

# PARADISE DIVE CLUB

Thoughts | Monterey | Elections | Naples | Catalina | 1st Saturday | Odds & Ends



## Upcoming Meetings

### Club meetings at Cody's Cafe

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

August 25

September 29

October 27

### 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*

As another hot busy summer draws nearer to its conclusion, I start to look forward to the months ahead.

Great sunsets in October, opening of lobster season, calm oceans, increased visibility and of course, club elections!

Next meeting on September 29 will be Club Election night along with a presentation from California's Fish and Wildlife Department. Please try to attend to lend your vote to help make our club the best it can be!

Speaking of having a great club, our members have done plenty of dives over the past few months. Among the locations are Mexico, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Hawaii, and California. I have an upcoming trip to go to Cortes Banks in October. I've never been and am really looking forward to it.

Our next club event is the Underwater Photography Contest/BBQ/fun dives at Refugio Beach on September 5. The more the merrier. And....this is a local dive, there's no excuses for not coming out to visit. You don't even have to dive. There'll be a BBQ and plenty of people to talk with and...you can vote on the best photograph. So, I expect to see a good turn out for



### 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](#)

this event. Bring something to share – appetizer, desert, chips, dip etc. You guys know the routine. See you there!

So as our seasons change and different diving opportunities arise, I say....get out there and do it (safely).

## The Monterey Trip

*Tracy Logan*

### Arrival and Dive Day #1

The evening of Thursday, July 9th, Matt and I made the drive up to Laguna Seca Raceway (and campground) to join other Paradise Dive Club Members for the Annual Monterey Camp & Dive Trip. We arrived just in time to set up our tent before dark. Once we set up camp, we joined the others at the campfire to relax and learn what was in store for us the next day at Point Lobos. We were excited to dive in a new place.



*Matt setting up the tent - Photo by Tracy Logan*

Friday morning everyone was up and cooking breakfast by 7 am. We caravanned for the short drive over to Point Lobos from the Raceway. Upon arrival, we found everything was in order with our diver group reservations, so we paid our fees and entered the reserve. We arrived at the Whaler’s Cove boat launch and parking area to survey the scenery. It was slightly overcast and stunningly beautiful. The kelp looked thick and healthy and the water was

smooth and glassy.

Matt and I decided to explore the cove for our first dive. We swam directly out from the boat launch and quickly encountered piles and piles of mating sea hares. We also mistook gargantuan gumboot chitons for rocks until we looked more closely. They were huge! The highlight of that dive came as we were heading back to the boat ramp, we came around a kelp holdfast and found a 3 ½ foot long shovelnose guitarfish. We snapped a couple of pictures of him before he swam off. Very cool! During our first dive the clouds had dispersed and we were greeted with sunshine.

We ate our lunch and chatted with the other dive teams before heading out for our second dive. This time we planned to surface swim out through the sand channel and then descend to look for the “pinnacles” area. The visibility was much better on this dive and I was thrilled to see my first white-spotted rose anemone. A big copper rockfish followed me around for a while and seemed jealous that I was paying more attention to photographing a large cabezon. The water temperature was about 57°F, which is warm for the area! We enjoyed exploring the rocky reef and shelves and headed back to the boat ramp. Our trip was cut short so we could return back to Santa Barbara in time for our friends’ wedding. Next time we will stay the whole time!



*Blood star at Point Lobos - Photo by Tracy Logan*



*Guitarfish at Point Lobos - Photo by Tracy Logan*

## Elections

*Staff Writer*

At the September meeting the club will hold its annual elections for positions on the board. There are four positions that need to be filled: Vice-President, Secretary, Sergeant-At-Arms, and Membership. The Board is looking for volunteers and, assuming we have volunteers by the September meeting, the President will ask for an up-or-down vote for the proposed board. Hopefully we can all elect a new board that will serve our club well for another great year. Be there and let your vote count!

# Naples Reef Trip Report

*Jacek Smits*

On August 8 many club members joined a [Santa Barbara Channelkeeper](#) sponsored trip to the Naples State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) aboard the Conception from [Truth Aquatics](#). Naples SMCA is about 3/4 of a mile off the Gaviota Coast.

