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# The Pacific Explorer

## June 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...*

Karen Elaine will be speaking about diving in truly cold water, her experiences diving in Antarctica.

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



Our April beach dive scheduled at El Pescador was rained out so we are going to try it again Saturday June 30th at 9:00 AM. This is a spot I am sure most of you have never tried. El Pescador beach is just west of El Matador on PCH. Take PCH west past Zuma, Broad Beach and El Matador, El Pescador is the next beach just before you hit Decker Canyon Road and it is plainly marked. There is plenty of parking for a fee, \$3.00. 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 June is on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be taking the Magician to San Clemente Island. This is a great boat and is a limited load trip (only 20 divers). The cost is \$160 and includes air fills and food. This is a Sport Chalet charter so club members are eligible for a 10% discount. The boat boards on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 pm and departs at 1 am on the 16<sup>th</sup>. They are expecting to return by 6 pm on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Magician has Nitrox available (Membrane system).

This is my favorite place to dive on one of my favorite boats. San Clemente usually has 100' or better visibility and has wonderful rock formations, pinnacles and canyons for exploring. The kelp forests are lush and I have always seen a lot of life around. This place is big and deep and wild. We didn't make it to San Clemente last Nov. due to weather so I'm already signed up for this boat and can't wait. This is a military installation and training area so if you should find ordinance on your dive, leave it alone!

Since this trip fills up quickly, Pacific Explorers has reserved 8 spots on this boat. To sign up for this trip call Annette at 1-800-348-3794 and let her know that you are requesting one of the Pacific Explorers spots.



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

### **RECENT EVENTS**

It's been some time since Liz and I had been to a club beach dive (shame on us!), so we headed out to Deer Creek this past month to join up with a really good showing of fellow Explorers. There were 10 folks at the beach and we were greeted with minimal surf, an easy swim to the kelp, and some fairly good visibility (5 - 10 ft inside, 15 - 20 ft on the outside of the kelp). It was a welcome return to the beach. "Warm-water guy" Mike Carlson joined us for a rare SoCal appearance, and was greeted with, brrrrrr, FIFTY-ONE degree water!! Mike braved the chill very well, diving along side Liz and myself, and was treated to lots of sheep crabs and nudibranchs. Thanks to everyone for coming out that day, and to Mike Bushell for continuing to be our most enthusiastic and excellent beach-dive coordinator! Nice pick Mike!!!

Unfortunately the good luck wasn't there for the Farnsworth trip on the Great Escape. Conditions were so rough that Capt. Tim didn't even brave the crossing to the lee side of Catalina, much less Farnsworth. I often quote an old seaman's saying that "the ocean is a harsh mistress." Sometimes we just have to hang up the gear and try again another day.

I was disappointed that I could not be at the club general meeting last month due to business travel, but I heard many good comments about the presentation on the Arizona. Liz has been reading some material about underwater archaeology lately (among other things), and we both find this subject fascinating. I'm glad to hear that those who were able to hear the presentation were impressed.

### **UPCOMING**

SCUBA Show, SCUBA Show, SCUBA Show!!! If you haven't gotten your advance tickets for this yearly event you should definitely do so soon. Besides all the great booths from gear manufacturers and travel representatives, there are always a large number of very good one-hour long seminars of which surely one should peak your interest. In addition to the show itself, this year all the proceeds from Casino Night are being donated to California Ships to Reefs (CS2R) to support efforts to increase the number of artificial reef/wreck sites along the California coast. Dive boat operators, gear manufacturers (DUI being a very large supporter), and other retailers are all donating items as prizes as booty for the night's gaming. Liz and I already have plans to attend and make a whole weekend of the event, staying in Long Beach Saturday night, and I know several other Explorers are planning on attending at least one day, as well as Casino Night. Come on out, have some great fun, and support a great cause!!

The June boat trip is one of our favorites - the Magician to San Clemente. This island hosts some of SoCal's best diving, and the Magician is a great boat. I know several Explorers have already secured spots for this trip, so don't miss out on what promises to be a very good trip. Also in June we have El Pescador in the Malibu area. If the reef is as healthy here as the Deer Creek location, this will be a great dive as well.

### **SPECIAL TOPIC - Physical Fitness**

As I mentioned earlier, it had been some time since we had done a beach dive prior to the Deer Creek club event last month. There were several reasons for this, but I have to be honest and say that at least part of the reason was that our last couple of outings to the beach were less than successful, and a large part of that was due to (at least in my case) less than what I felt was good physical condition. Last December, Liz finally convinced me to join a new gym in Simi Valley, and we have been religiously going at least 3 times a week. I have to say that this conditioning, while not really having anything directly to do with dive SKILLS per se, has increased my confidence at the beach tremendously. While last year after getting hit by a few modest waves I felt like I was completely worked over, this time I really felt as though I could handle anything I had previously seen with much better ability.

Having good physical conditioning is very important in diving. Stronger muscles can help you carry that gear around with less effort and handle those modest beach waves. Cardiovascular conditioning will improve your breathing and heart rate significantly, helping with your air consumption and making those swims either out to the kelp bed or back to the boat much easier. There is also strong evidence that good physical fitness can significantly reduce your risk of a DCS hit as well. There just really isn't any down side to improving your physical condition. There are lots of opportunities for getting yourself into a more active lifestyle, and many don't involve having to spend lots of money or time on a gym. Something that really got me started down a path of more exercise was taking our dogs for lots of walks in the afternoons/evenings and on weekends. How simple is that?! It's good for the dog, it's good for you...OK, maybe it's not so good for the neighbor's lawn! (Kidding!) So do yourself a favor and make good on that New Year's resolution. It can only make life better!!!

