

The Pacific Explorer January 2009

Pacific Explorers Dive Club PO Box 9443,
Canoga Park, CA 91306

Web site – www.pacificexplorers.org

Contact us – board@pacificexplorers.org



WE MEET the second Wed of each month except Dec at a Denny's Restaurant on Topanga just north of Roscoe. Meeting starts at 7 PM. Show up early for socializing.

!!! Lucky Larry, our club lobster, went home with member Cody Brunski.



Speaker of the month...By Kevin Sullivan

Kevin Sullivan will be presenting a "trip report" from the club's 2008 international trip to **Cozumel, Mexico**. The presentation will include photographs from all members who went on the trip and submitted material for the "Best of Cozumel" CD's, and also videos from Russell Burt. This promises to be a great opportunity to relive the experiences of the trip for those who went, and a very good representation of the varied

dive sites and marine life for those who haven't yet had the opportunity



Beach Dive: Saturday January 10th, Redondo Beach ...By Craig Hoover

Have you ever seen a squid underwater? How about five squid, ten squid or more? How about a carpet of squid eggs as far as visibility permits? We are going in search of these marvels. The squid use the Redondo underwater canyon as their breeding ground each winter. There is a rumor that the full moon is the best time to see them, so we are scheduling our dive to coincide with the

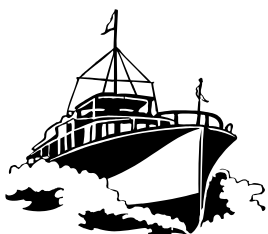
full moon.

Divers have the option of doing two dives; an afternoon dive to survey the site and find the squid eggs and a night dive to see the squid. Access to the beach is by a moderate staircase and the surf entry is easy. Depths range from 15 feet to 130 feet. Most squid eggs are found between 60 feet and 90 feet making this a potential deep dive. Advanced certification or experience with deep diving is recommended. After diving we head to El Torito for dinner.

Directions are as follows. Take the 405 freeway south and exit at Artesia. Turn right. Go about three miles and turn left on PCH. Go another several miles and turn right on Torrance. Torrance ends at Veteran's Park. Parking is on the left and metered. Bring five to ten dollars in quarters.

Boat Dive: Sunday January 25, the Great Escape to San Clemente ...by Karen Norris

I am continually wowed each visit to San Clemente. The diving is super lush – abundant and diverse varieties of different species of animals and plants. I love diving at San Clemente. Pyramid Cove is a little bay that is protected from northwest swells. So the water is generally calm, even in the winter. There is novice diving within the cove and intermediate and advanced diving on the outer



edge of the cove – something for everyone! When you're not in the water, you can enjoy the boat's accommodations. The Great Escape has super food, comfortable bunks and cabins (there is an extra fee for these), and a very roomy deck. Contact Reefseekers 310-652-4990, \$148.50 (food and air)/\$162 if paid less than 2 weeks before the trip, 9 pm –midnight, no Nitrox.



Surface Interval From Your New President

I am honored to be able to serve as the president of the Pacific Explorers Dive Club. I have been a member of the club for the past six years. I know many of you personally but some of you probably don't know much about me. I have been diving for a really long time or as my current dive buddy says, "I like hearing about diving in ancient times". I obtained an L.A. County SCUBA certification in 1961 making my first open water dive off Anacapa Island on Labor Day weekend of that year (that's when boat dives were only \$10). I spent the next few years diving in Hawaii while in the U.S. Navy. After returning home in 1964 I didn't dive again until 1979 when I re-certified and received an NASDA Open Water certification and was glad I did because equipment had really changed. Since then I have been diving on a regular basis. After wearing out five dive buddies and while searching for a new one I ran across the Pacific Explorers Dive Club and joined in 2002. Since then I have received my PADI Advanced Open Water and Rescue Diver certifications. For the past three years I was the Beach Dive Coordinator.

