

The Pacific Explorer

March 2007



Pacific Explorers Dive Club PO Box 9443, Canoga Park, CA 91309
Web Site: www.pacificexplorers.org 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... Scott Cassell

Diving since 1977, Scott has accumulated 12,000 hours underwater as a mixed-gas commercial diver, a 20+ year veteran of Rebreather technologies, USCG qualified Submersible Pilot, Counter Terrorism Diver, US Navy qualified Diving Supervisor, and Diving Medical Technician.



While instructing at the College Of Oceaneering he taught Advanced Diving Medicine, Commercial Diving, and Hyperbaric Medicine. As an explorer-film maker, he has worked with the Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, History Channel, Disney, BBC and even 6 episodes of the MTV WildBoyz.

Using Special Operations techniques, he has recently hunted poachers and filmed them for client agencies which have led to arrests. World record holder for Longest Dive Distance Traveled (52 mile nonstop saturation dive).

This last summer while working with the History Channel, he and his team filmed what may be the first Giant Squid in the wild (free swimming, hunting, not on a jig) and definitely larger than anything filmed before. Details of this historic event will be announced by The History Channel prior to the airing of their show July 07. He is also a professional Trapeze Artist 'Catcher' and Aerial-Strap Cube performer. He is currently working the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach to evaluate the potential of placing Humboldt squid on display for all to see.



Beach dive of the month...

The club beach dive for March is Saturday the 10th at 9:00 AM at Escondito Beach. Directions are as follows; take Las Vergenes Road (Malibu Canyon) to PCH and turn right, take PCH past the 76 station to the Escondito bridge at the bottom of the hill, the beach entrance is next to the bridge and parking is up the road a bit on the beach side. If the conditions are good this is an easy dive, hope to see you there.



Boat dive of the month...

The club boat dive for March is on Saturday the 24th. We will be taking the Vision to the Outer Islands. The Vision is the largest of the Truth Aquatics fleet. There are bunks for 40 divers on board. You can reserve your spot by emailing me at divetrips@pacificexplorer.org. The cost is \$102.96 and includes air fills and food. To get this price you will need to send a check to Pacific Explorers. The boat boards at 8 pm on Friday the 23rd and departs at 4 am on the 24th. They are expecting to return by 6 pm. They will be going to either San Miguel or Santa Rosa at the Captains discretion.

The Outer Islands are considered a premier diving location and do not experience as much pressure from divers as the more common destinations (think wild and untouched). The water is a little cooler and you will want to be sharp with your navigation. I understand this is a good area for pelagic encounters as well.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS

It looks like things are definitely doing well for diving lately. While Liz and I were not able to attend, we know that there was an excellent turnout for the Corral Beach dive on Feb. 17th. I want to thank everyone who did participate for coming out and enjoying a great day! The club beach dives have always been great social gatherings, regardless of the dive conditions. And if the diving's good...BONUS!!

The annual Avalon harbor cleanup was also a great day for diving, though it didn't seem as though there were as many divers this year as in the past. The Pacific Explorers were well represented which is always good to see. Check out my article elsewhere in this newsletter for a detailed report and some pictures!

UPCOMING

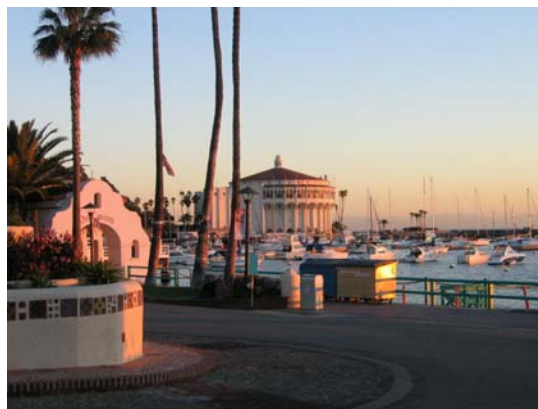
I think that the 2007 board of directors has done an outstanding job of lining up some excellent activities for this year, and a good portion of the year has pretty much been booked! Dave Bentley has some great ideas for boat dives including a 2-day trip, Dave Carlson pretty much has speakers for every meeting of the year covered with some really intriguing and special guests, and the Indonesia trip is shaping up very well. We hope you all take advantage of these cool opportunities as the year goes on. I extend my thanks to the board for this excellent work in keeping our club activities varied and interesting! By the way, I also want to take this opportunity to thank Craig Hoover for doing what I thought was a GREAT job with the February gift selection. He came up with some very new and unique, yet completely diving related gift ideas. Excellent job Craig!!!!

ACTIVITY PREPARATIONS...

