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# The Pacific Explorer

## April 2007



**Pacific Explorers Dive Club PO Box 9443, Canoga Park, CA 91309**  
**Web Site: [www.pacificexplorers.org](http://www.pacificexplorers.org) Board: [board@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:board@pacificexplorers.org)**

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Our 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 at the corner of Topanga Canyon and Roscoe in Canoga Park.



### *Speaker of the month...*

Mr. Harvey Schmiedeke, VP PR California Ships to Reefs, Inc.

California Ships to Reefs, Inc., a non-profit public betterment corporation formed to make the Golden State a world-class wreck diving destination, has been named as the organizer for and beneficiary of this year's SCUBA Show 2007 Casino Night.

Please see article page 3.

### *Beach dive of the month...*



Our April beach dive is scheduled for Saturday April 21 at 9AM. This is a spot I am sure most of you have never tried. It is El Pescador beach 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. We tried this spot last year without success because of the red tide and there was no kelp to guide us to the reefs. Dave Bentley and I dove this spot recently and the kelp is back and we found some excellent reef structure. 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

### *Boat dive of the month...*



The club boat dive for April is Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be taking the Great Escape to Santa Barbara Island. The cost is \$130.50 and includes air fills and food. This is a Reef Seekers charter. Reef Seekers is offering us this price and holding spots for us provided we take them before March 24<sup>th</sup>. You can make reservations by calling Reef Seekers at 310-652-4990. The boat boards on the 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 pm and departs on the 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 am. They are expecting to return by 6 pm.

Reef Seekers always has two or three divemasters on their boats and they are available to guide tours and conduct buoyancy checks if anyone desires. Reef Seekers also has a policy of no nitrox and anyone returning to the boat with less than 500 psi in their tank is done diving for the day.

Santa Barbara Island is renown for diving with sea lions but also has many varied and interesting rock formations, arches and caverns. This is a dive that no one will want to miss.



## ***A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT***

### **RECENT EVENTS**

Our recent trip on the Vision to San Miguel island was an absolute delight, in many ways. One of the great things is that we had a dozen Explorers on the boat!! It is very gratifying to see larger numbers of our membership participating in local diving. Dave Bentley, our boat dive coordinator, has done a great job of looking through the myriad of trips that are available, and selecting a wide range of trips to satisfy lots of different types of divers. San Miguel is one of those places that you don't get to very often, so it was a really awesome feeling to see so many of our members be able to enjoy one of those rare days together. Thanks to every one who came out on the boat with us! (And check out my article elsewhere in the newsletter for more details on the day.)

We are having similar good luck with our beach diving activities as well. Mike Bushell has his work cut out for him trying to line up the right beach on the right day with the right conditions, and not interfere with the boat dive schedule either! Mike's doing a great job, so how about rewarding him by showing up at El Pescador on the 21<sup>st</sup>!

If you missed the March general club meeting....WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!?!?!?!? The presentation on Humboldt squid by Scott Cassell was absolutely enthralling! This was one of the best presentations we've had recently. It was one of those unique combinations of a very intriguing subject presented by a very passionate, well versed, and entertaining speaker. Dave Carlson has a really good roster of speakers for upcoming meetings, so don't miss out!! And don't forget those red tickets for the April meeting as it is a quarterly.

### ***UPCOMING***

The next couple of months have us on the Great Escape for a couple of good, diverse dive locations. Santa Barbara island in April is great for divers of all experience levels. There are excellent medium depth reefs for beginning/intermediate divers as well as deeper locations for more experienced folks, and the sea lion rookery is always a crowd pleaser no matter what your experience level. Farnsworth Banks in May is for advanced divers as the pinnacles at this location are deep. The topography at this site is very unique and well worth the trip if you have never been.

The SCUBA show is coming in June (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>), so it's not too early to "save the date" so you can be sure to check out one of the premier events in SoCal diving. With tons of seminars from photography to travel to dive safety there are lots of sources for that lingering question you have always wanted answered. All the major equipment manufacturers will be there as well as many travel agencies specializing in diving destinations. And there's the always-popular Sport Chalet hourly raffle! The Sheckler's always provide dive clubs with discount coupons to include in newsletters, so keep an eye out for that in the near future.

### ***BUDDY CHECKS***

Something that has always been a bit of a pet peeve of mine is watching around dive boats and at beach dives (whether club related or not) and seeing how pretty much everyone heads into the water without doing the buddy checks we were all so diligently trained to do. Just recently a diving instructor in Britain died, nearly taking her 3 students with her, when they failed to turn on their tanks prior to a beach dive – a mistake a simple buddy check would have caught. She was swept off her feet by increasing tidal currents (as were her students), and was unable to inflate her BC because there was no air supply to do so. Fortunately, her students were washed into shallow water by the surge/swell and were able to get to each other and get their tanks turned on. She, however, was swept out to sea and perished. Buddy checks take, very literally, less than a minute to do and can save you, again very literally, a lifetime. How about you? Think back to your last dive...how were your buddy's ditch weights configured? Integrated, belt, something else? If that person would have had a problem, could you have quickly ditched their weights for them in an emergency? Please, take the time to review your BWRAF and check things out before you head into the water.

