

PARADISE Dive Club

September 2005

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

Volume 11, Issue 9



President's Log

by Ray Janik

It's been really great to see so many new faces at meetings and events over the last few months. It's reminded me of the days—can it be all the way back in 2000?—when Stacey and I joined the club. Like many new members, we had dived a few local spots several times, done a little traveling, and were looking for new places to dive and new buddies to dive with.

I was reminded of this a couple of Wednesdays ago when I made it out for a night dive. Like a lot of you, I'm sure, I always think the mid-week dives sound like a great idea when we talk about them at meetings, then I find myself "too busy" to make them. Too bad, because they're a great way to keep oneself in the diving mood, and a great opportunity for newer divers to polish their skills and familiarize themselves with local sites. Of course, you should only dive within your comfort zone; if you feel the need for additional training before joining us, be sure to check with one of our sponsors for information on training in beach/night diving.

While, "night dive" may conjure up images of ultra-intense experiences in inky water, but the reality is a little more mild, especially in summer when the 7-7:30 entry time makes it more of a sunset dive. Vice-President Dan Lindsay has done a great job of maintaining a large list of interested divers, scoping out the best sites for conditions, and coordinating the dives so that they offer something for just about everyone. For me, a mid-week dive is a great mini-vacation. Even if the conditions wind up less than perfect, an hour in the water leaves me feeling revitalized and ready for the remainder of the week. So, whether you're a longtime local or a newbie, be sure to give it a try.

Thinking about our early experiences has also reminded me of all of the dedicated people who have donated their time to the club to keep it in operation. While Stacey and I aren't, generally, big on joining clubs, we both have had a great time serving on the board, in various capacities, in recent years. At the next general meeting, we will nominate candidates for next year's board. Like the Wednesday dives, this is a great way to become more involved with the club and the local diving scene. Though many of the same faces have been on the board for some time, several will be taking well-deserved breaks and we are looking for new people with new ideas and experiences to take their place. Although there is an additional time commitment, it's relatively minimal, and there are also great benefits, not the least of which is the presence of several world-class cooks on the board providing dinner during our monthly meetings. Mostly it's great fun; the board itself is like microcosm of the club, so if you enjoy the monthly meetings, you'll have a ball at the board meetings. Enthusiasm counts for a lot more than experience; a club that would have me as president would be happy to have you as a board member, too.

If you're thinking of testing the waters, there are several positions that serve as great entry-level experiences. If you are interested, feel free to contact me or another board member by e-mail or at the next meeting.



Jellyfish at Anacapa Island—photo by Carl Gwinn

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



Bulletin Board

- **Friday, September 9**, is our **PDC deco stop/happy hour** at **Shoreline Café** at Leadbetter Beach. Meet after work and enjoy the best of summertime in Santa Barbara.
- The **Santa Barbara Maritime Museum** has some interesting events this month. On **Thursday, September 8**, at 7 p.m., there will be a **lecture by Liz Clark**, a local mariner and UCSB grad who will be traveling around the world to locate surf spots on her 40' vessel *Swell*; tickets are \$3 and can be purchased at the museum store or by calling 805-962-8404 x115. Also on **September 8**, the Museum is hosting a **book club meeting** at 10 a.m.—they will be reading *Tracks in the Sea* by Chester Hearn. For more info, visit www.sbmm.org, or contact Stephanie Griesmer at 805-962-8404 x109 or sgriesmer@sbmm.org.
- The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park continue their **Shore to Sea lecture series** this month: the **Connally Family**, owners of Island Packers, will talk about **"37 Years of Island Adventures."** This free lecture will take place **Tuesday, September 13**, 7 p.m., in the Chase Palm Park Building at 236 E. Cabrillo, and again on **Wednesday, September 14**, 7 p.m., at the Visitor Center at 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor.
- **Red abalone season** opened August 1 and runs through November 30. The take area is San Francisco Bay up to Oregon, for free divers only; abalone punch card and fishing license required.
- **Lobster season** opens **October 1**, so now's a good time to get your gear in order--good luck trying to get a reg serviced on September 30!
- For a different kind of lobster hunting, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium has extended an invitation to our dive club members to participate in the 8th annual **Chocolate Lobster Dive** on **Saturday, September 24**, at Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro. Visit www.chocolatelobsterdive.com for more info.

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 - Will Chen	560-8069
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

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.