Keeping in mind the great upcoming activities I mentioned above, something members may want to consider is preparations for upcoming events. Is there one of the dives that you'd really like to go on but feel your skills could use some improvement (oil rig dives are a great example)? Why not get the next level of certification or take a refresher course to make sure you're ready?! Be sure that tank you're going to use on the next boat dive is within visual and proof test dates so you don't get caught on a boat with an out of date tank after the first dive of the day. And be sure to check around with folks either at the next general meeting or through the members@pacificexplorers.org list to make sure you have a buddy lined up for the next activity!

DIVE ON... Your President, Kevin Sullivan

All photos in this edition by
Kevin Sullivan



26th ANNUAL AVALON HARBOR CLEANUP – FEBRUARY 2007 by Kevin Sullivan

For the fourth year in a row, Liz and I participated in the annual Avalon harbor cleanup last weekend. As always, we had a really wonderful time the whole weekend. This year, we decided to make an entire weekend of the event, leaving on the midday boat from downtown Long Beach and arriving in Avalon at about 1:15 p.m. We had planned on checking into the hotel (our favorite, the Villa Portofino) and booking right on over to Casino Point for an afternoon dive. Unfortunately, as we were leaving the Long Beach harbor we saw the small craft advisory flag flying, and were met with harsh winds and white caps the whole trip over. Lots of folks on the boat hurriedly headed to the back to feed the fish and we saw members of the crew constantly walking back and forth with rubber gloves and a can of Lysol for the whole hour trip. As we closed in on Avalon, we could see the breakers on the rocks at the Casino, and immediately knew we wouldn't be diving that day...bummer! We did check in and went over to just check things out anyway. A couple of divers on their way back said the current was ripping, and that vis was 20 ft. at best. When we got to the point, a couple of folks were going in, but they really had to time their entry because the breakers were hitting halfway up the steps! YIKES...not for me. We opted instead for some Big Olaf's ice cream, ALWAYS a reasonable alternative to diving in rough conditions!!! We had a nice dinner and crashed early so we would be rested for the next day's activities.

The morning of the dive we woke to much improved conditions from Friday. There was no wind and the skies were clear. We had breakfast at our favorite place, the Pancake Cottage and got checked in for the event. This year we dove the Steps Beach location. We also took this opportunity to break out our drysuits and get our weighting set in preparation for March's trip on the Vision to the outer islands. As we were getting ready for the dive we saw a lot of familiar faces, Wally and Nancy Burke, Mike Herrera and Sylvie Lamos, Ruben from Hollywood Divers, and Marc and Norm from the Whalers dive club. The cleanup dive was pretty uneventful, and we came back with a bunch of bottles plus a boat-mount barbecue, just like we did last year! Liz did find a toy bat ray which we kept to place with some of our other marine-related knick-knacks.

Immediately after the cleanup dive, we high-tailed it over to Casino Point for an air fill so we could dive the park before the afternoon opportunity drawing and awards ceremony. It was a wonderful day and the temperature was getting warm enough to where I was sweating quite a bit, so I took off my drysuit and woolies while our tanks got filled, which took about 30 – 40 minutes. There were quite a few divers lining up to get fills, but it certainly wasn't like the day we had our club event there last summer. We finally got ready to go and after a 5 or so minute wait in line at the steps, headed out towards the Sujac. We had a very nice dive, and Liz got some really good pictures of a McFarland's Chromodorid nudibranch, which I'd never seen before, and also a nice kelpfish near the steps. We really enjoy diving the Casino Point dive park because there's always something good to see and it's typically a very relaxing dive. Water temperature was around 57 deg. F and visibility was in the 25 – 30 ft. range.

After our dive we high-tailed it back over to Wrigley stage so we could see the award ceremonies and hopefully get some good stuff at the opportunity drawing. We did end up being a ½ hour late, but they were just starting the drawing. We didn't win anything, but did score a t-shirt and some towelettes that they were tossing out to the crowd. One of the interesting awards was for the most valuable find, which this year went to someone who found a Rolex watch! And yes, it was still working!!

We finished off the day with some ice cream from Coldstones, a nap at the room, and a wonderful dinner at Antonio's with Wally and Nancy. This is one of the things we really love about the cleanup. It seems that every year we end up having an excellent dinner with folks we know, and this one was no exception. We enjoyed Wally and Nancy's company very much, and we talked about everything from sharks to bears to dogs to wedding proposals. Thanks for a great evening W&N!!!

The next morning we slept in a bit and then headed back to the Pancake Cottage for breakfast, and bumped into Wally and Nancy practically right at the front door!! We enjoyed another great meal & conversation, and said good-bye as they headed off for a dive at the point.

We always recommend folks do the Avalon harbor cleanup event because it's just a great opportunity to enjoy the diving community as a whole, give a little back to the ocean we love so much, and to have great moments like we were fortunate to have all weekend. Hopefully we'll see more of you there next year!!!!

