

# PARADISE DIVE CLUB

Thoughts | The Club | Catalina | Santa Cruz | 1st Saturday | Odds & Ends



## Upcoming Meetings

### Club meetings at Cody's Cafe

7:00pm, but show up early for dinner and socializing.

May 26

June 30

July 28

### Deco Stops

5:30pm, 2nd Friday  
after the club meetings

## Club Sponsors

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

## President's Thoughts

*Paul Bullock*

I really like SCUBA diving.

I came to this realization while underwater in the Avalon Marine Park on Catalina Island. I was swimming along just minding my own business when I saw a movement on the rocks ahead of me. An octopus, moving from one hiding spot to another, changing colors and skin textures as it went. Next I saw a huge male Sheepshead. It swam to within two meters of me, big teeth protruding from the front and sides of its mouth. And of course those fearless Garibaldi. I actually posed enough of a threat with my GoPro Camera to one of them that it attacked and bit my finger. (Charlie) And I thought to myself how fantastic it is that we have such access to wild animals. And that there's nowhere above the water where so many different creatures can be seen and interacted with in such close proximity. And then I looked up and the sun rays were shining through the water and onto some Kelp. And a school of Senoritas and Blacksmith were in the background and it was beautiful. And everything felt calm and peaceful. And I realized right then that there was nowhere else I'd rather be.

I really like SCUBA diving.



Paul Bullock, 2014-15 President

## Dive Club Officers

President	Paul Bullock
Vice President	Michel Giroux
Past President	Kellen Tobin
Treasurer	Jim Axtell
Secretary	Rich Cirincione
Membership	Ivan Girling
Sergeant at Arms	Lynn Axtell
Entertainment	Juan Beltranena
Social Media	Jacek Smits
Publications	Jacek Smits

## Mission Statement

Paradise Dive Club is a diving and social club. The Club provides a setting that allows continued growth in our sport and one where friendships can develop and flourish. Paradise Dive Club promotes fun, safe diving related activities and environmental awareness. The Club was founded to provide social and recreational opportunities to people with mutual interests in snorkeling, scuba and free diving, and to educate and inform its members and the general public in matters related to diving and the ocean, particularly in regard to issues involving coastal Santa Barbara County.

## Connect With Us

[Email](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Meetup](#)

[WWW](#)

## The Club's Documents

*Staff Writer*

At the March meeting, Paul Bullock asked for a vote on the updated documents that govern the club. It was a near unanimous vote (one abstention) to adopt the new documents. Immediately after the vote he used his new powers (despite some grumbling from the crowd) to ask for a volunteer to fill the vacant position on the board as Vice President for the club. Congratulations to Michel Giroux and a big thanks to him for stepping up!



*Peltodoris nobilis at Tajiguas - Photo by Jacek Smits*

## Club Membership

*Staff Writer*

For many of us spring time is the time to renew our membership and you do need to renew if you want to continue enjoying all the club's benefits! For a mere \$25.00 per year (\$40.00 for a family) you get air cards good for up to 6 fills per month at our sponsors (provided you show up at the club's meetings), numerous benefits with Truth Aquatics, 5% discounts on Channel Island Dive Adventures trips, opportunities for great raffle prizes, beach dives, BBQs, and access to a great pool of dive buddies. See the Membership Officer (Ivan Girling) about renewing your membership.

## Catalina 2015 with Ed Stetson

Steven Trainoff Ph.D. ([Flickr Stream](#))

When most people look at the ocean, they see in its immensity something that is eternal and unchanging. As divers, we know that this is not true. The ocean is dynamic. You can dive the same site repeatedly and have a different experience each time. When I first started diving, everything was new. I would look forward to each dive with the anticipation of seeing something different.

As I have gained experience, I have a different perspective. There are dive sites that I have visited many times over the years. Now I look forward to seeing how they evolve. Sometimes these shifts are subtle. Sometimes they are dramatic. Sometimes they hit you over the head like a ton of bricks.



