PARADISE DIVE CLUB

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Upcoming Meetings

Club meetings at Cody's Cafe

7:00pm, but show up early for dinner and socializing.

February 23
March 29
April 26

Deco Stops

5:30pm, 2nd Friday after the club meetings

Club Sponsors

- Truth Aquatics
- Santa Barbara Aquatics
- Blue Water Hunter
- The Eagle Inn
- Channel Island Dive Adventures

President's Thoughts

Paul Bullock

So the meetings are now being held at High Sierra Grill (former Elephant Bar location). The first meeting in January seemed to go well. Our speaker, Bernard Friedman did a fine job of explaining his mariculture business of growing oysters and mussels just off shore of Santa Barbara. Every time I see mussels on the menu now I wonder if they're some of his!

As with every change, there are a few bugs to sort out. The A/V system and some menu issues, for example, but overall I think it went well. There's more space for us to occupy and the noise level from the adjoining room is really quiet compared to what we've been used to. In fact, it seemed a little strange to be able to talk in a more moderate voice.

I welcome your constructive feedback and comments. Please send me an e-mail at diverpaul1234@gmail.com if you have ideas that you think we ought to try differently.

Speaking of different, the board recently convened and has put together a calendar of monthly dives for the club. This year we have an event planned for every single month. Take a look at the list and please, if there's something you'd like to see that we can arrange, let me know. There is something for almost everybody. Boat dives, beach dives, camping trips, photography contests and

Dive Club Officers

President	Paul Bullock
Vice President	Tim Doherty
Past President	Kellen Tobin
Treasurer	Jim Axtell
Secretary	Véronique Lisi
Membership	Ludovico Cavedon
Sgt. at Arms	Michel Giroux
Entertainment	Juan Beltranena
Social Media	Jan Fejt
Publications	Jacek Smits

Mission Statement

Paradise Dive Club is a diving and social club. The Club provides a setting that allows continued growth in our sport and one where friendships can develop and flourish. Paradise Dive Club promotes fun, safe diving related activities and environmental awareness. The Club was founded to provide social and recreational opportunities to people with mutual interests in snorkeling, scuba and free diving, and to educate and inform its members and the general public in matters related to diving and the ocean, particularly in regard to issues involving coastal Santa Barbara County.

Connect With Us

Email Facebook

Meetup WWW

underwater pumpkin carvings to name just a few.

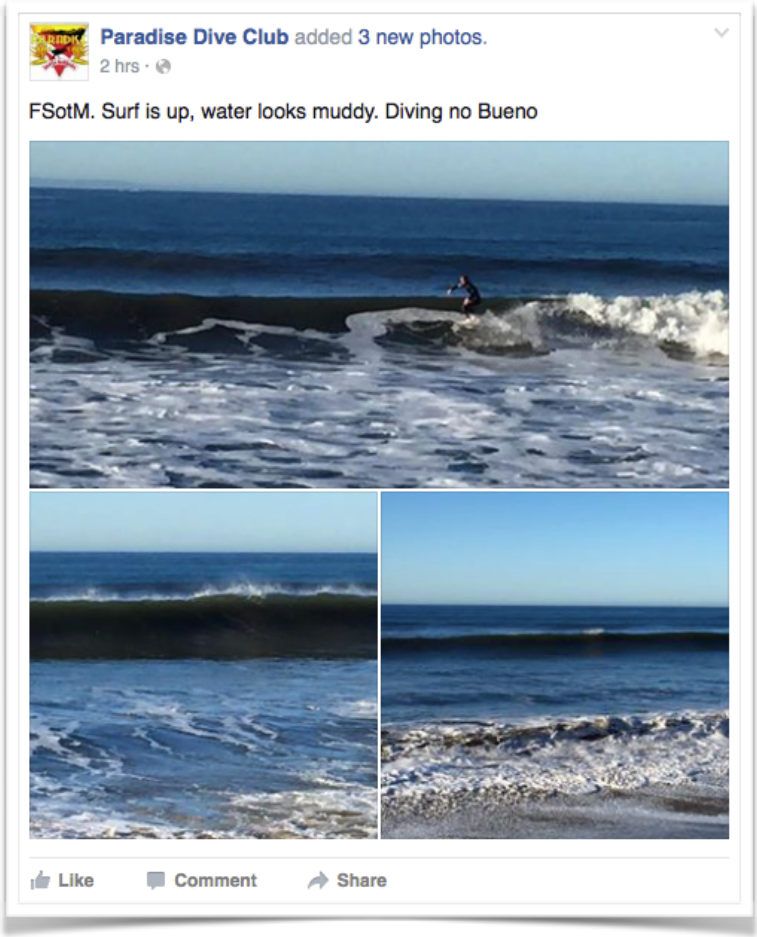
I hope to see all of you at some or all of our activities this year.

