

# PARADISE DIVE CLUB

Thoughts | Club Business | FSotM | Oil Rig | Monterey | History | Odds & Ends



## Upcoming Meetings

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

- August 30
- September 27
- October 25

## 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*

Some of you were not at the last club meeting at the end of July, so I thought I ought to give a brief synopsis of what happened as many of our members are disappointed and upset.

When we arrived at High Sierra, we found that they had given the meeting room to another group. While we waited they prepared the smaller conference room and allowed us to meet there. Although not perfect, we made the best of it. Apparently, the manager or the person in charge of group sales has left the organization and did not leave adequate instructions to the staff to be able to plan for the future groups.

While we were able to meet and were treated to an excellent video put on by Juan Beltranena featuring great music by his daughter, and a wonderful slide show from Dave Burroughs, our meal service was once again a shambles.

The restaurant was understaffed, and although they did their best, we again were made to feel like unwanted customers. They refused to split the check, which meant everyone had to put in for what they thought they'd ordered. To add insult to injury, the restaurant again included an automatic 18% gratuity. Once I'd added up all the money, we actually had a surplus.



### 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.

### Connect With Us

- [Email](#)                      [Facebook](#)
- [Meetup](#)                      [WWW](#)

What a great group of people we have in our club. Thank you to those who put in extra money. And I'm sorry that you had to.

Needless to say, we should probably find a new place to meet. So, please, please, please send me an email with places that you know have meeting rooms that would fit our group. Better yet, find out if they have availability for the last Tuesday of every month and what/if they charge for use of the room.

Keep your eyes on your e-mail. I will send notice for where our next meeting will be. August 30<sup>th</sup>. See you somewhere....

## Club Business

*Staff Writer*

At the September general club meeting elections will be held for the 2016-17 board. If you are interested in participating running the club, please talk to Paul Bullock at the next meeting so he can get your name on the list for the elections. Or [send him an email](#). The following position is up for grabs: Publications Officer.

## Annual Photo Shoot

*Staff Writer*

On August 13 the annual photo shoot was held at Refugio State Beach, day use side. A total of six club members showed up, went diving, took pictures, and submitted one photo each into the competition: Paul Bullock, Ivan Girling, Tracy Niro, Matt Niro,



*Octopus - Photo by Tracy Niro*



*President Paul congratulates Tracy Niro on winning the photo competition.*

Tim Doherty, and Jacek Smits. Two innocent bystanders were asked to be the judges of the competition and when they picked different photos, a third bystander was asked to be the tie breaker. That person ended up picking the photo of the octopus taken by Tracy Niro (see above).

Afterwards there was a BBQ lunch and sharing of dive and other stories. It was another beautiful day at the beach (it's a tough place to live!) and the diving conditions were pretty good too with a flat ocean, 15-20 feet of visibility on the reef, and temperatures in the mid 60s.

Congratulations to Tracy with her win in the 2016 Paradise Dive Club photo competition!

## First Saturday Dive

*Ivan Girling*

The July 2 FSotM was attended by three quarters of the English contingent of the club, (the German and Italian having bowed out to watch some guys kick a ball around). Despite the event being advertised for Malibu, we ended up diving at exotic Goleta Beach. Our much revered president displayed navigation skills worthy of Sir Ernest Shackleton, leading us out to a point directly over the pipeline. On descending we found visibility to be about six feet – quite good for Goleta. Naturally the diver with the camera (I) soon became separated from the other two. We followed our planned lost diver procedure. The water temperature was a balmy 57.

I am always pleasantly surprised by the number and variety of wildlife present at Goleta. On this dive we saw numerous Brown and Black-and-yellow rockfish, Barred Sand Bass, Kelp Bass, many juvenile Garibaldi and Sheepheads (but only a single adult Sheephead), and many different species of invertebrates. Navanax, which I rarely see anywhere else, but are somewhat common at Goleta, as are the bubbleshells upon which they prey. Other nudibranchs seen were San Diego Dorids, Sea Lemons and the single Spanish Shawl in the photograph. The Spanish Shawl was laying eggs, so there had to be at least one more in the vicinity. I was also struck by the great variations



*Spanish Shawl & Eggs - Photo by Ivan Girling*

in the color schemes of the many Giant Keyhole Limpets. We spotted a few lobsters and an octopus cowering under the rocks.

Vacations in exotic places and trips to the islands rightfully garner much attention in our meetings, but diving from our local beaches has a great deal to offer. The FSotM dives are a great way to connect with other club members, explore our local dives and wet your gills for free. Remember, although Britannia rules the waves, people from other countries are allowed to dive too. I hope to see you at the August dive.

