

# PARADISE Dive Club

July 2005

Visit us at <http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu>

Volume 11, Issue 7



## President's Log

by Ray Janik

A few months ago, I mentioned how the club used to do what seemed like a lot more boat trips. For a long time, we did at least a couple a year but, for some reason, we've gotten out of the habit.

With so many busy schedules to accommodate, it can be tough to find dates that allow enough members to sign on. Coupled with the recent shenanigans involving the *Conception*, it's gotten even tougher to put a trip on the calendar. And, after working on our recent camping trip to Santa Cruz, I have newfound respect for anyone who puts trips together. If god is in the details, it's definitely a religious experience.

So I want to say a special "thank you" to PDC Secretary Carl Gwinn, who put a great deal of effort into setting up our Great Annual Fish Count trip on July 16. Carl's a dedicated fish counter and has provided a wealth of information in the following pages, but his work with club sponsors Truth Aquatics and Anacapa Dive Center has resulted in a great opportunity. Unlike previous fish count trips, which were either mid-week or multi-day, this one is a one-day trip during the weekend, so it's easier to fit into our schedules. In addition to being a genuinely worthwhile endeavor, it's also an especially great deal for club members. After this month's meeting on the 28th, we will be opening the boat to non-members, and space is limited, so be sure to bring your checkbooks to this month's meeting if you want to reserve a spot.

On another note, if you're like me, you have been especially impressed with the entertainment at our last few club meetings.

We've had the opportunity to vicariously enjoy the glob-trotting adventures of fellow members (and admire their video and photographic skills) and peek behind the curtain of cutting-edge fin design while getting a great taste of local dive history. This month, we'll be boning up on our fish identification skills.

As we've announced previously, we have been setting aside funds for a new digital video projector that will do justice to future presentations, and we are almost at our goal. To put us over the top, we are earmarking the proceeds of this month's raffle for the final dollars for the fund. To encourage everyone's participation, we've dug deep into the goody bag for some extra-special prizes and several members have donated a print or photo. So, along with your checkbook, be sure to bring a few extra dollars for the raffle.

And be sure to read on for dive reports and information on upcoming events. The weather's great and the conditions are looking better all the time. I look forward to seeing everyone in the water—or at least hearing some great dive stories—soon.



*Your PDC Board, hard at work—photo by Julie Bursek*

### Join the club, get cool stuff

- ∂ 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, Goleta

in the K-mart Center, 270 Storke Road

6:30 pm - social hour

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

## June 3 Blood Drive—by Jerry Sorich

Thanks to everyone who came out for the blood drive. We had over 25 people offer to give blood. The count on the donors was 21 pints. The blood bank was extremely pleased with the turnout, and genuinely enjoyed the change of venue. The workers said that they usually end up in a parking lot or on a loading dock. Hopefully, all of you who gave blood will mark your calendars for the next time that you are able to donate. We had lots of great food and a beautiful evening at Shoreline Park. Thanks again to all.

*Editor's note: And a big thanks to Jerry for organizing this event and providing the delicious BBQ!*



Happy campers at Santa Cruz—photo by Dave Burroughs

## July Boat Trips

- Sun. 7/10 on the *Peace*, 7 a.m. departure, \$100. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Free diving trip, Weds. 7/13 on the *Peace*, 2 a.m. departure, \$85. Blue Water Hunter, 564-6677.
- Sat. 7/16 on the *Vision*, 6 a.m. depart., \$100. Anacapa, 963-8917.
- Sat. 7/16 on the *Spectre*, 7 a.m. depart., \$79. Aquatics, 967-4456.
- Limited load 2-day trip to San Clemente & Santa Barbara Islands, Fri. 7/15-Sat. 7/16 on the *Peace*, \$295. Anacapa, 963-8917.
- Sun. 7/31 on the *Peace*, 7 a.m. depart., \$100. Anacapa, 963-8917.
- Sun. 7/31 on the *Spectre*, 7 a.m. departure, \$79. Aquatics, 967-4456.

## 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
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  
[sjanik@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kingbh@cox.net) for details.