Under the leadership of Kevin Sullivan and Dave Carlson I feel the Pacific Explorers has become the premier dive club in this area. As evidence of that we have had many divers from other clubs join us on our annual international warm water dive drips. In fact we have had divers from out of state join us.

Kevin Sullivan and Dave Carlson are tough acts to follow. I hope I am up to the job. What I do have to bring to the office of president is a passion for recreational SCUBA diving. My wife Lynn and I have attended the last five international dive club trips and I attend virtually all of the club beach dives.

We have terrific turnouts for our monthly dive club meetings. But what really concerns me is that I have never seen some of you diving, be it warm or cold water. My agenda as president is to try to get you out there diving. Remember, diving is not just recreation it can be an adventure.

Let's Dive

Mike Bushell

A December Day of Diving: the Benefits of Winter Diving

K. Norris

There are some definite benefits to cold water winter diving. I enjoyed them on December 27, 2008 on the Spectre. I dove with fellow Pacific Explorer Craig Gelpi. After a week of stormy seas and very cold weather, we feared a rough day of diving. Under clear skies, the Spectre pulled out of Ventura Harbor into the nearly-flat Santa Barbara channel. Fortunately the calm seas held throughout the day.

The first benefit to winter diving was evident when we pulled out from the dock: elbow room. The Spectre comfortably holds 40 divers. However, on this winter Saturday we shared the boat with only 13 other divers. I stored my fins in the tank well next to mine, my towel and dive parka were stowed in another tank well. Inside the galley, I had my choice of booths. Even my backpack had a seat of its own. Nap time? Hmmm, which empty bunk would I like?

The second benefit to winter diving was crystal clear when the Spectre anchored at the first dive site, Underwater Island. We could see the bottom! Underwater Island is one of my favorite Anacapa sites. There is little upwelling of cold water and nutrients during Southern California winters, so there are fewer plankton blooms. This results in clear water. Today the 40-60 feet of visibility made it easy to see the site's structure. It's a 40-ft high mound of rocks that rises from a sandy bottom. The top of Underwater Island has a topping of kelp. The ocean-side of the rock pile has a covering of brittlestars, arms stretched into the water to filter-feed. The island-side of the pile is covered with alga and strawberry anemones. Numerous cracks and crevices mark the sides of the rock pile. Octopus, zebra and blue-banded gobies, treefish, lobster, and other critters hide out in the crevices. Today, the stand-out denizens were juvenile sheephead. Nearly every crack had one of the little red fish with a white stripe and black spots. Overhead swam schools of opaleye. Beautiful!

The upper layers of a winter ocean are well mixed by storms. So instead of a dramatic thermocline, divers experience nearly the same temperature at all depths of a dive. The temperature at Underwater Island was a cool 54-55 degrees. We had the same temperature water at the second dive site, Channels, even though this is a shallow site. Channels is a series of finger reefs that extend from the waterline out to 25-ft depths. The reefs are topped with luxurious growth – red, green, and brown kelp and grasses. Without any surge, this was a highly enjoyable dive. It was like being in an aquarium! Clean sand peppered with sanddabs stretched between the finger reefs. We could look up through the crystal clear water and see the sunlight and blue sky above us. One Harbor Seal visited briefly and then let us alone to enjoy the rich site. Nudibranchs and dorids covered the sponges and rocks. Painted Greenlings and many different types of kelpfish hid out in the algae. We reluctantly surfaced after nearly an hour in underwater paradise.

Our final dive of the day was at West Anacapa's Pelican Reserve. This dive site is only open to visitors during November and December. Only lobster may be taken from this location. As a result, larger fish are present and unafraid of divers. One huge male sheephead shadowed us for a good part of our dive. In the thick kelp I enjoyed watching a school of opaleye graze in a column of *Macrocystis pyrifera*. Later I spotted a school of young seniorita also grazing in the Giant Kelp. I ended this last dive after just a half hour. I had had enough of the cool water. The final reward for winter diving awaited me: a well-deserved hot tub! In the summer it's too hot for me to enjoy the hot tub, but after 3 cold dives, the heat was very welcome.

