

# The Pacific Explorer January 2008

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

Web Site: [www.pacificexplorers.org](http://www.pacificexplorers.org)

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The next meeting is the second Wednesday of the month. Pre-meeting Social at 6:30 p.m. and our monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Denny's on Topanga just north of Roscoe in Canoga Park.



## Speakers of the month...

The speakers for the month of January will be our own David Carlson and Russell Burt. Russell and David will be giving you the best of the best from the club September trip to Indonesia.

I had been there once before and couldn't wait to get back. This trip proved to be everything that I expected from the area as far as spectacular walls, currents, and critters. We have collected pictures from everyone that took pictures and selected the best of the best, along with video from Russell, we should be able to give you a very good synopsis of the entire trip. We have lots of underwater shots along with land shots that different people took when they went on various tours. Everyone came back very satisfied and I think everyone saw something new. I particularly liked the Blue Ringed Octopus. You will have to come see the presentation to get a taste of the trip. I am confident that we will be going back some time soon so come see what you can experience on the next trip to Indonesia... *David Carlson*



## Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, Escondido Beach Dive...

The club beach dive for January is Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM at Escondido Beach. Directions are as follows; take Las Vergenes Road (Malibu Canyon) to PCH and turn right, take PCH past the 76 station to the Escondido bridge at the bottom of the hill, the beach entrance is next to the bridge and parking is up the road a bit on the beach side. If the conditions are good this is an easy dive, hope to see you there... *Mike Bushell*



## Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, Great Escape to Catalina

Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> we will be on the Great Escape going to Catalina for 3 great dives. We will be on the front side so the dives will be easy. If you haven't been in the water in a while or still rather new, this is a great boat and great diving. The cost is \$125 and includes food and air fills for the second and third dives so bring a full tank to start. You can board the night before or show up before 6:30 in the morning because the boat departs at 7 and should return between 5 and 6. Directions are on the boat web site, <http://diveboat.com>. Book the boat by calling Captain Tim at [866-488-3262](tel:866-488-3262) and be sure to mention that you're with the Pacific Explorers. This is not a Sport Chalet charter and according to Captain Tim, after 8 paid divers, we will all receive a 20% discount. Lately the Great Escape has been serving a terrific made-to-order omelets and other fixings for breakfast. They've also been cooking up some fancy lunches including succulent shrimp creole... *Karen Noris*



## **A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT** *HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!*

I hope that this article finds everyone resting comfortably from what has been, at least for Liz and I, a VERY busy holiday season. I am very excited that this coming year will be full of great diving adventures and activities to match the great successes we had in 2007. We already have had great response for our Cozumel trip this coming June. We have already gotten some interesting ideas from our new board members, so I am very confident that we are going to have an excellent year. Karen Norris is already hard at work planning boat dives for early in the year, and has a great arrangement in place with the Great Escape for January, so please take advantage of this opportunity to get in the water. Winter waters aren't that much colder than summer, and water clarity is always at its best during the winter months.

I'd like to thank everyone who attended the club holiday party in early December. We had a really great time seeing everyone enjoy the afternoon, and were gratified to see so many wonderful people come out to enjoy each other's company. Vernon Brown and Leslie Pelosi won the "Pin the Diver in the Shark's Mouth" game, each receiving a changing towel for their expert blindfolded navigation skills! There were lots of great opportunity drawing prizes including an Aqualung regulator won by Frank Miller, an Akona roller bag won by Al Kholos, and a UK HID dive light won by Dave Leffert. This year's photo contest was once again filled with some EXCELLENT submissions, making it very difficult for the judges to determine the winners, with one or two votes making the difference! The winners were Kathy White for best marine life, Jamie Nixon for best diver in photo, and Wally Burke for best macro. Thank you to everyone for their wonderful picture submissions...keep those shutters snapping in 2008!! Many thanks are due to Kathy and Liz who pretty much spearheaded the party planning. All the board members got our hands into the mix in some way or another in the operation, but they definitely did the bulk of the work. Thanks also to Arturo and Sandra Velasquez for hosting us in what definitely the most spacious setting we've had for the party yet. And the food and service was great!

