

The Pacific Explorer

January 2007



Pacific Explorers Dive Club PO Box 9443, Canoga Park, CA 91309
Web Site: www.pacificexplorers.org e-mail the board: board@pacificexplorers.org

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...

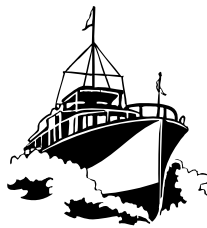
Our 2007 club President and Treasurer, Kevin and Liz Sullivan, will be giving a presentation about the club's trip to La Paz, Mexico last October. This was a unique trip because it also included members from the Channel Islands Dive Club, which made it a sort of "dual club" event. Kevin and Liz have compiled a large set of pictures and video not only from their own collection, but also from other folks who went on the trip. There were lots of fun and memorable moments, so come share in the storytelling.



Beach dive of the month...

The club beach dive for January is Saturday the 6th an afternoon and night dive at Redondo Beach. This dive has become kind of a tradition and is known as the "squid dive" and hopefully they will be running. If the surf conditions cooperate this is an easy dive. The directions are as follows; that 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 lets make this the first social event of the new year, see you there.



Boat dive of the month...

The boat dive of the month for January is Saturday January 21. We will be taking the Spectre to Anacapa and possibly Santa Cruz. It is a Sport Chalet charter and the price has not be finalized. You will be able to receive your 10% Sport Chalet discount. Please call Annette Roche at (909) 923-8207 x 340 to book your spot. We have 6 spots on hold so please book early.

Anacapa Island is actually three small islets connected by shallow sandbars. This group of islands is the closest to the mainland. An ecological reserve has been established where o game can be taken. This reserve is reminiscent of how the Channel Islands appeared years ago with large abalone, scallops and lobster caves teaming with dozens of animals. Lush kelp forests, colorful fish and clear water make Anacapa Island an excellent dive destination. Don't forget to bring your camera. The Spectre is located in Ventura Harbor.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

I hope everyone's holiday season was a wonderful one, and that you are all as excited to welcome in 2007 as I am! The club had an exemplary year in '06, and I think we have some great ideas on tap for the coming months. I am hoping that we will continue to have great turnouts for our club dive activities. We hope to have some more cooperative activities with other SoCal dive clubs and give you a great variety of experiences to enjoy. So strap that tank on, and let's all forge into the '07 surf with a vengeance!!

HOLIDAY PARTY

I would like to thank everyone who came to the holiday party in December for making it a rousing success! Special thanks also go out to Kathy White, for doing the bulk of arrangements with BJ's. Kathy has really put her heart into the holiday party the last couple of years, and they have really reflected the caring and thoughtfulness she brings to the board. Thanks Kathy! There were some great "opportunity" prizes (new term for '07) and I think we had some very happy winners. Once again, the turnout was awesome, and we seem to remember that room at BJ's being a lot bigger the last time we were there! Again, thanks to everyone for participating, and for bringing along family members to see what keeps us all coming back to the club!



RECENT CONDITIONS

Well, it had to come sooner or later. Winter is here, along with winds and swells. However, I have seen some reports from Redondo (Vet's Park) which have been encouraging. Holiday activities as well as boat trouble have kept Liz and I out of the water this month, so I'm sorry to say I can't give a first hand report of what's out there. I've been watching the reports though, and it seems like it's been 2 – 3 days of high swells, then down a couple days, then back up again. We'll keep our eyes on the reports, and hopefully we can all get together at the planned Redondo afternoon/night dives at Vet's, and post dive dinner at El Torito, on Saturday, January 6th. This outing has been rained out the last 2 years in a row, so I say third time's a charm!!

That's all for now! Here's to seeing you all in a very wet 2007!!!!!!

DIVE ON...

