up a bit and go for happy hour before taking the 6pm ferry back to Long Beach. It works very well this way, but I'll admit that I probably wouldn't want to do this as a day trip out of Santa Barbara. I drive to Petrula's place (west LA) the evening before.



Photo by Jacek Smits

The Diving

Casino Point is a very nice dive site. Right at the entry is a beautifully lush kelp and grasses covered rocky shore with a first plateau at around 20 feet. Great for interesting safety stops at the end of the dive. Once you leave that plateau you descend through a healthy giant kelp forest and end up at a sandy bottom at 80-90 feet of depth. Rocky shores, giant kelp, sandy bottoms, this dive site has it all for a wide variety of ocean creatures. The conditions we had that day were great. Visibility was 40-50 feet, sun shine coming through the kelp canopy, 70° water temperature and just all around good diving. Among other things we saw a bat ray and a black sea bass, but peacefully floating through the sun-drenched giant kelp was its own

reward and made for two great dives. We had a 70 and a 60 minute dive and enjoyed every minute of it. Feel free to contact me if you have questions about the logistics of a day trip to Casino Point.

History of Diving

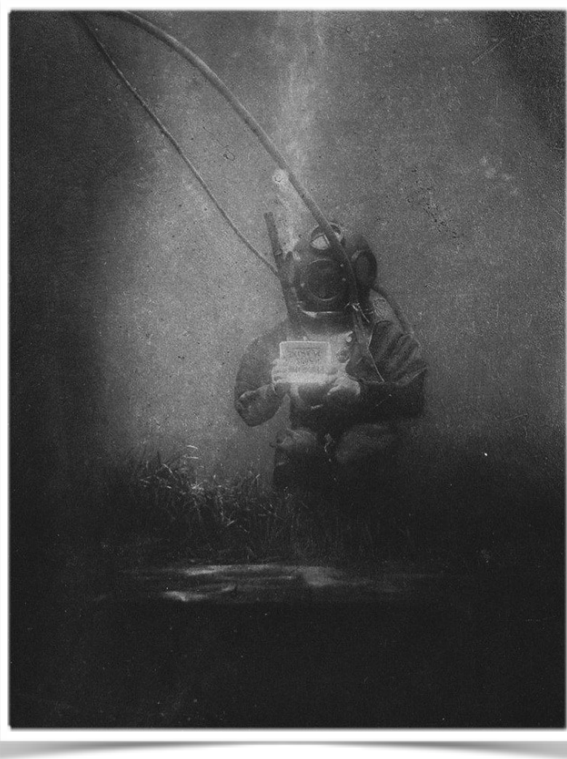


Photo by Louis Boutan

As an Amateur underwater photographer I became curious about the early days of underwater photography and quickly traced it back to the 1800s. Taking underwater photos in those days was not an easy task. Not only was scuba diving in its infancy, so was photography: it was only in 1884 that George Eastman developed dry gel on paper that allowed the switch away from photographic plates. When first searching around for information about the topic I found that the Frenchman Louis Boutan (1859-1934) often gets credited for the first underwater photographs. Soon, however, the name of William Thompson (1822-1879) started showing up.

Thompson gets credited with taking underwater photos in February 1856 at Weymouth Bay by having a 5x4 inch glass plate camera in a wooden box on an iron tripod that he lowered 18 feet into the ocean from a rowing boat. It was pre-focused at 10 yards and he found a way to operate the shutter from the boat with a string. The plates were

immediately developed in a tent set up on the beach and it took several experiments to get the correct exposure. In the end he settled on a 10 minute exposure time. At the time the photo was called “a gallant and innovative failure, it being difficult to decipher.”^c While stories of the experiments were recorded, apparently no photos remain from Thompson’s efforts.

There are plenty of photos left from Boutan’s efforts. Boutan was a professor in a marine biology lab that gave him access to dive suits. After being exposed to the underwater world he wanted to find a way to take photos and worked with his brother engineer to design an underwater camera. Early efforts were disappointing because of the lack of light, so he started working with an electrical engineer to design a flash bulb. They experimented with a magnesium strip inside a tube filled with pure oxygen. The strip was then ignited by sending an electrical current through it^d. The results were disappointing and, apparently, the process quite hazardous as the bulbs tended to explode. The next iteration was a bulb where magnesium powder was blown into a lamp that was burning alcohol. They kept working on the design of the camera and flash until the equipment was small enough, and the process reliable enough, for him to generate a series of photos and become known as the first underwater photographer. In 1898 he published *La photographie sous-marine et les progrès de la photographie* that includes underwater photos, illustrations of the setup, and detailed descriptions of the development process of the techniques and images. The book

can be read on-line at the National Library of France. Here are links to some examples: [illustration on page 234](#), link to [the included photo](#). Even though my French is quite rusty it is still interesting to browse through these pages and pick up bits and pieces of what they were trying to do in those days.

Nowadays William Thompson gets credit for taking the first underwater photo and Louis Boutan is credited for being the first underwater photographer. Thompson is also credited for the first flooding of an underwater camera housing.

References

- a) [Redtree Times](#); b) [British Society of Underwater Photographers](#); c) [Film's Not Dead](#);
- d) [Faded + Blurred](#);

Odds & Ends

2014 SoCal Shootout

[Blue Water Photo](#) in Culver City is organizing their annual photo shoot: dive anywhere in Southern California on September 12, 13, and 14 and submit your photos from those days for a chance to win some pretty good prizes. You can submit in many different categories, as opposed to our own club's photo shoot which only had one category. Check for contest rules and other details at [this link](#).

Coastal Cleanup Day

Join Santa Barbara Channel Keeper for the [Coastal Cleanup Day](#) on September 20 to help clean up West Beach.

Naples Reef Dive Trip

On October 26 join Truth Aquatics and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper for a day trip to Naples Reef. Cost is \$50 which includes air fills and food. The trip is sponsored by The Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative and by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. To reserve your spot call Truth Aquatics at (805) 962-1127.

Paul Nicklen

[Paul Nicklen](#) is giving a lecture in January at Campbell Hall as part of UCSB's [Arts & Lectures](#) program. He has been a [National Geographic photographer](#) for the past 15 years and has done a lot of work in the Arctic and Antarctic regions of the world.

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