## Bulletin Board

- Enjoy a great day of diving and make a contribution to science—join your fellow PDCers for our **REEF fish count trip** on board the *Vision* on **Saturday, July 16** (6 a.m. departure). Spots are filling up fast, so pay at the meeting or send a check to Mark Silva. Members get a discounted rate of \$85; non-members pay \$100. The club will raffle off some **great prizes** for participants. See Carl Gwinn's article on the next page for more info.
- Interested in exploring the pipeline off **Campus Point**? Join us for a dive at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, July 23**, with a possible BBQ afterward—an update will be provided at the meeting or by e-mail.
- Also stay tuned for a possible **PDC movie night**, with a special viewing of *Abyss* at the UCSB Marine Science Research Building screening room; date to be announced.
- Sea turtles in the Channel?!? A female **Olive Ridley sea turtle** from the tropics is nesting at Santa Cruz Island. If the eggs hatch successfully, dozens of baby sea turtles could be hitting the waters soon (and presumably hightailing it for warmer waters to the south).
- Reminder that spaces are filling up for Annie Crawley's **July 8-10 photo workshop**. You can sign up at Anacapa Dive Center, or e-mail Annie at [anniecrawley@yahoo.com](mailto:anniecrawley@yahoo.com). See last month's newsletter for more details.

*Welcome to our new members!*

Rob Budny, Charlie Lang, Cesar Palerm



## Dive for Science: Count Fish on July 16<sup>th</sup>!

by Carl Gwinn

"I know it's gone down. But, can we tell whether it's coming back?" Mike Macko asked. He had just told me how he and his father had covered the deck of his father's 24-ft Radon with 5- and 10-lb rockfish, at San Miguel 30 years ago. That doesn't happen anymore! Long-time Channel Islands fishermen like Mike and his dad, and divers like us, have seen an overall decline in the health of the ocean at the islands. The new system of marine reserves, created at the islands by California's Department of Fish and Game, may help to reverse that decline. Fish counts by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) will help to measure whether those reserves are succeeding.

Counting fish for REEF is similar to bird watching, but on the opposite side of the air-water interface. (If you see a bird underwater, count it; flying fish are counted only if seen underwater during the dive!) Complete knowledge of every species you might see isn't required. Divers swim around as they usually do, but carry slates to write down the species they recognize, along with very rough counts: "single," "few," "many," or "abundant." The most interesting fish to count, and the most valuable scientifically, are the least common: like the blue shark Ralph Goldsen spotted at Santa Barbara Island, or the three halibut Paul Weakliem counted on a dive at Scorpion. Sometimes you've got to swim back to the boat to look up a fish – it's good to sketch a few features, like the shape of the tail and dorsal fin, and any stripes or bars. Also back at the boat are a scantron form and a No 2 pencil, for recording the counts. Unlike the multiple-guess tests in college, no grades are given! If there's a competitive aspect, it's to find the most unusual fish, or count the most species.

REEF has come up with a plan to measure the effect of the marine reserves on fish populations the Channel Islands. The plan involves six to eight sites each at Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara Islands; Anacapa is counted quite a bit anyway! Several divers should count each of these sites each year. After three or four years, the effects of the marine reserves should show up in the counts. Marine scientists at UCSB and elsewhere are also working to measure the effects of the reserves, using ROVs and research divers with tapes and lasers. In principle, the REEF fish counts are better for

measuring variations in unusual or shy species, such as halibut, giant seabass, or angel sharks.

July is the month of the Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC). The GAFC started at California's Channel Islands, in the early 1990s. REEF took over the counts, and now runs them throughout the world. To celebrate the GAFC, the Paradise Dive Club has chartered half of the *Vision* for fish-counting on Saturday, July 16. The trip is a 6 am departure for Santa Cruz, and the diving should be easy. The club will sponsor a raffle of valuable prizes! Come out and contribute to the progress of science, while brushing up your fish identification skills and making a few relaxing dives!

During July, the *Peace* is offering fish counters \$10 off all mid-week open-boat trips; mention the GAFC when making a reservation. The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary can provide scantrons and fish-counting kits; contact them at Santa Barbara Harbor, 805-966-7107, or at Channel Islands Harbor, 805-382-6149. Visit [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org) for information on counting and to view counts.