*Your President,
Kevin Sullivan*

For those of you that couldnt believe the incredible photos from last years photo contest, for those of you who said I wish I could take photos like that... well not you can do something about it. Get off your duff and take the Sport Chalet Porter Ranch U/W Digital Photo Class. Jan 28th Orientation. 2/2 Optional pool. 2/3 Boat. 2/6 Classroom. 2/10 Boat. And one more class tba.

This will be the end all of digital photo classes. Taught by the award winning photo team of Joe Drago, Russell Burt and Tony Patta. This isn't about taking pictures..anybody can do that. We will teach you how to take PHOTOGRAPHS!!! A class like this does not come around very often. Use this opportunity wisely.

Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup

February 24, 2007

26th Annual

The Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup is an annual dive event held in Avalon Harbor at Catalina Island once a year on the Saturday following President's Day. The event was started in the 1970's by the local dive community in an effort to cleanup Avalon Harbor, and this event is the only time diving is permitted there.

The event has grown over the years to become one of the most publicized and popular dive events in Southern California. Besides offering divers the opportunity to dive in Avalon Harbor, the event brings together a large number of people who share common interests - diving and Catalina. Last year we had over 550 divers who had a great time retrieving things from the harbor as well as celebrating the event. There are numerous parties around town on both Friday and Saturday nights as divers revel in the warm friendly atmosphere of Catalina Island. Several dive clubs also have made this event one of their premier social events of the year.

The proceeds of the Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup benefit Catalina Conservancy Divers and the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Catalina Conservancy Divers is a support group of the Catalina Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the stewardship of Catalina Island through a balance of conservation, education, and recreation. The Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber is a life support recompression chamber on Catalina that is available to serve the thousands of divers who frequent the Catalina waters.

There are three locations from which divers can enter Avalon Harbor for the dive. Divers must enter and exit the water from their assigned location. Upon exiting the water, all divers must check in with their dive master for their entry location, and get their wristband punched, in order in to pick up their T-shirt and goodie bag at Wrigley Stage (NO EXCEPTIONS)!

The 3 entry locations are Green Pier, Step Beach, Casino Landing.

Cost: \$35 per person if you register (meaning on line registration completed, or mailed entry form post marked) on or before January 31, 2007. \$45 per person February 1, 2007 or thereafter. Registration: Online registration is *strongly* encouraged.

DEADLINES: ON LINE -- On line registration must be completed on or before February 10, 2007.

IN PERSON -- In person submission of an entry form on the morning of the event in Avalon is available, but preregistration is HIGHLY encouraged. (*Arrive very early and report to the Wrigley Stage by 7:30 a.m.) (Participation cannot be guaranteed for unregistered late arrivals). For questions regarding registration or the cleanup itself, please send an e-mail to: avalonharborcleanup@gmail.com.*

Registration fee includes one T-shirt, one door prize ticket, certificates for special offers and discounts from Catalina merchants, and a coupon for discount travel to the event on Catalina Express.

Opportunity Tickets may be purchased for prize raffles.

Schedule of Events:

7:30 - 9:00 Check in at Dive Locations

9:00 Mandatory Safety Briefing at Dive Locations

9:30 - 11:00 Cleanup Dive

1:00 Award Ceremony at Wrigley Stage

[Http://cleanup.ccd.org/](http://cleanup.ccd.org/)

Pacific Explorer's Dive Club BOD meeting minutes, November 29, 2006

2006 and 2007 Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, Kathy White, Ed Mickus, Wally & Nancy Burke, Mike Bushell, David Bentley, Jeffrey Adler, Michael Griffith, Liz Sullivan and Tanda Lockett.

Missing members: David Carlson, Connie Richards, Russell Burt and Craig Hoover Guests: Lynn Bushell

President-Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 at BJ's Restaurant in Woodland Hills. Kevin Sullivan: Kevin announced that there will be a power point slide presentation of all of the entries in the photo contest at the holiday party. The three winning photos in the contest will be enlarged and matted and presented to the winners at the holiday party. There was a discussion, followed by a vote, to have only one winning raffle ticket per family at the Holiday party. Kevin led a discussion about limiting future dive club mass emails to dealing with subjects that are related to diving and the ocean environment.