*Blue Banded Goby - Photo by Steven Trainoff*



*Juvenile Garibaldi - Photo by Steven Trainoff*

On the long weekend of April 24-26, Gretchen and I joined Ed Stetson on his annual Catalina dive trip. This was Ed's 36<sup>th</sup> event. Needless to say he has the logistics down to a tee. We are relative newcomers having only done this trip for the last 10 years. Divers (and non) stay at one of three hotels, the Hermosa, the Atwater, or the Pavilion based on budget.

The diving is done in the Avalon Marine Park that is at the base of the Casino. It is a great location and is well suited for diving. There is plenty of room to spread out and set up gear. Catalina Divers Supply provides rental tanks, weights, and air fills. Ed has worked out an arrangement with them so we can store our gear in their trailer overnight, so we do not have to lug everything back to the hotel at the end of the day.

When it is time to dive, there are convenient steps down into the water. During mid-tide and above, you simply walk down the steps, strap on your fins, and sit down into the water. At low tide, it is a little more challenging and you have to be careful not to slip on the last few steps.

Since I have been diving the Marine Park for 10 years, I have a pretty good mental map of the topography and underwater landmarks. Usually when I slip into the water it is like being greeted by an old friend, the Cousteau memorial is on the right, the sand flats are on the left and if you want to visit the wreck of the Sujac head down to 75ft and keep the topography on the right. This time however it was like an Alice in Wonderland tour! The landmarks are still there, but the park looks completely different. Gone was the lush *Macrocystis* kelp forest; in its place were thick fronds of invasive Atlantic *Sargassum* algae. What a difference a year makes.

Also interesting was the change in the sea-life populations and behavior. Catalina is famous for the blue-banded Goby. There are always many of these colorful fish in the rocks, but without the kelp cover, it seemed like there were many more. I suspect the numbers haven't changed much, but they were simply more visible. Similarly I saw many large Abalones in the rocks between the surface and 10ft. They were so large, they must have been there for years, but were exposed by the lack of kelp. I also saw lots of juvenile Garibaldi. Like the adults they are bright orange, but when young they are covered with brilliant blue spots. They are always one of my favorite photo subjects.



*Giant Kelpfish - Photo by Steven Trainoff*

Probably the most dramatic change in the sea life was the large number of Calico Bass. A popular game fish, Calicos are usually skittish and give divers a wide berth. They are always abundant in the marine park, but this year there were many more; they were huge and downright aggressive. On a night dive I saw them hunting in packs, almost like sharks. I even saw them go after juvenile lobster.

It is possible that as the water cools, the *Sargassum* will fade and the *Macrocystis* will re-establish itself, but it seems clear that the park will never be the same. Change is inevitable, but there is something unsettling about an ecosystem turned on its head so quickly. Either way, it was interesting diving, and I am already curious about what the park will look like next year when we join Ed for his 37<sup>th</sup> annual trip.

## CIDA Trip to Santa Cruz

*Jacek Smits*

At the November 2014 meeting of the club I was lucky enough to win a \$50 gift certificate towards a trip with [Channel Islands Dive Adventures](#) (CIDA), one of the club's sponsors owned and run by Ken Kollwitz. I ended up using it to book a spot on their Saturday, April 25 trip to San Miguel aboard the [Peace Boat](#) out of Ventura. We ended up going to the back side of Santa Cruz Island instead because 10