We enjoyed smooth seas on the trip back to the harbor. Sure, the water is cold in the winter but the elbow room and crystal clear water are a fair trade and add up to a pleasant day of diving.

June 13-June 20, 2009

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Contact David Tsao at tripleader@pacificexplorers.org about this trip. 18 signed up so far!

End of the Year Lobster Dive ...Mark Navas

Christmas is a busy time for everyone and sometimes makes it nearly impossible to find a dive buddy. The past three days of flat calm seas and no wind made the dive conditions perfect but everyone was too busy to dive! After a day of calling and emailing around, I got a call from Dave Carlson that he wanted to dive. I said Sorry Dave, I can't find enough people to take my boat out to dive the Santa Monica Bay artificial reef system but I'll let you know if something changes. A few hours later I got a call from Craig Hoover. He said he couldn't make the boat dive because he was already planning to beach dive with John and David Bentley but you and Dave can join us. WHOO HOOO!!! The ghost of Christmas present was still here and gave me my Xmas wish!!

We all met at the Malibu dive spot and got suited up. I've never dove this spot before but have heard from other hunters about how good the marine life is here. The February 22nd 2009 Explorer Club Dive will be at this spot so don't miss it! We slowly climbed 40' down the steep and slippery sandy hillside to the rocky beach below. The ocean was flat calm with 0'-1' swell, no wind or current, air temp 55F, water temp 57F, water visibility 15'-20' and no moon.

Craig had dove this spot many times and compass navigated us to the reef. Once on the reef, Craig & David B. dove together and Dave C. & I broke off and dove together. The reef structure was between 20'-30' deep and a few huge rock pinnacles were there that rose 15'-20' off the bottom. The rocks were covered in golden Gorgonias and scallops. There were many caves and crevices for lobsters and fish. Dave crawled into a cave fin deep going after a huge Lobster. I watched the cloud of dust bellow out of the hole and his legs kicking wildly. Then he stopped and was calm. After a minute I thought, OK either he's stuck or the Lobster's attached to his head..... I grabbed his fin and slowly pulled him out, empty handed. After seeing many large Calico Bass, Sand Bass, Perch, Cleaner Shrimp and Scallops it was time to start grabbing Lobsters.

I lost sight of Dave and after a minute of searching, surfaced. Finally I saw some lights from below so I dropped down to regroup. It was David, Craig and Dave! As I approached them, I noticed a very large antenna and a few huge Lobster legs inside a cave. I slowly swam into the hole and reaching back into the crevice and grabbed him! All hell broke loose as he bucked backwards dragging me further into the hole. I had to drop my light to get two hands on him. Crashing head first into the rocks knocked my head light off. I thought OK, it's dark and I'm stuck in this hole, now what..... I pinned the bug to my chest and slowly wiggled myself free of the hole. Great, now the bug had all ten legs firmly wrapped around my regulator hose, console and inflater hose and I couldn't get him loose. I saw David looking in hole 15' from me. I swam over for help with this 4+lb bug. After many attempts of flicking my light his way and grabbing his arm he still didn't notice this alien wrapped around my throat! He was busy showing me a huge scallop and cleaner shrimp in a hole and slowly swam off. I went to the surface and shook the bug loose from my regulator and gear. Dave followed me up and helped me with my game bag. We dropped back down and continued the hunt. Dave and I soon had our limits of Lobsters and we still had 1000psi to sight see back to the beach!



This was a great dive to end the year. Thanks to Craig for the last minute invite and expert navigation skills!

