

The Pacific Explorer July 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 Don Davis.

Speaker of the month...By Kevin Shapiro



This month we have Tony Patta. A fellow dive instructor and avid photographer. Not only an underwater photographer, but has also been into astro-photography, kinda the opposite of macro. This visit, Tony will be giving us his insights into the ins and outs of Macro Photography.

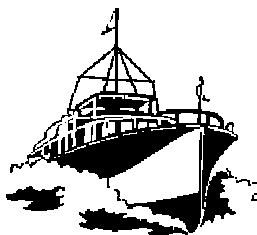
Beach Dive: Saturday July 19th at Nicholas Canyon Beach...By Mike Bushell



July's club beach dive is Saturday July 19th at Nicholas Canyon beach at 9AM. Directions are as follows; take PCH west past Decker Canyon Road, Nicholas Canyon is on the left just before you start down the hill to Leo Carrillo. There is plenty of pay for fee parking. It is a bit of a walk to the

beach but well worth it. It is a strong reef with lots of life, in fact a few years ago on a club beach dive we saw an electric torpedo ray, please don't touch. Surf permitting this is an easy sandy beach entry and exit. This year we have had excellent turnouts for our beach dives, let's do it again and I promise water temperatures in the mid sixties.

Boat Dive: July 26th to San Clamente, back- side—NICE—on the Great Escape



...by Karen Norris

This July, the club boat dive is aboard the Great Escape out of Long Beach. We will be heading to the backside of San Clemente. The Great Escape is a roomy ship with great food. San Clemente offers some spectacular diving. You'll find lush kelp beds, abalone, and better visibility, in general, than at the islands. The backside of the island is less frequently visited than the frontside, so we might see more pristine diving and more fish. I have been eager to return to San Clemente since my last visit. Contact Reefseekers to reserve your place. Be certain to mention that you are a Pacific Explorer when you book the trip for a 10% discount. If you book and pay 2 weeks prior to the trip, the fare is \$140, a real bargain these days!



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS

Well, of course the biggest recent event was the awesome trip to Cozumel last week!! We all had a WONDERFUL week of diving, and really enjoyed the warm, clear water and smooth, easy diving. Lots of folks partook in extra-curricular activities including diving the cenotes, taking a non-diving day trip to Chichen-Itza, taking a jeep tour of the island, whale shark snorkeling out of Cancun, and heading out to some not-often-dived spots on the northern tip. There will be LOTS of stories to share in the coming months, and be assured we're putting together a great "best of" group of pictures and video to be shared at a future meeting. On the downside, there were a pretty good number of us (myself included) who got visited by the curse of Montezuma. Fortunately my case (along with Russell's) waited until the night we got home (but when it hit...oh boy!). Dave and Kathy ended up missing a day of diving because of it, and I spoke to several folks that had milder versions. Oh well...the price we pay for great diving! All in all it was a really great trip, and once again I want to give Dave Carlson my heartiest thanks for setting up a great trip for the group!!!!

Last month's club beach dive had one of the highest attendances for a dive-only event (non-picnic or other event) I can recall. We had around TWENTY people show up at El Pescador. And they were rewarded with.....ugh, well you might be able to say that we had 5 feet of vis, if you used your imagination. And to think that just a week previous we had at least 20 ft. at Deer Creek. Oh well, you can all blame me...I brought my camera this time, so that probably jinxed it!!!

Karen Norris and just a few other Explorers went out on the Cee Ray to Catalina and reported EXCELLENT conditions. So if you didn't go you certainly missed a great day. They definitely saw black sea bass at Italian Gardens, and Karen said the other sites were just as great, especially noting that she didn't ever recall seeing as many eels at a Catalina dive site before.

I haven't talked to anyone (even my contacts at CS2R) about the SCUBA Show, so I'm hoping that it was a great success this year. If anyone did go, please e-mail the board and let us know how it went!

UPCOMING

Well, this may seem to be a bit premature, but we are only a few months away from nominating new board positions in October. We really haven't discussed who on the board is planning on a "return engagement" next year, so ANY position is open if you would like to help out our wonderful club!! Ask any current board member and I'm sure they'll tell you that it really doesn't take a huge amount of your spare time, and really does keep the club strong and interesting for everyone to have engaged and fresh ideas from board members. Positions are: President, Vice President (entertainment coordinator), Treasurer, Membership, Beach Dive Coordinator, Boat Dive Coordinator, Webmaster, Opportunity Drawing Coordinator, and Secretary. Come on in folks, the water's fine!!!!

