

PARADISE Dive Club

February 2005

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Volume 11, Issue 2



President's Log

by Ray Janik

I'd hoped to start off the first log I actually wrote in 2005 with a recap of at least one good dive, but while we were planning those we were reminded, in ways large, small, and very sobering, that it's nature calling the shots. I'm sure that for a lot of folks, the names of the areas devastated by the tsunami in southeast Asia were entirely unfamiliar—the kind of exotic locations they'd never think of visiting. For divers, though, they're much familiar as dream destinations or places we've been lucky enough to experience firsthand.

It's been several weeks now since the truly awesome news. The images and stories of devastation were so stunning that it seemed impossible to truly comprehend. I know many of us have already done so, but I'd like to encourage everyone to consider making a donation to one of the many groups working to help the victims of this disaster to recover. Those with the time and resources may even want to consider volunteering to work with coral recovery operations at some of the hard-hit dive sites; Thailand has already announced that it will need divers to help save damaged reefs.

We live in a fast-paced world where other events have overtaken these and already largely moved them from the forefront of the news. But it will take years for a real recovery. For those of us privileged to experience the otherworldly beauty of places such as some of those hardest hit, along with the true hospitality of many inhabitants, I believe there is a special responsibility to help.

Closer to home, the recent heavy rains obviously hit many of us particularly hard. With the tragic mudslide in La Conchita, freeway closures, disappearing beaches, and quarter-mile-wide mudzones onshore, the Paradise has been a little hard to find, lately. Hopefully we've all weathered the worst of things. The sun's returned, and it's been a little easier to remember why we're so very lucky to live and dive here.

Thankfully, it hasn't been all bad news. Our annual holiday party was a huge success. I'd like to add my thanks to those given elsewhere in the newsletter to all of those who put in great amounts of time and effort to bring it off so nicely.

Since we haven't been able to get together to dive, we gathered for our second-favorite pastime recently: talking about diving and having a few drinks at a deco-stop at the Fishouse. Every time we do this, I'm reminded of what a great and diverse group we are. There's always at least one fascinating tidbit of diving lore that's entirely new to me and one story that makes me laugh far too loudly. We'll have to do it again really soon.

As soon as conditions permit, we will try to put together a beach dive; be sure to keep an eye on the Web site and your e-mail. Other upcoming events include a special screening of *California Sea Lions*, a documentary filmed—as I understand it—largely in the Channel Islands. If any of us were looking for reminders of what's great about local diving, I can't think of anything better than imagining a game of scuba hide-and-seek with a sea lion or two.

Join the club, enjoy the benefits

- o Monthly meetings with entertainment
- o Raffle prizes (who doesn't like prizes?)
- o Great dive buddy pool
- o Beach & boat dives, including weekly night dives
- o Club BBQs & other activities
- o Free airfills & gear discounts at local dive shops
- o 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

January—Lighthouse Rusty's
February—Goleta Rusty's (in the K-mart Center)

6:30 pm - social hour

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

An Open Letter to the Club from Kay Silva

Kay wrote this letter after our holiday party, and we just missed getting it in last month's newsletter. Photos by Steve Trainoff.

The success of our PDC Holiday Party had very little to do with me, and if only I could speak in front of a large group without passing out, I would have said so. The clubhouse was a perfect setting and the kitchen was great—thank you, Steve and Gretchen. The turkey and dressing that Mark Bursek brought was outstanding, smoked and roasted to perfection and the dressing was so very good. Don't let Patty tell you she can't cook. I think you all should make her the club chef. Thanks, Patty; the hams were great. It always surprises me when everyone brings a favorite side dish, appetizer, or dessert and suddenly it becomes an incredible banquet.



Kay and Paul & Jonathan Weakliem in the kitchen



Mark & Veronica Rogers and Mark Silva

The food is always key to a good party, but without the worker bees no party can ever be successful. We have to thank Doug and Leota for coming all the way from the Bay Area for the party and then being put to work: rolling the plastic dinnerware into the napkins, hauling and carrying tons of stuff to and from the party, helping decorate, and cleaning up afterwards. Do you think we scared them off? Thanks to Dan for all his help, Laurel for the quick run to the store at the last minute, and of course Stacey and Ray for all their help and dedication. How about that Santa, was he great or what? We have to again thank Gretchen for selecting the best gifts ever for our Santa to pass out. I would be remiss not to thank my husband Mark for all his hard work and for putting up with my seemingly impossible drive for perfection. Thank you, sweetheart, and thank you all for making this a wonderful holiday celebration. The dock cart will be used and appreciated every day. Thanks, all!

