

The Pacific Explorer August 2008

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 new member Arbi Baghdanian.

!!!Pacific Explorers Sweatshirts---Order them now!!!

Contact Kathy White, membership@pacificexplorers.org, with type and size.
\$25 for hooded and \$20 for regular, grey color with the logo on the back.



Speaker of the month...By Kevin Shapiro

Ricardo Corrales will be talking to us about his recent trip to Bali, Indonesia. He has been diving 10 years, a Dive Master, and the Department Head at the Porter Ranch Sport Chalet. He has photos of his diving with Manta Rays, wrecks, and the famous Indonesia muck diving. He has photos of his land excursions and a jungle cruise. It should be interesting.



Beach Dive: Saturday August 16th at Leo Carrillo State Beach ...By Mike Bushell and Kathy White

This is also our club summer picnic and dive. We will be there in the north beach parking lot near the BBQs at 9am ready for a dive or two. After the diving, we will begin with the eating. That should last the rest of the day. Remember, this is a pot luck event. You will want to bring what you want to BBQ for yourself and a dish to share with the masses. Leo Carrillo can be a great dive, it all depends on conditions, and I hear conditions have been good. See you there. Parking is \$10 per car.



Boat Dive: Saturday August 23rd, Santa Barbara Island on the Great Escape...by Karen Norris

This August, the club boat dive is aboard the Great Escape out of Long Beach. We will be heading to Santa Barbara Island. The Great Escape is a roomy ship with great food. Santa Barbara offers all-around great diving. You'll find lush kelp beds and plenty of contact with wildlife. Santa Barbara is known for its communities of playful sea lions. Depending on the dive site, you may also see purple hydrocoral. You may board the boat after 9 pm, Friday night. Contact Reefseekers to reserve your place. Be certain to mention that you are a Pacific Explorer when you book the trip for the 10% club discount. If you book and pay 2 weeks prior to the trip, the fare is \$145, including a \$10 fuel surcharge



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS OK...I have come to the epiphany that I have got to win the lottery and quit working because my job is just interfering with diving WAY too much!! I was working on Saturday the 19th (July beach dive), and at about noon

Dave Carlson called me to tell me of the great turnout, good conditions...and that they had seen MULTIPLE BLUE SHARKS ON A BEACH DIVE!!!!

AAAAAARRRRRRRGGGGGGHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Of all the beach dives to miss I have to miss that one! Well, for all of you who were there and got to see these beautiful animals I am supremely jealous! The odds of seeing blues on a beach dive these days (they are pelagic animals by nature) are so huge it's almost inconceivable. And then to add insult to injury Dave told me that a few folks had seen leopard sharks as well. It just goes to show you, ANYTHING can happen on a beach dive on any given day. What's next, 80 deg. F and 80 ft. visibility???? Never say never!!!

Karen reports that the Great Escape did make it to the backside of San Clemente on the 26th, and to use her words the day was full of "lush" diving...and yes, once again yours truly was working (ugh!). It's not a regular occurrence to get to the backside of Clemente, so everyone who made it on the boat got a special treat to see the "wilder" side of California diving.

Just last weekend we were invited by the Sport Chalet SCUBA Operations Manager to have a table to promote our club at the annual tent sale event, which was held at the Thousand Oaks store this year. I first want to say a big thank you to the folks who sacrificed some of their weekend to spend a few hours talking about our club to folks who came by the sale tents. Liz worked all day Saturday (I was at...well, you get it by now ☺), Karen Norris and Roy Quisido worked Sunday morning (Roy on his only day off!!!), and Tom & Leslie Pelosi worked Sunday afternoon. It was a very successful event, and we got lots of new interest in our club. Expect to see some fresh faces at the next meeting!

UPCOMING The annual club picnic is coming soon, on August 16th! This is always a great event, and if last year is any indication, we'll have tons of food, friends, and good fun to be had. Oh Yeah...and a dive too!!!! Remember that the plan is for you to bring whatever you would like to cook for yourself (dogs, burgers, chicken, whatever) and then bring a dish to share with the group. If you haven't signed up for the pot luck with Kathy White yet, be sure to e-mail her and let her know what you'd like to bring or come by the general meeting on Wednesday the 13th and sign up. It wouldn't be very cool if everybody showed up with just a bag of chips!