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

## SHIPS TO REEFS-A SURE BET

SCUBA Show 2007 Casino Night to Support California Ships to Reefs

California Ships to Reefs, Inc., a non-profit public betterment corporation formed to make the Golden State a world-class wreck diving destination, has been named as the organizer for and beneficiary of this year's SCUBA Show 2007 Casino Night.

The organization is jumping into preparations for the June 2nd event enthusiastically, selling entrance and raffle tickets for a first prize dry suit, second prize BC and 3rd prize weight harness system all supplied by DUI. Only 1000 tickets are being sold, so there is a very reasonable chance of winning.

Dive boat charters, dive manufacturers and retailers are coming on board to offer items for silent auction and door prizes-all with an aim of helping California Ships to Reefs (CS2R) in their program to sink retired warships as cultured reefs in this state.

CS2R is taking the lead in a cooperative effort with regional "sink groups" and state and federal government bodies to develop a process for accepting, environmentally cleaning and sinking ships as dive opportunities. The program is being widely embraced by the dive industry and divers themselves not only for the recreational aspects, but because it has the potential to generate large economic benefits.

"States like Florida are seeing hundreds of millions of dollars annually flow into their economy as a result of the underwater tourism generated by their very active artificial reefing program. Our own Yukon in San Diego generates a documented 4.5 million dollars per year in new money into the economy," says group spokesperson, Harvey Schmiedeke.

With the additional ecological benefits for fish and invertebrate life, this is truly a game where everyone wins-divers, the dive industry, the government through having an economical way to dispose of retired ships, hotels, airlines and others.

CS2R has recently been informed of the availability for reefing of two major combatant ships, and they are working closely with the government bodies involved to bring the ships-to-reefs vision to a reality. Casino Night 2007 is your opportunity to have some fun, learn more about the program, and to actively contribute-AND maybe you'll get lucky! The chances are good, but Ships to Reefs is a "sure bet".

For tickets and further information on CS2R or Casino Night, call Harvey Schmiedeke at 818-276-1000, or email him at [harveyssi@hotmail.com](mailto:harveyssi@hotmail.com).

Harvey Schmiedeke, VP PR  
California Ships to Reefs, Inc.

### THE BIG TRIP

WELL, FINALLY IT IS HERE. FINALLY ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$2600. INDONESIA FOR 2007 SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 26<sup>TH</sup>. DIVING AND CRITTERS LIKE YOU SEE IN THE MAGAZINES. 9 NIGHTS AT THE RESORT, 2 NIGHTS IN SINGAPORE. 21 DIVES INCLUDING DIVING AT POPOH, BANGKA ISLAND, AND LIMBEH. BREAKFAST LUNCH AND DINNER AT THE RESORT, EXCLUDING SINGAPORE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT—I'M CHECKING. NON DIVER- DEDUCT \$498. WOW HERE IS A LINK TO THE DIVE OPERATION AND CHECK OUT THE ACCOMMODATIONS LINK TO THE HOTEL SANTIKA

[HTTP://WWW.THALASSA.NET/](http://www.thalassa.net/)

I AM LOOKING INTO NONE DIVE ACTIVITIES AND TOURS. NOTE!! I AM GOING TO DO THIS WITH A MAX OF 34 PEOPLE. SIGN UP WITH A \$200 DEPOSIT WILL HOLD YOUR SPOT. THIS WILL STAY OPEN TO THE PE MEMBERS UNTIL JUST AFTER THE JANUARY MEETING, THEN WE WILL SEE HOW MANY OF THE CHANNEL ISLAND DIVERS WANT TO GO. THIS TRIP WILL SELL OUT AT THIS PRICE. INCLUDES ROUND TRIP ON SINGAPORE AIRLINES

## MY LAST LOBSTER DIVE By Mark Navas

Looking at the latest marine report Monday 3/19, I jumped at my last chance to freedive for Lobsters before the swell came in and the season was over. I met up with Craig Dockendorf and Keith Biondi at the Channel Island Harbor in Oxnard at 7:30pm. We suited up and launched our kayaks from a sand beach inside the harbor. We had blue, red, green and yellow glow sticks on our kayaks, snorkels and dive flag for the 1/2 mile paddle outside the harbor and around the outer break wall. We almost looked like a floating xmas tree as all three kayaks cut through the dark water channel of the harbor. There was a north wind blowing 15kts and the water was rippled in the harbor. It was cold and dark with fog and a chilly 50F air temp. As we rounded the tip of the break wall the wind ripples turned into white caps and were beating the break wall rhythmically. Luckily the swell was only 1' to 3' and not a big issue. From a distance we could see the waves on the break wall twinkling, then we realized there were about 30 hoop nets out with lights on the buoys bobbing in the waves. I was a little spooked when the waves were breaking over my kayak as I paddled through the wind. The scupper holes were dumping water as fast as they could but I was still sitting in water. Just past mid wall we threw out anchors in the 40' sand bottom and released plenty of scope to keep the waves from dragging our anchors.