Until next time….nanu nanu

First Saturday Dive

Staff Writer

The FSotM on February 6 ended up getting cancelled by Paul Bullock who braved the elements to check the conditions and see whether we could actually do a shore dive that morning. People were surfing at Hendry's Beach so it wasn't particularly conducive for diving that day. Additionally, the weather and surf forecast for the first weekend in March was so bad with rain and high surf advisories that we didn't even attempt to go diving. Hopefully we'll have better luck next month. If you're not following the



Conditions on February 6 - Photos by Paul Bullock

California Spiny Lobster - Photo by Jacek Smits

club's Facebook or Meetup pages yet, we recommend you go there right now and start doing so. It's where we post last minute notifications such as cancellations or change of location and such.

And keep March 16 free for a night dive. We're going to arrange a dive at a local beach in honor of lobster season closing. Obviously it'll be entirely dependent on the conditions of the day and announcements, as well as last minute updates to this event, will be posted on the club's Facebook and Meetup pages. Keep an eye on those if you want to do this dive.

Club Business

Staff Writer

At the January club meeting President Paul asked for a volunteer to take on the role of Social Media Officer for the club and two people volunteered. Fortunately, nobody on the board objected to nomination hearings or holding a vote, and after an arduous vetting process Jan Fejt was selected to be the new person to take on this role. Congratulations to Jan!

The Challenger Expedition

Jacek Smits

I'm reading a book about an exploratory voyage that essentially laid the foundation of oceanography as a science as we know it, and contributed greatly to emerging theories on the earth's crust and plate tectonics. I haven't finished the book yet, but the newsletter was already a week late and I was staring at a lot of white space, so I decided to include a paragraph or two on this book. Don't expect a full book report in an upcoming newsletter, though.

HMS Challenger - Image in Public Domain

The HMS Challenger was a steam assisted, converted ship from the British Royal Navy that sailed around the world from December 1872 to May 1876 for the sole purpose of scientific

exploration of the oceans. As such it was the first ever voyage undertaken for that sole purpose. The conversion of this naval ship had made room for research laboratories where physicists, chemists, and biologist would work on the data they would collect. That data included depth measurements of the ocean floor, measuring salinity at different depths, and pulling up sea creatures and cataloging them. One of the more striking findings were the discoveries of underwater mountains. Up until that time they had assumed that the bottom of the ocean between continents was primarily flat, but this new data would lead to whole new ideas about the earth's crust and, eventually, would have great influence on the emerging theories of plate tectonics.

Another important result of this trip was the dismissal of the azoic hypothesis of Edward Forbes. The hypothesis stated that life below 300 fathoms (about 1800 feet) was not possible because of the crushing pressure of the water column. The hypothesis had already been called into question as telegraph cables that were pulled back up from much deeper for repairs clearly had sea creatures attached to them. The findings of the Challenger Expedition confirmed that data.

Its travels took it around the world's oceans for 68,900 nautical miles and the report of its findings was a 50 volume publication containing some 30,000 pages which took 20 years to finish. The book I'm reading is by Richard Corfield: The silent landscape: the scientific voyage of HMS Challenger (2003). Like I said, I haven't finished it yet but if you're interested in reading a book on the early days of ocean exploration, you may find this one worthwhile. It's a fascinating read that deals with interesting times in scientific exploration.

Another Dive At Tajiguas

Jacek Smits

The title of this story almost makes it sound like I'm getting bored with diving at Tajiguas, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. No matter the conditions and challenges, I always have a good dive at Tajiguas. Perhaps against our combined better judgment, Tim Doherty and I went for a beach dive at Tajiguas after multiple days of big swells in the channel and high surf advisories, and we did so at low tide after a big tidal swing. (I seem to remember that somebody posted a question to the club's mailing list recently about the best time to go for a beach dive. This isn't it.) Neither one of us had dived in a while and were aching to get back in. There were still some big waves crashing so timing our entries and exits just right was important, but it looked like we could safely get in. Once we made it through the surf zone and did a final check that all was well we made our descend to start the dive. That's when the