Get on Board! Upcoming Boat Trips

- Monday, 9/5 (Labor Day) on the *Spectre*, 7 a.m. departure, \$79. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.
- 3-day freediving trip to Cortez Banks and Santa Barbara Island, Tuesday-Thursday, 9/6-8 on the *Peace*, \$400, departing 9 p.m. on Monday, 9/5. Call Blue Water Hunter, 564-6677.
- 2-day trip to Catalina and Santa Barbara Island, Saturday-Sunday, 9/17-18 on the *Peace*, \$265. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Sunday, 9/25 on the *Truth*, 6 a.m. departure, \$100. Call Anacapa Dive Center, 963-8917.
- Lobster season opening weekend trip on the *Spectre*, \$329, departing 8 p.m. on Friday, 9/30 and returning 6 p.m. on Sunday, 10/2. Call Aquatics, 967-4456.

Found: one black Seac-Sub scuba fin, at Goleta Beach. If you think it might be yours, talk to Stacey or Ray Janik at the meeting, or e-mail sjanik@gmail.com.

Carpool Request: Dale & Craig Murray are wondering if anyone's interested in carpooling up to Elk over the Labor Day weekend. Contact them at 967-3997 or craig_aka_chris@hotmail.com.

Welcome to our new members!

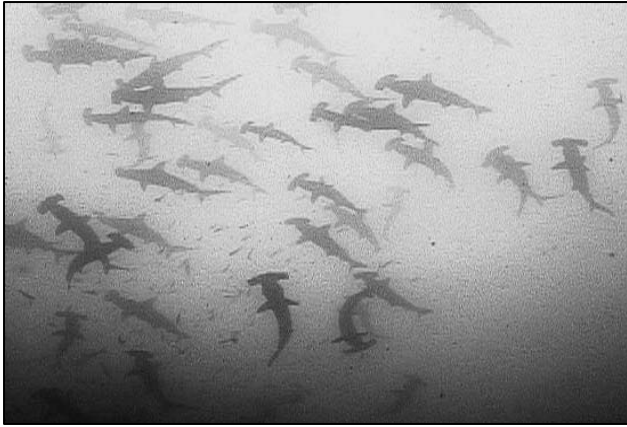
Laurie & Dan Hammack

COCOS 2005 – THE ADVENTURE

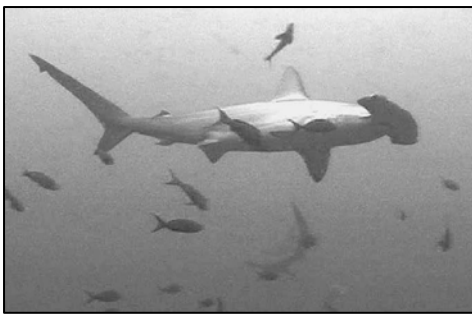
by Nick Martorano

Eight-thirty in the morning. In the middle of a ripping current, one hand on the controls of my trusty video housing, I'm holding with the other onto a rock that sticks out from this deep rocky reef. Below me, the wall seems to go down forever, into the deep blue. My computer reads 95 feet of depth, 75 degree water. Around me, a few other divers. All here. All waiting.

After a few minutes, literally out of the blue, they arrive. First a few, at the edge of visibility. Then more show up. And within seconds the liquid sky above us is full of them. Hammerheads. Ten- to fourteen-footers, powerful bodies so well adapted to these waters they can turn on a dime and in the blink of an eye.



Suddenly, one of the hammerheads breaks from the pack, and in a fraction of a second comes within twenty feet from us. Contrary to the scuba mantra, we're all holding our breath, lest the animal be scared by our bubbles and immediately move away. We're all silent. The hammerhead gets closer, until he's just a few feet from us.



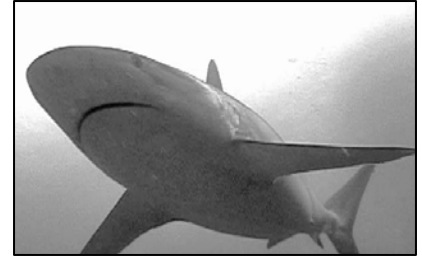
It's at this point that my attention shifts to the pair of butterfly fish that are flanking the shark and busy cleaning parasites from his gills. That's what the hammerheads are here for. In orderly

fashion, after the whole group arrives at the cleaning station (typically a flat rocky area rising several feet from the bottom), each shark waits patiently by the rock, like someone waiting for his turn at a carwash. It is amazing to see these massive sharks lazily swimming among hundreds of barberfish, yet not preying on any of them.

This is the moment we've all been waiting for since we signed up for this adventure nearly a year ago. We endured 36 hours aboard the *Okeanos Aggressor* from the mainland of Costa Rica to Cocos Island, or "Isla del Coco" in Spanish. Located 360 miles from the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, and another 400 miles from the Galapagos, Cocos Island is one of the largest uninhabited islands in the world—roughly 20 miles in diameter, covering an area of about 50 square miles. The island was famous among earlier travelers and pirates for its abundant lush vegetation, waterfalls, and fresh water, thus making it a mandatory stop for wood and water replenishment for many ships traveling along the Central American Eastern Pacific. Legend

has it that an incredible treasure lies buried somewhere on the island, although it has never been found. Perhaps the real treasure lies in the waters surrounding this magnificent and mysterious island.