Craig and I decided to dive together and Keith was OK diving alone and headed in the opposite direction down the break wall. I had not been diving with Craig in over a year but I knew he was a changed diver after going through the search and recovery of our lost brother Clint Koberstien at this same break wall last November 7th, on my birthday..... This was one of Clint's favorite dive spots for Lobster. I found myself thinking about Clint constantly during the dive remembering how much he loved diving and that his ashes were scattered near by. Craig made sure I understood his safety plan of one diver up and one diver down with constant visual contact. This type of diving is exactly the way I like diving the white water, surgey and rocky shorelines of Northern Cal for Abalone so I welcomed his rules for safety. We would surface and acknowledge each other as we'd take turns going under and searching. The constant white water, surge and wind chop against the wall forced me to dive to 15' to 20' just to have some quiet water and calm down while searching for bugs. After a few dives I noticed Craig had already bagged a few bugs and I had not even seen one yet! He politely said "I don't want to tell you where to dive but you're going way too deep". I quickly listened to what he had to say, "just get to the rocks, look 5' down and grab one!". Even though it was a wash machine near the rocks I did as told and came up with a legal Lobster! It was unbelievable to me that all of the Lobsters on the wall were so shallow in the turbid waters. We continued along grabbing bugs as we were shot back and forth in the surge. We noticed a few hoop netter boats approaching in the distance as we continued to dive. I went under and was searching when I heard a load RRRRRRRRRRRRR of a propeller above my head. I stayed on the bottom and climbed the hill toward the break wall not knowing where this boat was. I surfaced 10 feet from a hoop net boat and yelled to the guy "Hey look out we are diving here!" He yelled back and said "We're checking our traps so you shouldn't be diving here". I yelled even loader back " I'll get your CF number and be calling Harbor Patrol!" He yelled back "You divers are not even supposed to be out here". I yelled back "I just called the Harbor Patrol and told them we'll be out here Lobster Diving so back off!". He finally gave us 20'-30' but would go no further probably thinking we were taking Lobsters from their nets. We cautiously grabbed a few more bugs while keeping a close eye on the psycho hoop netter before turning around and heading back to the kayaks. Double checking our counts and sizes we all had limits and headed back to the harbor. The ride back was relaxing as the winds grabbed our fins and pulled us down the break wall. We rounded the corner of the wall and paddled through the calm waters of the channel talking about the dive while heading to the beach. We looked at the catch in the parking lot and noticed I had grabbed the largest Lobster, around 4.5 pounds. We packed up and headed for home. This was a fun, exciting and scary dive adventure to end the 2006 Lobster Season.



## **Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting March 7, 2007**

Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, Liz Sullivan, David Carlson, Dave Bentley, Mike Bushell, Craig Hoover, Russell Burt, Jeffrey Adler, Tanda Lockett.

Missing members: Michael Griffith

Guests: Kathy White

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 at Denny's in Canoga Park.

President- Kevin Sullivan: Kevin led a discussion about trying to get more people involved in the club beach dives. He also mentioned March 17th is Diver's Day at the Aquarium.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Dave Bentley: Dave talked about the upcoming dive trip on the Vision to the Outer Islands.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: The March beach dive will be at Escondido Beach. Visibility has been 15-20 feet.

Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover: Craig is obtaining items for the next club meeting.

Vice President-David Carlson: Scott Cassell will be the speaker for the March club meeting. He will make a presentation on the Humboldt Giant Squid. Ships to Reef will make a presentation to the club at the April meeting.

Newsletter-Jeffrey Adler: The March newsletters need to get to the stores for distribution.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Liz mentioned that she had purchased new name tags. She will be talking to the accountant about preparing the club's taxes.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: The website is growing. Russell has added 9 pages of photos of La Paz.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

## Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting March 14, 2007

Kevin Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, at Denny's in Canoga Park.

President- Kevin Sullivan commented on the Catalina Clean-Up being a very successful event. More than 550 people attended. The "Diver's Day" at the Aquarium of the Pacific is this weekend March 17th & 18th, and is FREE with "C" card present. Scuba Show is approaching fast, June 2nd & 3rd.