Paradise Dive Club Officers

President - Ray Janik	637-4486
Vice President - Dan Lindsay	964-5020
Secretary - Carl Gwinn	968-5694
Treasurer - Mark Silva	969-2014
Membership - Bruce King	452-7590
Newsletter - Stacey Janik	637-4487
Sgt at Arms - Steve Trainoff	571-1622
Entertainment - Mark Bursek	564-1923
Raffle - Ralph Goldsen	681-0400
Webmaster - Ray Janik	637-4486
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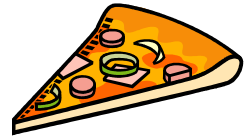
Anacapa Dive Center	963-8917
Aquatics	967-4456
Blue Water Hunter	564-6677
Truth Aquatics	962-1127

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E-mail newsletter articles to
sjanik@gmail.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.

New Location in February!



Starting with our February 22 club meeting, we're moving to the Rusty's Pizza in the K-mart Center in Goleta, 270 Storke Road. This Rusty's has a larger meeting room to accommodate our growing club. Our January meeting will be held at the usual location, the Lighthouse Rusty's on Cabrillo.

License Reminder

by Dan Lindsay

It's renewal time for our sport fishing (and lobstering) divers. License renewal. You'll want the 2005 California "Resident Sport Fishing License" (\$33.35), and since we catch south of Point Conception you'll need the 2005 "Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp" (\$3.70). Toss in sales tax on top of that and you'll be out \$39.92. Licenses can be obtained around town. (I happen to get mine at Long's). Remember that to keep up with the latest restrictions on quantity and size of fish, you would be best served by referring to California's online fishing rules and regulations. (They're the most current of everything—even more up to date than many rangers).

Welcome to our new member!

Bill Kenyon

Some Bugs You Don't Want to Catch

by Laurie C. Van De Werfhorst

Working in an environmental microbiology lab at UCSB, I tend to think of something entirely different when I hear divers talk about catching “bugs.” With all the recent storm activity, you might be wondering when it is considered safe to go back in the water.

Rainfall can cause oil, grease, chemicals, trash, and fecal material to wash into the creeks and eventually into the ocean. Storms can also re-suspend any contaminants that might have settled into creek sediments or ocean sand. Scientific studies have linked storm water runoff with elevated levels of bacteria in creeks and ocean water. Exposure to these types of bacteria can cause increased health risks, including skin rashes, ear infections, and diarrhea.

Since bacteria are diverse and omnipresent, it would be difficult to identify every possible pathogen in the environment. This is why a few particular indicator bacteria are used. They are easy to detect, exist in the same habitats as the pathogens of interest (i.e. in intestines of warm-blooded mammals), and from them you can infer the presence of pathogens. There are three main indicator bacteria used in water testing: total coliform, fecal coliform, and enterococcus.

Currently, the County of Santa Barbara conducts weekly testing for indicator bacteria on 20 beaches from Guadalupe Dunes to Rincon. These samples are usually taken on Mondays, with the results available in 24-36 hours. Based on the sample results, a Beach Status report is printed in the *Santa Barbara News-Press* (Saturdays), the *Independent* (Thursdays), online (<http://sbcpd.org/ehs/oceanmn.htm>, updated on Thursdays/Fridays), or you can call the Ocean Water Quality Hotline (805-681-4949). The Web site lists the beach status, and also has links to the raw data and health standards for those of you who want to know what the actual numbers are and what they mean.