As I mentioned, Karen has a great dive setup on the Great Escape for January's boat dive, and Mike Bushell has Escondido beach planned for the beach dive. As I write this, it looks like we're actually going to be able to get in the Redondo beach squid dive as scheduled for the first time in 3 years!! Liz and I will be on a plane, but we hope everyone is able to have a great dive!

That is pretty much it for this year's opener...short and sweet. As I said, be sure to get out there and take advantage of the great diving opportunities we have coming for you. The water is waiting....why are you?!?!?!?!?

***DIVE ON...!!!***  
*Your President,*  
*Kevin Sullivan*

# Holiday Party Bash!!!!

By David Carlson

For those of you that missed it, here are a few of the photos from the event. Dinner at Tortilla Loco was great and as you can see from the pics, everyone had a blast and nobody went home hungry. 60 new and members showed up and it was nice to see some of the older members. Vernon Brown and Leslie Pelosi were the winners of the "Pin the Diver on the Shark" game. All ways some fun here. The raffle prizes were in



were awesome this year as you can tell by the look on Als' face here. Frank went away a happy camper with a new Aqualung Legend Regulator. Aside from the social



event and the prizes and some of the regular meeting stuff, we awarded Jamie Nixon, Wally Burk and Kathy White framed images of the photos they submitted at this years photo competition. If you didn't show for this party you missed out. This was one of the best events I have been to in a long time and I had a great time and didn't even win anything. See you next year.



## Beginning of the year and you need a new FISHING LICENSE!!!

Be sure to stay ahead of Fish & Game. Starting Jan 1, 2008, All of you that bring up bugs need to have a new Lobster Report Card. Here is the website for the California Dept. Fish & Game web site. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/fishing/fishdescrip.html>

<p><b>New for 2008</b> Spiny Lobster Report Card</p>	<p>\$7.90</p>	<p>Required for all anglers taking spiny lobster, including persons who are not required to have a sport fishing license, such as persons who are under 16 years of age, persons who are fishing from a public pier and persons who are fishing on free fishing days.</p>
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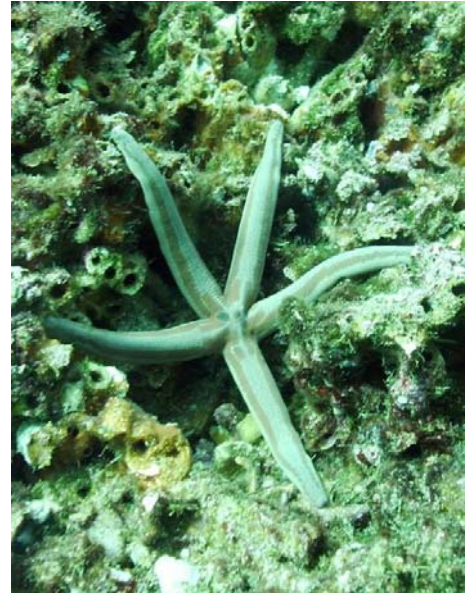
# Cabo San Lucas Diving

By: Ron Brunski

I took my annual trip to Cabo San Lucas the first week of December. The flight from LAX to Las Cabos is about two hours. We arrived at 11:30 and took a short van ride to the hotel Pueblo Bonita Rosa. First priority was to get a cocktail and go to the pool. The weather was in the 80s in the day and 60's at night. I booked my dives through the activity director at the hotel. Seventy dollars is the going rate for local diving. This includes tanks and weights. We meet at 8:30 on the beach a few hundred yards from where we stayed. A long haul through the sand with forty pounds of gear and a slight hangover :). I was overdressed for the occasion with my 7mm suit, with the water temperatures in the 70s. After a five-minute boat ride we arrived at our first dive location, near the arch and the area known as Lands End. The bay of Cabo San Lucas is a national marine park. The most common dives are right around the famous arches at the entrance to the harbor.