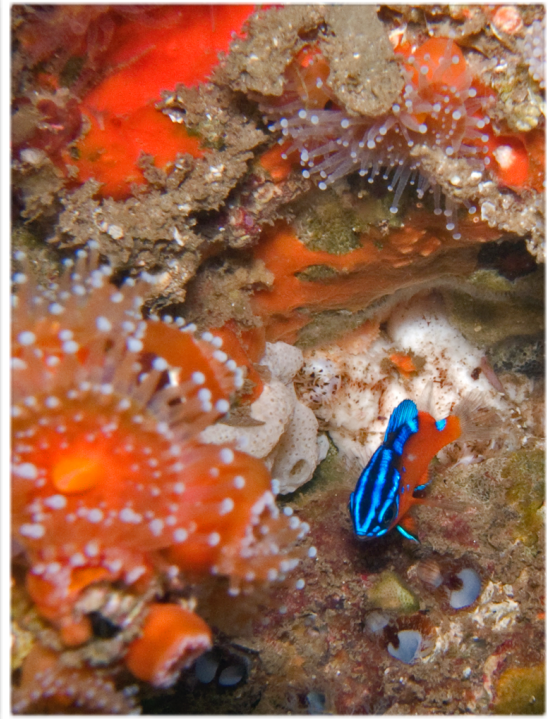


*Screen shot from my GoPro video*

In December 2010 [Naples SMCA](#) was included in the registry of [marine protected areas](#) (MPA) under the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. This is an ongoing effort to create a statewide network of protected marine areas along California's coast. The purpose of this network is both to preserve marine life and habitat, and create opportunities for recreational activities and research. Inside this MPA is a rocky reef structure that was the destination of this trip and this reef is commonly referred to as Naples Reef.

It was good diving even though visibility was hit and miss. It was often dark and sometimes murky. There was also lots of particulate matter in the water and we had a decent thermocline around 35 feet making it rather chilly. There was some surge but little current. The temperature hovered around 59°F. We did three dives that day and there was abundant wildlife to observe.

The biggest problem of the day was a stretched out, thin oil sheen on the water right over the dive site. Personally I was lucky but others were not. Some came up through the oil sheen and had their gear covered in oil. The consensus seemed to be that it was from natural seepage.



*Garibaldi (juvenile) - Photo by Jacek Smits*

It was a good day with nice weather and a good group of people on the boat. A big thanks to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and Truth Aquatics for putting this trip together! Hopefully it will be repeated in the future. If you haven't been to Naples Reef yet, make sure you get in on the next opportunity.

## Message Board

*Staff Writer*

Remember that our Meetup presence also has a message board attached to it. It's a great way to organize some (beach) diving with other members of the club. At least, with those who are on Meetup. So that's yet another reason to join the club on our Meetup group! The message board hasn't been getting a lot of use so that why we're promoting it a bit now. [Check it out!](#)

## Giant Sea Bass Trip Report

*Jacek Smits*

On August 22 I joined [Blue Water Photo](#) out of Culver City for their annual trip to see if we could find the elusive giant sea bass. They chartered the [Pacific Star](#) out of San Pedro for this trip. For me it's part of exploring a few more Southern & Central California dive boats with different destinations as compared to the Ventura and Santa Barbara boats.

The first site (Goat Harbor) was chosen because the sea bass are known to congregate there.

When none were seen, the expectations of seeing them at all that day were greatly diminished. One

of the reasons given was that the kelp forests around Catalina are gone and thus the preferred

habitat for the giant sea bass was eliminated. We were told the main reason for the disappearing kelp

forests around Catalina is the higher water temperatures. We went on to Yellow Tail Point and Rock

Quarry for two more dives. Yellow Tail Point is also known for giant sea bass but Rock Quarry is not. By

that time the idea of finding giant sea bass was abandoned and the site was picked for the more

interesting topography. Without the kelp forests the diving that day was actually somewhat disappointing.

The first two dive sites were mostly sandy bottom with sparsely covered big boulders scattered around.

The wildlife at the first two sites was also limited. Between the two sites there was a small number of fish

swimming about (primarily Garibaldi and kelp bass), and I found a few lobsters, some abalone, two small

eels, and an octopus. The rocky wall on the third site was covered with a variety of algae which made it

the most interesting dive of the day by far. It also had a larger variety and number of fish swimming about.

Temperatures at all dive sites was around 70-71°F and visibility was fantastic at 60-80 feet. All in all it was



*Rock Quarry site - Photo by Jacek Smits*

a very nice day trip and hopefully the kelp forests will recover and return to Catalina Island soon.