The fish-counting trip on July 16 is \$85 for PDC members, \$100 for non-members. Contact Carl Gwinn ([carlgwinn@yahoo.com](mailto:carlgwinn@yahoo.com), 805-968-5694) or Paul Weakliem ([pweakliem@yahoo.com](mailto:pweakliem@yahoo.com), 805-967-2827) to reserve your spot!

*Editor's note: Julie Bursek, Education Coordinator for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, will give a fish ID refresher course at our June 28 meeting. Fish-counting kits will also be available at the meeting.*

*"Pacific electric  
torpedo ray—1."  
Channel Islands  
National Marine  
Sanctuary  
Manager Chris  
Mobley  
conducting  
REEF survey at  
Cat Canyon,  
south of Santa  
Barbara Island.  
Photo by Carl  
Gwinn.*

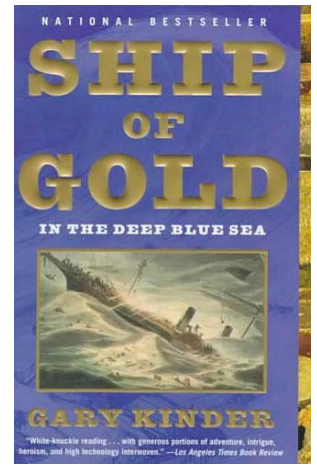




# Book Review: Gary Kinder's *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea*

by Steve Trainoff

As divers we probe the margins of a vast uncharted territory. We know more about the surface of the moon than we do about the majority of the earth's surface, that of the deep ocean. Imagine what wonders and riches lay there. Twenty years ago, Tommy Thompson dreamed of exploring this realm. As an engineer, he didn't believe those who told him that the deep ocean was utterly inaccessible. He was captivated by the lure of sunken treasure, in the deep ocean where it would be undisturbed by time or weather. The object of his obsession was the *SS Central America*, which went down in 1857 somewhere 200 miles off the coast of North Carolina, carrying an estimated 21 tons of gold, freshly minted from the fields of California. After lying undisturbed for 125 years, the technology was just becoming available to find her. The only problem was that she lay in 8,000 feet of water. All previous attempts to work in the deep sea had been extraordinarily expensive, taken on only by governments as matters of national security.



What could an individual do against such odds? Tommy knew that technology was improving year by year. What was “impossible” was rapidly become routine. *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea* is the story of his adventure to find the *SS Central America* and to develop the technology to salvage her in an archeologically sensitive manner. He wasn't alone in his search, and was nearly scooped by unscrupulous rivals. The story is one of high technology, engineering ingenuity, and persistence, with some historical drama thrown in.

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## Dive Reports

**Dan Lindsay, June 1 night dive at Goleta Beach:** “We went in at approximately 7:15 pm, with darkening skies overhead. The storm surge did not arrive as predicted, so entry was typical. We swam a considerable distance on the surface to nearly the end of the pier and then dropped down to 20 feet. Visibility was about 4 feet, perhaps. Against the silhouette of the fading daylight you could make out other divers heading down. Kelp is getting thicker here now. We headed east toward the rocks over the pipeline, discovering that we were nearly there already. Many rockfish, perches, bait fish and even lingcod! I saw several lobster. I harvested one decent-sized scallop. There were plenty of golf balls as well! I led my buddy out to beyond the end of the pier, and visibility start to drop to inches instead of feet in that area where the turbulence of arriving water encounters the shallower draft of the pipeline. We surfaced to take a positional fix, and then returned to the bottom and slowly headed back toward the pier. We retraced our route until at about 1000 psi and then took up a NWN heading to get some lateral separation on the pier to land us closer to the beach near the showers. Altogether there were five divers and one observer (our on-shore safety man!). We got in about an hour of diving with temperatures around 63°F—a far cry warmer than Pt. Lobos!”

