

PARADISE DIVE CLUB

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WWW.PARADISEDIVECLUB.ORG



President's Log by Steven Trainoff

You never know what each dive will bring. Last month I went out to the Islands on a two-day "reunion" trip organized by Ed Stetson. The plan was to go to Santa Barbara Island. This was my first time on Ed's annual reunion trip, but the Santa Barbara destination is something of standing joke. The boat almost never makes it. This year was no exception. After the weather report called for a south swell, the boat was re-tasked to San Miguel.

This time I was taking no chances with the possibility of seasickness. I brought out the big guns. I used a Scopalamine skin patch. These are available by prescription, and although they cost \$10/patch, they really work. One patch lasts for 3 days. After a late night BS session with all of my friends on the boat I went below and slid into my bunk for the night. I never sleep well on the boat and after a long night I woke up and surveyed our destination. Yet another trip to San Miguel had ended up at the backside of Santa Cruz. At least this time I was feeling well and looked forward to a nice weekend of diving.

My goal for this trip was to practice using my wide-angle lens, even though it is very hard to shoot when the visibility isn't good. I figure that if I wait for perfect conditions, I'll never get any practice. Then when conditions ARE good I will spend too much time fiddling with it. On the first dive I headed off towards a kelp patch near a cave that was echoing with Sea Lion calls. Sea Lions make wonderful wide-angle subjects. The water was pretty green, but I was determined to capture one of these guys in action. Little did I know that an unbelievable opportunity was waiting for me right around the next rock.



I looked down and saw something that looked out of place. In the gloom, there was a big oddly colored fish near the bottom. I slowly drifted over towards it and was shocked to discover a juvenile Mola Mola resting on the bottom! What a find! Mola Mola's are pelagic fish typically found in tropical waters where they can grow to enormous sizes. They have been found to weigh up to two tons! The one I found was just a baby. He was about 3 ft long and probably only weighed around 20 lbs. They are not good swimmers so they sometimes ride the currents and end up in our waters. In the past, I had seen one from the boat, but I had never seen one underwater.



I took some photos of him, but noticed something odd. He wasn't swimming away. A closer inspection revealed why. He was missing his dorsal, anal, and pectoral fins. I gave him a little nudge and he did his best to swim away, but without his fins, he was literally dead-in-the-water. In a moment it was clear how he lost his fins. He and I were buzzed by a playful Sea Lion who nipped at what was remaining of his fins. I am certain the Sea Lion was having a good time, but I sensed that Mola didn't share his exuberance. Sadly, the poor Mola didn't have a chance and was not long for the world. The Sea Lion wasn't eating him, just playing with him like a cat plays with a mouse. I got a good shot of the two interacting. Soon, my air began to run low and I returned to the boat with this fascinating, but grizzly, spectacle running through my head. I couldn't help but think that although most dives present a scene that seems calm and peaceful, it is mostly an illusion. Nature isn't all cute and cuddly.

For me at least, the rest of the weekend was relaxing and the diving was good, but it goes to show that you never know what you will see. Each dive is a new adventure.

P.S. I wanted to let everyone know that I won a 3rd place in the California division of the Under the Blue 2007 photo competition held at the Long Beach Scuba Show. You can see the winning images at <http://www.underwatercompetition.com/utb339.php>

Meeting Place

The June 26 meeting will take place at Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara.
14 West Calle Laureles.

Feeding frenzy at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm

Paradise Dive Club Events

Sunday, July 29
Fish Count with REEF

July is Great American Fish Count month, your chance to go diving for a good cause. The fish count originated in the Channel Islands back in the mid-90's, and has since gone world-wide! While Florida may have more surveys done, we've been doing it longer! The REEF method is easy, and you'd be surprised about how many fish you already know. Carl Gwinn and I will be on a couple of trips in July, so come on along with us and do some counting! While the schedule for Truth Aquatics hasn't been finalized, it looks like we'll do an outer islands trip on Sunday July 29'th for the club. There may be an additional trip on Saturday the 14'th for people who can't make the other trip - but look for next month's newsletter for confirmation! - Paul Weakliem

