
The Pacific Explorer

December 2007



Pacific Explorers Dive Club PO Box 9443, Canoga Park, CA 91309
Web Site: www.pacificexplorers.org Board: 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 at the corner of Topanga Canyon and Roscoe in Canoga Park.



Speakers of the month...

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

Beach dive of the month...



The club beach dive for December is Saturday the 22nd an afternoon and night dive at Redondo Beach. This dive has become kind of a tradition and is known as the "squid dive" which is usually scheduled for January but has been rained out for the past three years so we have decided this year the try it in December. I know this is the weekend before Christmas but it is a full moon and for those of us in town it could be a welcome diversion from shopping. If the surf conditions cooperate this is an easy dive. The directions are as follows; take the 405 south to Hawthorne Blvd. exit right and go to Torrance Blvd. then right on Torrance and go all the way to Veterans Park at the beach. Stay on the upper circular drive for about 180 degrees, make a right turn into the parking lot and drive to upper parking lot. Bring plenty of quarters because it is metered parking. We will meet at 3 PM and make a late afternoon dive then make the night dive about 6 PM. For those with any energy left after the dives the tradition is to walk over the El Torito for margaritas. So let's make this the last social event of the new year, see you there.

Boat dive of the month...



The club boat dive for December is on Saturday the 8th. We will be taking the Peace to Anacapa Island. The cost is \$129 and includes air fills and food. The Peace also offers nitrox. For prices and policies go to www.peaceboat.com/nitrox.htm. This is an Aloha Dive charter and they have scheduled the Peace for four dives. You can reserve your spot at any of their dive shops or by calling 818-700-8134. The boat boards at 6 and departs at 7 am. They are expecting to return by 6 pm on the 11th. If you prefer you can board the night before after 7 pm and sleep on the boat. There are restaurants nearby if you choose to do that.

Anacapa Island has many wonderful sites. This is beautiful diving and not infrequently we are joined by sea lions and harbor seals. It is not uncommon to see whales on the ride out and back.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS

I've been very encouraged to see reports from Explorers getting out there and diving lately, both at club events and on their own exciting adventures. That is great! I'm always happy to see folks send out pictures and "quickie" reports about dives through the club newsgroup and encourage everyone to do so. It not only give us all an added appreciation for the sport by enjoying others' experiences, but also helps keep everyone up to date on conditions around the southland. As an added bonus, how about throwing your newsletter editor (Dave Carlson for 2008, newsletter@pacificexplorers.org) a bone with a short written report or some pictures too?!? Sometimes it's not convenient to put more pictures or narrative in an e-mail, and a newsletter article is a perfect alternative!

The November trip out on the Magician to Santa Barbara island was an excellent outing, with Explorers filling almost ½ the boat! Despite having engine troubles right at the get-go, Captain Jerry got us out to SB Isle in time to get in all 3 dives for the day! This is one of the reasons we like Capt. Jerry and the Magician so much...he's always focused on making sure the folks on the boat have a great day regardless of the circumstances.

I know conditions were not ideal for the Malaga cove dive were not optimum, so Mike opted to move the dive to the Malibu "slot". We really appreciate Mike's hard work in coordinating these beach dives, because it really does take a lot of care and attention to detail to make sure we're asking everyone to show up at a dive site that's going to be safe AND fun. Thanks to Mike for taking the time and putting forth the work that makes these beach dives a success.

Finally, you'll see in the meeting minutes that we held our annual elections at the general meeting in November, with most of the 2007 board staying on, but shifting positions around a bit. I would like to take this opportunity to personally welcome Kevin Shapiro (Vice President – elect) and Karen Norris (Boat Dive Coordinator – elect) to the 2008 board. We know both of you are avid divers who care about the sport and our club very much, and we greatly appreciate you stepping up to help us out with next year's events! I for one am really happy to know we can keep some fresh ideas flowing with new folks coming into the board. This in no way means past board members have not had great ideas (in fact, it's exactly the opposite!!!), but it's always good to get a fresh perspective on situations. Thank you, Thank you, THANK YOU to Kevin and Karen!!!!