Opportunity Prize Coordinator-Ed Mickus:Ed suggested that for 2007 the club change the term raffle to member appreciation award; due to the fact that raffles are illegal in the state of California. Ed presented Kevin with the new dive club stickers.

Treasurer-Kathy White: The club is financially in good shape. She also mentioned that she would like help setting-up for the holiday party.

Newsletter- Jeffrey Adler: Jeff told the board that he will be doing the newsletter again this year. He mentioned that he would like members to send him diving articles and pictures. He also stated that he is the boat dive coordinator, and he would like members to let him know where they would like to go diving.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike said that the first beach dive for 2007 will be on Saturday, January 6, at Redondo Beach. There will be a squid dive followed by dinner at El Torito

Secretaries-Wally & Nancy Burke: Wally told Tanda Lockett, the new club secretary, that he would send her a template which she could use to write up the club meeting minutes. Thank you Wally!

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

A DIVE AT SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND BY BOB CASSELMAN ON SUN OCTOBER 8TH 2006

A Sport Chalet charter and to be my last recreational dive after 54 years as a diver. We all boarded the Great Escape at different times from 8 to 11 PM for a departure time of 1 AM to the great local island of San Clemente. The trip out was very smooth. We arrived at the Island around 0600. The skipper laid anchor ~ 6 mi SE of Wilson Cove which is approximately mid way from either end of the Island. The Wx was ok with moderate overcast and hazy sun for that time in the AM, with a surface vis of ~10 mi and air temp of 63° F.

After the normal DM briefing and pairings I entered the water at 0631 with only 3250 psi in my tank. Surface temp was at a pleasant 64° F. The area seemed to have a beautiful serene and untouched look as if no divers had been there before. Hard to explain, but kind of reminded me somewhat of what diving were 50+ years ago. Compared to most areas such as the far southern end at Pyramid Cove or especially any Catalina dive. Where most of the boats have gone before. The general slope condition somewhat paralleled what could be expected at mid section of Catalina Island. I headed away from the shoreline and on down to 82' to observe the beautiful sights on the way down. The vis seemed to stay around 30' to 50' from surface down to the 82' level. This is mainly due to the moderate overcast, which does cut vis about 1/3 from that of a bright and clear sunlight day. Even though the area seemed to be untouched it didn't have the beauty of the long kelp stocks, rock outcroppings and excitement of drop-offs as does the southern end seems to contain. Therefore I just made several descents from near the surface and back down again to the 70'- 80' levels. Interesting, I did observe a higher Moray eel population, which tells me that there aren't many divers that go here. It also seemed the fish population in this area contained more fish than normally seen in a typical high dive area. In fact I even came across a large Bat ray in which we sat down on the bottom literally side by side and had a good talk on the morning news of the day. Total dive time was 62:40 min, arriving back at the boat at 0733 with 840 psi left in my tank and a SCFM of 0.59 which was not good as I spent most of my time at the 80' level.

2nd dive, We stayed at the same place, which was a bit disappointing, as I hoped we go toward Pyramid Cove. Anyway, I entered the water at 0838, after an 1:03 surface interval, with only 2610 psi aboard, typical from a hot 3K psi boat fill. I elected to boom down pretty fast to the 112' level in ~ 3 min and shortly after that I hit 102% Tissue Saturation and had to watch my ascent coming up. Thus, I reversed course to start my ascent but this time elected to make large zig zag turns back and forth as I was making the gradual ascent upwards. I leveled out at ~50' and held that depth for some 14 min to vent off more N₂ before heading further up. I went through all of the N₂ bleed-off at the 15' level before breaking Surface right behind the boat. Total dive time was only 41:40 min.

Temp at 112' was only 63° F. Remaining air was 460 psi with a SCFM of 0.6. Again, because of the deeper dive with average depth being 58'.