Something to remember is that since you can not sample infinite locations and times, you are taking a “snapshot” of the water quality at that point in time and space. The levels could be quite different if you took a sample from five feet further downstream, five minutes earlier, or five days later. Another issue is that indicator assays don't tell you anything about what is causing the higher bacteria levels. Is it from dog or human waste, a leaky septic tank, or something else? I am currently working on a project to try to address this issue using DNA fingerprinting techniques to see if we can discern where the bacteria are coming from. One of the watersheds we are focusing on is Arroyo Burro (a.k.a. Hendry's), which you might be surprised to learn is a hotspot for elevated bacteria levels.

The best way to reduce your chance of illness is to avoid contact with creek and ocean water for at least 72 hours after a rain event. If you do decide to get in the water, try to stay at least 50 yards away from creek mouths or storm drains, and stay out of discolored water (the visibility would be terrible anyway). Also, you should rinse yourself and your gear off with fresh water as soon as possible, paying close attention to your mouth, nose, and ears. Keep in mind that some of our beaches may have elevated bacteria levels even during the dry months. Checking the most recent water quality data can help you better plan your next dive. Hopefully you will catch only the bugs you are looking for.



Sardine run at Refugio's East Side. Photo by Carl Gwinn. Carl reports that he and Beth dived Refugio on Christmas morning, with 10-foot vis, 55° water, and calm conditions.



Bulletin Board

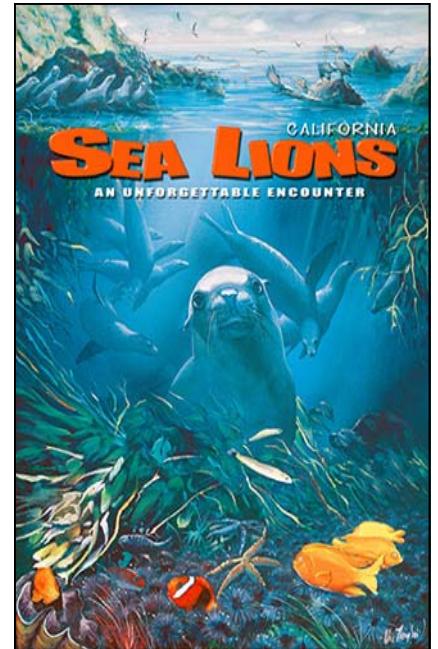
- Thailand reportedly needs divers to help restore fallen reefs and clean up damage (see www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200501/s1281562.htm). Dida Kutz of Blue Planet Divers will try to post more info at www.BluePlanetDivers.org. Thanks to Carl Gwinn for passing this along.
- Any divers with firsthand reports on the conditions of reefs, fisheries, or mangroves in Southeast Asia in the wake of the recent tsunami are encouraged to contact Reef Base at reefbase@cgiar.org. They have a Web site devoted to the tsunami's impact on coastal environments at www.reefbase.org/tsunami.asp.
- The British Sub Aqua Club is teaming up with the Anglo-Danish Maritime Archaeological Team for an underwater archaeology survey in the Philippines. The Philippines were an important trading center for the ancient Chinese and the Spanish, and many ships sunk due to the typhoons that still rip through the area part of the year. The purpose of the survey is to discover the source of blue and white pottery shards that keep washing up on the beach. They are seeking volunteers for two trips, April 16-30 and April 30-May 14. Archaeological instruction will be given, including ADMAT's own Underwater Survey Diver course, as well as training on use of depth sounder, side scan sonar, magnetometer, dredges and traditional survey technique. Full details are available at www.admat.org.uk. If you're interested, contact Christine Nielsen at christine@admat.org.uk right away; spaces are going fast.

Special Screening of *California Sea Lions* Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

February 5, 3:45 p.m. (community day at the museum all day)

Saturday, February 5, is "community day" at the Maritime Museum, which means you and your family can enjoy the museum and this film for free. Dan Lindsay got a sneak preview of the film, and provides the following review:

Filmed largely on and under the waters surrounding Santa Barbara and San Miguel Islands, *California Sea Lions* is a well-filmed and -edited look into the life of the sea lion. Approximately 45 minutes in length, *California Sea Lions*, by RioFilms (based in Fullerton, CA), is filled with incredible images (accompanied by a somewhat intrusive soundtrack) of the acrobatic sea lion in its element, the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Southern California. In documentary fashion, *Sea Lions* offers some insight into these pinnipeds and their lives in our neighboring Pacific. This off-season glimpse of the underwater world may be the only chance for some of us to experience the ocean during these winter months. It should serve to motivate our underwater photographers and cinematographers to venture back into the water! A trailer is available online at <http://www.riofilms.com/csl.html>. The film will be presented to the Paradise Dive Club on the 5th of February at 3:45 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.