UPCOMING

The Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 2 at Tortilla Loca in Reseda and we've got a great afternoon planned! There are going to be some awesome Opportunity Drawing prizes, some games, the awards for the annual photo contest, and some great food and drink! This will be a definite DO NOT MISS occasion, and the room at the restaurant is absolutely HUGE!! I know we have a good group signed up so this promises to be a wonderful day to close out the 2007 year!

The club in past years has typically not had dives scheduled for the month of December because everyone is usually pretty busy with holiday plans, and so on. But this year we figured...why not?!?! Dave Bentley has us lined up to go out with Aloha Dive on the Peace to Anacapa, and Mike Bushell has scheduled the annual Redondo Beach squid dive early this year to try and get us in there BEFORE the rains this time!! Why not head on out and take a break from the holiday chaos with a relaxing day of diving???

IN CLOSING...

I just want to say that 2007 has been and absolutely INCREDIBLE year from my perspective for the club! We have had awesome attendance at our dive outings with the club taking up ½ of available boat spots on several occasions, and it's been great to see more folks showing up at the beach dives as well. Our annual picnic was a stunning success with over 50 people attending and 20 diving...the best on record from my admittedly feeble memory. And the trip to Indonesia was simply a dream come true for everyone who went. I cannot thank the 2007 board members enough for all their hard work. I just can't imagine how this year could have turned out any better for our club. And finally, thank you to all you members who continue to make the Pacific Explorers your diving "home". It is my honor and privilege to continue to be part of this wonderful group of people who love the oceans as much as I.

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY HANUKKAH HAPPY NEW YEAR ...AND...

DIVE ON...!!!

*Your President,
Kevin Sullivan*

A BLAST FROM THE PAST/SHARED DIVETECH STORY BY PHILLIP FRADY

This past summer, on the last weekend of July, I had the opportunity to go to Catalina with my brother and my Grand Parents. We boarded the Catalina Express and off we went. On the way there, I was talking with my Grandfather about his experiences as a diver. I found these stories to be interesting and thought I would share these with Pacific Explorers Dive Club.

My Grandfather's name is William/Bill Hunter, not to be confused with William Turner/Boot Strap Bill. He is 79 years old and in good health, probably due to the fact that he was a diver, a life guard, a referee and served for years in the Alabama National Guard.

While serving in the air force at Eglin Air force Base in Florida, my Grandfather was qualified as a diver in the late 1950's. After returning to his home in Huntsville, AL, he and a couple of his buddies formed North Alabama's first diving club, naming it "The Tenth Fathom Diving Club".

My Grandfather Bill answered an ad for an opportunity to work as a diver at Huntsville's RedStone Arsenal Military base, which was split, into two sections, an Army side and a NASA side. The NASA side had a large water buoyancy tank for testing equipment that went into the upper atmospheres.

Even though this was the early sixties, it was the beginning of the Sky-lab program. The name of this particular program he was involved with was named H.E.M.A.R (Human Engineering Maintenance and Repair). Grandfather and his dive team performed many underwater tests in reference to high altitude flight suits, space suits and large sections of Sky-lab. These sections were submerged to see how various pieces of test equipment and repair tools would react in a weightless environment. Especially in the event a space walk was needed to correct or repair parts of Sky-lab while orbiting our planet. You know the "Right Stuff" kinda guys. These are some of the pictures taken of this program of an era caught in time for you to enjoy. Notice the crude mechanical boxes and hoses.

Later when most of the bugs had been worked out and the program had run its course, Bill trained other divers to maintain the level of quality he and his team had initiated. Sky-lab was launched in 1973 and stayed in orbit until 1979.

For a couple of years, afterwards, Bill traveled back and forth from his home town in Huntsville, to work on the oil rigs in the Gulf, mainly offshore rigs around the New Orleans area, performing underwater repair and maintenance for a company named "Pelican Dive Co.". Bill took a job with the City Board of Education, hanging his fins up. I always wondered as a small child, what those big lead weights and rubber suits were for, lying around the washroom area. I guess you can say, diving runs in the family.

Thanks Granddad for the great stories and pictures.



AND THE 2207 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ARE...



DIVER IN PHOTO

JAMIE NIXON



MARINE LIFE

KATHY WHITE



MACRO

WALLY BURKE

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

Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, David Carlson, Russell Burt, Craig Hoover, Mike Bushell, Kathy White and Tanda Lockett Guests: Karen Norris, Lynn Bushell, Kevin Shapiro, Cynthia Shapiro

Kevin Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at La Tortilla Loca in Reseda.