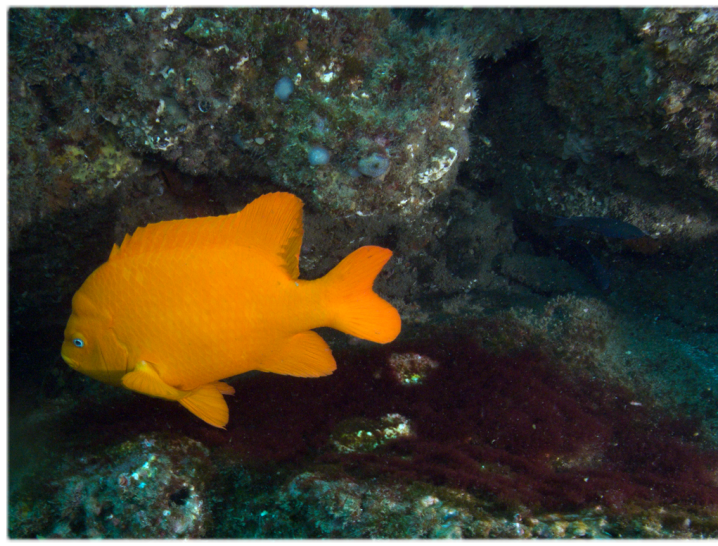
foot swell and 20 knot winds around San Miguel made that destination somewhat less than desirable.

I met a friend in Ventura for dinner Friday night prior to boarding the Peace Boat at 8:30pm or so. At that point it was already decided that we'd go to Santa Cruz and the scheduled departure time was changed from midnight to 4:30am. The conditions on the back side of Santa Cruz weren't bad, but there was a lot of wind and, subsequently, some chop at the surface. There was a little bit of surge, not much current, and pretty decent visibility. The temperature was in the low 50s. Overall pretty good conditions given what was going on at the surface in and around the channel.



*Anchor line through the kelp - Photo by Jacek Smits*

Unfortunately, I had had a hard time falling asleep and once we got underway the waves were banging pretty loudly into the hull right next to my ear keeping me awake during the crossing. There were times where I expected water to come rushing in. I clearly lacked sufficient sleep and after two dives I decided to stop. I was too tired and these days I err on the side of caution more than I used to. I didn't necessarily see anything spectacular on these dives but they were nice and relaxing. There are still some pretty good patches of kelp forest at Santa Cruz and I enjoyed swimming through those. We saw some gray whales very close to the boat and on the way back a full breach by a humpback whale. It was a nice group of people on the boat too so I had a good day of diving at Santa Cruz.



*Garibaldi guarding its nest - Photo by Jacek Smits*

Booking with CIDA was easy and everything was very well organized. I was impressed with the level and clarity of communication I received from Ken, which made everything easier. They have many different types of trips on their calendar, including local (multi-) day trips to the islands and international travel. Have a look at the [CIDA calendar](#) and book a trip with them if any of the trips listed catches your eye. Club members get a 5% discount and you'd be supporting one of the club's sponsors!

## Dive Ideas For Newly Certified Members

*Staff Writer*

For those of us who have some dive travel experience, please submit the following in a quick email to the Publications Officer ([newsletter@paradisediveclub.org](mailto:newsletter@paradisediveclub.org)):

- Your #1 dive destination you haven't been to yet.
- Your #1 dive destination you've been and want to return to.

Not necessary to give reasons (would be appreciated, though), but links to web sites will be helpful. Suggestions will be summarized in the next newsletter. It'll give our new club members and, better yet, newly certified divers, some ideas for their own future dive travel.

## First Saturday Of The Month

*Jacek Smits*

The third FSotM was held May 2 and we went diving at Tajiguas. Six people showed up (Paul B., Stefan, Tim, Matt, Tracy, Jacek) and had a good dive. Shallow it was a bit murky with surge, but past 15 feet the visibility opened up. Sightings included a leopard shark, lobsters, lots of sheep crab, limpets, nudibranchs, Ida's miters, and quite a few healthy looking small pisaster seastars. Maybe they're on a rebound from the wasting disease? We did end up swimming through some large and dense Sargassum forest and only the occasional lonely strand of giant kelp was seen.

Temperature was in the low to mid 50s. We did the dive at just the right time. By the time we came out of the water some bigger waves

were showing up and the channel started showing white caps. Afterwards we all went for some coffee and shared stories. The next FSotM will be June 6 and hosted by Ivan Girling. Check the club's Meetup page for details. And bring your membership form if you haven't already taken care of it!