January Meeting Entertainment

Steve Trainoff will present a special slide show on his and Gretchen's recent trip to Fiji at our January meeting. A sample of Steve's photography is at left.

Don't forget, we meet at our usual space in January—the Rusty's Pizza in the Lighthouse on Cabrillo—and then in February we will move to the Goleta Rusty's next to Bicycle Bob's in the K-mart Center at Hollister & Storke.

Golf Ball Scavenger Hunt

article by Steve Trainoff, photos by Stacey Janik

Every year, PDC participates in the annual beach cleanup at Refugio and Tajiguas; however, every time I dived at Goleta Beach, I could not help but think that it too was in desperate need of some PDC TLC. Like other popular beaches, it has its share of detritus, but its unique feature is its caches of golf balls. Thus was born the first annual Golf Ball Challenge. The idea was to combine cleanup with a little friendly competition. We met at Goleta Beach on December 18, at 11 a.m. The weather was clear, but the surf was up. About ten divers attended, but only three souls braved the elements. Stacey commented that she did not want to dive through waves that would be better for surfing.



Mike Macko's surf entry

I will give away a little secret: golf balls roll very well on the sandy bottom, and the wave action concentrates them at strategic locations. For whatever reason, they are concentrated along the beach side of the pipe that parallels the pier. I had theorized that perhaps the source of the balls was Twin Lakes Golf Course. My idea was that they might



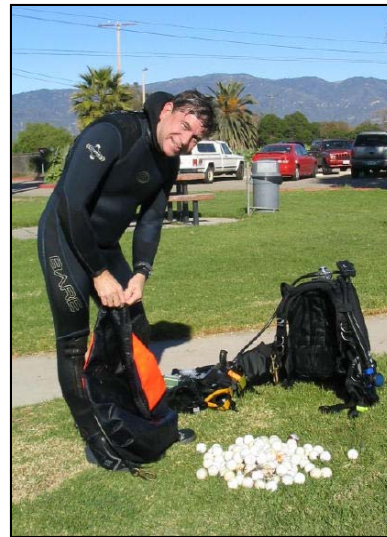
Paul & Jonathan Weakliem enjoy a day at the beach

end up in the storm drains and roll their way through the slough down to the beach. However, since they are almost never found on the slough side of the pipeline, and it is not likely that they could roll OVER the pipeline, the source must be more prosaic. It is probably some moron using the ocean as his private driving range/trash dump.

We swam out to the end of the pier and descended together. The visibility varied between 5-10 feet and the water temp was 57°F. All in all, it was a nice dive with remarkably little surge considering the wave action on the beach. At final count Mike Macko came back with 40, Dan Lindsay came back with 135, and I took the trophy with 142. Also interesting were the non-golfing-related detritus. In addition to the targeted balls and usual



How many golf balls does a bowling ball equal?



Dan Lindsay, just seven balls away from victory

bottles and cups, Mike found a 12-lb glossy bowling ball with the label "Jerilee." So, if anyone sees Jerilee, tell him/her that we have his/her ball. Also found was a lacrosse ball, and a light-duty folding anchor in good condition. I fear that some boy scout will not be getting his knot-tying merit badge.

At the awards ceremony, Dan showed off his handiwork. He had fashioned the PDC trophy out of 91

(previously salvaged) golf balls glued into a pyramid. I hope that each year we can add another layer to the pyramid and pass it on.



Steve Trainoff is awarded the pyramid of golf ball hunting greatness

February 2005

Don't forget...
MONTHLY MEETING
 January 25 and February 22
 Rusty's Pizza

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Film screening, Maritime Museum
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Upcoming Events

- Film screening of *California Sea Lions* at Maritime Museum, February 5, 3:45pm

Get on Board!

- Sunday, February 27, on the *Truth*, 6 am departure, \$100. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917

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 or 964-5020.



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