

PARADISE DIVE CLUB

Thoughts | Club Business | Sargassum | Safety | Ripples | Odds & Ends



Upcoming Meetings

Club meetings at Cody's Cafe
7:00pm, but show up early for dinner and socializing.

May 31

June 28

July 26

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

So I recently took a trip to go visit my son who is attending school in North West Montana. It's beautiful country filled with trees, mountains, lakes, rivers and waterfalls. There are bears and elk and deer (who all seem intent on suicide by car).

It's perfect country for hiking and sightseeing. Our plan was to drive around a bit and go see what we can see. We went to Glacier National Park, which was beautiful. On the return I noticed a building with a dive flag in the window. The car brakes were applied hastily, the comments about whiplash were summarily ignored and I pulled into the parking lot of a strip mall along the side of highway 93.

I sauntered in to the shop and was greeted by a gentleman who was obviously happy to have a customer. It's true it was a dive store. In Montana. And there was a pool in the shop. So we got to talking and it turns out that the owner, Mark Cook is from San Clemente California and moved to Montana many years ago to get away from the crowds.

He misses the ocean and comes to Ventura and Santa Barbara as frequently as possible to dive off of The Spectre and with Truth Aquatics. He said that the diving they do is in lakes and you



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	Jan Fejt
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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can see things like shovels and old mining carts.

I asked about diving at altitude and he said it wasn't a factor because the bottom times are so short. Most dives are done above 40 feet because around that depth you encounter the second thermocline that's really ice cold.

There wasn't much merchandise in the shop. A few new wetsuits, two new BCDs, and a couple of masks were all I could see. When he gets a class together, he says he special orders items for the new divers. I was hoping for a couple of T-shirts or at least some stickers, but no.

I'm currently trying to get him to arrange a group to come to Santa Barbara and do some diving here. I thought a club BBQ and dive would be a fun way to connect with some other crazy people.

Anyway, next time I go to Montana, I might just go back and visit Rock Bottom Diving in Kalispell. It would be novel to dive in a glacier fed lake at the entrance to Glacier National Park. I mean who does that kind of thing?

Here's the question for our next meeting....What's the most obscure place you've been diving?

Club Business

Staff Writer

There was not a lot of club business to conduct at the April general meeting but the club's president summarized upcoming club events and plans. Turns out that there was a lot of confusion on who was the winner of last year's Golf Ball Challenge and who held the trophy. Many members pointed at Steven Trainoff (which is not a bad guess, generally) but he emphatically denied being last year's winner. Fortunately, Ivan Girling showed up and was able to confirm that he was last year's winner, had the trophy in his possession and, thereby, ended the biggest kerfuffle (so far) of Paul Bullock's tenure as president of our club.

Unfortunately, the Golf Ball Challenge that was schedule in May had to be postponed. Even more unfortunate, that news didn't go out quickly enough, for which President Paul apologized at the

club's general meeting in May. Turns out that Steven Trainoff did show up for the event, dove, claimed to have brought back some 40 golf balls, and tried to claim multiple times to have won this year's event.

Nobody doubted that Steven brought back the golf balls he claimed to have brought back, but since it wasn't at the official club sponsored Golf Ball Challenge, President Paul denied him the win and announced that the event will be rescheduled. Surprisingly, Gretchen remained remarkably quiet while Steven tried to claim the win and bring home the trophy.



Kelp Forest - Photo by Carl Gwinn

In addition, several *First Saturday of the Month* dives have been cancelled due to conditions. The one scheduled for June 4 is also cancelled because that is when the annual *Scuba Show* in Long Beach takes place and too many members are going to that event instead.

Keep an eye on our [Meetup](#) group and [Facebook](#) page for up to date information on the *First Saturday of the Month* and future announcements of club events.

Spread the Word, Not the Weed

Staff Writer

The April club meeting had a great talk by Lindsay Marks on the spread of *Sargassum borneri* along the coast of southern California as well as the islands of the Santa Barbara Channel. It was first detected in 2003 in Long Beach harbor and has since spread rapidly through southern California, as well as Baja California. It spreads easily through buoyant reproductive [thalli](#) drifting along if detached from the substrate and one of the ways it gets detached is through diving activities. Therefore, Lindsay urged us all to be careful when diving around this species of alga and help prevent spreading it.

Here are some important links to check out and learn more about how to avoid spreading it:

- [Marine Invasives](#)
- [iNaturalist](#) (app)

Sargassum at Refugio SB and Tajiguas

Staff Writer

On April 24 Jacek Smits dove the day use (west) side of Refugio State Beach with some other club members and found there was plenty of sargassum. He reported that in places it was very thick and quite

easy to get entangled in it. It also stretched along a good portion of the reef at Refugio SB and they saw very little of the local kelp varieties that we've come to expect on our beach dives.

On May 30 Tim Doherty dove Tajiguas with some club members and reported that it also had lots of sargassum. He was also happy to report that there were a fair number of giant kelp recruits, some 10-30" tall.

Clearly it has taken a solid foothold on our local beaches and when you see it while diving our local beaches, take a moment to report it and help track and document its spread along the coast.



Bat Star & Blackeye Goby - Photo by Stacey Janik

The [Marine Invasives](#) link above gets you to a web page that has ways to submit your observations. That page also has several downloadable PDFs with good information on this invasive species, including ID guides on the different varieties of Sargassum and how to help prevent it from spreading further along our coast.

