

PARADISE Dive Club

September 2004

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Volume 10, Issue 9



President's Log

by Patty Bryant

It's hard to believe that September is right around the corner. It seems like summer just got started and yet now it is almost over. But for those of us living here in Paradise, we still have a couple of months with great weather and even better diving to look forward

to. The days will get shorter and the kids will be back at school but we can still go diving!

So if you're sad that your summer vacation is over, come join us for a "mini" vacation at Refugio State Beach on September 17-19. The club actually has two events that weekend and they both happen to be on the same day. The underwater cleanup at Refugio coincides with Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 18. Paradise Dive Club will be participating in both events.

The Refugio cleanup will be a repeat of the event that we had in April. We will be allowed to camp in the group campsite free of charge on both Friday and Saturday nights, September 17 & 18, and there will be a group BBQ after the cleanup on Saturday. Our friends from the Vandenberg Aqualliers and the UCSB Scuba Club will be joining us. This is a great chance to socialize with them as well as members of our own club that you might not see that often. We do need to get a head count for the BBQ, so make sure you sign up at the next meeting or call Mark Silva at 969-2014 if you plan to attend.

For the past several years, PDC members have cleaned up Tajiguas Beach on Coastal Cleanup Day and we will also be doing that on Saturday, September 18. So for those of you that can put off donning that wetsuit for a couple of hours (I know it's hard), we could sure use your help at Tajiguas, which always has a lot of trash to clean up. If you can't make it for the entire weekend, maybe you can squeeze in a couple of hours on Saturday morning to help us there. More details about both cleanups are posted inside this newsletter.

In other news, our meeting place has changed once again. Victoria's Café is no longer able to accommodate us, so we're going back to the Lighthouse Rusty's on Cabrillo Blvd. Please join us at Rusty's on August 31, when we will have the nominations for the board members that will serve your club for the upcoming year.

Keep diving—stay happy!



Steve Trainoff stalking a sea star at Refugio—photo by Dan Lindsay

Join the club, enjoy the benefits

- ∅ Monthly meetings with entertainment
- ∅ Raffle prizes (who doesn't like prizes?)
- ∅ Great dive buddy pool
- ∅ Beach & boat dives, including weekly night dives
- ∅ Club BBQs & other activities
- ∅ Free airfills & gear discounts at local dive shops
- ∅ Right to proudly wear the official PDC t-shirt (because we do have the coolest logo)

Mark your calendars...

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month

Rusty's Pizza

(in the lighthouse)

10 East Cabrillo Boulevard
Santa Barbara, CA

6:30 pm - social hour

7-8:30 pm - feeding frenzy, meeting,
raffle prizes, entertainment

September Boat Dives — Get on Board!

- Wednesday-Friday, September 15-17 (departs 9pm Tuesday), a freediving trip to Cortes Banks aboard the *Peace*, \$400. Call Blue Water Hunter, 564-6677.
- Friday, September 3 on the *Truth*, 6am departure, \$90. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Monday, September 6 (Labor Day) on the *Spectre*, 7am departure, \$79. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Saturday-Sunday, September 18-19 (departs Friday), a 2-day trip to Catalina and Santa Barbara Island aboard the *Peace*, \$250. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Friday-Sunday, October 1-3 (board 8pm Friday), lobster season opener aboard the *Spectre*, \$299 includes food & air, 4 night dives, and 6-9 day dives. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.



Anemone at Santa Cruz Island—photo by Jerry Sorich

Paradise Dive Club Officers

President - Patty Bryant	684-6342
Vice President - Mark Silva	969-2014
Secretary - Dan Lindsay	964-5020
Treasurer - Denise Foxwell	962-8113
Membership - Bruce King	452-7590
Publications - Stacey Kimsey	637-4487
Sgt at Arms - Mark Dombrosky	647-5245
Entertainment - Mark Bursek	564-1923
Raffle - Ralph Goldsen	681-0400
Webmaster - Ray Janik	637-4486
Historian - Cheryl Weakliem	967-2827

Sponsors:

Anacapa Dive Center	963-8917
Aquatics	967-4456
Blue Water Hunter	564-6677
Truth Aquatics	962-1127

Visit our Web site at
<http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu>

E-mail newsletter articles to
sdkimsey@yahoo.com

Membership: \$30/year (May-April); \$25/year for renewing members. Includes monthly newsletter. A complimentary subscription will be provided to dive clubs that reciprocate with a subscription to their newsletter; contact the membership coordinator at kingbh@cox.net for details.



It's a Boy!

