

The Pacific Explorer March 2008

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

Web Site: www.pacificexplorers.org

Contact us: board@pacificexplorers.org



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... By Kevin Shapiro

This month's speaker is one of our own, Russell Burt talking about his recent trip to the fresh waters of Florida and diving with *manatees*. Russell Burt has been diving since 1992 and is a PADI IDC Staff Instructor for Sport Chalet. He specializes in underwater video and photography, and has been diving throughout the world. He teaches

Multimedia and Web Design at the Art Institute of CA-Los Angeles...



BEACH DIVE: Saturday March 8th along Malibu Road By Mike Bushell

The March beach dive is scheduled for Saturday the 8th at 9AM. This dive spot is commonly known as Malibu Road. The directions are as follows; take Las Virgenes to PCH then left to Webb Way, at bottom of the hill, make a right at Web Way and at end make another right. The dive will be at the third beach public access gate, the address is 24604. Surf permitting this is an easy dive with a very short hike. See you there...



BOAT DIVE: Sunday, March 30 aboard the Truth to Local SB Wrecks By Karen Noris

Something different to tantalize your diving palette. We are going off the Santa Barbara to check out some of the local wrecks. We are going on the Truth Aquatics boat the Truth. This is another class operation and everyone should try one of their boats at least once. We leave Sunday at 4AM so you want to board the night before. We should be back by 6PM. The cost is \$119 and that includes food and air fills for 4 dives, no nitrox. Our planned destinations are the SM-1 and the Gosford off of Pt Conception. The Gosford is a 4-masted wooden sailing ship wrecked in 35 - 55 feet of water. There is a large debris field around the wreck, great for exploring. There is often a kelp forest covering the wreck. The SM-1 is also known as the Oil Barge Wreck. It is upside down, in 80 feet of water. Contact Truth Aquatics at 805-962-1127 www.truthaquatics.com...



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS

We are continuing to get very good attendance at our activities this year, with 11 folks showing up for the Corral beach dive. This was a really fun day with several folks getting some serious interaction with a very friendly/curious harbor seal. We once again were rewarded with an absolutely beautiful day at the beach with lots of warming suns rays and wonderful camaraderie. Thanks to everyone for continuing to support Mike's hard work by attending the beach dives!!

As I write this article the annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup is happening out on Catalina Island. I know several Explorers are attending that event once again this year, so I'm hoping to see some good reports either in the current, or next month's newsletter. Liz and I opted out after attending the last 4 years running, but it turned out to be a good decision anyway because I'm nursing a pretty serious head cold and wouldn't have been able to dive anyway.

Liz and I were recently privileged to receive an invitation to a private premier screening of a film called "Island of the Great Whites" being presented at the Aquarium of the Pacific. The film focused on the research being done about great white sharks at Guadalupe Island by the young researcher who was on our trip to Guadalupe in 2003, Mauricio Hoyos Padilla. We got to catch up with some folks who were on our trip including Mauricio, SharkDiver.com president & CEO Patrick Douglas, and Captain Greg from Horizon charters. It was a wonderful evening with the highlight being the film presentation, and a question and answer with the film maker Richard Theiss, Mauricio, and others involved in the film. The film definitely showed the sharks to be as we remembered them, pensive and cautious, and not the aggressive hunters that they are so often portrayed. We will let you all know when to watch for the film, which will most likely end up on Discovery/Animal Planet, National Geographic, or even PBS in the near future.

UPCOMING

Liz and I are really looking forward to the March boat dive. This month Karen has us headed out to some wrecks near Point Conception on the Truth. These are some relatively infrequently visited sites for the Truth Aquatics folks, and promise to be some really adventurous dives! The Gosford was a four-masted schooner carrying a load of coal that burned and sank in 1893. While only pieces of the structure remain, the dive site supports a great variety of life and kelp. The other wreck on the slate for this trip is the SM-1, a former Navy landing ship which sank in 1961. We are really looking forward to being back on one of the Truth Aquatics boats as we had an excellent time on the Vision last year.