3rd dive, we moved only about a mile further west up the coast toward Wilson Cove. I entered the new area at 1039 hrs with only 2490 psi and just played around the 30' level to keep the N2 level down for most point with a couple quick shots to the 52' and 45' level respectively before coming back up. Area was pretty much the same as the previous two dives as one would expect. True, it was, I admit, somewhat bored. It's obvious the skipper wanted to save fuel and that's what made these dives a disappointment at least in my opinion. Water temp at 52' was 64°F with the surface temp up a couple of degrees. Returned at the boat at 1138 for dive time of 59:40 with 780-psi remaining tank pressure and a SCFM of 0.51. After three good meals, I certainly will admit, we all cleaned up as we were well on our way for the 5hr+ trip home.

THE BIG TRIP

WELL, FINALLY IT IS HERE. FINALLY ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$2600. INDONESIA FOR 2007 SEPTEMBER 13TH TO THE 26TH. 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. NONE 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

Minutes from the December 3rd 2006 General Meeting of the Pacific Explorers Dive Club

The holiday party was held at BJ's in Woodland Hills. Sixty-eight people attended the party. Thank you to Kathy White for organizing such a festive event. The food was delicious, the room was beautifully decorated, and it was wonderful to chat with so many of our friends.

Kevin Sullivan thanked each of the 2006 board members for the stellar jobs that they performed. Kevin then introduced the 2007 Board Members. Board members for 2006 and 2007 are listed in the table below. Jeffrey Adler would like help from club members in selecting boat dive destinations. Also, Jeffrey would like members to send him diving articles and pictures.

David Carlson announced that there will be a dive trip to Indonesia September 13th through 26th, 2007. The trip will include 9 nights at a dive resort on Sulawesi, and 2 nights in Singapore. There is a \$200.00 deposit. After the January dive club meeting, the trip will be opened to include Channel Island Dive Club members.

Mike Bushell announced that on January 6th, 2007, there will be a beach dive. The "squid dive" will be held at Redondo Beach. The first dive will occur at 3:00 pm. Divers are welcome to have dinner at El Torito following the dives.

Jeffrey Adler announced that there are two planned dive boat trips. In January, club members can join in with the Sports Chalet on the Specter. Then on February 24 there will be the annual Catalina clean-up. This is a good opportunity to dive in the harbor and partake in a large raffle.

Finally, the winners of the club's 2006 photo contest were announced. For Best Macro, Mark Navas won with a photo of a sea anemone taken with his fully manual film camera. For Best Diver in Photo, Liz Sullivan won with a photo of Kevin and a seal at La Paz taken with a Cannon S50. For Best Marine Life, Russell Burt won with a photo of a seal's face taken with an Olympus SP350.

2006 & 2007 Board Members		
Board Position	2006 Member	2007 Member
President	Kevin Sullivan	Kevin Sullivan
Vice President	David Carlson	David Carlson
Treasurer	Kathy White	Liz Sullivan
Shore Dive Coordinator	Mike Bushell	Mike Bushell
Boat Dive Coordinator	David Bentley	
Webmaster	Russell Burt	Russell Burt
Newsletter	Jeffrey Adler	Jeffrey Adler
Secretary	Wally & Nancy Burke	Tanda Lockett
Raffle Coordinator	Ed Mickus	Craig Hoover
Membership	Connie Richards	Michael Griffith

2006 Photo Contest Results	
Winners	Category
Mark Navas	Best Macro
Liz Sullivan	Best Diver in Photo
Russell Burt	Best Marine Life

Opportunity Prize Results	
Winners	Prize
Mike Bushell	Shockwave Light Set
Clive Davis	Akona Adventure Bag
Eric Montoya	Dive Gear Boat Coat
Frank Miller	Freestyle Dive Watch
Mark Navas	Sherwood Scuba Computer
Michael Griffith	Green Changing Towel
Russell Burt	Beach Towel, Tropical Screen Saver
Mike Herrera	Akona Dive Bag
Dave Leffert	Plana Avantixx Dive Fins
Kevin Bryan	The Devil's Teeth Book, Shark Screen Saver
Wally Burke	Akona Weight Bag
Randy Schoonhoven	Black Changing Towel
Mike Carlson	Kings vs. Sharks Hockey Tickets
Jeffrey Adler	Larry the Holiday Lobster