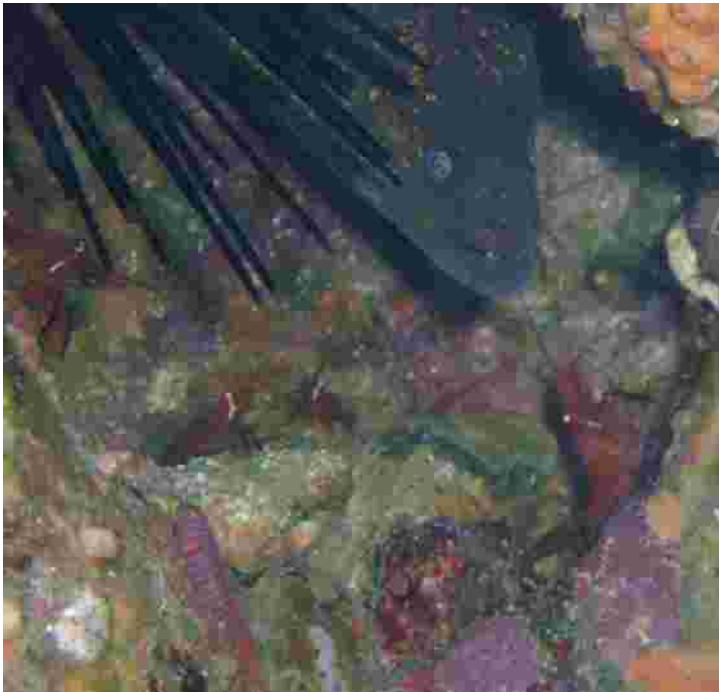
DIVE ON...

Your President,
Kevin Sullivan

Catalina Diving...by Karen Norris

Three lucky club divers joined the June Club boat dive to Catalina. David Tsao, Craig Gelpi, and I headed out from Long Beach on the Cee Ray. This is an older boat, but the galley has plenty of seating and the dive deck is spacious. Even the single bunks have plenty of elbow room, making the trip to the island a comfortable one. We had a choice of three long dives or two long dives and two shorter dives.

Our first dive was at Italian Gardens. I've always considered Italian Gardens as a somewhat "ho-hum" site – great for viewing the Giant Black



Sea Bass, but poor for general scenery and wildlife. My mind has been changed. The previously sterile slope of the site has been transformed over the past year into a lush kelp forest teeming with life! The usual fish suspects were present and an eel and its accompanying band of cleaner shrimp occupied nearly every rocky crevice. Colorful blue-banded gobies and even elusive zebra gobies decorated the rocks. Giant sea hares were mating and laying enormous mounds of eggs. I even spotted a few abalone. The star of the site, a GBSB, cruised up and down the site, just outside the kelp. I broke open a

couple of urchins to feed several octopuses. They had to fend off the sheephead, kelp bass, and other fish to steal their portions of the urchins. It was a splendid dive made better by the (relatively) warm water and 40-foot visibility. By unanimous decision the boat stayed anchored for a second dive at Italian Gardens.

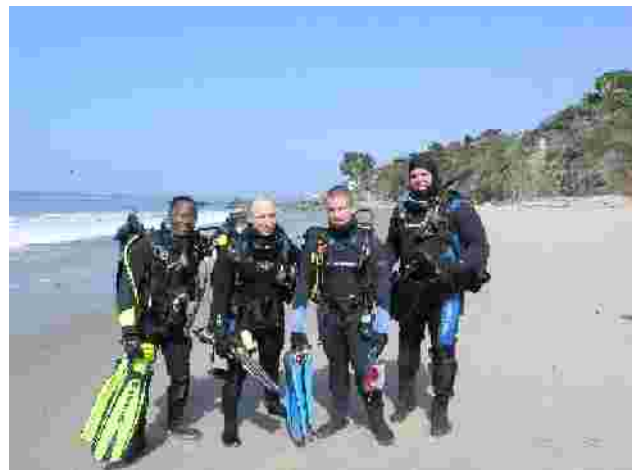
We headed to Sea Fan Grotto for our final dives of the day. Clear water greeted us as we swam over to the grotto. Sunlight filtered through the water and lit the gorgonians that drape the grotto walls. Simply beautiful! I located a single Garibaldi nest of red algae, but it was devoid of eggs. I found several eels and their merry band of shrimp. Later I found an octopus trying very hard to look like a rock. An hour of bottom time didn't leave room for a fourth dive. We packed our gear and settled in with slices of pie and scoops of ice cream for the smooth ride back to the dock. It was another great day of California diving!