Zachary Ryan Bursek (7 lb. 12 oz., 21 inches) was born at 9:15pm on July 29th.

Congratulations to Julie & Mark!

Location, Location, Location...

It's all about location, whether you're hunting for bugs or trying to figure out where the Paradise Dive Club is meeting this month.

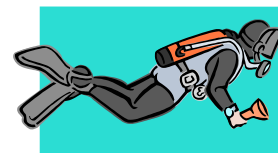


Despite our high hopes for Victoria's, this venue did not work out and we are back at Rusty's Pizza in the lighthouse on Cabrillo.

Thanks for hanging in with us... and a big thanks to Rusty's for welcoming us back!

Welcome to our new members!

Dennis Casey
Sheila Siegel



Big Schools of Baitfish

story & photo by Carl Gwinn

Big schools of baitfish floated above the sunken deck, wheeling, darting, and flashing. The sharp edges of the schools recoiled as lines of amber and horse-eye jacks shot through. Occasionally fat barracudas briefly accompanied the jacks on their hunt, although usually they hung lazily overhead, eyeing the divers below. I examined one baitball closely; it contained many kinds of fish – including a tiny, perfect barracuda – all nearly the same size. I slowly finned sternward along the port side of the sunken vessel, peering through hanging nests of wire into the now-empty holds. I looked up to see a 6-foot sand tiger shark swimming toward me, its small mouth crammed with sharp teeth, a notch in its tail. I slipped to my left and saw its empty yellow eye from a foot away. The shark reacted suddenly to my noisy exhalation, twisting with enough force to dislodge a remora from its pectoral fin. The shark raced into the void beyond the wreck.

My wife, Beth, and I were visiting her parents in coastal North Carolina, south of Cape Hatteras. Beaufort is a small town about 3 hours' drive from Raleigh, the nearest airport of any size (other than Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station). The town features B&Bs, marinas, and the famous Roland's Barbecue. We'd decided to try diving from Beaufort in the wreck-littered waters offshore. Ships have wrecked here for hundreds of years; on our first offshore trip the captain pointed out the location of Blackbeard's ship, the *Queen Anne's Revenge* (and

mentioned the stiff penalties for anyone caught diving there). We dived from a six-pack, captained by Leroy Craytor, long-time diver and Marine. Some boats are larger. The dive sites are 10 to 45 minutes from shore; most boats make two dives per trip. The bottom is sand, occasionally interrupted by the wrecks and artificial reefs. These are the dive sites (although Capt. Leroy told us that the locals sometimes dive isolated rocks, as well as the many wrecks). The water is warm, by California standards: about 75°F. Visibility was often in excess of 80 feet at the start of the dive, although the activity of the divers – particularly on small wrecks – quickly stirred up sediment. In addition to the baitballs and predators hovering above, the algae-festooned decks of the ships are home to many species of fish, including the aptly-named oyster toadfish, mantis shrimp, crabs, and yellow wrasse that would look at home in a kelp forest. On one dive we watched a dolphin meditatively observing a baitball as we completed our safety stop.

Many of the diveable wrecks date from WWII, when German U-boats targeted Allied shipping along this section of the coast. A couple of those U-boats are diveable as well, though we never reached them: they are reachable only in good weather. Learning from disaster, the state has sunk additional ships as artificial reefs for fishermen. They certainly attract fish, and provide hiding places for them. Who knows whether the actual number of fish increases? The artificial reefs are certainly good sources of fishing tackle and lead sinkers!



Cabo San Lucas

by Jesse Rogers; photos by Mark Rogers

As we were landing at the airport of Cabo San Lucas, I was wondering to myself if I would be able to dive... I had forgotten my dive card at home... but then I thought, "This is Mexico, why should I worry?"

The second day we were in Mexico we decided to go to test our snorkel gear at a beautiful beach called Santa Maria. The water was amazing – the visibility was about 50-60 feet, tropical fish were everywhere, and the water was very warm. So after diving deep, picking up a lobster shell from the sea floor, and chasing hundreds of velvet puffers around, we decided to head out of Santa Maria and go to a pool that served the most delicious mango smoothies.



As the days passed we got the word that a very big storm was coming. Well, it came, and the beautiful Santa Maria that we snorkeled through became a reckless fight between the massive waves and the crumbled sand that was about to be pounded and crumbled even more. We saw a five-foot moray eel and many other reef fish, including puffers, that got washed up on the beach dead. It was amazing to see how peaceful and clear the ocean was two days before and then to see, two days later, how big the waves were.