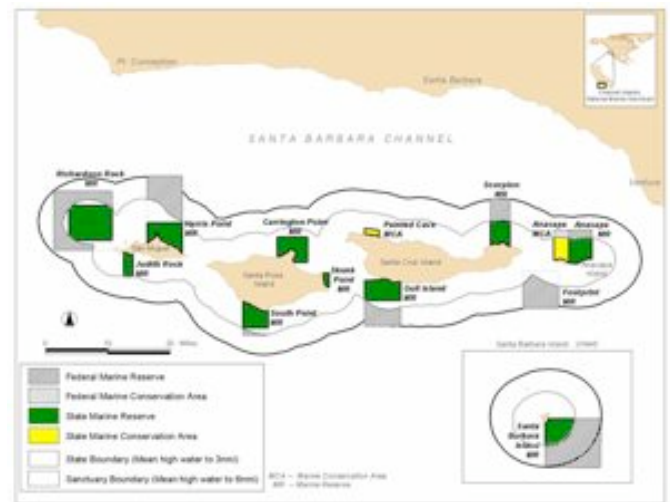
Federal Marine Reserves at the Channel Islands

by Carl Gwinn

After several years of consultation and deliberation, NOAA has published federal regulations defining federal marine reserves around the Channel Islands. Gray shading on the map shows the new federal reserves, which will come into force about 27 July 2007. The federal reserves have complicated shapes, and leave gaps to the existing State reserves. These curved gaps are a consequence of the desire of the California Department of Fish & Game to have sole jurisdiction in state waters: from the shoreline to 3 miles out. For these reserves, NOAA bowed to the wishes of the state, and designated its reserves outside the 3-mile state limit. But, the story isn't over. The state department of Fish & Game says that they will address the gaps at their Sept 2007 meeting. And, NOAA will accept comments on whether to establish overlapping federal reserves in state waters, until 23 July 2007.

Personally, I tend to think that simple boundaries are best, and that overlapping state and federal reserves, at least in state waters, would simplify things for us humans. We have GPS receivers and can find those squared-off boundaries easily. California is part of the United States, or was the last time I checked, and we have National Park Service rangers at Scorpion Anchorage, for example. Hey, can't we work together?

The Paradise Dive Club takes no official position on marine reserves at the Channel Islands. But, whatever your individual viewpoint, we are certainly among the Californians, and US citizens, who visit and explore the Channel Islands the most. So, your viewpoint is valuable to the decision-makers, who are in Washington DC, in this case.



Comments can be emailed to cinmsreserves.feis@noaa.gov, or sent via other means described at the website of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: <http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/marineres/main.html>. The complete text of the regulations is available there as well.

Check out my Channel Islands Photoblog: blackcormorant.net - CG

Dive Trip of My Dreams by Michael Ring

To put it bluntly, the dive trip of my dreams started as a nightmare. You see, my daughter and her in-laws planned a week long trip to Roatan. Aaahhhh. Paradise. And, despite knowing me, they invited me to go along. What can I say? Some people don't learn. The group was to meet in Albuquerque, and then fly to Houston on Continental, then to Roatan on TACA. I got to Albuquerque as planned the night before. The itinerary I was sent showed our departure at 9:55 a.m. Saturday, the next morning. An easy transition.



We hit the sack, alarms set for 6:30 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time. No problem. We will get to the airport way early to check in for our international flight. Heck, we can have breakfast! The alarms go off. We are on our way to the airport when Steve, my son-in-law's step-father (organizer of the trip) calls from the airport. Slight problem. You see, he never checked the flight status before arriving at the airport. It seems that Continental had changed the departure time, silly them. The new time is 7:45 a.m.! What??? Thinking this must be a joke, I exclaim "Come on. Quit kidding." My daughter states: "Dad, he's not like you. He doesn't kid." Sure enough. We're screwed. Haven't even left Albuquerque and it's hitting the fan. And, for a change, it's not my fault! Imagine that. Well, after some initial panic, and some fine handling by the staff at the Continental counter, we make new arrangements. Only problem is, we will not be getting to Roatan today. The best we can do is to fly to Denver, then Houston and stay the night there, then fly out to Roatan on Continental Sunday. While we lose Saturday night on island, we do get to stay until Sunday on Roatan, so we will actually get an extra 1/2 day of diving in the end. Calypso has smiled.

We finally arrive on Roatan. To say the island is small is an understatement. To say the diving is good is an insult. It was fabulous.

We are all newly certified for Nitrox, so we sign up for a week of it. The people at Bay Island Beach Resort are naturally friendly. They know their stuff, and teach us all how to confirm our O2 content of our tanks, and away we go. We do two dives on Sunday, then 4 a day until the following Saturday, when we do two in the morning. Like they say, so many reefs, so little time.