It may seem a bit early to start talking about the holiday party, but the board is busy evaluating options for this year's location. If anyone has any suggestions for a place to hold this great event please let the board know! We are looking at places with a room which can hold around 75 people and can provide a buffet-style luncheon. We are open to any suggestions and now is the time to get the event planned.

And...speaking of the holiday party, don't forget about the annual photo contest! We are adding a new category this year, titled "Topside". These entries should be diving related, but not underwater pictures. This will add to the categories of Best Marine Life, Best Macro, and Best Diver-in-Photo. Get those shutters clicking folks!!!

DIVE ON...
Your President,
Kevin Sullivan

Pacific Explorers dive San Clemente

By Craig Gelpi

The Pacific Explorers dived the backside of San Clemente Island Saturday July 26. These sites are some of the farthest from the mainland and attract a core group of experienced and enthusiastic divers looking for less visited locales. Although boarding the Great Escape was scheduled for after 9 pm Friday, the boat was almost full hours before that time and there were many animated conversations among the divers who were awaiting eagerly the adventure, though less excited about the 10:45pm boat briefing.

Many divers talked about their previous failures in actually getting to San Clemente. Fortunately, calm seas enabled an easy and successful transit. So calm that I slept late as when I arose at 6:30 the galley was full with divers enjoying a continental breakfast to fuel up for the first dive. The plan was for the boat to go to the farthest site on the backside first, then progressively move north between sites so as to reduce the travel time home.

Reef Seekers called the first site "Ken Hill's Wall". It was covered with kelp. We jumped in and descended the anchor line, then headed southwest to see gorgeous topography with a steep wall containing interesting crevices and supporting purple hydrocoral. From a previous trip to San Clemente, I remembered multi-colored algae covering every hard surface. The same phenomenon was found at every site on this trip, too. There was the usual fish assemblage except that it included a large number of male sheephead, and one very large kelp bass with a wound to its head.

The second site was new to Reef Seekers and was christened "Dead Garibaldi" in honor of a floating dead garibaldi spotted from the boat. The dive site board stated it was TAF but no one knew what that meant. DG had a rocky bottom without great relief but plenty of places for lobsters to hide and they were there in abundance (though mostly shorts).

The third site was "Booster-Rocket Airport". It is at the northwest end of the island and gets its name in reference to the adjacent short Navy runway where boosters are used to launch large aircraft. The dive brief contained an unusual caution: "If it looks like a bomb, it is a bomb" for this location was used for military target practice. The underwater topography here is similar to that of DG. Rocks were strewn everywhere, supporting large kelp growing in deep water, covered in purple and white algae, and hiding many lobsters.

Diving conditions were very nice. The marine layer disappeared early and provided us with bright sunshine. Visibility was an island-poor 30 to 40 ft. but still good enough to appreciate the giant kelp forest. Temperatures were 64 at depth (70 ft) for the first dive and 62 for the others. Although there was a swell out of the south, it was nothing like the feared swell generated by the hurricane days earlier.

The boat service was very good and included Great Escape signature fare such as made-to-order omelets served after the first dive, the usual snacks, meatloaf for lunch, monkey bread and, ice cream and brownies for dessert.

The club had a very nice day on the water.

Beach Dive at Nicholas Canyon

By David Carlson

Well, we had a nice crowd, 14 divers, at the beach and it was a nice day. That was the good news at first thought. Conditions just didn't look that good and I was not excited. The surfers were having a good time and that doesn't make me feel confident. Time to get wet and it beats mowing the lawn in the hot valley anyway. Kathy, myself, Hillary, and Alex got it together and made the long walk down the bathrooms before going out. After a long swim out to the kelp, we dropped down to the ho-hum conditions I expected, a little surgy and 5 foot vis. We got together and headed south. Vis improved some and the topography got more interesting. Then a fin went by! **WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?** Looked like a shark fin so I thought we might see some Leopard Sharks, cool. Then I saw it again and there were no spots on this obvious shark. **NOW I WAS EXCITED.** Blue Sharks on a beach dive. 24 years of diving and I've never seen them during a dive. Seen them from the boat before but never in the water let alone a beach dive. I was the lead of our group and the Blue sharks, yes SHARKS, I saw 3 of them at one time, 2 to 4 feet long. I was out in front far enough I couldn't see anyone so I swam back just in time to see Kathy swimming along with a nice Blue along her side, surprised the heck out of her and when it saw me it swam off between us. Alex and Hillary also saw them and some Leopard Sharks on the swim in.