Dive Safety

Jacek Smits

On a recent beach dive at Tajiguas I ran into a minor problem while diving (is there such a thing as a minor problem while underwater on scuba?): my primary regulator started bubbling while at 25' of depth. It was not a bad free flow and I had plenty of air left (1800psi) so I wasn't all that worried. Then again, I had already lost my dive buddy (two photographers make a bad dive team) so I had a choice to make: ignore it or solve it. I don't like to ignore problems while diving no matter how small they may seem. I strongly believe in solving every problem as it occurs rather than wait for a second problem to show up and making the situation dramatically more complicated. What if I got stuck in kelp for a bit and then the free flow goes haywire? I decided to switch to my alternate regulator, go up to 15' of depth, and navigate my way back to my exit point while swimming around all patches of kelp. That way I could do my safety stop and entanglement wasn't possible. Even if the free flow would go haywire at some point I could easily reach the surface before my air would run out.

The primary reason I chose this option is that I have read far too many stories about divers who get themselves into trouble because of bad or poor decisions, such as ignoring the first problem that shows up during a dive. I've made it a habit of reading up on the incident reports of scuba diving accidents by Divers Alert Network. I don't do this out of morbid curiosity, but rather in the hope of learning from them knowing full well that reading these reports doesn't make me a better diver, but I do believe it makes me a smarter diver.

I happen to believe that scuba diving is a very safe sport but also that the ocean is an unforgiving environment for those who make poor decisions. As the club grows and newly certified divers join us, I wanted to take this time to urge all to learn from the mistakes of others. It's quite sobering to read how easily some dive accidents could have been prevented.

Here is the link to incident reports and case summaries: [Divers Alert Network](#).

Hertha Marks Ayrton

Jacek Smits

The [Google Doodle on April 28](#) celebrated the 162nd birthday of Hertha Marks Ayrton (28 April 1854 – 23 August 1923). I had never heard of her before, but the doodle itself caught my eye as it was about a pattern found in nature that we all see on a regular basis yet never really think about (well, I never did until now): how waves washing over sand create those ripples. I'm always happy to use these ripples as a navigational aid on beach dives but other than that don't think about them too much.

It's fascinating how Hertha Marks Ayrton saw the same ripples I do and then spent weeks observing and studying them in an effort to find out how they form. She was a British mathematician and engineer known for her work in fluid dynamics. The simplified and short story is that these ripples form, starting with a small single one, through vortices created by that first one in oscillatory flows such as tides.

Hertha Marks Ayrton was the first woman to win the [Hughes Medal](#) in 1906 (the second woman to win it wasn't until 2008!) and a fascinating person to read up on. Here are links to an article at [Deep See News](#), the [Wikipedia entry](#) for her, and her article on [The Origin and Growth of Ripple-Mark](#), those ripples we all use as navigational aides during our dives.



Copper Rockfish - Photo by Tim Doherty

Annual Scuba Show

Staff Writer

The annual [Scuba Show](#) will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center June 4-5 this year. If you've never gone yet, this is a great show to get good information and deals on travel and dive equipment. The Long Beach Convention Center is close the [Aquarium of the Pacific](#) and between the two it makes for a nice outing.

Upcoming Club Events

Staff Writer

The Board has set the schedule for club events for 2016. Always check the club's [Meetup](#) and Facebook pages for details and updates on these events, especially last minute changes or cancellations due to conditions:

- TBD: Golf Ball Challenge at Goleta Beach
- June 25: Oil Rig Dive
- July 14-18: Monterey trip
- August 13: Photo Competition at Refugio State Beach
- September 17: Beach Cleanup
- October 29: Pumpkin Carving Contest at Goleta Beach
- November 5: FSotM trip to Anacapa
- December: Holiday Party

Odds & Ends

Staff Writer

San Miguel Island Open to the Public Again

The U.S. Navy and National Park Service announced that on May 17, 2016, access to San Miguel Island is restored. It was closed for about two years to search for and remove unexploded ordinance. Link to the [National Park Service](#) news release.

Coral Reef Bleaching Disrupts Learning

Researchers in Australia and Sweden have shown that bleached coral reefs affect the ability of Damsel fish to learn about their environment, particularly about the ability to avoid predators. Article at the journal [Proceedings of the Royal Society B](#).

Record Setting Bleaching Event at the Great Barrier Reef

This year has been particularly bad for bleaching at the Great Barrier Reef. About 93% of the reefs surveyed show some bleaching and this year's El Niño event is the likely culprit. Link to article at [NOAA](#).

Navy Develops Augmented Reality Divers Helmet

The Divers Augmented Vision Display (DAVID) helmet the Navy is developing can display high-resolution sonar imagery overlaid on the environment around the diver, and combine it with data

transmitted from a surface support vessel. The first underwater test are expected in October. Link to [press release](#).

Pelagic Nudibranchs

Video emerged on the Internet of a nudibranch (*Phylliroe bucephala*) the size of a goldfish that swims like a fish and feeds on jellies. Link to article at [Deep See News](#).

Glow-in-the-dark Sea Creatures

TED Talk by David Gruber on the study of bio-fluorescence and bio-luminescence with some amazing video showing the visual effects, including swellsharks, pf species off the coast of California. Link to video at [YouTube](#).

Fish Declining While Cephalopods Thrive

Data shows that cephalopod populations in the oceans are growing while fish populations declined sharply in the last 30 years with some species showing a nearly 50% decline. Write-up at [The New York Times](#) or article at [Current Biology](#).

Eat Chocolate Before Going Diving

Research has shown that eating around 30 grams of dark chocolate one hour before diving may help prevent bubble formation, may help with off-gassing and, thereby, may help prevent DCS. It does so by activating nitric oxide, and the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects that cocoa is known to have. I totally believe it! Link to the [article](#).

Four New Flatworms Found

Calling these newly found bag-like marine creatures without any complex organs flatworms may be stretch, but they could provide new information on the evolutionary tree of life. Link to article at [Live Science](#).

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