Dive Safe,

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting December 3, 2008

Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, Dave Carlson, Kathy White, Mike & Lynn Bushell, Ron Brunski, David Tsao, Ross Widel, Russell Burt, Craig Hoover and Mark Navas

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin called the meeting to order at 7pm at BJ's in Woodland Hills. Set up for the holiday party would be 10am at BJ's. A motion was made and passed that unless guests pre-registered for holiday party, there would be no T shirt or door prize and that payment at the door would have to be in cash. Raffle prizes for party were briefly discussed. Kathy White reported we had 79 people signed up. As the new incoming Vice President, Kevin reported on the monthly entertainment as follows: Jan – Cozumel Trip, Feb – Reef Check, May – Whale Sharks. A discussion was held regarding a presentation from the owners of the Sun Fish dive boat, and it was determined that they could give presentation, but that it would have to include more than just an ad for the boat.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy reported we have 105 members.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: Russell reported that he was working with the new webmaster, Ron Brunski, to clean up the web and transfer to Ron.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Craig Hoover: The new coordinator, Craig Hoover, announced the beach dive for 1/10 to be a night dive at Redondo, and 2/21 to be at Big Rock.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Since the new newsletter person, David Tsao, will be on vacation during the end of December, Dave Carlson will cover for him.

New Business:

David Tsao briefly discussed his job as trip coordinator and how he was going to promote next years trip to Roatan.

The following board of directors schedule as decided:

January – Dave & Kathy	February – Ross Widel	March – Craig Hoover
April – David Tsao	May – Mike & Lynn	June – Kevin Sullivan
July – Ron Brunski	August – Karen Norris	September – Mark Navas
October – Dave & Kathy	November – Kevin Sullivan	December – same as Holiday Party

Opportunity Awards-Ross Widel: Ross, the new coordinator reported taking over from Craig Hoover.

Marine Conservation Officer-Mark Navas: Mark said he was glad to be on the board, but may have problems getting to all the board of directors meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Holiday Party December 7, 2008, held at BJs in Woodland Hills

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin thanks all for coming, and went on to thank the club for the past three years that he has served as President, and all the support he has received. He introduced the outgoing board and thanked them, then introduced the incoming board, including the new President, Mike Bushell, who made a brief statement. Dave Carlson gave a brief history of Kevin's diving career, and then presented him with a plaque that included a prehistoric shark tooth attached, in appreciation for all his hard work. Kevin further announced, as the new Vice President, the programs for the January and February regular meetings.

Vice President, Kevin Shapiro, Treasurer, Liz Sullivan, Membership, Kathy White and Webmaster, Russell Burt briefly spoke.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Karen announced the boat dives for January and February.

New Beach Dive Coordinator-Craig Hoover: Craig announced the beach dives for January and February.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Dave announced David Tsao as the new newsletter coordinator and Roatan Trip coordinator.

New Business:

President Kevin Sullivan announced the winners of the photo contest as follows:
Congratulations to those that won!!!

Best Maco: Jamie Nixon
Best Diver in Photo: Ramon Hidalgo
Best Marine Life: Mark Navas
Best Topside: Kevin Sullivan

Opportunity Awards: The new coordinator, Ross Widel, presented the following prizes:

Fins – Chris Kenst
Light – Wally Burke
Hood – Taylor Widel
Mask – Clive Smith
BC – Kenn Schmidt
Jacket – Craig Hoover
Wet Suit – Arturo Valasquez
Coasters and House Pad – Corey Bushell
Video – Al Kholos
Larry the Lobster – Cody Brunski

2008 Explorers Dive Schedule Come On Out and Get Wet

Month	Date	Location	Boat	Contact	Cost	Notes
Jan	10	Redondo Beach	Beach	A	Quarters	Afternoon / Night
Jan	25	San Clemente	Great Escape	1	\$148.50/162.00	
Feb	7	Anacapa / Santa Cruz	Spectre	2	\$103.50	Afternoon / Night
Feb	22	Big Rock Malibu	Beach	A		AM
June	13-21	Roatan, Honduras		B	\$1699.00	

Contact and Note Info		
1	Reef Seekers	310-652-4990
2	Sport Chalet	800-348-3794
A	Club Beach dive	
B	Club Vacation	tripcoordinator@pacificexplorers.org