At this point our family was very nervous; we had yet to put our tanks in the water and were hoping that the storm would calm down. After a few more days, the waves died down and the clarity became amazing. I was finally gonna be able to dive in clear warm water (and best of all, with my mom, whom I had never dived with before this trip).



We gathered our gear, suited up, and were off for the warm water. As my ankles touched the water I felt the warmth of the tropical liquid grow on me. (I usually find this urge in Santa Barbara water to pee in my wetsuit to warm me up. Here at Chileno Beach, we dived and I did not feel this urge.) I felt great – this was my first time scuba diving without a wetsuit.

As we headed under for our first dive, I saw lots of colorful fish. It was amazing. We saw a stingray and thought it was a huge deal. I say this because later on our second dive we saw five stingrays. Three of them were together having a threesome, while the other two were scattered about. It was great because my dad got lots of pictures of them and a movie of the mating stingrays. *[Editor's note—see this movie at our club's home page, <http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu>]*



On our second dive there was also a very exciting event that had happened. Blake got down to about 20 feet on my dad's regulator with Dad's arm around him. Dad was going slow and watching very closely while using his back-up Air II. *(cont. on next page)*

Cabo San Lucas, cont. – by Jesse Rogers

Blake was down there for a good 30 minutes. He thought this experience was a great one. He says he wants to start up scuba diving, but in my opinion he doesn't know what he is in for. He didn't have to swim or carry the tank or wash his gear, and most of all he was in warm water. But he will love it when the time comes for him to start diving.

I was having a great trip, until the end. The great part was the warm water, diving with my mom, our family spending time together, the mango smoothies, and watching my little brother Blake dive with us at my Dad's side. But I was really excited because *I got a tan*. That was a huge plus for me going to Cabo, to get a tan. But the day before we leave, my dad says, "Jesse, your back is peeling." From then on I was in a bad mood. My tan was ruined and it was ugly; no one wanted to put lotion or sunscreen on my ugly peeling back.

All in all, this was a very fun trip, and I would love to dive in warm water again.

THANKS, MOM AND DAD



Refugio Underwater Cleanup & Campout — September 17-19

by Patty Bryant

The annual Refugio Underwater Cleanup & Fish Count has been moved from Earth Day to Coastal Cleanup Day, and this year we get to do it twice. For those of you who joined us in April, you know it's a great opportunity to get together with club members, get wet (Refugio dives have been great this year), and score major karma points while sprucing up the diving/camping environment.

Park ranger (and club member) Danita Rodriguez has made the group campsite (situated on prime real estate at the campground's east end) available on Friday and Saturday nights, September 17 & 18. Check-in time for the campground is 4pm on Friday, and check-out time is noon on Sunday.

Saturday will feature a dive/underwater cleanup as well as onshore cleanup activities for non-divers. Check in at the west end between 8 and 8:30am; the briefing will be at 9am. Bring all necessary dive gear, including a goodie bag for collecting trash. Then it's BBQ time! We will be feasting with the Vandenberg Aqualliers and the UCSB Scuba Club. PDC is hosting the BBQ this year, so we'll be recruiting volunteers to help out.

Call Mark Silva at 969-2014 to RSVP for the BBQ, and plan on bringing bring a side dish to share with all.

Coastal Cleanup at Tajiguas — September 18

by Mark Rogers

Working with the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department on Coastal Cleanup Day, we will be at Tajiguas to clean up one of our aquatic playgrounds.




About two miles north of Refugio, this has been our adopted beach to clean up for quite a few years now. So some of us will go there to scour the sands and give it a good polish. It is always nice to look back down the trail when we are done and see that beautiful clean beach smiling back at you!

Last September our group of 19 people, including some non-PDC-affiliated families and individuals, removed 150 lbs of trash and 185 lbs of recyclables. Let's see if we can beat that this year. Start time is 9am, so we can make it back to the BBQ at Refugio with no problem.

The County does supply latex gloves and trash bags for us, but bring gardening gloves and trash pickin' devices if you have them. Tell your friends too!

September 2004

Don't Forget...
MONTHLY MEETING
 August 31
 and **September 28**
 at Rusty's Pizza

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Refugio campout thru 9/19	18 Coastal Cleanup Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27		29	30		

Night Dives

Upcoming Events

- Board member nominations at August 31 general meeting
- September 18: Coastal Cleanup Day
- September 17-19: Group campout at Refugio

Wednesday night dives

To find out where the group is diving or to be added to the night dive e-mail list, contact Dan Lindsay at edgy01@aol.com/964-5020, Carl Gwinn at carlgwinn@yahoo.com/968-5694, or Mark Silva at 969-2014.



P.O. Box 21311
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