

PARADISE DIVE CLUB

Bahamas Trip Report



Upcoming Meetings

Club meetings at Cody's Cafe

September 30

October 28

November 25

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

This special edition of the club's newsletter is dedicated to a Bahamas dive trip report. Quite a few club members went on this trip in August and had a great time. There were two week-long trips available and some were lucky enough to go on both. Dave Burroughs was one of those and this is his report. Story and all photos by Dave Burroughs.

Bahamas Trip Report



I've recently returned from a 2 week trip to the Bahamas. The trip was set up by [Ed Stetson](#). Ed had arranged for two one week trips on the Caribe Dancer; a 100 ft boat that will accommodate 20 divers and a crew of five or six.

The Caribe Dancer is the oldest boat in the Dancer / Aggressor fleet. It was well maintained and comfortable. The crew was always helpful and hard working.

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
Social Media	Jesse Mandel
Publications	Jacek Smits

Mission Statement

Paradise Dive Club is a diving and social club/ 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

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The boat does a weekly schedule leaving on Sunday morning and returning on Friday. Weather permitting they do 4 dives during the day and a night dive.

The boat leaves from Nassau on New Providence Island and travels to Eleuthera and Great Exuma Cay. One of the best dives was the Blue hole, which is near Nassau and is often done the first or last day of the trip. In the two weeks I dove it 3 times, at least.

The first week of the trip was composed of Ed's regular divers and mostly dove Eleuthera. The second week was composed of many of the divers who dive with Aquatics and included a number of Paradise dive club members. Rich, Chuck, Dale, Roy, Michael,



Kellen, and Stephan and Gretchen, and myself.

The second week we skirted a hurricane and went South the dive sites around Great Exuma Cay. Though we had wind the first two days, the Caribe Dancer was able to leave on time and the diving was mostly unaffected.

Being hurricane season, the water was very warm. 88 to 89 degrees. The warmest water I've ever dove. So warm that it affect the visibility a little, reducing it to 50 to 100 feet.

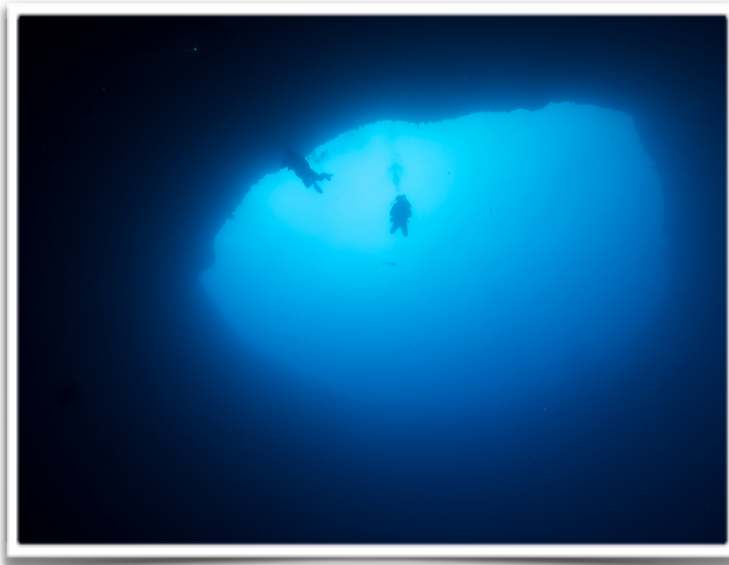
Being an Ed Stetson trip, everything was set up well. Those who wanted could spend their first night at the Orange Tree Hill hotel. A comfortable, but basic hotel that was not too expensive.

Ed arranged for each of the two groups to do two dives before the trip started with Stuart Cove's on New Providence. The first dive was a warmup dive and the second was a shark feed. Chain mail armored divers feed an impressive number of Caribbean reef sharks. On the second trip the feed was able to put several sharks into tonic immobility by stroking the electrical sensors on the tips of their noses, as just shown on shark week!

The Caribe Dancer also does shark feeds, They did two on each of the weeks I was on the boat. They don't use chain mail, and only feed the sharks at the end of the dive. Still plenty of large caribbean reef sharks came very closely by all divers and all could get their fill. Especially Steve Golis who got one up his trousers.

A tip to photographers, the sharks, divers, and feeding stirs up all the silt so it is hard to get clean photos. The best shots can be gotten by swimming a little ways from the feed and turning your back to the feed. This way you can get clean shots of the sharks without the water being stirred up.





Most days they started with a deep wall dive. To me these were the best dives with swim throughs leading to dramatic walls leading to a wall along the depths of the Exuma sound.

Most of the reefs were in good condition. There were not large schools of fish, however many attractive fish and other creatures such as turtles and various rays. Still the Caribbean reef sharks on both the shark feeds and other dives were the main attraction.

One dive is “the washing machine” where they put you in a narrow passage near

Exuma and you run it during the tidal change. You fly along the passage. Matt, our guide took off his fins and surfed them through the passage.

In summary I would have to say it was very easy diving on a variety of walls and other reefs. If you want a relaxing week of easy diving with good conditions and sharks you might enjoy this trip.

I should add that beer and wine were included in the trip cost.

Odds & Ends

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.

Planning Club Events

Check the club's [meetup.com](#) pages for up to date details on these events.

- Coastal Cleanup: Saturday, September 20, 2014
- Underwater Pumpkin Carving: Saturday, October 18, 2014
- Holiday Party: Saturday, December 13, 2014
- Gear Exchange and Beach Dive: Saturday, May 16, 2015
- Monterey Camp & Dive Trip: June 25-28, 2015
- Golfball Challenge: TBD
- Underwater Photo Contest: TBD
- LA County Coast Beach Dive: TBD

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