

# The Pacific Explorer June 2008

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

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

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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  
Craig Hoover.**



## Speaker of the month...By Kevin Shapiro

This month we have Andy Lee from Ships to Reefs giving us the latest and greatest on how things are progressing in the efforts to put some new wrecks in our own back yard. I for one would love to have something like the Yukon in the waters off of PV.



## Beach Dive: Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> at El Pescadore of the month...By Mike Bushell

The June club beach dive is scheduled for Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. This is a spot I am sure most of you have never tried. El Pescador beach is just west of El Matador on PCH. Take PCH west past Zuma, Broad Beach and El Matador, El Pescador is the next beach just before you hit Decker Canyon Road and it is plainly marked. There is plenty of parking for a fee, \$3.00. I consider this a better spot than El Matador. It is quite a hike down to the beach and a bit of a swim to the reef but well worth it. If the conditions are good you will not be disappointed. Hope to see you there.



## Boat Dive: June 15<sup>th</sup> to Catalina on the CeeRay...by Karen Norris

This June, the club boat dive is aboard the CeeRay out of Long Beach. We will be heading to Catalina. We'll hit two areas of the island. Italian Gardens is well known for its resident group of Giant Black Sea Bass. These fish are easily approached and quite a sight to see. Some of them are behemoths! The second area we'll visit is the East End. Boats visit the East End of Catalina less often than other areas of Catalina. It is very close to open ocean, so there is a higher chance of seeing pelagic fishes. Be certain to mention that you are a Pacific Explorer when you book the trip for a 10% discount. This brings the fare to \$126, a real bargain these days! A good trip for new divers!!!



## A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

### RECENT EVENTS

I hope that everyone has had the opportunity to get out and get some diving in lately. I'm not sure if our luck is golden this season or what, but we have somehow avoided the bad visibility that continues to be reported around the southland. Liz, myself, and a group of friends took a "hooky day" off of work on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> and went out on the Raptor out of Ventura to Santa Cruz island. We had been hearing about horrible visibility out at the islands, so we were a little concerned in the days leading up to the trip. However, when we arrived at Cruz (after crossing nearly mirror flat seas!) we dropped down into easily 30 ft + visibility on the deep walls at Yellowbanks. It was a great day including a final dive at one of our favorite spots, the wreck of the Peacock at Scorpion's Anchorage. Just a few days after that, the dark skies and chilly weather set back in. I don't know who's been working their mojo on Mother Nature on our behalf, but whatever you're doing...KEEP DOING IT!!!!

The club beach dive is late in the month this go-around (next weekend as I write this), so I hope to see a continuation of the great participation we've had over the last few months.

### UPCOMING

#### SCUBA SHOW & CASINO NIGHT!

I have to say I'm very surprised that more folks haven't taken advantage of the great opportunity drawing being held during Casino Night at the 2008 SCUBA Show on June 21 and benefiting California Ships to Reefs (CS2R). The prizes available are really excellent values for your \$10 investment, and there are only ONE THOUSAND (1000) tickets being sold. The prizes this year are: 1<sup>st</sup> prize – DUI TLS350 drysuit; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – DUI BC; and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – DUI weight harness system.

One thing most people are probably not aware of is that the DUI raffle is not the only opportunity for great prizes at Casino Night, except that these you have to be present to win. The Grand Prize this year is a dive trip to Indonesia including 7 nights @ Cocotinos Resort ([www.odysseadivers.com/resort\\_cocotinos.php](http://www.odysseadivers.com/resort_cocotinos.php)) and 5 nights at Kasawari-Lembeh Resort ([www.kasawari-lembeh.com](http://www.kasawari-lembeh.com)), provided by Scuba Travel Ventures ([www.scubatravelventures.com](http://www.scubatravelventures.com)). There are also over \$25,000 in other donated prizes!! So don't miss out on the great fun and opportunity for some cool prizes, not to mention supporting an awesome cause! I have tickets available for Casino night (\$25 each), as well as the DUI raffle (\$10 each).

For those of you not coming to Cozumel, the SCUBA show is a great event with lots of information from travel agents, resorts, equipment manufacturers, publications, and just about everything else you can think of related to SCUBA...and some things you probably didn't expect too!! If you have the time I highly recommend that you attend one or more of the great short seminars on interesting subjects, and there's also Casino night benefiting CS2R!!!!

## SPECIAL TOPIC – SKILLS

Well, in case you haven't noticed, the summer diving season is right around the corner. There are lots of ways to get yourself back into diving if you've taken the winter off. Coming out to one of the club's beach dives is one great way to get back in the water and have some great folks along to help offer advice and give you some moral support. Another thing to take advantage of is one of the LA County "Rocks, Rips, and Reefs" (3-R's). This program is designed to specifically help you improve your beach diving skills including: choosing appropriate entry and exit points; safe entry and exit skills; identifying, anticipating, and navigating hidden obstacles in the surf zone; how to use the ocean's natural wave motion to your advantage; how to plan your dive by reading the ocean's surface and using tide tables; and other great information. There is a 3-R session every month through October, and more information can be found at <http://www.lascuba.com/3rs.html>. Classes are typically 8 – 11 a.m. and only cost \$5 (tax deductible).

Finally, we are really fortunate to have several experienced and very skilled instructors in our dive club. It is well worth your while to ask them what the most appropriate next instructional class would be good to help you move to that next step in diving.

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

## Reef Check Training Liz Sullivan

The Pacific Explorers had a Reef Check representative speak to our club last year. As a result of that, I went online and set Kevin and myself up on a waiting list for the next SoCal training class. Earlier this year, we received an email with the available classes and we signed up for the two day training course followed by a two day boat trip.

The Reef Check class basically trains you to survey near shore reefs and collect data on certain "indicator" species. We learned what species those were when we received the study material in the mail. Before the first class we needed to be able to identify around 40 species of fish, 30 different kinds of invertebrates and about 9 types of algae (kelp). I found that studying all the flashcards with the species was fairly easy but would come to learn that applying it in the water was considerably more difficult.



First part of the training was held in Long Beach at the Aquarium of the Pacific. We had a half day of lecture given by Colleen Wisniewski, who manages the Southern California Reef Check program. The first part of the class was a marine ecology crash course that highlighted on the human pressures on the ecosystem and the need for accurate long term monitoring. The

second part of the lecture focused on survey methods and common problems divers can have when doing their surveys.

After lunch we met at the aquarium and tried to identify some of the species of Rockfish and Perch that we had studied. Not so easy! The fish can look very different in person and it was apparent that special features that a species of fish has (black dot, large eyes,) in addition to where you found them (under rocks, near bottom) was more important than just making a connection with the general color or basic “look” of the fish. There is a bit of skill to making an accurate identification when picking through a tank of Rockfish! In addition to identifying the correct species, you have to know how not to include the species that are not part of the count.



On day two we had a pool session at Belmont Shores where we all got hands on training on how to run a transect line and identify fish by size. We got to practice using the slates with the species ID paperwork held inside. It's another skill trying to write with a tiny pencil underwater while wearing thick gloves. We spent the morning doing surveys in the pool and comparing data with the team leaders much like the process is in the ocean.

After trying to wash the chemicals from an overly chlorinated pool out our hair, we headed back to the lecture room at the Aquarium so we could take our species ID test. “Oh, this will be easy”, I thought. Accurately identifying the fish, invertebrates and algae is one thing but doing it quickly is another. We were shown the species on slides on the projection screen at the front of the room. We had 5 seconds to look at the fish and about 5 seconds to find it on the ID form and mark it off. I had beaucoup troubles finding everything on the form so quickly and I evidently let out a few nasty expletives that everyone in the room could hear. As a result of the time challenge or my outer disturbance, a number of people had to retake the test over the following weekend. Basically, you need to not only know your fish, but your form as well because the fish don't stop swimming so you can stare at your slate!

The following weekend was set for a two day trip on The Peace to Anacapa to lay some practice transects and do some counting. We anchored near Cathedral Cove and the team leaders went out first to lay transects and we entered the water just after. Much like the busy weekend before with the class room lectures, it was a non stop day that went by quickly. For me, counting the things that were in abundance took a few tries to get it right. The first day had transects full of urchins and the second day had a site full of wavy turban snails. The snails can look quite a bit like rocks so you can easily miss a whole bunch if you are not careful. Overall, the weekend went really well and the team leaders were there to answer all questions and discuss them at length so that we understood what we were looking for and how to best identify it. And as for The Peace, awesome as usual, it was great to dive on that boat again. Oh they fed us really well, too!

After completing the class we joined the forum on the website and learned that the first kickoff survey was soon to follow and Kevin and I immediately signed up. Our first real survey was at Malaga Cove in Palos Verdes. Just like the classroom training and the boat training, it was a non stop day that was action packed. I buddied up with a veteran Reef Check diver named Ted and Kevin dove with another person that we got certified with. Ted was overseeing my

work since I wanted a bit more practice and he checked and compared our counts. Kevin and I buddied up on the second dive and helped finish off the remaining transects for that site. It was a really great day because we were able to complete the entire site survey in one day. They told us it had taken four tries last year! I loved diving at Malaga but one word of warning. It's not the hill you have to walk up and down or the rocks here and there on the beach...it's the holes NEXT to the rocks! It was rather comedic to watch Kevin fall sideways into the surf after landing in one of the holes only to have the same thing happen to me a few seconds later. It must have looked pretty lame but we all got a good laugh out of it.

I found that each person involved with Reef Check has a ton of knowledge and it's great to get to dive with and learn from them. The people within the organization do an amazing job of organizing the events and teaching the classes. We really enjoyed the class and are having a good time helping out with the surveys. Kevin and I have a new appreciation for all the things we see on our recent club dives since we have taken the Reef Check training. We both find ourselves pointing out the indicator species we see to each other, and it seems that we look at the reefs with a new fascination, which is great! We are both looking forward to doing many more surveys with the great SoCal Reef Check organization.



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

Month	Date	Location	Boat	Contact	Cost	Notes
June	15	Catalina (East End)	CeeRay	2	\$130/140	
June	21-28	Cozumel			\$1,450	D
July	26	San Clemente (backside)	Great Escape	2	\$150/160	
Aug	16	Nicolas Beach	your car		free	C
Aug	23	Santa Barbara Island	Great Escape	2	\$150/160	
Sep	13	Catalina	Sundiver	7	\$130	

1--Sport Chalet 800-348-3794 2--Reef Seekers 310-652-4990  
 3--Hollywood Divers 323-969-9875 4--Aloha Dive 818-700-8134  
 5--Ocean Safari 626-287-6283 6--Beach Cities Scuba 949-443-3858  
 7--Dolphin Dive Center 626-447-5536

A-Advanced Divers only B-Club Beach dive C-Club Picnic D-Warm and easy diving!

# What a Beach Dive!!!

A recap of the May beach dive by Vernon Brown

The Pacific Explorers May beach dive at Deer Creek, that was held in June was great!!! The surf conditions were excellent. We had ten explorers out diving (Mike Bushell, Dave Bently, Liz and Kevin Sullivan, Ron and son Cody Brunski, three guys I have never met, and me). Also, there were six other divers from another dive club.

The day was sunny, the weather comfortable, the water slightly surgy, the water temp was 53 degrees and the viz was 20ft near shore and on the other side of the reef viz was up to 30ft. I got there at 8:30 and watched the other club go in. By 9:00 all the Pacific Explorers showed up and we were suited up and in the water by 9:30. The reef was very close and the kelp was full and lush. I dove with Cody and Ron. There were lots of sheep crabs here, ...and I do mean big sheep crab, and several LARGE crabs that had died for unknown reasons?!?! I think there are squids or octopus around there somewhere. There were just two many cracked shells of small crabs everywhere. Or... this is a prime mottling area for crabs!!! Our dive last 40 minutes... Cody got a little cold... Ron had reached our turnaround point of 1200PSI... and I had a slow leak in my reg. We were the first to enter the water and the first to return. The other club divers had also returned and they had caught a two foot Halibut. That's why we could not find many fish, the hunters caught them all!!!