Our guides name was Troy, a big Aussie dude. The first dive was at the area known as Pelican Rock. Eagle rays were jumping out of the water with visibility well over 60 feet. Pelican Rock lies above a submarine canyon that forms Cabo San Lucas bay. On the inside of the harbor depths range from 90 to well over 130 feet this is an area known as the Sand Falls, which was first discovered by Jacques Cousteau. This is where big and little flows of sand constantly stream down the sides of steep rocky slopes into deep water. They are very pretty in a quiet way. Here we found congregations of big and small



tropical fish. Rocky slopes are covered with gorgonians and sea fans. Eels, puffer fish and a variety of bright colored fish are just some of the many marine life I saw. We worked our way back up to a shallow reef in 15 feet of water for a safety stop trumpet fish were in abundance.



After a short surface interval we moved to the second dive site at The Point located at "Land's End," where the Pacific Ocean meets the Sea of Cortez. Here we started the dive at the sea lion colony, just inside the point at Lands End. Dozens of sea lions soaked up rays on the rocks; they could care less about all the attention. The depth averages about 80 feet. Here we saw some free swimming sea lions that kept their distance, large schools of sardines, green jacks and several colorful fish.



Just past the final pinnacle lies a small shipwreck in about 80 feet of water. Here we found a little more current being on the Pacific Ocean side. We worked our way around the pinnacle completing a 360. I slowly ascended the wall. Enjoying the beauty of the underwater world and again reminding me why I love diving.

# Corral Beach dive, before the rain

*By Karen Norris*

Some people might not think of December as a good month for diving, but I've found that there can be unusually calm conditions. The Santa Anas of the fall are gone and the winter storms haven't blown in yet. These observations held on Sunday December 16.

My research partner wanted to retrieve a thermograph planted at Corral Canyon and the CDIP swell model looked just about as good as it possibly can, so we headed to the beach. Lake Pacific greeted us. Granted, the waves were knee-slappers and larger, but the entry is rarely easier. I only tripped over two or three rocks as I walked into the water. I feel like a sitting duck when I stop to put my fins on, so I swam out past the surf zone before putting my fins on. My partner quickly donned his fins and joined me. We then made a long surface swim to the reef.

The kelp at Corral is making a healthy comeback. Often during the summer months you can't see any kelp. Finding the reef is a matter of knowing how far to swim out. Now though, the reef is marked by a nearly-continuous band of kelp that parallels the shore. The thermograph, an instrument that records temperature, was attached to two sand-anchors placed 10 kick-cycles south of the flat-faced rock that is 15 kick-cycles south of the large vertical rock on the east end of the reef. The large rock can be found with a triangulation technique. It is 5 degrees west of north from the fire hydrant on PCH and 30 degrees west of north from the parking sign next to the trail that leads from PCH down to the beach. Sound easy? I found the point on the surface that satisfied the directions to the large rock. We dropped down, I looked up to my left and there was the rock! We counted our kicks as we swam through the kelp and came upon the flat-faced rock. Again we counted our kicks as we swam out to the designated location of the instrument.

Our task suddenly became much more difficult. We searched and searched the area, but, unfortunately, we could not find the thermograph. It had been deployed for over a year, so perhaps the nylon ties broke, or it's buried beneath the sand, or maybe Keith Biondi found it – but we didn't.

Unsuccessful in the search, we began to enjoy the dive for diving's sake. We stayed on the outside of the reef rather than the reef itself. It's amazing what you can find if you just look. For instance, there were interesting impressions in the sand. Surprisingly, enough light penetrates the water for pretty red algae to grow on the sand surface. Leaves, debris, and blades of kelp grass sway back and forth in the surge. As they do, they scrape arcs of sand clean of algae forming the patterns.