COZUMEL!!!!

OK folks...the time has come to pony up the cash for Cozumel. We need everyone's final payment by the general club meeting on Wednesday, March 12. In addition, we will need a copy of your passport. As I write this, the Cozumel trip is very nearly full. One other thing we highly recommend is to make sure you have trip insurance to cover your investment. If you have trip insurance along with your diver coverage, you should absolutely review your policy to make sure you understand the conditions of refunds. While we have scheduled this trip at the front end of hurricane season and don't expect any problems, anything can happen. Make sure you are covered!!!!

SPECIAL TOPIC - CALIFORNIA SHIPS TO REEFS (CS2R)

Liz, myself, Dave, and Kathy all recently joined the California Ships to Reefs organization, and plan on taking part in some of their action committees to get this project under way in the LA area. Dave and myself are on the Public Speakers committee, and are hoping that we can get the message of the CS2R plan out to not just dive clubs (preaching to the choir), but any other local groups such as Rotary Clubs, Elks/Moose Lodges, VFW's, etc. If you are a member of one of these organizations, please contact Dave or myself to arrange a presentation!!

DIVE ON...

*Your President,
Kevin Sullivan*

Corral Beach Dive By Chris Kenst

Saturday was a great day for my first "official" dive since joining the club because the weather was excellent. There were no clouds, the sun was out and the waves were about as calm as I've seen. Having never dived with the group before, I wanted to make sure I got to the site early. I figured if the dive time is 9 a.m., I should be there around 8:30 and be ready and in the water by 9. Boy was I wrong! I guess that shows how different your dive classes are from real life!

When everyone arrived, I partnered with Craig Hoover and we headed towards the rocks at end of the beach for our entry point. Once we were down, we swam west into the kelp bed. It was a crispy 57 degrees at our depth of 28-30ft with about 10ft visibility at the clearest point. In our travels we found a few lobsters, all of which were too small, two small jellyfish and a friendly harbor seal (aside from the usual assortment of fish and sea anemones). This was the first time I've seen jellyfish (outside of an aquarium) and it was pretty amazing. The jellyfish were transparent, except for a light red color on its hood and were maybe 3" long.



At one point visibility got so bad that I lost my buddy so I did what any diver would do and stopped, looked around for a minute or two and then proceeded to the surface. Out of the corner of my eye I thought I saw Craig swimming behind me, instead it turned out to be a harbor seal that had become interested in me. As I moved towards the surface the seal followed me, grabbing onto my fin and started nibbling on it. (I sure wished I had a camera on me!) When I surfaced I found Craig already there with our new friend. He proceeded to check Craig out and then followed us back down.



In the end I think we all had a bit of fun on Saturday; the weather was great and so was the food afterwards. All I can say is bring on the next dive!!!



Lobster Dive before the Club Dive By Mark Navas

Keith Biondi, Dave Carlson and I were so excited about the Corral Beach Club Dive that we had to dive there the night before it!! Just kidding....

With the unusually calm seas for this time of year I thought this might be my last chance at some Lobsters in clear water. Well, clear like 5-12 foot vis water. Hey that's good for Malibu! That's about what we had last night. Swell was 0-1', wind was variable 0-5kts, water temp was 53F (aka "1/4 inch cold"), current was slight running east to west.

Dave and I headed west towards the kelp bed and Keith went east. Heading west from the creek we found lots of sand!! Then some scattered rocks until we hit the structure at the kelp bed. We didn't see much in the kelp but as we headed back toward shore in 10' - 15' there was eel grass and rocks which held most of the lobsters seen. Too bad all of them were short and most were like little crawdad's! Keith found lots of broken reef with little life and the vis was worse heading east he said.

To our surprise, Kathy was found waiting for us at the beach with a flash light to lead us back to the trail. Keith arrived shortly after. Dave and I were able to take 1 Lobster each and Keith didn't see any legal sized bugs. It was cold and murky but I actually had a blast just being in the water again so get out there and dive when you can...