*Lemon dorid at Tajiguas - Photo by Jacek Smits*

## Scuba Show

*Staff Writer*

The annual [Scuba Show](#) will be held June 6-7 at the Long Beach Convention Center. It's a great opportunity to meet vendors of scuba equipment and find out about dive travel from all over the world.

Besides, [Truth Aquatics](#), one of the club's sponsors, runs one of their boats out of Long Beach that weekend. Make it a scuba themed three-day get-away: dive Catalina Island on the Truth on Friday, attend the Scuba Show on Saturday, and visit the [Aquarium Of The Pacific](#) on Sunday! Or go see the [3D Galapagos Nature's Wonderland](#) movie at the California Science Center's IMAX theatre.

## Upcoming Club Events

- First Saturday of the Month: June 6, July 4 (tentative), August 1
- Monterey Camp & Dive Trip: July 9-13
- Underwater Photo Contest: September 5
- LA County Coast Beach Dive: September 22
- Pumpkin Carving Contest: TBD

## Odds & Ends

*Staff Writer*

### *Inductees Into Scuba Hall Of Fame*

The [International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame](#) announced its 2015 inductees with a ceremony following early October in Grand Cayman. Link to article at [California Diver](#).

### *Women Divers Hall Of Fame*

In March [Amanda Cotton](#) was inducted into the [Women Divers Hall Of Fame](#). Amanda is a Central Coast local, went to Brooks Institute of Photography and received her Open Water certification through Anacapa Dive Center in preparation of Brooks Institute's underwater photography class.

### *How Octopuses Move*

Using high-speed cameras scientists reveal how octopuses manage to move without a rigid skeleton. Each arm only pushes the octopus in one direction and the octopus simply decides which arm to use. Link to [BBC article](#).

### *As If Squid Weren't Cool Enough Already*

Researchers at Tel Aviv University and the University of Puerto Rico show that squid are capable of modifying their proteins through editing their genetic make-up, thereby enabling themselves to adapt to their immediate surroundings on the fly. Press release at [Tel Aviv University](#), article at [eLife](#).

### *Ocean Research*

Interesting article at Wired about [Autonomous Underwater Vehicles](#) collecting data for the [Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute](#) by staying out in the ocean monitoring and collecting data for months at a time.

### *Santa Barbara Maritime Museum*

The Maritime Museum has a few interesting lectures coming up. One lecture is by Greg Gorda on the 1923 tragedy where seven U.S. Navy Destroyers shipwrecked at Honda Point, and another one by [Steven Trainoff](#) on Clipperton Island. Link to event calendar at [SBMM](#).

### *Underwater Hiking*

If you are planning a hiking vacation in Austria as your next trip be sure to plan it in May or June so you can include a hike in this county park: [Austria's Green Lake](#).

### *Gray Whale Sets New Distance Record*

A gray whale was recorded to cover 14,000 miles traveling the Pacific Ocean. She traveled from the east coast of Russia to breeding grounds off Mexico and back. Link to article at [National Geographic](#).

### *Great Barrier Reef Protected Zones*

A long-term study of coral trout around protected areas of the Great Barrier Reef showed that not only are they bigger and more abundant, but they are also better able to deal with cyclone damage. Link to article at [Science Daily](#).

### *The Club's Mailing List*

It is a (very) low volume mailing list but we do send out the occasional announcement and it provides members with a communication channel to ask questions or to arrange diving opportunities by sending email to [pdclubmembers@paradisediveclub.org](mailto:pdclubmembers@paradisediveclub.org). Paid up members will be added automatically.

### *Suggestions For This Section*

If you come across something interesting that you think fits well in this section, send a link to the Publications Officer ([newsletter@paradisediveclub.org](mailto:newsletter@paradisediveclub.org)) by email.

### *If You're Reading The Print Edition*

If you're reading the print edition and want to find out about the links included in this newsletter, take your favorite web browser to [www.paradisediveclub.org/newsletters](http://www.paradisediveclub.org/newsletters), or scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone, and download the electronic edition.