The dives are from 40 feet to 105 feet. We see just about everything the ocean has to offer. Octopus. Lobsters. Eagle Rays. Eels. Crabs. You name it. The only thing we do not get to see that Roatan can offer is a Whale Shark. C'est dommage! But the best part - Dolphin dives.

Anthony's Key Resort has some resident dolphins that are trained. You do a 20 minute meet and greet in the pen area, and then off you go to the dive site. As we descend to 60 feet over a sandy bottom area, my son-in-law Ryan is getting his camera ready. As we hit bottom, I am looking around to see where the dolphins will come in from. Ryan is focused on his housing. My daughter and I are facing him when from directly behind him come the dolphins like two F-18s in formation. We both try to get his attention. Screaming through our masks "DOLPHINS! DOLPHINS" and pointing behind him, it is useless. He can't hear us, and he is too focused. The dolphins swim right past his head, within 2 feet each side. He is still looking at the camera. Mine is hanging useless at my side. Finally he looks up at us. His face shows the "What?" expression. He did not notice them at all! Unbelievable!

So with that start we spent an hour at 60 feet in the presence of three sea Gods. These creatures are so beautiful. They let us pet them and swim around us like a warm Summer breeze. They stop right next to us, then effortlessly swim away. They are pure muscle and grace. It is obvious who is in charge, and who are just visitors in this foreign realm. While we play at being comfortable in the water, they are the epitome of splendor. The trainer gets them to stay near to him, but we are also treated to close contact. And to make things better, not only do we get to take pictures, but a videographer came with us, and I have a disk to prove it. Nirvana.

Back on top, we are all falling over each other trying to surpass the other with superlatives to describe the dive. Enough said. You have to experience it yourself.

Back in the water we go through so many wonderful tunnels and swim throughs and coral and past deep walls that go off into oblivion that we lose track. All I can remember is at one point towards the end of the week I wrote on my dive slate to my daughter that being down there felt more natural than being topside.

The facility was good. Not in the best of shape (the A/C went out in my room the first night, so they moved me and my roomy) but the people and the food were very good. Thursday night they do a pig roast right on property, and have a sort of luau. They had crab races. \$10 buys you two crabs. They draw a big circle on the floor and the first crab out wins. After 3 heats, the three winners race off for all the money. My son-in-law's sister is the big winner. 1/2 the money goes to the local school. The other half to the winner. Not surprisingly, they convince her to donate her half to the school. It's all good.

Then the party starts. The drinks were strong, and the music was fun. Half an hour into it, the bongo player takes a break and I ask if I can sit in. The boss cringes, but says yes. After the first song, they ask me to stay and play some more. I stick around for 1 1/2 hours, and end up with a huge blood blister on my index finger. But it was fun. The next day I swear a huge grouper kept swimming by very close checking out my finger. He had very large teeth. And got way too personal.



As with all trips, the last dive must come. It was a splendorous, yet sad dive. Knowing that it was coming to an end made me feel a great loss. The water was so warm - 82 degrees. And so clear - 100 plus feet of viz. No dry suit. Only 14 pounds of weight. No gloves or hood. Why can't SB Channel be like this?

That afternoon, to spend time topside off-gassing, we take a zip line canopy tour. It was spectacular. If you've never done it, what are you waiting for? Speeding through the trees 80-90 feet off the ground with the jungle around you is exhilarating. And the views. Wow!

As the plane takes off to head back to Houston I know that given a chance I will return. Why not? They offered me a job. I just need to bring band-aids before the music starts!

Grand Cayman Trip

by Jerry Sorich

I went to Grand Cayman the 3rd week of May for 6 days of diving. We stayed at the Morritt's Tortuga Resort on the East End of the island. Most of the bigger resorts and condo's are on the West End, near Georgetown. There is a lot less happening on the East End. As a result, the places weren't very crowded and the dive spots were pristine. The exchange rate on Cayman isn't very good at 1.2 US to 1 Cayman dollar. Everything is quoted in Cayman and US Dollars and it is easy to see your money flying out. The East End of the island took the brunt of Emily's wrath. Most of the business's and resorts were trashed. The Morritt's and a few others were closed for a year while they were getting rebuilt. Again, as a result, the dive spots got a reprieve for a year.