LOBZILLA!!!

By Mark Navas

Hi all,

I had a great day of diving today. I thought it was a little crazy that my dive buddies wanted to go free diving (no SCUBA tanks) for Lobsters at 4:00am in the morning but I said sure I'll try anything once.....Little did I know that it takes many hours after first dark to get the big Lobsters to come out of there holes.

I started seeing small Lobsters (Bugs) in the shallows at 5-10 feet deep. Most of the bugs seen though were between 15'-20' down during the 250 yard swim along the shore, until the sun came up. The seas had been calm all week which helped bring the water clarity to a 10'-20' visibility. That was good and bad. Good because I hate diving murky water because when the Bugs see your flashlight they take off running across the rocks and duck into the nearest cave just out of reach. The water temp was still 53F so getting in at 4:00am was a little chilly but the good vis made up for it. After an hour of diving I had 6 Bugs that were just a little over the legal size, nothing special. Then I started diving deeper to see if any Bugs were around 15'-25'. There he was, LOBZILLA!!!

I kicked straight down and pinned him to the rocks. He was so big I had to drop my flashlight to grab him with both hands. I slid my hand under his tail and grabbed hold to prevent him from swimming away. In a flash he snapped his huge tail, smashing my fingers between the sharp barbs under his tail. All I could hear was myself screaming underwater as the tail thorns pierced through my Kevlar gloves and cut into my fingers with what felt like 40lbs of crushing force. I shot to the surface for air and he still had a death grip on my fingers like I was the one going to be HIS dinner! I pried hard with my free hand but the tail would not budge. Seeing that his grip was loosening I pulled my fingers out and re-gripped the body shell as he tried to buck his tail and shoot out of my grip. Now I have a handful and how do I get him in my bag, was my first thought. I pinned his body to my thigh with one hand so I could open the Lobster bag with the other. Instantly all 10 of his long claw tipped legs wrapped around my thigh and pinned my hand under his tail. Now I was trying to swim around with one leg and one arm, I looked like HIS dinner again! I finally managed to work all 10 legs free and pull him off my thigh. Then I rolled his huge tail under so he couldn't swim and gripped it closed. Now he's ready to go in the bag! I opened the bag with one hand and stuffed him into it. Unfortunately his legs spread so wide that he spanned the opening of the bag and I could not push him through into it! Shaking his grip loose off the bag, I flipped him upside down and pulled him into the bag with no problem. The bag closed then exploded with what looked like a bull kicking the pen at a rodeo. All 7 Bugs were getting hammered by Lobzilla as he kicked around the bag trying to get out which threw them all into a panic kicking around banging into each other. Once everything settled down I swam back to the boat.

At the dock we weighed Lobzilla, then later on a certified scale, to be 7.34lbs which broke the boat captains new club record by almost 1/2lb for the 2008 L.A. Fathomiers Largest Lobster Trophy, Opppps.....Oh well, it's all about being at the right place at the right time. I'm sure my record will be broken before 12/31/2008 when the trophy is officially awarded, we'll see...



Sunfish Dive October 28, 2007

By Wally Burke

This was our second trip on the Sunfish. We had gone to Santa Cruz Island with about 14 club members from Channel Islands Divers in late August on our first dive trip. We had a great time then and were looking forward to this trip, which the Channel Islands Divers had arranged to go to "Deep Hole" near Neptune's Net in Malibu. This would be our first time diving there.

We arrived at the dock in Channel Islands Harbor early in the morning and loaded our gear into the boat. The crew consisted of Andy, captain / owner, and the Divemaster was Adam. Andy's wife Michelle was on the boat when we boarded to take care of all the financial matters. She left the boat before we sailed. We had a small group of divers, only 12, so the deck hand who normally works the boat wasn't needed today. Andy & Eric were helpful in answering any questions and getting the required paperwork signed and out of the way. We found out before we sailed that we wouldn't be going to Deep Hole after all. Andy had heard that the vis was terrible, and Ken Kollwitz, Dive Coordinator for Channel Islands Divers had also heard the same thing. So the decision was made to try for the backside of Anacapa and maybe Santa Cruz islands.