In addition to interesting algae, there were interesting animals. Sea pansies were in full bloom. Senoritas came out from the reef looking for crumbs. A few large sand bass swam away as we approached. Decorator crabs scrambled across the bottom, looking more like bits of tangled coralline algae than crustaceans. Most intriguing to me were the mouth-like structures in the sand. These one-inch diameter fleshy lips retracted suddenly if touched. Ah-ha! Clams! I've seen piddock clams in nearly all of the Southern California reefs. These clams in the sand were new to me! I had to wonder why they are on the outside of the reef and not on the inside.

The swim back to the beach was long, but not boring. Assorted fish, dorids, crabs, and lobster can be spotted as you move from the reef, over the rubble field, and finally back through the surf grass to approach the beach. We overshot the entry point and ended up west of the houses. The surf had increased during our hour-long dive, but it was still an easy exit, especially since there are fewer rocks lurking in the sand at this end of the beach. I might just make this my regular entry and exit point for Corral. So even if we didn't find the thermograph, we found clams and a great entry point – another terrific dive!

# Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Holiday Party December 2, 2007, held at the La Tortilla Loca Banquet Hall

*By Lynn Bushell*

**President-Kevin Sullivan:** Kevin thanked all for coming, thanked the board for a great year and a special thanks to Kathy White and Liz Sullivan for all their hard work putting the Holiday Party together. An additional thank you to Arturo Valasquez, club member and owner of the restaurant. He introduced the new board for 2008. All positions remained the same with the exception of Kevin Shapiro, Vice President, Lynn Bushell, Secretary, Kathy Norris, Boat Dive Coordinator and Dave Carlson, Newsletter.

**Membership-Kathy White:** Kathy introduced our new member Jennifer Coler. Also let her know if your email changes.

**Webmaster –Russell Burt:** Russell said the all is OK. Keep sending photos.

**Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell:** The December beach dive will be held on December 22, 2007 at Redondo Beach. This is the yearly squid dive, with one dive in the afternoon around 3pm and second dive after dark.

**Boat Dive Coordinator-Kathy Norris:** December boat dive is 12/8/07 on the Peace out of Ventura, to Anacapa.

**Vice President-Dave Carlson:** stated that the Cozumel trip is filling up fast and deposits need to be submitted in order get on the list.

**The winners of the Pin the Dive in the Sharks Mouth** were Leslie Pelosi and Vernon Brown.

**The winners of the photo contest were:**

Diver in Photo – Jamie Nixon

Marine Life – Kathy White

Macro – Wall Burke

**Opportunity Awards Coordinator Craig Hoover: Held the annual Holiday Party drawing with the following winners:**

Larry the Christmas Lobster- Dr. Art M.

Aqua Lung Reg – Frank Miller

Akona Roller & Weight Bag – Al Kholos

Dive Knife – James McDaniel (Mac)

Dive Knife – Ted Zalta

UK Light Cannon – Dave Leffert

Ocean Book – Phillip Frady

Sports Chalet Gift Card – Karen Norris

Pelican Case (Camera) – Kathy White

## **Membership Update 103 Members**

NEW MEMBERS

**Peter & Eric Cyffka of Calabasas, Alax Gorokhov of West Hill**

RENEWED MEMBERS

**THE NEXT LEVEL:** Here is a list of Pacific Explorers that have made it to the next level in recreational or professional diving



**All inclusive package at the Fiesta Americana Cozumel Dive Resort**  
**\$1450.00 pp/do (\$1125 Non Diver pp/do)**

*The above price does not include any potential discounts*

**Package Includes:**

- Roundtrip airfare from LAX
- 7 Nights Hotel
- 5 Days of 2 tank diving
- All Meals and Drinks (including alcohol)
- All Taxes and Transfers

*Please submit **\$200.00** for deposit ASAP. Make checks payable to *Pacific Explorers Dive Club*.*

*P.O. Box 9443*

*Canoga Park, CA 91309*

email questions to [board@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:board@pacificexplorers.org).