Best Macro - Mark Vavas



Best Diver in Photo - Liz Sullivan



Best Marine Life - Russell Burt



2006 PACIFIC EXPLORERS DIVE SCHEDULE COME ON OUT & GET WET!!!



Date	Day	Beach / Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return
6-Jan	Sat	Squid Dive	Redondo Beach	Free			3 PM	
21-Jan	Sat	Spectre	Anacapa/Santa Cruz	Call Sport Chalet for details (909) 923-8207 x 340				
10-Feb	Sat	Malibu Road	24320 PCH	Free			9 AM	
24-Feb	Sat	Catalina Express	Avalon Harbor Clean up	35 + transportation		See article page 3		
13-26 Sept			Indonesia	2,600	Air, lodging 21 dives, most meals			

"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.

³ You can reserve your spot on the Pacific Star by calling Hollywood Divers at (323) 969-9800, (818) 990-2279

⁴ Catalina Express (800) 481-3470 Catalina Ferries (310) 305-7250

⁵ You can reserve your spot on the Great Escape by calling Reef Seekers (310) 652-4990

Oceanic Datamax Pro Plus with low serial numbers have been recalled. Please see the link below if you have One. http://www.cdnn.info/recall/oceanic_990913/oceanic_990913.html

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 (805) 644-1499	http://www.socaldive.com	3600 S. Harbor Blvd. #219, Oxnard
Truth Aquatics (805) 962-1127	http://www.truthaquatics.com	301 W. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

DIVING LINKS

diver.net - A compilation of diver related links and information sources.

slonet.org/~tsulaiti/surfreport/la.html - Compiled ocean wave and surf information for the LA area. Also has links to similar information for No. Cal., Central Coast, and San Diego.

nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm - National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine weather report/forecasting.

nawcwpns.navy.mil/%7Eweather/mugu/mesodata/analysis.html - So. Cal. surface wind analysis graphs.

cawreckdivers.org - California Wreck Divers.

dfg.ca.gov/mrd/channel_islands/index.html - California Dept. of Fish & Game. Information regarding fishing restrictions around Channel Islands marine preserve areas.

wetsand.com/swellwatch/swellwatch.asp?CatId=295 - Compiled SoCal surf & weather information.

<http://www.healthebay.org/brc/statemap.asp> Heal the Bay Beach report card

PACIFIC EXPLORERS 2006 BOARD

PRESIDENT KEVIN SULLIVAN
VICE PRESIDENT DAVID CARLSON
TREASURER LIZ SULLIVAN
SECRETARY TANDA LOCKETT
MEMBERSHIP MICHAEL GRIFFITH
WEBMASTER RUSSELL BURT
BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR ?
BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR MIKE BUSHELL
OPPORTUNITY TICKET COORDINATOR CRAIG HOOVER
NEWSLETTER JEFFREY ADLER

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 100 Members

New Members

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Michael Herrera

Sylvie Lamos Miller

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 raffles.

Save your non winning monthly raffle tickets and exchange them for quarterly raffle tickets. Quarterly raffles 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:

Sandra Sanchez Advanced Open Water

Don Davis Divemaster

Craig Hoover Equipment Specialist

Rob Smith Equipment Specialist

Tony Patta Padi Gas Blender Instructor

Kathy White Certified Gas Blender

Kevin Shapiro Certified Gas Blender

Peter Bortoli Certified Gas Blender

Arturo Velasquez Advanced Open Water

Eric Montoya Equipment Specialist

Kevin Shapiro Equipment Specialist

Tony Patta Certified Gas Blender

David Carlson Certified Gas Blender

Russell Burt Certified Gas Blender

Todd Wright Certified Gas Blender