President-Kevin Sullivan: The club dive trip will be held at Cozumel June 21-28, 2008. The cost will be \$1,450.00 for divers. The price includes accommodations, air fare, meals, beverages, 2-tank boat dive for 5 days and unlimited tanks for shore diving.

Vice President-David Carlson: There are 26 spots reserved for club members for the Cozumel trip. There is a \$200.00 deposit due now to hold your reservation.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy could use help decorating for the Holiday Party.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: Russell will enlist his photography students to judge the photos submitted for the annual Holiday Party photo contest.

Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover: Craig is working on purchasing awards for the November club meeting.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: November's beach dive will be held on Nov. 17 at Malaga Cove, surf permitting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

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

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

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin said that he had a good time diving at Santa Barbara Island on the club's boat dive. He also mentioned that this year's dive trip will be held June 21-28, 2007 at Cozumel. Kevin led the club's elections for the Board of Directors for 2008. The results are: President-Kevin Sullivan, Vice President-Kevin Shapiro, Newsletter-David Carlson, Treasurer-Liz Sullivan, Membership-Kathy White, Webmaster-Russell Burt, Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell, Secretary-Lynn Bushell, Boat Dive Coordinator-Kathy Norris, and Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Liz is accepting payment for the club's Holiday Party. Payment must be received before the party. Liz is also accepting deposits for the Cozumel trip. The deposit is \$200.00.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy has been receiving a lot of membership renewals. Kathy introduced our guest Alex. He is a new diver, and looking forward to meeting other divers.

Webmaster- Russell Burt: Russell stated that some great photos had been submitted for the Holiday Party photo contest. He said that his students were having a tough time judging the photos.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: The November beach dive will be held on November 17th at Malaga Cove, surf permitting. Mike will schedule the dive for a different location if necessary. The Squid Dive is scheduled for December 22 at Redondo Beach.

Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris: Karen Norris filled in for David Bentley. She said that the December boat dive will be held on the Peace, through an Aloha Dive charter, heading out to Anacapa.

Vice President-David Carlson: David introduced the evening speakers, Russell Burt and Vernon Brown. Russell and Vernon gave members a presentation on the land and sea life sights at Curacao.

Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover: Craig purchased and presented the following awards to the following people:

Larry the Thanksgiving Lobster-Dave Carlson
Diving & Snorkeling Cozumel book-Liz Sullivan
Tank guards-Paul Kane
Brass snap hooks and split key rings-Kathy White

Rubbermaid hot water shower-Craig Hoover
Aqua Lung backpack-David Leffert
Dive mask-Mike Bushell

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.



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



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



Beach Dives

Date	Day	Beach	Time	
22-Dec	Sat	Redondo Beach	3 PM	Squid Dive
2-Dec	Sun	Annual Holiday Party		

International Diving

21-28 June		Cozumel	1,450					
		Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return
8 Dec	Sat	Peace ⁵	Anacapa Island	129.00		6 A	7 A	6 P

- ¹ Reserve your spot by e-mailing divetrips@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.
- ^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). For beach activities e-mail dbbsmb@pacbell.net or call Dave Bentley @ (818) 349-0699. All participants in beach diving activities will be required to complete a club release of liability/assumption of risk form.

Bottom Scratcher (714) 963-4378	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
VICE PRESIDENT KEVIN SHAPIRO
TREASURER LIZ SULLIVAN
SECRETARY LYNN BUSHELL
MEMBERSHIP KATHY WHITE
WEBMASTER RUSSELL BURT

BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR KAREN NORRIS
BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR MIKE BUSHELL
OPPORTUNITY TICKET COORDINATOR CRAIG HOOVER
NEWSLETTER DAVID CARLSON

Web Site: www.pacificexplorers.org Board: 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. 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 Update **99 Members** New Members

David Pearce
Jennifer Coler

Chris Kenst

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Ron Brunski
James McDaniel
Marc Feldman
Theresa Winter
Clive Smith

Cody Brunski
Don Davis
Rachel Feldman
Craig Winter

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: