
The Pacific Explorer

May 2006



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

Our next meeting is Wednesday May 12th. 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.



Michael Griffith giving us a presentation about Indonesia

BEACH DIVE OF THE MONTH MAY 6

Our May beach dive is scheduled for Saturday May 6 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 and plainly marked. There is plenty of parking for a fee. I haven't dove here in years but it is a great spot. It has a very strong reef and I consider it better than El Matador. It is quite a hike down to the beach and a bit of a swim to the reef but worth it. If the conditions are good you will not be disappointed.



BOAT DIVE OF THE MONTH MAY 13

The club boat dive for May is on Saturday the 13th. We will be taking the Sea Bass on an Oil Rig dive. The cost is \$125 and includes air fills and food. The Sea Bass also offers nitrox. They have a continuous blending system (Nitrox Stick) so you won't have to have dedicated O2 clean tanks. This is a Hollywood Divers charter. You can reserve your spot at the dive shop or by calling 323-969-9875. The boat boards at 6 am and departs at 7 am. They are expecting to return by 2 pm. They will be going to either the Eureka or the Ellen/Elly platforms depending on the rigs schedules and conditions. There is absolutely no hunting or taking

anything off the rig.

The Oil Rigs are a treat to dive. Think of a wreck that dives like a wall and is teeming with marine life. Since the bottom is much deeper than recreational depths you should be comfortable with current, deep diving and have good buoyancy control and awareness. The Sea Bass is doubles friendly if you are technically inclined.





A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS

Well, as I sit here writing this article, I'm looking forward to a wonderful day aboard the Peace this coming Sunday. It'll be a little too late to include the happenings on that trip in the newsletter, but hopefully there will be a nice article in next month's edition. Unfortunately, it won't be from me...because I won't be diving. I've been fighting a cold for a little over a week, and yesterday morning it turned into a full blown sinus and ear infection. CRAP!!!! I can still hear Dave Carlson from my Open Water class saying "It's better to come back and dive another day..." I'm keeping my boat spot though, where I'll be waiting anxiously for Liz to return from each of what I'm sure will be epic dives. Hey – a day out on the Peace is better than just about any day on dry land...diving or not!

Mike Bushell did have a few folks show up at the Old Marineland beach dive on the 22nd, which was the "make up day" for the rained out dive at Laguna. Thanks to those who came out, and I hope you were all rewarded with a good day of diving (haven't heard the reports yet). And thanks to Mike for his persistence!!

We've also recently had some of our members complete Advanced Open Water and Rescue Diver courses. My heartfelt congratulations to you all!! It really is wonderful to see folks taking active steps to make themselves better divers. The more education and training you get not only helps you be a better diver for yourself and those you dive with, it sets a great example for newly certified divers. I encourage everyone to continue advancing their skills through training and practical dive experience.

LA PAZ!!!!

We now have 19 people who have confirmed their places on this trip with deposits leaving 5 spots open. We have received the 2nd deposit from most folks and will most likely be asking for the next installment in June. We will be staying 7 nights at the Club Cantamar resort in La Paz with 5 days of 2 or 3 tank dives, depending on the distance of dive locations from the resort. The price for the trip including resort, diving, air fare, meals on dive days, and taxes/surcharges/fees will be \$1120 (not counting any applicable discounts) per person, double occupancy.



UPCOMING...

As I mentioned before, Liz and I will be on the Peace to Anacapa this weekend, and are also the May oil rig trip on the Sea Bass with Hollywood Divers. We're also planning on doing the Vision trip to the outer islands in June too. These are all awesome opportunities, so don't miss out!!

Also coming up are Chamber Day/Evening is less than a week away, on May 3rd. As of this writing I know that Chamber Evening is sold out. There are still a few open spots on a few boats, so if you're looking for a great excuse to ditch work for a day, helping a great charity is the perfect one! The annual SCUBA show is also just around the corner too, June 24 & 25. This is a cool opportunity to check out the latest gear, travel destinations, and score some great raffle prizes at the Sport Chalet area.

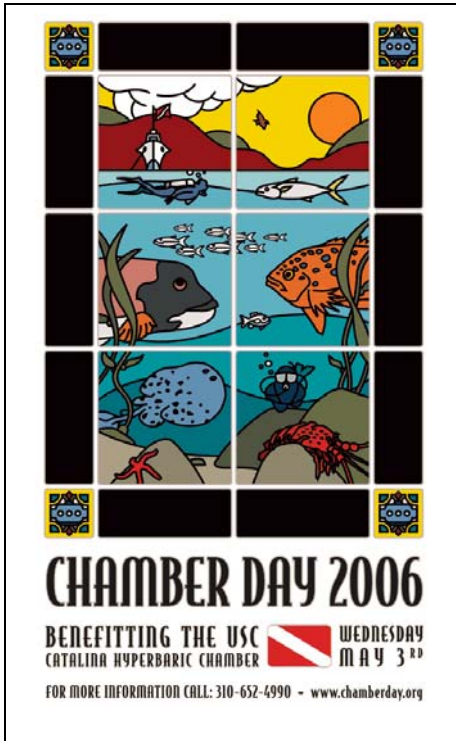
OK....Might as well keep it short and sweet this month. We should be heading into some nice spring weather, so take a look at our upcoming events calendar and come on out and join us!

Last month's speaker, was our very own Mark Navas (with a little help from Keith Biondi) who spoke about freediving and spearfishing. He brought several different types of spear guns and talked about the pros and cons of each. Mark's years of experience freediving and spearfishing have given him a very wide range of knowledge, and it was really nice of him to share it with the club. Mark is also one of the most well-versed persons we know with regard to Fish and Game laws - including most wardens! Thanks to Mark for an excellent presentation!

DIVE ON...

Your President, Kevin Sullivan

CHAMBER DAY 2006



For a Donation of \$85* You Receive:

- Two (2) Dives at Santa Catalina Island
- Tour of the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber
- Chamber Day 2006 Commemorative T-shirt
- Five (5) Chamber Day 2004 Raffle Tickets
- Chance to talk to Local Search and Rescue Personnel

*Plus a \$30 Food and Air Charge

The daytime event is known as "Chamber Day" and runs as it has in the past. (And don't forget the date - Wednesday, May 3.)

Twelve of SoCal's finest dive boats donate their services for the day. They are (in alphabetical order): Aquatica, Bottom Scratcher, Cee Ray, Great Escape, Island Time, Magician, Mr. C, Psalty V, Pacific Star, Sea Bass, Second Stage, and Sundiver. Here's the way it works. (And for those who can't actually take the day off, there's always the Flying Dutchman. More on that later.)

You pay \$85 for the day (all the proceeds go to the Chamber) and choose the boat you want to go on. (Book early because once a boat fills, it's unavailable. Although we'll hold a reservation for you for 72 hours, after that time, spots are only guaranteed when they are paid in full.) This year, all the boats are doing food-and-air-included so we'll also collect \$30 from you for that (making the total tab \$115).

In general, the boats will leave their respective dock at 7AM and head for Catalina. (Some boats may allow you to board the night before and sleep on board.) You'll get a commemorative Chamber Day 2006 t-shirt, five raffle tickets (you can buy more on your boat or at the Chamber), and make two dives at Catalina.

Sometime during the day, your boat will stop at our Catalina Chamber in Big Fisherman Cove. You'll all disembark for a 75-minute overview of Chamber operations. L.A. County Lifeguards will explain their job, rescue helicopters and crews from the Coast Guard and Sheriffs will be on hand, and the Chamber crew will show you the Chamber itself, including taking you inside and pressurizing the Chamber to a depth of 1-foot. (Yes, you'll have to clear your ears. It's really weird and we can't explain it logically. However, if you think you're getting narked, then we've got to talk.)

Most of the boats will arrive back at their docks between 5 and 5:30PM. We try to radio all the boats on the way back to tell them their raffle winners. But all raffle prizes will be available in front of the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach at our drive-up raffle prize pick-up table. But we can't do any of this unless you sign up for the event by calling our coordinating store at 310-652-4990 or by signing up on the web. Come alone, or come with a friend, but just come.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALOHA DIVE AND HOLLYWOD DIVERS!