We dove with Red Sail Divers, located at the resort. They have a dock right there and it is very convenient to walk down and get on the boat. The crews were very helpful and would take your dive gear and load it if you wanted them to. We scheduled a 2 tank dive for each of 6 days in the morning and a one tank afternoon dive one day. We were able to snorkel in the lagoon in front of the resort every day. The boats took 12 or 14 people out on a boat rated for 25 divers, so we weren't crowded at all. They would have 4 crew members on each boat. Most of the crews were from

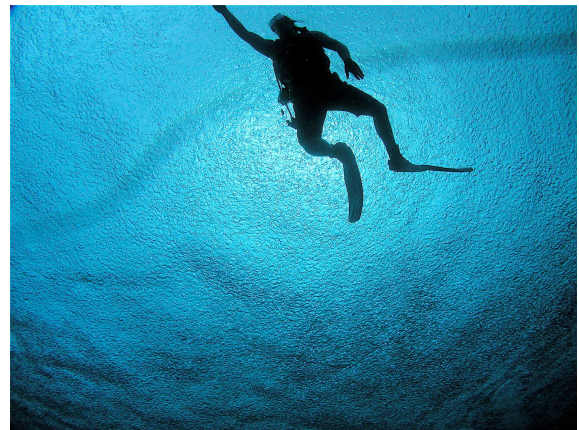
Australia or England. They would do a guided deep dive to 90-100 ft for the first dive and then a shallower 40 to 60ft dive for the next. They let us take the second dives on our own if we wanted. This was a nice change of pace so that we could do some photography on our own.

Most of the East end of Grand Cayman is surrounded by a reef that breaks the surface of the ocean 3 or 4 hundred yards from shore. There are just a few channels for a boat to cross out beyond the shallow reef. The boats would leave the dock and motor out thru a break in the reef to dive sites within 1/2 hr ride. Water temperature of 82 degrees sent us to hog heaven. We watched the other divers don their 3mm wet suits as we strapped on our weight belts and BC's and were over the side.

We dove a number of wall dives 200ft outside the inner reef where the depth went from 60 to 3000 ft. They would lead us along the wall at 95 feet and below it just fell off to nowhere. We would cross over the top of the wall and swim back at 50 to 60ft. There were a lot of different topographies along the way. Many of the dive spots had swim thru's and coral canyons 30 to 40 ft deep. At "Snapper Hole" we entered a hole in the sand at 60 ft....swam thru a coral cave ...and came out at 98ft on the side of the wall. A lot of that site were deep coral canyons. I haven't experienced that many swim thru's at any of the other spots I have visited. The swim thru's and coral canyons provided a unique dive experience.

When you have dove many different places around the world, you start to look for specific new sights and creatures. I have my footage of Angels and Toby's and trigger fish. I look for fish I haven't filmed yet and Grand Cayman didn't disappoint. We saw schools of large Tarpon just gliding effortlessly thru many of the canyons. These silver fish were 3ft plus and seemed totally oblivious to the divers. I was able to swim right through a school or 30 or 40 with the camera running as the fish were less than a foot away. There were many large barracuda, who were also not bothered by the presence of divers. I have never seen a Caribbean lobster less than 5 or 6lbs. Every sighting was of what would be called a monster here at the islands. Large numbers of Chubs and school masters as well as a few large groupers were to be found at the different spots. On my last dive I spotted a 6ft nurse shark under a ledge.

One of the highlights of the East End reefs is Sponge Bob. This 4 ft in diameter sponge is attached to the wall face at "Snapper Hole." According to the dive masters, no one carved the eyes nose and mouth on this sponge, but they are clearly there. It is one of the big photo op's on the East End. One of the best things about diving the East End is that in 13 dives at different spots, we never had another boat where we were diving. One boat...12 divers....it doesn't get much better....



Visit Jerry Sorich' new website to view all of the pictures from his latest adventure!
<http://web.mac.com/jerrysorich/iWeb/Underwater/Videos.html>

Local Dive Calendar

July 2007

Truth Aquatics 962-1127 call for prices, boats, and specific destinations, or go to their website; www.truthaquatics.com.

3 day Island Excursion 4am dep., 7/6

3 day dive, 1/2 of the boat is Truth Aquatics, 4am dep. 7/12

3 day dive, limited load 4am dep., 7/15

3 day dive, 4am dep., 7/31

Sierra Club (626) 443-0706

4 day Island Excursion 4am dep., 7/20

High Sierra Divers (530) 823-6757

3 day dive, 4am dep., 7/26

The Scuba Center (760) 725-5910

3 day dive, 4am dep., 7/1

Tierra Mar Travel (480) 833-4997

3 day dive, 1/2 of the boat, 4am dep., 7/12

Howell's Dive Shop (530) 241-1571

3 day dive, 4am dep., 7/19

Marin Dive Center (415) 479-4332

3 day dive, San Clemente, 10pm dep., 7/7

Pinnacles Diver Center (800) 223-4837

3 day dive, San Clemente, 4am dep., 7/15

Dolphin Dive Club (916) 987-1303

4 day dive, San Clemente, 10pm dep., 7/28

Finstad's Worldwide Diving (831) 239-4934

4 day dive, San Clemente, 10pm dep., 6/30

Tony Wilcox (909) 593-1186

4 day dive, San Clemente, 10pm dep., 7/10

Phillip's School of Diving (925) 687-8231

5 day dive, San Clemente, 10pm dep., 7/21

Photos!

Take a look at some pictures of the last Club trip to San Miguel
<http://www.janik.smugmug.com/gallery/2916546#158096163>.

New Website!

Visit Jerry Sorich's new website to view all of the pictures from his latest adventure!
<http://web.mac.com/jerrysorich/iWeb/Underwater/Videos.html>

Lectures!

From Shore to Sea Lecture Series

Brought to you by CINMS, NPS and SBMM

\$: FREE to the Public

Location: SBMM Munger Theater

July 10: 7 pm

Citizen Monitoring in the Marine Reserve Network
Christy Semmens, Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF)

August 14: 7 pm

PISCO and Marine Reserve Monitoring
Satie Airame, University of California, Santa Barbara

September 11: 7 pm

Carey Stanton's Santa Cruz Island, 1937-1987
Marla Daily, Santa Cruz Island Foundation

Gear For Sale!

U.S. Divers Alcyone Aqualung BCD with integrated weight system. M/L size. 40-point pressure check performed by Aquatics on 6/4/07. \$120.

O'Neill Women's Wetsuit (7mm) Full-body wetsuit. Size 10. Great condition. Perfect for scuba diving. \$50. Vest available for \$15.

U.S. Divers Scuba Regulator Set. Sea-4 first stage regulator; Seaquest Champion Dive Computer, Suunto Compass, Suunto SM-26 High Pressure Gauge. The gauge, computer and compass are contained as one unit. All items in great condition. \$150.

Please contact Lorrie at 805-688-9088 or e-mail at lorriebear@aol.com.

Welcome New Divers!

Randy Ramsey

Willkommen!
Benvenuto!
Boa Vinda!

PDC Thursday Night Dives!

To find out where the group will be diving, or to be added to the night dive e-mail list, sign up at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC_midweek_dive, or send e-mail to PDC_midweek_dive-subscribe@yahooogroups.com.

Join the coolest club in town!

1. Monthly meetings with entertainment.
2. raffle prizes (we all need new dive stuff)
3. Great dive buddy pool
4. Beach and boat dives, AND weekly night dives
5. Club BBQs, and other activities
6. Free air-fills and gear discounts at local dive shops
7. Right to proudly wear the official PDC T-Shirt (nobody has a logo as cool as ours).



Dive Club Officers

President	Steven Trainoff	571-1622
Vice President	Mike Macko	687-7176
Treasurer	Mark Silva	453-2001
Secretary	Barbara Brown	
Membership	Noah Philips	(626)-221-2056
Newsletter	Gretchen Beckert	571-1622
Circulation	Ovidio Mora	683-4999
Sgt at Arms	Craig Adams	693-5835
Entertainment	Mark Bursek	564-1923

Membership

\$25/year for individuals, \$40 for families. Membership runs May-April and includes a monthly newsletter, free air-fills, and other benefits. For details or to join, contact Noah Philips at (626)-221-2056

Newsletter

Send newsletter items to Gretchen Beckert
gbgreymutt@cox.net

Website

www.paradisediveclub.org



P.O. Box 21311

Santa Barbara, CA 93121

Sponsors!

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Truth Aquatics

301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-962-1127

Anacapa Dive Center

22 Anacapa St
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-963-8917

Many thanks to our sponsors for their generosity including air-fill donations and gear discounts!