## Eureka Oil Platform

*Tim Doherty*

On Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, several club members went out with Darrell Walker and crew to dive the Eureka oil platform. We had a great couple of days diving with good friends in a unique and unusual environment. The platform sits in 750 feet of sea water approximately 12 miles off shore from San Pedro. This is advanced, open ocean diving from a live boat, and not for the faint of heart.

Darrell and his crew were excellent, extremely professional and courteous, and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend them. They run a great operation. Darrell met us at the marina at 7am each day and we'd been informed ahead of time that the boat is relatively small, so we assembled our gear and donned our wetsuits to various degrees in the parking lot, where Darrell hauled everything to the boat for us. The boat – the SabreCat – is a rigid hull inflatable, about 25 feet in length, and it's a good little setup for diving with seating at the back and a retractable swim ramp at the front. Entry is via back roll over the sides, and pick up via the lowered swim ramp.

The ride out to the platform takes about 45 minutes depending on weather and surface conditions. Saturday morning was overcast and with decent-sized swells, so it was a cool and slightly bumpy ride out. Once we reach the platform, we were given a safety briefing then Darrell approached the platform dropped us in two groups.



*Giant Sea Star & Garibaldi - Photo by Tim Doherty*



*San Diego Dorid - Photo by Tim Doherty*



*Garibaldi - Photo by Tim Doherty*

Diving conditions were challenging both days, but especially on Saturday. We had strong currents and large swells, and it was exceptionally difficult to maintain position in the water column. We mostly resorted to seeking shelter from the current behind the pillars supporting the platform, and even then we were crashing into the structure and each other. To quote Stefan we were, “disgusted with our buoyancy control” as we tried to navigate the submerged platform supports. Visibility averaged between 30 and 40 feet, but cleared up dramatically at depth. On Sunday morning, at 119 fsw the visibility was easily 60-70 feet. Unfortunately, you can't stay at 119 feet for long on recreational gear.

Beneath the swells, the structure was covered in life. Every surface was blanketed with tube worms, anemones, scallops, sea stars, nudibranchs and other invertebrates. Taking shelter in the dense coverage were Cabezones, Sculpins, Garibaldi and various Rockfishes. Near the surface we were treated to the antics of playful California Sea Lions, gracefully eluding our camera lenses. Speaking of which, photography was even more challenging than buoyancy control – trying to focus on a subject in strong currents with swells moving you 10 or more feet vertically is next to impossible.

I sat out the second dive on Sunday, after surfacing from the first with a headache that wouldn't go away between dives. Whatever the cause I wasn't going to risk a second dive with my head pounding. The importance of knowing when to call a dive can't be overstated: if you feel – for any reason – that you're not up to it, the best course of action is not to dive.

All said and done it was a great couple of days diving, even with the challenging conditions. I've heard from several people including some on this trip that the platform is a spectacular dive when conditions are better, so I'm looking forward to our upcoming return in September.

## Monterey Camp & Dive Trip

*Tracy Niro*

This year's camp and dive trip to Monterey was a chilly success! On Friday, July 15th, Matt and I left Santa Barbara at 5 am so that we could meet the other club members at Point Lobos for a couple of dives. We arrived around 9am to a cool breeze and overcast sky. We hiked up to the lookout area above the dive site at Whaler's Cove and it seemed like the visibility was looking good. Once the rest of the club arrived we geared up and headed out for our first dive. As soon as we made our entry down the slippery boat ramp, it was apparent that the visibility was indeed, not that great. Darn! Nevertheless we surface swam out through the channel hoping for some clearer water to descend into. On our way out, I saw something big



*Camping at Laguna Seca - Photo by Tracy Niro*



*Whaler's Cove - Photo by Tracy Niro*

and grey out of the corner of my eye. I spun around and was greeted with the timid face of a harbor seal. We descended into the murkiness and visibility improved just enough for us to realize that we were surrounded by many small jellyfish floating all around. Although we were only at a depth of 15 feet or so, the low visibility and murkiness combined with the jellies made for a beautiful and spooky scene. The water was a brisk 52 degrees, so we swam around a bit, saw a few of the locals: white spotted anemones, giant gumboot chitons and massive gopher rockfish before heading back to the boat ramp. I think the dive lasted 30 minutes or less.

Happily the sun came out while we had lunch. We overheard someone say there was "something dead tied up over there," so we went to investigate and found a giant dead Risso's dolphin floating in the cove just to the right of the boat ramp where we had made our entry earlier that morning. Wow. Were they chumming?!? No, they were just holding onto the body so that the folks from Moss Landing could show up and take it away for science. Interesting. After lunch we decided that hiking sounded more appealing than a second dive at Point Lobos, so we wandered around the beautiful reserve and enjoyed the scenery — especially the many whale spouts in the distance.



*Spooky Conditions - Photo by Tracy Niro*

Back at camp at Laguna Seca raceway we rinsed our gear, set up and camp and had dinner. Later in the evening it was breezy and cold, so we huddled around the campfire to plan the next day's dives. We decided on the Coast Guard pier in Monterey. After many, many trips to Monterey this would be my first time actually diving there!

Saturday was a busy day at San Carlos Beach, the grassy staging area for dives near the Coast Guard Pier in Monterey. There were at least one



*Harbor Seal - Photo by Tracy Niro*

hundred divers and students gearing up to get in the (what turned out to be) 51 degree water. But it was sunny, beautiful and the visibility looked good so we geared up to get in! As soon as we descended, I experienced the equivalent of a terrible brain freeze. Eventually it subsided and I was able to enjoy the dive.

There was much to see everywhere, from tiny turbot in the sand to strange orange basket stars (?), many small red pelagic crabs, some fish eating anemones and lots of tube anemones. Despite the cold, we stayed under enjoying ourselves for 51 minutes.

After lunch and a long nap in the sun we headed back out for a second dive. An otter swam right by me during the surface swim out and we had a great dive.

As Matt said, the visibility wasn't that great but at least it was really cold! We loved camping at Laguna Seca — super convenient to Point Lobos and Monterey dive sites and they bathrooms have nice hot showers. Overall it was a great trip!

## Club History

*Staff Writer*

The archive we have online at the [club's web site](#) has great contributions from a variety of club members on dive trips. These trips include “Manatee Encounter” by Steven Trainoff, “Sea of Cortez” by Dave Burroughs, and many more stories that will give you good ideas for your next dive trip destination.

I particularly liked the story in the [May 2005 newsletter](#) by Dan Lindsay about the club's involvement with sea trials for the escape slide design for the new Airbus A380 in order to get FAA certification for those slides. Those who participated had fun, got to spend two days on the water, were fed and paid as well.



*Buoyancy Test - Photo by Cheryl Weakliem*

## 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 for last minute corrections, changes or cancellations due to conditions:

- September 17: Beach Cleanup
- September 24/25: Oil Rig Dives
- October 29: Pumpkin Carving Contest at Goleta Beach
- November 5 (FSotM): Boat trip to Anacapa
- December: Holiday Party and No Club Meeting

## Odds & Ends

*Staff Writer*

### *Whale Sharks Diving Deep*

Scientists tagged 16 whale sharks in Indonesia and the data they collected over an 18 month period showed that ten of them dove down to 2000 feet, and two of them went down to nearly 6000 feet of depth. Link to the article at [Live Science](#).

### *Greenland Shark May Live 400 Years*

Researchers have calculated, through a variety of means, that the Greenland shark may very well live beyond 400 years of age. Article at the [AAAS Science Magazine](#).

### *Ocean Observatories Initiative Goes On-line*

Ten years in the making and after spending some \$400 million, an ocean-observing network is now on-line and streaming data to researchers. Link to an article at [Scientific American](#) and the [OOI web site](#).

### *White Shark Café*

Researchers from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) developed a new camera tag for great white sharks and plan to use them to find out why these sharks congregate in a spot called "White Shark Café" every year. It's a spot midway between Mexico and Hawaii. Article at [MBARI](#).

### *The True Story of Jaws*

July 2016 marked the 100th anniversary of the true story that inspired Peter Benchley's 1974 novel "Jaws" and Steven Spielberg's 1975 movie by the same name. Articles at the [BBC](#) and [New York Times](#).

### *Great White Sharks in South Africa Facing Extinction*

New data collected over the past six years shows that the shark population off the coast of South Africa is in rapid decline and that there are only 350-500 left, possibly leading to the extinction of great white sharks off their coast. Link to article at [Stellenbosch University](#).

### *NOAA Series On Coral Bleaching*

NOAA has written a two part feature on coral bleaching, and how to respond to it, after predicting extensive coral bleaching in national marine sanctuaries throughout 2016. Link to [part one](#), and a link to [part two](#).

### *New Whale Species Discovered*

A dead whale washed up on the beaches of St. George, Alaska. At first it was thought to be a Baird's beaked whale but in the end the conclusion was that it was an unknown species. Link to article at [National Geographic](#).

### *World's Largest Blue Hole*

Pending verification, the largest blue hole on earth is now located in the South China Sea. It is 987 feet deep (that's 300.89 meters for the metrically inclined). Link to article at [Live Science](#).

### *Myth That Lobsters Live Forever Debunked*

I had actually never heard of this myth, but biologist have now officially debunked it. As if that was really necessary. Article at [Live Science](#).

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

If you are 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 version.