Tajiguas on 2/13/2016- Photo by Jacek Smits

Spanish Shawl - Photo by Jacek Smits

fun began. I have many dives at Tajiguas under my belt which is why I took the lead on navigation, but nothing looked like it was supposed to be. After dropping down we headed southwest to get a little deeper and, hopefully, get out of the still fairly strong surge while at the same time heading for the reef at the point. But nothing made sense. Following the bottom in that southwest direction, we went from 12 feet of depth to 8, to 15, to 12, and to 22 feet. Most of this in a fairly decent sandstorm with just a few feet visibility (especially shallower than 15 feet) as the sand hadn't quite settled back to the bottom yet after the swells coming through. In addition, the ripples in the sand that usually run parallel to the beach were clearly no longer doing that according to my compass. Swimming out along the bottom I stopped kicking a few times to re-evaluate what I was looking at and study my depth gauge and compass. Then it dawned on me that there was only one logical conclusion: even though we hadn't exactly had a big storm, the swell that had come through had moved enough sand around that the usual gradually sloping sandy bottom at Tajiguas had turned into a landscape of rolling hills, and the poor visibility prevented me from seeing the big picture. All was well. Now that I understood what was going on I simply had to adjust the dive plan a bit assuming that the lower portions of the reef structure could very well be covered in sand and that, because of that, it may take an extra minute or two to find what was still sticking out. Both assumptions ended up correct and we did find portions of the reef to swim along and explore. However, rather than trusting my knowledge of, and my experience on this dive site, I monitored my depth gauge and compass much, much more than I usually do at Tajiguas because it was such a different dive site that day. In the end we had a very nice hour-long dive at our favorite site and it was good to get out there.

What is the moral of this story, if there is any? Even though you may have dived a particular dive site many times, there's no guarantee that it will be the same dive site next time. When things don't feel right or don't make sense, stop and think it through. The contours and landscape of a dive site can change dramatically (especially at our beaches with their sandy bottoms), but your instruments do not. Trust your compass and depth gauge when things don't feel right. Stop kicking, evaluate the information your instruments present you with, think it through, and draw the logical conclusions from all the information you have available to you. Be safe out there!

Upcoming Club Events

Staff Writer

The Board has set the schedule for club events for 2016. Always check the club's Meetup and Facebook pages for details and updates on these events, especially last minute changes or cancellations due to conditions:

- March 13: Trip aboard the Vision
- March 16: Close of Lobster Season (beach night dive)
- May 21: Golf Ball Challenge at Goleta Beach
- June 25: Oil Rig Dive
- July 14-18: Monterey trip
- August 13: Photo Competition at Refugio State Beach
- September 17: Beach Cleanup
- October 29: Pumpkin Carving Contest at Goleta Beach
- November 5: FSotM trip to Anacapa
- December: Holiday Party

Hermissenda crassicornis - *Photo by Jacek Smits*

Other Events

Staff Writer

This is a reminder of Ed Stetson's trip to Catalina Island. It's coming up for the April 29 weekend and it's filling up fast at this point. Details can be found on our Meetup page or on Ed Stetson web site.

CIDA, one of our club's sponsors has finalized their diving schedule for the year. It includes many great single and multi-day trips in Southern California, as well as international dive travel. Check out their calendar and go dive with them. It's a good group of people.

Odds & Ends

Staff Writer

New, Large Marine Reserve in the Atlantic Ocean

A new, large marine reserve was created around Ascension Island and it is about the size of the United Kingdom with just over half the area closed to fishing. Link to the news release at Blue Marine Foundation.

Facebook for Whales

Biologist Christin Khan from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hit on an idea to use facial recognition algorithms to identify North Atlantic Right Whales when Facebook's algorithms recognized her in a photo on Facebook. Article at The Atlantic.

Studying Sharks' Social Lives

Researchers in Australia are studying the social behavior of sharks hoping to dispel the notion that sharks are essentially solitary, anti-social animals. Write-up at the New York Times.

Mystery Ocean Hum Is Fish Farts?

Scientists have known for a while of a low-frequency humming sound in the ocean that seems to be regular background noise. New data seems to suggest that it is generated by fish migrating at night from the mesopelagic depths to the surface for feeding and returning back as the day arrives. Some scientist think it may be communication, while others think it's the fish passing gas as they adjust their swim bladders to adjust their buoyancy. Article at Live Science.

New Sharks Discovered In 2015

New shark species found in 2015 have been described in the scientific literature. The count gf known shark species now stands at 512. Article at Deep Sea News.

Some Brittle-star Species Carry Their Young Inside Themselves

Most brittle-star species reproduce by spewing eggs and sperm into the water column and leave it at that. Some species carry their young inside themselves nit small sacs. CT scans show how some brittle star species are able to pack and carry their young.. Article in The Atlantic.

Deep Sea Dating

For copepods and other minuscule sea creatures in the ocean it may seem a daunting task to find a mate. They do so by detecting minute disturbances in water movement with feathery hairs on their body. In some species the females may also infuse the disturbance their movement creates with pheromones. Article in The Atlantic.

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