The trip was well organized by Blue Water Photo. They made their expectations of the divers clear and provided timely and clear communication on the day's schedule. They had two of their own staff on the boat to answer questions about the day or on photography equipment and techniques, which was very helpful. They organize many local trips as well as international dive travel. Obviously all with a focus on photography. The boat was nice enough but the crew seemed young and somewhat inexperienced. I'd say the food was below average for a dive boat and can't compare to the food on the Spectre, Peace, or Truth Aquatics boats. The camera rinse tanks were insufficient from my perspective. The crossing to Catalina also took a long time at around 2 hours to the first dive site. I may return to them but will first explore other dive boats in that area area.



*Heading Back To The Boat - Photo by Jacek Smits*

## First Saturday of the Month

*Staff Writer*



*Whelk snail in full camouflage- Photo by Jacek Smits*

The first Saturday in July was the 4th and we skipped that one. Hopefully everyone had a good Independence Day celebration!

On August 1 we dove the pipe at Butterfly Beach. Four buddy teams showed up and the conditions were pretty decent. The ocean was flat, there wasn't much surge, we had 10-15 feet of visibility, and water temperature was in the mid-60s. There was also quite a bit of kelp on and around the pipe with lots of critters roaming around. All in all it was a very nice dive with a good group of people

The next FSotM will be September 5 at the day use side of Refugio State Beach. It will be combined with the annual Underwater Photography Contest. The rules for the contest will be posted in the event description on the Meetup page and will also be explained prior to the dive. After the dive there will be a BBQ luncheon. Last year's winner (Jacek Smits) is not able to attend so this highly desirable title is up for grabs.

## Upcoming Club Events

Check the club's [Meetup](#) pages for details on these events:

- First Saturday of the Month dives: September 5, October 3, November 7
- Underwater Photography Contest: September 5; 9am at Refugio State Beach
- Golf Ball Challenge (rescheduled): TBD
- LA County Coast Beach Dive: TBD
- Pumpkin Carving Contest: TBD
- Holiday Party: TBD

## Odds & Ends

*Staff Writer*

### *Monitoring Refugio State Beach After the Oil Spill*

Researchers at UCSB received a grant from the Simon Foundation to monitor the effects of the oil spill of May, 19 2015, at Refugio State Beach. They will monitor and collect data for a year. Link to the [press release](#) at UCSB

### *Cuvier's Beaked Whales on Record-Breaking Dives*

Researchers recorded exceptionally deep and long dives by Cuvier's beaked whales off San Nicholas Island. One dove to 9,816 feet and another one had a 138 minute dive. Summary at [National Geographic](#) or full article at [PLoS ONE](#).

### *Behavior and Body Patterns of the Larger Pacific Striped Octopus*

Anecdotal accounts of "odd" behaviors in the Larger Pacific Striped Octopus, including beak-to-beak mating, that were dismissed over 30 years ago are now confirmed. Article at [PLoS ONE](#). Watch the video at [National Geographic](#) (Warning: NC-17).

### *Sharks Discovered Living in an Active Volcano*

Scientists discovered a population of sharks living in an underwater volcanoes off of Papua New Guinea. Interview and article at [National Geographic](#).

### *Blue Water Photo's SoCal Shootout*

September 18-20 is when Blue Water Photo out of Culver City holds its SoCal underwater photography contest. Dive anywhere in Southern California and submit your photos from that weekend. Link to [Blue Water Photo's site](#) with the contest rules and other information.

### *Cool Tool to Check Diving Conditions Before Suiting Up*

[OpenROV](#) is a Do-It-Yourself community to built remotely operated submersible robot for underwater exploration using principles of Open Source software, hardware, and electronics. Check them out and starting building your own.

### *Predator-Prey Interactions Between Tiger Sharks and Sea Turtles*

A research team used long-term satellite tagging technology to study the movement patterns of tiger sharks and loggerhead sea turtles to evaluate if the turtles modify their behavior to reduce the chance of a shark attack. Article at [Science Daily](#).

### *Corals Already Adapting to Global Warming*

Researchers at the University of Texas, Austin, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Oregon State University found that some corals have genetic variants that will be able to tolerate warmer waters. [Press release at University of Texas](#).

### *Fluorescent Rainbow Colored Coral Reef*

Below 160 feet in the Red Sea there are corals that will glow brightly fluorescent when illuminated with blue or ultraviolet lights due to protein based pigments. Video at [Live Science](#) (queue the Grateful Dead) and article at [PLoS One](#).

### *New Methods to Track Ocean Biodiversity*

Tracking open ocean biodiversity to figure out life in the oceans is changing. Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute is working on this through a 5 year, \$7 million grant from the National Ocean Partnership Program. Announcement at [phys.org](#).

### *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.