Scuba Show 2008...by Bill Pringle

Betty and I made the yearly homage to Long Beach Convention Center, getting there was an adventure in its self! Decided on taking Metro Link to the show, couldn't have been a busier weekend to work on the tracks, well it took awhile to get to Long Beach! The show was smaller and an in different location than last year, saw quite a few fellow Explorers, yeah the ones who were left behind that did not make it to Cozumel! Kevin Shapiro was at the door waiting to greet us as Betty & I walked in. Saturday afternoon was good, not super crowded. My personal favorite the history of scuba diving exhibit, dive gear has come a long way. Former members Kathleen and Michael Griffin came down from Northern California for the show. Kathleen is now a baggage handler for Santa Rosa air port! There was really cool stuff, an inflatable boat the divers enter through the bottom of the boat a mere 24K! A lay-on motorize sled with twin propellers, didn't ask how much it was! A flexible dry suit, a good deal if you in the market for a new suit. The Philippines travel promotion had great display, people in traditional costumes. All in all I would say pretty much the same stuff as last year, it's the people that you meet there, and old friends that you haven't seen for a while make a difference.

June 7th beach dive at El Pescadore..by Vernon Brown



Santa Cruz Island Dive Report

By Mark Navas

Craig Dockendorf, Nathan Byron, Brent Sharpe and I dove the backside of Santa Cruz Island 6/28–6/29. The water temp was 62-63F with visibility ranging from 5'-20' under sunny skies. The first kelp bed we hit was flooded with ten other boats so we thought it should be easy finding the White Sea Bass (WSB). We jumped in and covered a large area but the kelp was completely devoid of life. The next kelp bed we stopped at Nathan fires a shot and lands his first WSB ever! The croaking was so loud and frequent that it sounded like a bullfrog symphony underwater. By the end of the day Nathan had his limit, Craig had 2 WSB and a huge Sheepshead and I had one WSB. The winds were picking up to 20kts so we anchored in the calm waters behind Scorpions Rock on the front side of the island for the night.

Sunday morning we returned to the same kelp bed. The water visibility had improved with the tide but the croaking had stopped. I covered a huge section of the south kelp bed and didn't see anything except bait and Barracuda's. Craig met me at the boat with WSB on his stringer. He said there are tons of fish in the north kelp bed. We all moved there and sure enough 4 more WSB were taken. Craig worked the outside of the kelp bed for a while and landed a nice 27.60lb Yellowtail. I landed three large Barracuda with the largest weighing 7.82lb. The wind was picking up so we headed home to cap off a great weekend of diving.

Dive Safe,
Mark



LA Sheriff/Chamber Dive...by Denise Noguera

I'm glad Russell wrote about this event. In fact, he beat me to it as I was getting ready to send out an email to everyone about this. Some of you may actually recall that I spoke about it a few months back at one of our meetings.

As Russell said, it's an event that benefits the Hyperbaric Chamber on Catalina as well as another program for kids that is run by the Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department. LA County Sherriff's are the main organizers for the event. There are several events that happen throughout the day but all in all, just a lot of fun.

The event is actually called the Gold Star Dive and it is exactly as it sounds. Gold stars are dropped within the Casino Point Dive Park for divers to find and at 10:00 A.M. a canon is fired and everyone enters the water. Prizes are handed out for the gold stars brought up by the divers. There is plenty of food and drinks and a raffle that actually takes place after the dive portion of the event. The raffle is actually held in the center square in the City of Avalon. (Just a short walk from the dive park and on the way back to the marina)

I have participated in this event for many years now, not as a diver, but as one of the rescue/safety divers. I belong to a group called American Diving Team which actually came out of the American Diving Shop in Lomita, California. Unfortunately, our beloved dive shop no longer exists but the dive team continues and is still being headed up by my good friend, dive buddy and instructor, Steve De Napoli. He has been asked to bring our team to staff the event ever since it's inception 11 years ago.