We left the dock a little late, (at 7:15 AM) because the time change caused some people to arrive late, and one guy had to go back home to get his fins. Conditions on the way over were a little bouncy with some spray coming over the bow of the boat. The winds were higher than the predicted 10 knots, causing the swells to become higher than the predicted two feet. The seas flattened out nicely when we reached the arch on the southern end of Anacapa at 8:25 AM.

Today's dives were to be exploration dives at unnamed sites. The first site was near the Arch on Anacapa on the backside, maybe 200 yards from the island. We dove on a reef where the top was at 70 feet, with a wall on both sides running parallel to the island. There was a fair amount of current on this dive, so Nancy and I first tried hugging the top of the reef, but later found that ducking down into the "canyon" on the side of the reef knocked the current down to an acceptable amount. There was some kelp near the reef, vis was about 10-15 feet in most places with a few places that were better. The water temperature was 59° F. We didn't see anything remarkable on this dive, just the usual fish and critters.

The second dive was near the northern end of the middle island of Anacapa, and was similar in that the vis was 10-15 feet in some places and about 40 feet in others. There wasn't any kelp on this site however. The water temperature was 57° F here. Again there wasn't much remarkable in the way of life at the site.

The last dive was again on the backside of Anacapa a little south/east of "Underwater Island", which is a popular dive site near the northern end of the island. We had lots of kelp at this site, and the depths were from 10-30 feet. The vis was a little worse than the other spots and 59° F at depth. There was a lot of surge especially in the shallower areas. There wasn't a lot to see here. We did spot a pile of Sea Hares laying eggs, and a Nudibranch I hadn't seen before with stripes. The best part of this dive was near the end when we were surrounded for about 10 minutes with a huge school of baitfish. At first they stayed about 10 feet away, but after a while they got used to us and got within about 4-5 feet. It was neat looking in all directions and seeing nothing but silver fish.

We left Anacapa at 3:15 PM and arrived back at the dock at 4:15 PM. Conditions returning home were the same as our morning crossing, but we were going with the swells instead of against them, so the boat was more comfortable and dry. When we reached the dock Andy and Adam helped us unload our gear so we could start our journey back home. Overall it was another nice day of diving with pretty good weather conditions...



Divers Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific, Sunday March 30

Explore the Depths of Diving

Divers give the world eyes with which to look under the sea. Sharing the world of seals, sea lions, dolphins, and other marine life, divers experience a dynamic relationship with the ocean that goes beyond what is known to the land-bound. It is through their adventures and explorations that those of us limited by our terrestrial boundaries have learned of the richness beneath the blanket of blue.

Explore the recent advancements in diving at the Aquarium's annual Divers Day. The Aquarium will host a large range of organizations that are related to the sport and science of diving. The Historical Diving Society will display decades of vintage diving equipment, including masks, helmets, regulators, full lead-weighted diving dress, and much more.

The diving community is invited to find out about volunteer diving at the Aquarium and other opportunities for involvement with dive-related organizations in Southern California. Divers who present valid proof of certification with their photo I.D. will receive free admission on Divers Day, quest receive a 20% discount...

Membership Update 103 Members

NEW MEMBERS

RENEWED MEMBERS

Mark Steffenhagen, Sylvie Miller

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board Meeting February 6, 2008... By Lynn Bushell

Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, Kevin Shapiro, Liz Sullivan, David Carlson, Russell Burt, Craig Hoover, Mike Bushell, Kathy White and guest Cynthia Shapiro.

Kevin Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:45pm at Sierras Mexican Restaurant in Canoga Park.

President-Kevin Sullivan: Final payment for Cozumel trip is due by the March meeting. Kevin stated that he, Liz, David Carlson and Kathy White have joined the Los Angeles chapter of Ships 2 Reefs. Kevin and David are designated speakers for the organization.