Treasurer- Liz Sullivan states all is well with the treasury, and the taxes for the club will be done this month.

Beach Dive Coordinator- Mike Bushell not present, out ill, Dave Bentley, the Boat Dive Coordinator filled in for Mike, stated our beach dive for April will be El Pescador, Saturday, April 21st at 9am. Our beach dive last weekend was successful at Escondido Beach. The next boat dive will be March 24th, the Vision, to the outer islands, 12 people already signed up. The boat dive for April will be April 7th, Saturday to Santa Barbara Island on the Great Escape—contact Dave Bentley for details.

Membership- Michael Griffith stated membership is doing well. We had 2 new guests, Denise Noguera, and Patrick Desbrow, and Patrick joined the club.

Newsletter- Jeff Adler not present, but stresses we need articles for the newsletter!

Webmaster- Russell Burt also stated we need more photos and video for the newsletters, send them to him.

Vice President- David Carlson stated we have 22 people signed up so far for Indonesia, contact him if you would like to go. He introduced our guest speaker Scott Cassell, and girlfriend Shawna. Scott is well known for his work with the Giant Humboldt Squid. He has been on the Discovery Channel, and History Channels, numerous times. Scott gave his presentation on the giant squid, also has a website for anyone interested in diving with the squid in Loreto Bay, at [www.SquidDiving.com](http://www.SquidDiving.com). The trip for 5 days is \$2200.00.

Wally Burke spoke about California Ships to Reefs forming in Ventura, and the group Sunken Treasures. They need volunteers to help with these groups, and need \$\$ donations too. There could be 2 destroyer sized crafts ready to be sunk soon. There will be a gaming night at the upcoming Scuba Show in June, to help out with donations for that cause. Contact Wally if you are interested.

Opportunity Awards- Craig Hoover purchased and presented the following prizes, and won by:

Lobster bag – Kalani Patterson  
Scott Cassell's DVD – Denise Noguera  
Air/nitrox fill card – Wally Burke  
Beanie – Arturo Velasquez  
Air/nitrox fill card – Kevin Shapiro  
DIR book - Dave & Kathy  
Scuba.com T – Dave Bentley  
Swim goggles – Dirk Drossell  
Beach dive bag – Dave Leffert  
Hat - Paul Kayne  
Bonine sea sickness pills – Mike Griffith  
Bag – Cody Brunski



# 2007 PACIFIC EXPLORERS DIVE SCHEDULE COME ON OUT & GET WET!!!



## Beach Dives

Date	Day	Beach	Time					
21 April	Sat	El Pescador	9 A					
2-3 June		Long Beach Scuba Show						

## INTERNATIONAL DIVING

13-26 Sept		Indonesia	2,600	Air, lodging 21 dives, most meals				
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## Boat Dives

		Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return
7 April	Sat	Great Escape <sup>2</sup>	Santa Barbara	130.50	Food & Air	10 P 4/6	7 A	6 P
5 May	Sat	Great Escape <sup>3A</sup>	Farnsworth Banks	135.00	Food & Air	5 A	6 A	6 P
16 June	Sat	Magician <sup>3</sup>	San Clemente	160.00	Food & Air	10 P 6/15	1 A	6 P
July								
18 Aug	Sat	Lois Ann <sup>3</sup>	Yukon, Ruby E.	75.00	Food & Air	7:30 A	8 A	12 P
3 Sept	Mon	Sundiver	Local Wrecks	125.00	Food & Air	8 P 9/2	7 A	5 P
28 Sept	Fri	Magician <sup>3</sup>	Opening Night Lobster Dive	120.00		8 P	9 P	7 A
13 Oct	Sat	Sea Bass <sup>4A</sup>	Oil Rigs	130.00	Food & Air		10 A	10 P
24 Nov	Sat	Pacific Star	Catalina 10/10 Lobster		Food & Air		1 A	6 P
8 Dec	Sat	Peace <sup>5</sup>	Anacapa Island					

<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>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](mailto: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 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SECRETARY TANDA LOCKETT

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BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR DAVID BENTLEY

BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR MIKE BUSHELL

OPPORTUNITY TICKET COORDINATOR CRAIG HOOVER

NEWSLETTER JEFFREY ADLER

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

If you have pictures you would like to see published in the newsletter, please send them to Jeff Adler 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 Update 97 Members

### New Members

Greg Hoke

Patrick Desbrow

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

### MEMBERSHIP HAS IT'S BENEFITS

10% discount on non-sale Sport Chalet dive gear, 10 free Sport Chalet air fills, monthly meetings & entertainment, monthly newsletter, 2 monthly scheduled dives, group travel to exotic diving locations, terrific monthly and quarterly opportunity tickets.

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

### THE NEXT LEVEL

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