Jail or Diving

Jeff Adler and USA Today

CHINO, Calif. — Kenyatta Kalisana completed his training here this month, departing with a choice of three jobs and a possible six-figure annual salary.

Kalisana's career options would be impressive simply because of the troubled national and California economies. More extraordinary is that the 40-year-old Los Angeles man, a twice-convicted drug dealer, left the California Institution for Men after three years with an international certification as a deep-sea diver, underwater welder and heavy construction rigger.

"It's pretty good to have choices," says Kalisana, whose new skills acquired in prison have secured him lucrative — but dangerous — employment repairing undersea fuel lines, inspecting bridges or cleaning the hulls of giant cargo ships. "It's a great opportunity."

Hundreds of prisoners have cycled through the weather-beaten Marine Technology Training Center, which reopened last year after budget cuts forced its closure five years ago. The school feeds a niche industry in which ex-offenders can earn \$50,000 to \$100,000 right out of prison — often more than the cops who busted them. The healthy salaries are a key reason why only about 6% of the dive school graduates return to prison in a system where nearly 70% of all prisoners are rearrested for new offenses.

The Chino divers are landing jobs largely because of the school's strong reputation and a steady need for highly skilled labor in heavy construction, shipping and the oil industry. Hurricane Katrina increased demand for Chino graduates, some of whom are repairing damage to oil platforms scattered throughout the Gulf.

Phil Newsum, executive director of the Association of Diving Contractors International, says Chino graduates are among the best in the industry. "It all comes down to one question: Can you do the job?" says Newsum, whose group has 500 member companies. "They have shown over and over that they can."

Chino's Johnson, 65, a plain-spoken former commercial diver, directs this unusual program and the current class of 17 in a training center housed in a former prison dairy barn. Founded nearly four decades ago, the program sputtered from lack of money, then restarted last year with new funding because of its past reputation and continuing promise.

Johnson and Jeff Powers, the only other instructor, oversee the training regimen, a mix of academic and physical work totaling 2,000 hours of instruction — more than twice that of some civilian dive schools.

Violent offenders generally are not eligible for admission to the program, which attracts about 20 to 40 applicants for the 12-month course. Of that group, about one-third drop out.

Not all graduates have been tracked, but of the 349 who have, Johnson says only about 6% return to prison. "I approach this thing like a business," he says. "If they don't make it, it all comes back on us." Bill Sessa, spokesman for the state's Prison Industry Authority, which manages inmate programs, says the union association and dues payment make that program the first of its kind in the nation.

At Chino, Johnson says, the toughest hurdle for most recruits is not the physical regimen — including the 5-mile swim and occasional decompression sickness from extended periods in the school's underwater training tanks. It's convincing them the opportunity for success is real.

Chris Snow, 36, a convicted bank robber who left prison and the dive program last April, writes regularly to Kalisana and the 16 other trainees. His sunny dispatches from the outside may be the most-read documents beyond the program's required physiology and physics homework.

Snow, who is employed as a welder and pile-driver near Chicago, says he has saved \$20,000, bought a \$30,000 truck and is eyeing a \$240,000 four-bedroom, two-bath house in the suburbs. He was sentenced eight years ago as the get-away driver in a San Diego County robbery. Before that, he mostly waited tables for minimum-wage at a chain restaurant. Now he's making \$39.77 per hour and working 60 hours a week. At his current pace, he'll make slightly more than \$124,000 this year.

"It's beautiful; life is too good," Snow says.

2008 Explorers Dive Schedule Come On Out and Get Wet

Month	Date	Location	Boat	Contact	Cost	Notes
Aug	16	Leo Carrillo	your car		free	A/B
Aug	23	Santa Barbara Island	Great Escape	1	\$145/154	
Sep	13	Catalina	Sundiver	2	\$130	
Oct	25	Santa Cruz/Anacapa	Spectre	3	\$103.50	

Contact and Note Info		
1	Reef Seekers	310-652-4990
2	Dolphin Dive Center	626-447-5536
3	Sport Chalet	800-348-3794
A	Club Beach dive	
B	Club Picnic	

	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.dive seabass.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

Arin & Arbi Baghdanian

Guest at the last meeting

Chris & Olivia Miller, Ron Clough

Minutes - Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting July 2, 2008

Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, Liz Sullivan, Dave Carlson, Kathy White, Karen Norris, Russell Burt, Mike & Lynn Bushell and Craig Hoover

Kevin Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm at Mavericks in Simi Valley.

