

PARADISE DIVE CLUB

Club Business | Santa Rosa Trip | Odds & Ends



Upcoming Meetings

Club meetings at Cody's Cafe

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

January 26

February 23

March 29

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](#)

Editor's Note

This special edition of the club's newsletter is about the December 5 First Saturday of the Month day trip to Santa Rosa Island. Quite a few members of our club decided to book themselves on this day and it turned out to be a very nice trip despite some ominous swell predictions for the channel that day, especially around the islands of San Miguel and Santa Rosa.

Club Business

Staff Writer

Request For Contributions

Please remember that this club newsletter is a publication **for** the club **by** the club. It's a great way to share your dive stories with other club members. It can be about a day trip to one of the Channel Islands, a beach dive, or an international trip. All contributions are welcome and can be emailed to the Publications Officer:

newsletter@paradisediveclub.org

Santa Rosa Island

Jacek Smits

The December First Saturday of the Month dive was aboard the Vision of Truth Aquatics for a one day trip to either San Miguel or Santa Rosa Island, with boarding Friday evening and a 3am departure. The club's Deco Stop was scheduled that Friday evening at the Endless Summer and a handful of us got together there to start our dive trip. None of us were overly optimistic given the swell predictions for the channel. Some of us even kept a close eye on our cell phone wondering when the cancellation

Dive Club Officers

President	Paul Bullock
Vice President	Tim Doherty
Past President	Kellen Tobin
Treasurer	Jim Axtell
Secretary	Véronique Lisi
Membership	Ludovico Cavedon
Sgt. at Arms	Michel Giroux
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.

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Boarding Friday night; photo by Jacek Smits

phone call from Truth Aquatics would come. That call never came so we all boarded after the Deco Stop, chatted for a while longer, and went to bed.

Now, for those club members who have never been on an overnight or multi-day trip on any of the local dive boats before, the term “bed” is a little bit of a stretch. It basically comes down to “a cot, a curtain, and a light,” stacked three high. Different divers deal with it differently with many bringing their own sheets or sleeping bag, and a pillow. Ask around a bit when you’re planning your first overnight trip or explore the bunk room of these boats when you’re on your next day trip, and be prepared.



A cot, a curtain, and a light; photo by Jacek Smits

We ended up going to the south side of Santa Rosa Island and the crossing of the channel was remarkably smooth. I remember waking up a few times and wondering where the predicted swell was because there didn't seem to be any. I had a decent enough night of sleep, got up around 7am and started checking my gear to get ready for the first dive of the day.

John's Paradise

The first dive of the day was at a site named John's Paradise. The site is a rocky reef just off the island sitting around 60-80 feet underwater. We had quite a bit of current at this site which makes finding your way back to boat's anchor line even more important than on other dives. You don't want to do your three minute safety stop knowing that the current is taking you farther and farther away from the boat, but not doing your safety stop isn't a good choice either. So I dove a conservative profile and always knew where I was in relation to the anchor line. The visibility wasn't anything great at this site but it was a good dive. It has an interesting rocky reef that still held kelp and there was plenty to see.

Fallen Arch

The next two dives were at a site called Fallen Arch. We didn't necessarily dive the exact same site twice, but we only made a small move in between the two dives. In many ways it was similar to the first site: rocky reef with patches of kelp and plenty to see and take pictures of. Visibility was similar to the first site as well. Even though the current was substantially less than on the first site, I dove conservatively again on both these dives and always made sure I could find my way back to the anchor line. These were two nice, relaxing dives. Lots of beautiful anemones, sea stars, crabs, a few nudibranchs, and other critters were seen on these dives, along with interesting topography and ground cover.



Two-spot Octopus; Photo by Carl Gwinn



Urticina piscivora; Photo by Jacek Smits



Divers on the way back; Photo by Stacey Janik

Scallop City

The last dive of the day was at Scallop City and nobody wondered why that was the site's name. There was an abundance of scallops and quite a few of them were rather big too. We had the best visibility of the day at this site and it was also interesting terrain to dive with plenty of rocky patches on a sandy bottom and bits of kelp. I kept this dive relatively short at 40 minutes. I was diving my wetsuit and the temperature was definitely getting to me at this fourth dive of the day. I hadn't dived my drysuit in about a year and realized it needs a little maintenance before diving it again. It's always better to err on the side of caution.

In Summary

Part of me being excited about this trip was that it was the very first trip with my new underwater camera setup, having recently upgraded from my Sea & Sea DX-2G to an Olympus OM-D E-M5 in an Olympus housing. While the principles of underwater photography obviously didn't change, working with the new housing and how to change the settings for the next picture obviously did. I had practiced with the new housing in my living room, was prepared and everything worked out well. I didn't flood the housing and returned with five pictures I'm reasonably happy with. That translates to roughly \$300 per picture. Hopefully I get to take it out many more times and bring the cost per picture down substantially.

In 15 years of diving the Santa Barbara Channel I had actually never made it to Santa Rosa Island. Most of my diving at the islands has been at Anacapa and Santa Cruz. I make it to Catalina about twice a year, I made it to San Miguel 4 or 5 times over the years, and San Clemente and Santa Barbara twice each. I'm glad I finally made it to Santa Rosa and definitely enjoyed diving there. About 12 club members joined on

this First Saturday of the Month trip. We had four very nice dives and were fortunate that the predicted swell in the channel stayed away. Both crossings were very smooth, the diving was good, the crew worked hard and the food was good too. What else can you ask for?

Now I still need to make it to San Nicolas Island. In addition, I still need to make it to some other specific locations like Begg Rock and Farnsworth Banks. All good goals for 2016.

Wishing everybody a happy and healthy 2016 with lots of good diving, locally or elsewhere.



Rose anemone; Photo by Jacek Smits



"I Want To Believe!" Photo by Carl Gwinn.

Upcoming Club Events

Staff Writer

- The club's board is working on setting the schedule for our 2016 club events.

Odds & Ends

Staff Writer

Salmon and Infrared Vision

As salmon return to the rivers where they were born their body goes through several changes and one of those is a remarkable change in their eyes: a biochemical switch in their retina enhances their ability to see infrared light so they can see better in the turbid water of the rivers. Link to [article at The Atlantic](#).

XPRIZE Ocean Discovery

XPRIZE announced a \$7 million global competition to challenge scientists and engineers to come up with novel solutions to explore the oceans. The ultimate goal is to completely explore and map the ocean floor. Link to announcement at xprize.org.

New Shark Species

A new shark species was discovered living deep in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Central America. It was given the common name "Ninja Lanternshark," has jet black skin with a faint glow. Link to PDF at the [Journal of Ocean Science Foundation](#).

If You're Reading The Print Edition

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