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



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

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

Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, Liz Sullivan, David Carlson, Kathy White, David Bentley, Russell Burt, Craig Hoover, Mike Bushell and Tanda Lockett

Missing members: Michael Griffith and Jeffrey Adler

Guest: Christopher White

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 at Los Toros restaurant in Chatsworth.

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin announced that we needed to transfer the names on the bank account from Kathy White to Kevin Sullivan, Liz Sullivan and David Carlson. Kevin also needed some board members to sign the official record of the dive club bylaws; which he needed to give to the bank.

Vice President-David Carlson: There are 17 people sign-up for the trip to Indonesia. He also mentioned that he has scheduled some interesting speakers for this year's club meetings.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Liz signed the club bylaws and the forms for the bank account transfer.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: We were pleased to see that Russell is back with us. He plans on getting more pictures up on the website.

Boat Dive Coordinator-David Bentley: David was the only club member who went on the Spectre out to Anacapa. He said that the first dive was great. Then the winds came up, and the waves became huge, and the remaining 3 dives were canceled due to the waves. February's boat dive is the Avalon Harbor Clean-up.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: The February beach dive will be held at Corral Beach on February 17. The March beach dive will be held at Escondido Beach.

Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover: Craig is working on getting the prizes for this month's meeting.

Secretary-Tanda Lockett: I had nothing new to report. However, I too signed the club bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.



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

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

President- Kevin Sullivan: Kevin encouraged all of the club members to join in with him and Liz at the Avalon Harbor Clean up. They will participate in the harbor clean up dive in the morning, and dive at Casino Point in the afternoon. Kevin also told the group about a couple of tragic diver's deaths, and he cautioned all of us to dive safely.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Liz said that the paperwork for the transferring of names on the bank account was almost done. She also said that she has been receiving checks from divers for the upcoming trip to Indonesia.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike said that the February dive will be held Saturday, February 17 at Corral Beach at 9:00 AM. The March dive will be held on March 10 at Escondido Beach.

Boat Dive Coordinator-David Bentley: David told the group about his diving adventure on the Spectre. They got in one beautiful dive, and then the weather turned windy, and they had to return at 1:00 in 7 to 10 feet high waves. The March boat dive will be on the Vision out to the Outer Islands (Santa Rosa and San Miguel).

Membership-Michael Griffith: Michael said that he has been receiving lots of renewals for membership.

Webmaster- Russell Burt: Russell would like all of the members to make sure that he has your most recent e-mail addresses. He needs more photos and/or videos for the website.

Vice President-David Carlson: Since Jeffrey Adler couldn't make it to the meeting tonight, David asked everyone to please send in articles for the newsletter. David presented the evenings entertainment; a DVD presentation of Project Yukon, by the San Diego Oceans Foundation. The video showed preparations for the sinking of the ship, as well as the actual sinking, and the following marine life that inhabited the wreck.

Opportunity Awards-Craig Hoover:

Craig purchased and presented the following prizes:

Save a Dive Kit- Cody Brunski

Trident rattle- Paul Kaye

Scuba dog bowl- Wally Burke

Writing slate-Ron Michalski

Coastal Fish Identification book- Dave Leffert

Storage tub- Michael Griffith

Mask strap wrapper and lobster sticker- Ron Brunski

Larry the Lobster- Kevin Sullivan

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.



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



Beach Dives								
Date	Day	Beach	Time					
10 Mar	Sat	Escondito Beach	9 A					
21 April	Sat	El Pescador	9 A					
INTERNATIONAL DIVING								
13-26 Sept		Indonesia	2,600	Air, lodging 21 dives, most meals				
Boat Dives								
		Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return
24 Mar	Sat	Vision ¹	Outer Islands	102.96	Food & Air	8 P 3/23	4 A	6:30 P
7 April	Sat	Great Escape ²	Santa Barbara	130.50	Food & Air	10 P 4/6	7 A	6 P
5 May	Sat	Great Escape ^{3A}	Farnsworth Banks	135.00	Food & Air	5 A	6 A	6 P
16 June	Sat	Magician ³	San Clemente	160.00	Food & Air	10 P 6/15	1 A	6 P
July								
18 Aug	Sat	Lois Ann ³	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 ³	Opening Night Lobster Dive	120.00		8 P	9 P	7 A
13 Oct	Sat	Sea Bass ^{4A}	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 ⁵	Anacapa Island					

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

^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 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT KEVIN SULLIVAN

VICE PRESIDENT DAVID CARLSON

TREASURER LIZ SULLIVAN

SECRETARY TANDA LOCKETT

MEMBERSHIP MICHAEL GRIFFITH

WEBMASTER RUSSELL BURT

BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR DAVID BENTLEY

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 97 Members

New Members

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:

Nancy Burke High Altitude Diving

Wally Burke High Altitude Diving