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin discussed a possible bylaw change regarding approval of new members. Any decision was tabled for further discussion. He further reported that he would be doing presentations for Shark Conservation, one of which would fall on our meeting night, but it was determined that his obligation to the club meetings took precedence. Kevin reported that the speaker for the July general meeting would not be able to make his presentation and asked for any suggestions. Several were given and will be looked into. Regarding the annual photo contest, it was suggested that an additional category be added, topside diving related. Lastly, nominations for the 2009 board are coming up in October, and we should be thinking of positions to be filled.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy currently reported we have 108 members. In addition, she asked for suggestions on a place for the Club Christmas Party, and final report on the Club Picnic coming up in August.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: Russell said he wanted to step down from his position next year and we should be thinking for someone else to take over.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Karen reported on the boat dives for the next couple of months.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike reported on the beach dives for July and August and tentatively set a lobster dive for September 27th.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Dave reported all OK.

Opportunity Awards-Craig Hoover: There was a discussion on funds spent on raffle items, and in addition better timing for raffle ticket sales so there isn't so much chaos at the end of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting July 9, 2008

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:05pm at Denny's in Canoga Park. Kevin reported on the very successful Cozumel Trip and complemented Dave Carlson on a job well done. Kevin reminded everyone that nominations for new board positions was coming up in October and encouraged everyone to think of taking one of the openings.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Liz report all was good.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy reported we have 110 members. She introduced our guests, Chris Miller, Olivia Miller, Ron Clough, and Arin & Arbi Baghdanian, both of whom joined the club that night.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: Russell asked that messages to board members be sent directly to them, not through the website.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Karen reported on the board dives for July and August.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike reported on the beach dive for July (Nicholas Canyon) and August, the club beach/picnic dive at Leo Carrillo.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Dave reported newsletter OK.

Guest Speaker: In the absence of Vice President, Kevin Shapiro, Kevin Sullivan introduced the speaker for the evening, Laleh Mohajerani from Iemanya Oceanica, who gave a very inspiring presentation on the preservation of sharks and the reasons why we should save them.

Opportunity Awards-Craig Hoover – Craig present the following prizes:

Roller Duffle Bag – Ron Michalski

Umbrella – Javier Jung

Gloves – Mike Bushell

Channel Islands Dive Book – Nancy Burke

Down T Shirt – Wally Burke

Iemanya Oceanica T Shirt – Arin Baghdanian

Sun Shower – Don Davis

Boots – Dave Bentley

Dive Gear Care Package – Paul Cane

Larry the Lobster – Arbi Baghdanian

Deep

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:30pm

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.

Bottom Scratcher (714) 963-4378	http://www.bottomscratcher.com/	Berth 55 555 Pico Ave Long Beach
CeeRay (562) 867-9738		Berth 55 555 Pico Ave Long Beach
Great Escape (866)348-3262	http://www.diveboat.com/	Berth 55, Pier C, Long Beach
Island Time (866) 488-3483	http://www.expressdivers.com/	182 Marina Drive, Long Beach
Magician (310) 548-6129	http://www.magicianscuba.com/	22nd Street Landing, San Pedro
Lois Ann (800) 201-4381		http://www.loisann.com/
Pacific Star 626-716-1796	http://www.pacificstardiving.com	181 N. Harbor Dr., Redondo Beach
Peace (866) 984-2025	http://www.peaceboat.com	1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Spectre (805) 483-6612	http://calboatdiving.com/	1575 Spinnaker Dr.,105B-59
Sunfish	http://www.socaldive.com	3600 S. Harbor Blvd. # 219, Oxnard
Truth Aquatics (805) 962-1127	www.truthaquatics.com	301 W. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

PACIFIC EXPLORERS 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 VICE PRESIDENT-- KEVIN SHAPIRO-----vicepresident@pacificexplorers.org
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 BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR-- KAREN Norris----- boatdive@pacificexplorers.org
 BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR-- MIKE BUSHELL-----beachdive@pacificexplorers.org
 OPPORTUNITY COORDINATOR-- CRAIG HOOVER-----prizes@pacificexplorers.org
 NEWSLETTER-- DAVID CARLSON-----newsletter@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 Carlson 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 Russell Burt 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