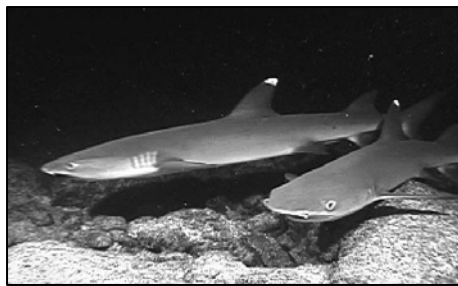
Cocos Island is in fact one of the best spots in the world to observe big schools of pelagics, particularly hammerhead sharks, which gather in the waters around Cocos in large formations numbering in the hundreds



of individuals. They usually prefer the cool, deeper waters, and for this reason all the diving on the *Aggressor* is done with nitrox. These deep waters are also home to beautiful schools of marble rays, which patrol the rocky reef in formations of several individuals, all elegantly gliding through the water as if no effort were required. Dolphins, tuna, and eagle rays are also seen by divers from time to time.

Many of us on this trip are doing four dives a day, for seven straight days, often in very strong currents, coming from all directions (left, right, up, and down—so watch your depth gauges!). With two fast skiffs taking divers to different spots every day, the diving here never feels crowded, something particularly important for "the rest of us" underwater shooters who need a quiet spot on the reef in order to get the best footage of fish, particularly sharks.

All around Cocos, strong upwellings bring huge amounts of plankton and nutrients, the building blocks of a complex food chain attracting enormous schools of bait fish, all the way up to the hammerheads, the silvertips, and the Galapagos sharks, as well as the occasional manta and whale shark. The abundance of food in these waters also explains the presence of huge schools of big-eye jacks, all feeding on the smaller fish. At other times these schools are replaced by a whole "mating frenzy," where thousands of pairs of mating jacks float in mid water, the female releasing her eggs just a few inches above the male.



And to add to the excitement, night dives around Cocos guarantee electrifying encounters with packs of whitetip sharks roaming around the reef. These sharks are about four to eight feet in length;

however, they are harmless and are instead a lot more interested in hunting fishes attracted by the divers' lights. A feeding frenzy quickly ensues when a few whitetips locate a fish hiding in the reef, and in a matter of a few seconds they manage to tear the fish apart.

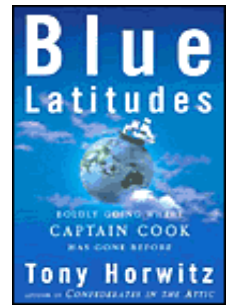
These are the things that make Cocos so special. Down here, surrounded by thousands of fish thriving in these strong currents, one is in awe at the magnitude and beauty of it all. You can still feel the pulse of the ocean and its wonderful inhabitants, the rhythm of primordial behaviors that have been going on for millions of years. This is what will inspire so many of us to come back to this magical place time and time again.

Nick Martorano is an underwater filmmaker living near Santa Barbara, CA. All photos by Nick Martorano. Other photos and short video clips available at www.oceanwonders.org/CocosPix. A DVD with great underwater footage from this trip will soon be available through www.oceanwonders.org.

Book Review: Tony Horwitz's *Blue Latitudes*:

by Dennis Casey

The fact is that there is always a little bit of adventure in scuba diving. We love to discover what's around that next rock, kelp bed, or dive destination. It was this appreciation of adventure and discovery that got me to pick up and read *Blue Latitudes: Boldly Going Where Captain Cook Has Gone Before*, by Tony Horwitz. While it's not a dive book, I think it's an appropriate book to bring to the attention of club members. I found it to be a fun read about an incredible feat of adventure and discovery, something I think we can all appreciate.



This isn't a dry history book. Nor is it an argument for or against the impact of Cook's discoveries. It is an un-chartered look into the person of Cook and how incredible his journeys were. The author does this through traveling Cook's course by more modern conveniences, unfolding the trail of Cook and his shipmen along the way. The author's good friend and travel companion adds comedy to this lively read.

I really didn't know much about Cook before reading this, and I only faintly appreciated the audacity and danger of his explorations. Going off into the unknown, with the technology of that time, is a remarkable story. The author utilizes detailed ship logs, mail correspondence, accounts from native cultures, and interviews on his trip to create a vivid account of Cook's travels and encounters. I was left with an understanding of Cook as a gifted explorer who could appreciate different cultures, understand similarities in the human condition, and foresee the profound impact, both good and bad, that would eventually follow him.

This one has been out for awhile and can usually be found at a good bargain.