**Nick Martorano, June 5 at Santa Cruz:** “I was assisting a couple of instructors as part of my DM training with Anacapa Dive Center. We did four dives on the *Truth*, at Santa Cruz Island—temp in the mid-50s; vis not that great, 10-20 feet at best; big time plankton bloom. But, at a couple of sites (e.g., Diablo Anchorage), the rocks were LOADED with nudibranchs, of all sorts. I must have counted 100 plus on my first dive. Then I just stopped counting... hermissendas everywhere! Of course, since I was busy assisting, I didn't have my video rig, and sure enough there would have been dozens of great macro shots to take. Oh well...”

**Dan Lindsay, June 8 night dive at west end of Del Playa, Isla Vista:** “As we approached the water we noticed that the wind had dropped off significantly, leaving us with a hot-tub-like entry. As many of you who have dived this spot know, it can be shallow for a long way. It was nearly high tide, so there wasn't any of that stumbling-over-shallow-rocks business. Four of us entered the water, and four of us exited. Water conditions were not optimal. There was a definite thermocline at 15 feet, and temps hovered in the low 60s there, but go deeper and you were in 50s country. I got separated from my buddy early, and spent some time looking for her from the surface. While there I stirred up a significant bat ray and got my buddy confused with a sea lion playing in the kelp. Visibility was rather bleak at best, but when I was returning to the shore in the eel grass I caught a significant (two-hands) lobster. Why couldn't this be late September already! We all stayed fairly warm with what seemed to be a very light Santa Ana wind after the dive.”

*Divers interested in joining the weekly night dives can sign up for the mailing list by e-mailing Dan at edgy01@aol.com. For diving at the islands, check out the list of boat trips offered by our sponsors on p. 2.*

# Diving Monterey & Pt. Lobos State Reserve

article a& photos by Steve Trainoff

Pt. Lobos State Reserve is bit of pristine California coastline just south of Carmel. Protected by state law, the diving is limited to just 15 dive buddy teams per day. Reservations cost \$10 per team and can be made up to 90 days ahead of time. So, 89 days, 23 hours, and 59 minutes before Memorial Day weekend, I was ready by my computer. Thus prepared, I got reservations #3 and #4 for myself, Gretchen, Will, and Nick. Separately Nick got reservations for Dan and Bruce. Confused? So were we, but it all worked out fine.



The water in Whalers Cove was as calm and flat as a looking glass. We walked down the boat ramp into the balmy 50° water. Brrr, a drysuit would have been nice, but of the six of us, only Nick was so equipped. A long surface swim through the dense kelp brought us to the bird rocks at the entrance of the cove. Here colorful walls were festooned with brilliantly colored life. There were lots of anemones, nudibranchs, and rockfish.



The next day, Nick, Will, and I took the *Monterey Express* to Carmel Bay for another day of diving. The *Express* is a fast boat, but was very crowded and lacked a dry space or a camera rinse tank. The two dive sites were the Pinnacles and Stillwater Cove. The cove, protected from the currents, was by far the nicer of the two sites. The photo opportunities abounded, but I foolishly brought a brand-new memory chip for my camera that turned out to be defective, so I only got a handful of images. On the other hand, it forced me to enjoy the dive, rather than concentrate on photography, which was a nice change of pace.




We ended the long weekend with a leisurely drive back along Highway 1. Highlights of the drive were stops at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, and the elephant seal rookery north of Morro Bay. At Pismo, we spotted several gray whales making their northern migration. All in all, it was a nice relaxing weekend, with some excellent, if chilly, diving. More images can be found at <http://homepage.mac.com/gbeckert>.



# July 2005

*Don't forget...*  
**MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
**June 28 and July 26**  
 Rusty's Pizza in Goleta

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 REEF trip
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Campus Point dive/BBQ
24	25		27	28	29	30
31						

Night Dives

## June Entertainment

Fish ID refresher course  
 by Julie Bursek,  
 Education Coordinator  
 for CINMS

## Upcoming Events

- REEF fish count trip, 7/16
- Campus Point dive along the pipeline, 7/23
- PDC movie night, date TBD

**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](mailto:edgy01@aol.com) or 964-5020.



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