I will be there again this year again doing my best to keep the divers safe (I will probably be on one of the kayaks again) and I hope to see many of you there. It's always a fun day at this event and diving at Casino Point is always great. I've never had a bad dive experience there all the times of gone.

So once again, I hope to see you there. Be sure and stop by and say hello to me and the rest of the American Diving Team. We're usually staged in front of the flag pole and kind've hard to miss. J

Happy Diving

<http://www.catalinagoldstardive.org/>

New Members

Craig Gelpi, **Javier Jung,** **Hillary Adler** (long time member, first time to a meeting)

Members at the next level!!!

Eric Montoya - Wreck Diver

Don Davis - Wreck Diver

Chris Kenst - Wreck, Search & Recovery Diver

Javier Jung - Wreck, Night, Boat, and Nitrox Specialty,

Patrick Hartman - Advanced OW

Hillary Adler - Advanced OW

Alex Gorokhov - Advanced OW

Ramon Hidalgo - Advanced OW

For Sale

I have a steel 95CF tank I'd like to sell. It's a low pressure, and it's been hydroed recently. Great for those boat dives where they never seem to fill your tank "to the top." I put a modern, new K valve on it to replace an old, leaky J valve. \$125 gets it. Can you add this to the next newsletter?

Al Kholos ----- aekholos@yahoo.com

2008 Explorers Dive Schedule Come On Out and Get Wet

Month	Date	Location	Boat	Contact	Cost	Notes
July	19	Nicolas Cyn	your car		free	A
July	26	San Clemente (backside)	Great Escape	1	\$155/165	
Aug	16	Club picnic Leo Carrillo	your car		free	B
Aug	23	Santa Barbara Island	Great Escape	1	\$155/165	
Sep	13	Catalina	Sundiver	2	\$130	

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

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

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting June 4, 2008

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

Kevin Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm at Mavericks in Simi Valley.

President-Kevin Sullivan: The upcoming Cozumel trip was discussed regarding finances and payments. Requirements for beach dives were discussed with a minimum of C card, depth gage and pressure gage required for anyone participating. Kevin asked Kathy White to check on shirts.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Karen reported on the upcoming boat dives for July through October.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike reported on the upcoming beach dives for June through August. It was decided that the August Beach Dive/Club Picnic will be at Leo.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Dave past out the most recent newsletters for those going to the local dive shops.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting June 11, 2008

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin called the meeting to order at 7pm at Denny's in Canoga park. Kevin commented on the great beach dive on Saturday June 7th. Spoke regarding dive boats and their needing to raise the fees due to the cost of fuel. Cozumel trip is all set and the club is requesting ideas for next years trip.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Per Liz all is good with the treasury.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy reported we have 108 members including two new members, Craig Gelpi and Javier Jung. There was one guest, Arin Baghdaaian. Kathy further reminded everyone of the August Beach Dive/Club Picnic on the 16th at Leo and pointed out the signup sheet at the back of the room.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Karen announced the boat dives for July through October.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike reported that the beach dives have been really good and the turnout great. He further announced the beach dives for July and August.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Dave again reminded everyone that he needed photos and articles.

Guest Speaker: Vice President Kevin Shapiro introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Andrew Lee, who gave an impressive presentation on the Ships to Reefs program for Southern California.

Opportunity Awards-Craig Hoover: Craig held the drawing with the following winners:

Tank Cover – Ron Michalski

Mask – David Tsao

Reef Fish Book – Dave Leffert

Socks – Kevin Sullivan

Coil Lanyard – Ross L.

Tank Lights – Casey Anderson

Water Gun – Frank Miller

Ships to Reef DUI Suit Ticket – Paul Kayne

Larry the Lobster – Don Davis

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

PRESIDENT-- KEVIN SULLIVAN-----president@pacificexplorers.org
 VICE PRESIDENT-- KEVIN SHAPIRO-----vicepresident@pacificexplorers.org
 TREASURER-- LIZ SULLIVAN-----treasurer@pacificexplorers.org
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 MEMBERSHIP-- KATHY WHITE-----membership@pacificexplorers.org
 WEBMASTER-- RUSSELL BURT-----webmaster@pacificexplorers.org
 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