**2008 Explorers Dive Schedule**  
**Come On Out and Get Wet**



<i>Month</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>			
Feb	23	Avalon Harbor Clean-up	Catalina Express		\$35 before 2-1
1 June	21-28	Cozumel	Warm water and easy diving		\$1450

More coming

<sup>1</sup> Reserve your spot by e-mailing [divetrips@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:divetrips@pacificexplorers.org)

<sup>2</sup> Reserve you spot by calling Reef Seekers 310-652-4990

<sup>3</sup> Reserve you spot by calling Sport Chalet 800-348-3794

<sup>4</sup> Reserve you spot by calling Hollywood Divers 323-969-9875

<sup>5</sup> Reserve you spot by calling Aloha Dive 818-700-8134

<sup>6</sup> Reserve your spot by calling Sea Divers 714-377-8044.

<sup>A</sup> Advanced Divers Only

## **“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). For beach activities e-mail dbbsmb@pacbell.net or call Dave Bentley @ (818) 349-0699. 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	<a href="http://www.bottomscratcher.com/">http://www.bottomscratcher.com/</a>	Berth 55 555 Pico Ave Long Beach
CeeRay (562) 867-9738		Berth 55 555 Pico Ave Long Beach
Great Escape (866)348-3262	<a href="http://www.diveboat.com/">http://www.diveboat.com/</a>	Berth 55, Pier C, Long Beach
Island Time (866) 488-3483	<a href="http://www.expressdivers.com/">http://www.expressdivers.com/</a>	182 Marina Drive, Long Beach
Magician (310) 548-6129	<a href="http://www.magicianscuba.com/">http://www.magicianscuba.com/</a>	22nd Street Landing, San Pedro
Lois Ann (800) 201-4381	<a href="http://www.loisann.com/">http://www.loisann.com/</a>	
Pacific Star 626-716-1796	<a href="http://www.pacificstardiving.com">http://www.pacificstardiving.com</a>	181 N. Harbor Dr., Redondo Beach
Peace (866) 984-2025	<a href="http://www.peaceboat.com">http://www.peaceboat.com</a>	1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Spectre (805) 483-6612	<a href="http://calboatdiving.com/">http://calboatdiving.com/</a>	1575 Spinnaker Dr., 105B-59
Sunfish	<a href="http://www.socaldive.com">http://www.socaldive.com</a>	3600 S. Harbor Blvd. # 219, Oxnard
Truth Aquatics (805) 962-1127	<a href="http://www.truthaquatics.com">www.truthaquatics.com</a>	301 W. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

## **PACIFIC EXPLORERS 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT-- KEVIN SULLIVAN-----[president@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:president@pacificexplorers.org)  
VICE PRESIDENT-- KEVIN SHAPIRO-----[vicepresident@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:vicepresident@pacificexplorers.org)  
TREASURER-- LIZ SULLIVAN-----[treasurer@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:treasurer@pacificexplorers.org)  
SECRETARY-- LYNN BUSHELL  
MEMBERSHIP-- KATHY WHITE-----[membership@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:membership@pacificexplorers.org)  
WEBMASTER-- RUSSELL BURT-----[webmaster@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:webmaster@pacificexplorers.org)  
BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR-- KAREN NORRIS-----[boatdivecoordinator@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:boatdivecoordinator@pacificexplorers.org)  
BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR-- MIKE BUSHELL-----[beachdivecoordinator@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:beachdivecoordinator@pacificexplorers.org)  
OPPORTUNITY COORDINATOR-- CRAIG HOOVER  
NEWSLETTER-- DAVID CARLSON-----[newsletter@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:newsletter@pacificexplorers.org)  
Web Site: [www.pacificexplorers.org](http://www.pacificexplorers.org) Board: [board@pacificexplorers.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 at Sport Chalet.

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**