Boat	Location	Phone	URL
Bottom Scratcher	Long Beach	714-963-4378	http://bottomscratcher.com
Cee Ray	Long Beach	562-867-9738	http://www.caywind.com/ceeray_home.htm
Explorer	Ventura	805-646-0836	http://www.explorerdiveboat.com
Great Escape	Long Beach	866-348-3262	http://diveboat.com
Horizon	San Diego	858-277-7823	http://horizoncharters.com
Lois Ann	San Diego	800-201-4381	http://www.loisann.com
Magician	San Pedro	818-499-7101	http://magicianscuba.com
Mr. C	San Pedro	310-521-9737	
Peace	Ventura	866-984-2025	http://peaceboat.com
Raptor	Ventura	805-650-7700	http://www.raptordive.com
Sea Bass	San Pedro	818-652-5859	http://www.diveseabass.com
Spectre	Ventura	805-483-6612	http://calboatdiving.com
Sundiver	Long Beach	800-555-9446	http://sundiver.net
Sunfish	Oxnard	805-644-1499	http://www.socaldive.com
Truth	Santa Barbara	805-962-1127	http://truthaquatics.com

New Members

Lynda Fritche

Renewed Members

Chris Kenst, Jon Stowater

Rachel Spahr-Gundell

Guest at the last meeting

none

The Next Level

Wally and Nancy Burke have completed –
Suunto Computer Assisted Diving, DPV Diver, and are now
PADI Master SCUBA Divers. Congratulations!!!

THE FINE PRINT

Dates & locations are subject to change without written notice. All active members get a 10% discount on Sport Chalet organized boat dives and Sport Chalet dive gear. Boat dives are on a first come first serve basis. Your money will hold your spot on the boat. Air fills and food are generally not included in the dive boat pricing unless specified. For boat dive reservations call Annette Roche at Sport Chalet @ (800) 348-3794. (Note: Some activities may not be through Sport Chalet Charters). All participants in beach diving activities will be required to complete a club release of liability/assumption of risk form.

PACIFIC EXPLORERS 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT--MIKE BUSHELL -----president@pacificexplorers.org
VICE PRESIDENT-- KEVIN SULLIVAN -----vicepresident@pacificexplorers.org
TREASURER-- LIZ SULLIVAN-----treasurer@pacificexplorers.org
SECRETARY-- LYNN BUSHELL -----secretary@pacificexplorers.org
MEMBERSHIP-- KATHY WHITE-----membership@pacificexplorers.org
WEBMASTER--RON BRUNSKI -----webmaster@pacificexplorers.org
BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR-- KAREN NORRIS-----boatdive@pacificexplorers.org
BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR-- CRAIG HOOVER -----beachdive@pacificexplorers.org
OPPORTUNITY COORDINATOR--ROSS WIDEL -----prizes@pacificexplorers.org
NEWSLETTER-- DAVID TSAO -----newsletter@pacificexplorers.org
MARINE CONSERVATION OFFICER- MARK NAVAS - marineconservation@pacificexplorers.org

Web Site: www.pacificexplorers.org Board: board@pacificexplorers.org

Pacific Explorers Dive Club, PO Box 9443, Canoga Park, CA 91309

Newsletter/Web Contributions

If you have pictures you would like to see published in the newsletter, please send them to David Tsao at newsletter@pacificexplorers.org.

We can also post them on the club web site, so if you would like to post them there, send them to Ron Brunski at webmaster@pacificexplorers.org.

MEMBERSHIP HAS IT'S BENEFITS

Monthly meetings with entertainment and opportunity drawings, scheduled beach and boat dives each month, group international travel, 10% discount on non-sale dive gear, con-ed classes, dive trips, rentals, and gear repairs at **Sport Chalet, Aloha Dive, Hollywood Divers, and Reef Seekers**, 10 free air fills.

Save your non-winning monthly opportunity tickets and exchange them for quarterly opportunity tickets. Quarterly drawings are January, April, July, and October.

Membership Fees: New-Single-\$25 Family-\$35 Renewal-Single-\$20 Family-\$30