Coastal Cleanup Day — Saturday, September 17

It's time for Coastal Cleanup Day! We'll be joining up with the Aqualliers and the UCSB Scuba Club for our annual underwater cleanup at Refugio. PDC will also send a land-based contingent to "our spot" at Tajiguas. Thanks to ranger and club member Danita Rodriguez-Linse, free camping is available at Refugio on Friday and Saturday night. Note: we don't have the group site this year, so just let them know you're with PDC when you enter and they'll direct you to the right spot; we should have a few individual sites grouped together.



Divers meet at Refugio at 9 a.m. for a briefing, along with coffee and pastries. If you're planning to do the clean-up at Tajiguas, you can opt to go directly there and we'll have a club member there to meet you. We will have trash bags and plastic gloves available, but you may find it more comfortable to bring your own gardening-type gloves. Divers, please bring goodie bags and/or lift bags if you have them. The cleanup will be followed by a group BBQ at Refugio.



Scuba Q&A

Club member Gretchen Beckert has a question for her fellow divers. She writes, "Steve and I are stumped about how to store all of our dry and wet gear in the garage. This is a problem because our floor is wet and slippery 80% of the time, and I want to know how other people deal with all of their stuff to keep it in good order and ready to go. We have so many bobs and bits lying all over the place."

So, how do you stash, store, and otherwise deal with all your scuba stuff? Please send your thoughts and suggestions to the newsletter editor (sjanik@gmail.com), and we'll print the responses next month!



Dive Log: Spearfishing at Naples

by Steve Trainoff

Although I have lived in Santa Barbara for 20 years, sometimes I still feel like a newcomer. That is how I felt about my first experience diving off of Naples Reef. The adventure started while I was at Anacapa Dive Center getting my tanks filled. I ran into Merlin Green and Bruce King, who were planning to take an out-of-town visitor diving out at Naples. Merlin invited me to join and convinced me to try my hand at spear fishing.

Despite having three landlubbers on board, Merlin managed to successfully launch his boat from the ramp in the Santa Barbara harbor. The sea was flat, calm, and glassy, so we made the trip to Naples in about 45 minutes. The passage was marked by an encounter with a pod of friendly dolphins that came right up to the boat and posed for some postcard views. The water at Naples was clear and blue, with visibility between 20 and 30 feet. With little current, we descended to about 40 feet and headed upstream.

I felt a little awkward toting a gun instead of my usual camera equipment, but a big sheephead came over and practically invited himself over to my place for dinner. Later a calico bass did the same. Merlin showed me a trick of putting the stringer on an 8-foot line and letting it drag behind, so you don't have dead fish flopping against you while you are diving.

I also discovered that Dr. Photo doesn't just disappear when Mr. Hunter comes out. I spent some time scanning the shelves of rocks and spotted a couple of octopi playing in the holes. One of them had a Kellet's whelk in his grasp, and was slowly digesting its interior. It's the law of the ocean: eat or be eaten. Too bad my camera was at home.

On the second dive, I took another sheephead. A large harbor seal saw the fish trailing behind me and got real friendly. He clearly wanted a free lunch. I spun away, and he followed. This guy wasn't going to go away easily. We did a ballet for a few minutes, in which he easily out-swam me, but after a while I scared him off. Or at least I thought I had...

I was alone for a couple of minutes, down around 60 feet, near where the reef drops off into the blue, when I noticed that my pesky friend was back. Except that he looked longer, and had a long split tail. I did a double take when I realized that the sinuous form heading straight for me was not a harbor seal, but an 8-foot blue shark! He too was interested in a free lunch. It's the law of the ocean: eat or be eaten!


My heart skipped a beat, and my only thought was how fast could I get the stringer unclipped from my BC. I figured that Mr. Blue would much rather have a nice bit of sheephead instead of an agitated diver with a sharp pointy thing in his hand. I was suddenly appreciative of Merlin's suggestion of the stringer leash. I held the end of the leash in my hand and kept my eye on the shark. He made a couple of lazy turns and then disappeared back into the deep. I even got to keep my fish. Of course, now I thought that it really was too bad my camera was at home! That evening the law of the ocean played out with a bit of breaching and a quick dip in hot oil. Yumm.

Scenes from the July 16 fish-count trip at Santa Cruz—photos by Dave Burroughs, a.k.a. "Dances with Harbor Seals"



September 2005

Don't forget...
MONTHLY MEETINGS
August 30 and September 27
 Rusty's Pizza in Goleta

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Deco stop/ happy hour at Shoreline Cafe	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Coastal Cleanup Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26		28	29	30	

Night Dives

August Meeting Entertainment

Katy Daloo of the Watershed Resource Center will be talking about the importance of watersheds and their relationship to diving and the ocean

Upcoming Events

- Shoreline Café happy hour, 9/9
- Coastal Cleanup Day and Refugio campout, 9/17
- Lobster season opens, 10/1

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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