DIVE ON...Your President, Kevin Sullivan

# Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting May 9, 2007

Pacific Explorer's Dive Club meeting minutes, May 9, 2007

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

Vice President-David Carlson:

David announced that Kevin Sullivan was out of town and that he would be filling in for Kevin for the meeting. David mentioned that there has been talk about Bonaire or Cayman Brac as possible dive sites for next year's dive trip.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell:

Mike said that there would be a beach dive at Deer Creek on May 12. He stated that lately the surf has been one to two feet, and that the visibility has been around ten feet.

He mentioned that the following beach dive would be held at El Pescadore on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mike filled in for David Bentley (dive boat coordinator, who wasn't able to attend the meeting) and stated that the June boat dive would be held on the Magician, heading out to San Clemente Island.

Membership-Kathy White:

Kathy White filled in for Michael Griffith who was diving in Indonesia. We look forward to hearing about Michael's trip.

Kathy said that there have been lots of membership renewals.

She also announced that we had 2 guests at the meeting, Paul Micketon and Marissa.

Webmaster- Russell Burt:

Russell said that there are new pictures of Loreto and San Miguel on the website.

Russell would like all members to send him pictures to put on the website.

Vice President-David Carlson:

David introduced Bob Casselman, our guest speaker for the evening. Bob gave us a fascinating presentation on the history of the USS Arizona. He also showed us pictures that he took of the USS Arizona when he and a team of CMAR (Costal Maritime Archeology Resources) divers were doing a structural stability survey of the vessel. Thank you Bob!

Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover:

Craig purchased and presented the following awards:

National Geographic Lost Subs Disaster at Sea DVD-Kevin Bryan

Riffe dive knife-Kevin Shapiro

Sports Chalet \$40.00 gift certificate-Paul Mykietyn

Sink the Stink dive-David Leffert

Mesh dive bag-Paul Kayne

Bonafide tee shirt and ray pin-Dirk Drosset

Seashell earrings-Tanda Lockett

2 Scuba Show passes-Rob Smith

Larry the Lobster- Craig Hoover

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM.



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## Red Abalone Pearl by Mark Navas

I recently dove in Nor. Cal. for Red Abalone. I noticed that when removing the meat from the shell there was something hard in the gut. To my surprise it was an Abalone Pearl. For almost 2 decades I've heard rumors about Abalone Pearls but after years of digging through Ab guts I yielded nothing but a big slimy mess! I did some research on these rare pearls and one website reported the odds of finding a Pearl is about 1 in 100,000 Abalone. The bizarre thing was I had 2 pearls from 5 Abalones. I did notice that the location I was diving had a very strange shaped beach sand, flat like corn flakes, which may have been the reason these Ab's had pearls? Pearls are created when a foreign object gets wedged between the gut/meat and shell. The Abalone covers the object with shell material to protect itself.



Looking further on the web I discovered these rare pearls sell for about \$30 per carat weight. In my case the larger one is worth around \$650 and the small one around \$400. These are a once in a lifetime finds so I'll be making necklaces for Carla & I.

Next time your cleaning Abalone, dig around in the gut, you may just find that diamond in the rough!



# Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting May 2, 2007

Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, Liz Sullivan, David Carlson, Craig Hoover, Mike Bushell, Jeffrey Adler, Russell Burt and Tanda Lockett. Missing members: David Bentley and Michael Griffith  
Guests: Kathy White

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:15 at Mavericks restaurant in Simi Valley.

President-Kevin Sullivan:

Kevin mentioned that he would like to see the rules for the opportunity awards prizes published in the monthly newsletter. He stated that in the past we have had the rule that one person may only win one prize for each drawing. The board members voted to keep the ruling of only one prize per person, and to publish the rules for the awards in the newsletter.

Kevin also mentioned that in the past year we have had a rule that only one family member could win one prize at the Christmas party. The board discussed this rule, and it appears as if this rule will remain in effect for this year's Christmas party.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan:

Liz stated that she got the tax information to the accountant in a timely fashion; however, the accountant ended up filing an extension. She also mentioned that Craig Hoover has been doing a great job with the opportunity awards.

Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover:

Craig mentioned the price structuring for the tickets for the quarterly awards. He stated 1 ticket would cost \$3.00, 2 tickets would cost \$5.00 and 5 tickets would cost \$10.00.

Vice President-David Carlson:

David said that 20 people are going on the trip to Indonesia. He is still hoping that more people will sign up for the trip. Patrick Smith will be the speaker at the May club meeting. He will be speaking about the Arizona.

Webmaster-Russell Burt:

Russell stated that the website is getting full. There are lots of pictures from the San Miguel trip; as well as from Liz and Kevin's trip to Loreto.

Newsletter-Jeffrey Adler:

The newsletter for this month is 12 pages. We have 100 copies to distribute to various businesses.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell:

On May 12 a beach dive will be held at Deer Creek. There is about a 15 feet walk into the ocean, a nice reef and lots of kelp.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

## 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



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



Beach Dives								
Date	Day	Beach	Time					
2-3 June		Long Beach Scuba Show						
June 30	Sat	El Pescador	9 AM					
INTERNATIONAL DIVING								
13-26 Sept		Indonesia	2,600	Air, lodging 21 dives, most meals				
Boat Dives								
		Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return
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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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** **103 Members** New Members

Kathy Dutt

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Tony Gitt  
Naomi Torres  
Frank Torres  
Lynn Bushell  
Cory Bushell  
Robert Smith  
Vernon Brown

Brian Thompson  
David Torres  
Tiffany Torres  
Mike Bushell  
Russell Burt  
Paul Kayne

### **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:

Kathy White IDC Staff Instructor  
Naomi Torres IDC Staff Instructor  
Patrick Desbrow Instructor

Russell Burt IDC Staff Instructor  
David Patton Instructor