Vice President-Kevin Shapiro – It was discussed and decided to discontinue the quarterly participation Sports Chalet gift card. The following are the speakers for the next few meetings:

February – Mark Navas regarding Cozumel

March – Russell Burt on Manatees

April – Kalani Patterson on Thailand

May – Ships 2 Reefs

June or July – Tony Patta on underwater macro

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Books are closed for 2007.

Membership-Kathy White: No new members in the last month. August 16th will be club beach picnic. Also discussed hats, tee shirts, sweat shirts and polo shirts.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: Some email addresses are wrong on newsletter, will be corrected.

Board Dive Coordinator: In the absence of Karen Norris, Kevin Sullivan talked about upcoming boat dives.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Beach dive for February is this Saturday the 9th at 9am corral beach. Beach dive for March probably will be Malibu Road.

Newsletter-David Carlson: Dave is making changes to the newsletter, new format, and printing will be less than \$50.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting February 13, 2008... By Tanda Lockett in the absence of Lynn Bushell

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at Denny's in Canoga Park. Kevin stated that they had a good day of diving in Catalina, water temp 51-55. Cozumel is doing well, money due by March meeting, 22 people are signed up. Kevin further encouraged club members to get involved in Ships 2 Reefs.

Vice President-Kevin Shapiro: Kevin announced our speaker for the evening will be Mark Navas with his presentation on Cozumel. Russell Burt will be speaking about diving in Florida with Manatees at the March meeting.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Liz reported that the 2007 taxes are with the accountant.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy introduced the following guests: Steve Howard, David Townsend, Lisa Von Biereh and Corey Carnegie.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: Russell will be emailing all members the correct board members addresses.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Kathy commented that it was a great boat dive to Catalina. February board dive is the Avalon Harbor Clean-up. March dive is on the Peace out to islands off of Santa Barbara.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike reported on the beach dive last Saturday at Corral Beach with excellent weather and diving. March dive will be Malibu Road on the 8th at 9am. It should be another easy dive.

Newsletter-Dave Carlson: Dave asked that members send diving articles to him.

Guest Speaker: Mark Navas did presentation on Cozumel. He and his wife have been diving there each year since 1990. Backside of the island, go to the Bob Marley bar, and sand beaches. Leeward side of the island ocean is calmer and lots of diving. Typical visibility at least 100 feet.

Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover: Craig presented the prizes to the following winners:
Deep Sea Dive Bag (wheeled duffel) – David Leffert
Polarized sun glasses – Mike Carlson
Aquarium of the Pacific Mug – Craig Hoover
Coastal Fish ID Book – Nancy Burke
An Ocean View Calendar – Lisa Von Biereh
Shark Sticker – Karen Norris

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm



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.*

2008 Explorers Dive Schedule
Come On Out and Get Wet



Month	Date	Location			
March	30	Santa Barbara	Truth	Local Wrecks	\$119
April	20	Catalina front side	(8) Sundiver		\$149
May	18	San Miguel	(7) (A) Peace		\$170
June	15	Catalina	(2) Cee Ray		\$140
July	26	Santa Cruz	(2) Great Escape		\$160
Aug	16	Nicolas Beach	Club Picnic		Free
June	21-28	Cozumel	Warm water and easy diving		\$1450

- 1 Reserve your spot by e-mailing boatdive@pacificexplorers.org
- 2 Reserve you spot by calling Reef Seekers 310-652-4990
- 3 Reserve you spot by calling Sport Chalet 800-348-3794
- 4 Reserve you spot by calling Hollywood Divers 323-969-9875
- 5 Reserve you spot by calling Aloha Dive 818-700-8134
- 6 Reserve your spot by calling Sea Divers 714-377-8044.
- 7 Reserve your spot by calling Ocean Safari (626) 287-6283
- 8 Reserve your spot by calling Beach Cities Scuba (949) 443-3858
- A 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). 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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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