On each dive I learn something new that reinforces good diving practice. On this dive, it saw the importance of good underwater communications and knowing the importance of not over-stating your skill level. I enjoy diving with Ron and his son Cody... we have dove together many times. We all communicate well together and we are comfortable with each other dive skills. The main challenge I found in this dive was the overhead environment... the kelp was thick. It is important to know how to dive in kelp. And if you get in a situation where you must surface in kelp, you should be able to do the kelp crawl to get out. All in all it was a great day for diving... and fun was had by all!!! Hopefully I will see you all at next months beach dive!!!

*THANKS Vern*



Pre-Register Now for  
THE Diving Event of the Year!™  
SCUBA Show 2008

The largest dive expo in the United States, *SCUBA Show 2008*, will take place June 21-22 at the Long Beach Convention Center.



### Exhibits

76,000 square feet of exhibit space will host over 200 exhibitors featuring new and revolutionary dive gear, dive travel representatives and scuba experts.

Many exhibitors will be offering discounts only found at the show!

Find out who will be exhibiting [here](#).

### Seminars

33 seminars are presented during the weekend, packed with information, learning and entertainment. Top dive experts from around the globe will present detailed information on marine life, must-know travel information, photography and video techniques, dive medicine and more.

## **Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting May 7, 2008**

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

Kevin Sullivan called the meeting order at 7pm at Don Cucos in Simi Valley

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin commented on the beach dives being very good and the price of boat dives being up. Cozumel trip OK as far as airline and accommodations. Members need to be thinking about next years trip. Kathy White to check on tax returns, and in addition club T shirts and sweat shirts. Motion was made and carried to authorize setup fee for designs on shirts.

Vice President: In the absence of Kevin Shapiro, Dave Carlson reported that Andy Holman would be presenting the program at the May meeting on Indonesia Wreck Dive.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy reported that renewals were slowly coming in. In addition, she talked about the annual Beach Party on August 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, place to be determined.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Karen Norris went over the boat dive schedule through August and is working on the September dive.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike report the beach dive for May will be Deer Creek on the 31<sup>st</sup> and June on the 7<sup>th</sup>, place to be determined.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Dave said newsletter is going OK, he is having a lot of fun with it and wants lots of photos.

Business: The annual Christmas Party was discussed. Date will be December 7, 2008, place to be determined.

Opportunity Awards-Craig Hoover: Craig reported all going OK.

## **Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting May 14, 2008**

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:04pm at Denny's in Canoga Park. Kevin commented on the good beach dives, reminded everyone of the Scuba Show coming in June. Regarding Ships2Reefs, he and Dave Carlson are the public speakers for the group and available for any organization. In addition, Oceans Foundation in San Diego sink group has decided to turn their efforts from sinking a ship to other areas, thus making it more important than ever that we support the Los Angeles area. He further reported that he and Liz had completed their reef certification training. It was also reported that Chamber Day had taken in approximately \$130,000.00. And finally, it was suggested that we make a calendar of Larry the Lobster with photos of each month he is dressed up.

Vice President-Kevin Shapiro: Kevin introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Andy Holman, who it turned out was the original founder of Pacific Explorers, and gave a great presentation on the wreck in Bali of Tulamben.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Liz reported all OK with the treasury.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy introduced two guests, Vivian and Randy Tyrrel, and two new members Patrick Hartman and Robert Oteri, and reported five renewals.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Karen reported on the upcoming boat dives through August.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike report on the May dive at Deer Creek and the June dive at El Pescador.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Dave reported that the newsletter was a "piece of cake" and that if no one sent in articles from dives that they had done, he would hunt them down on the internet and find something to write about. He also reported that the Cozumel trip is going OK.

Opportunity Awards-Craig Hoover: Craig presented the following prizes:

Fish Cards – Karen Norris	Water Bottle – Andy Holman	Picture Frame – Nancy Burke
T Shirt – Kathy White	Tank Holder – Anna Schulte	Invertebrates Book – Paul Kayne
Beach Towel – Craig Hoover	Mouth Piece – Tom Pelosi	Stress Ball – Russ Widel
Larry the Lobster – Craig Hoover		

## 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	<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)  
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 BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR-- KAREN Norris----- [boatdive@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:boatdive@pacificexplorers.org)  
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 OPPORTUNITY COORDINATOR-- CRAIG HOOVER-----[prizes@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:prizes@pacificexplorers.org)  
 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.

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