Hollywood Divers and Aloha Dive for generously supporting our raffles. In addition, Aloha donated several gifts today on the Anacapa/Santa Cruz trip on the Peace. Ted Zalta won a snorkel, I won a BC knife, and Corey Bushell got an Aloha Dive T-shirt. Another person who signed up through the shop, but not one of our members, won a really nice mask. I've never seen a shop do that before and I thought it was very, very cool. They also had a Dive Rite rep. on board allowing people to try out gear, and they gave everybody key chains.

"DOMINICA" By Ed Mickus

I really enjoyed Dominica. It is a very small island in the Caribbean... not to be confused with the Dominican Republic. I was there with a friend of mine from New York. We stayed at a hotel called Fort Young. It was a wonderful place. The town is quite small and the people are very poor so the evenings were mostly spent hanging around the hotel. But the diving there was fantastic!

The area we dove was all within a 5-10 minute boat ride. Most of the water around the hotel was a designated marine park even though fishing is allowed to the native islanders who have fished those waters for centuries. There were times I saw long line fishing being done and under the water I wanted to free the fish I saw being caught up in the line but we were told to leave the catch alone, so I did.



The diving was wonderful. The water was a warm 85 degrees. My kind of diving! I was there in September. There were many interesting fish. I saw numerous sea horses, eels, frog fish, scorpion fish, squids, electric rays, sharks, and other fish I have never seen before that time. The night diving was also fantastic. There was a place where you could hear underground volcanic activity. The water was at least 5 degrees warmer in this area and the bubbles rising from the ocean floor gave it a real amazing experience. The squid seemed liked the warmer waters.

The more interesting creatures were the numerous seahorses and the frog fish. I spent a lot of time taking pictures of the seahorses...so beautiful. We were pulling up the anchor line of the boat after a dive and pulled up a baby seahorse along with it clinging to the line. And the frog fish are amazingly beautiful (in their own way) and well-adapted creatures. Take a look at the photograph with the orange frog fish. They sit on a coral head hiding themselves with their camouflage. They have this little thing that extends out from their head that almost looks like a little fishing pole or antenna. It must have a scent or something since when another fish comes by to see what it is, the frog fish gulps them down. That way their dinner comes to them. Gee, where can I get some of that!

Life's a beach, and then you dive.



If your interested in hitting a hot dive spot with Ed, there is a spot on the Galapagos trip for May 20-27. The cost would be \$2650 for the boat. For more information, contact Ed Mickus.

PACIFIC EXPLORER'S DIVE CLUB MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 11, 2006

Raffle Winners:

Dave Carlson
Diane Stevenson
Kathleen Griffith
Dave Bentley
Tony Pada
Kevin Byran
Kevin Sullivan
Mike Bushell
SeaDive Mask
TJ Jones
SeaMask Mask & Defog Set
Chuck Heinold
Dirk Drossel

Prize:

Akona Roller Bag
Akona Gear Bag
Seabed Lamp
Blue Water Hunting & Free Diving Book
Hollywood Divers Baseball Cap
Hollywood Divers Tee Shirt
Floating Keychain from Aloha Dive
Aloha Dive Sticker
Keith Biondi
Larry the Lobster
Michael Griffith
Mask Strap from Hollywood Divers
Air Card from Aloha Divers

Quarterly Participation Winner:

Mike Bushell

Prize:

\$45 Gift Card from Sports Chalet

New Members:

None

Guest Speaker:

The subject was Free Diving and Spearfishing. Mark Navis was the main speaker and was assisted by Keith Biondi. Both are members of Pacific Explorers. Mark and Keith gave a fascinating talk on their hunting experiences and brought a number of Pole Spears and Spearguns to show. They explained how each type of spear or gun was used, their advantages and disadvantages, and the cost of each. They also shared some hunting tips and showed a short video presentation of some actual hunts. Thank you to both Mark and Keith for an interesting talk.

***** DAN AMERICA, CHAMBER OPERATOR REACH SETTLEMENT *****

Durham, North Carolina (2006-04-27 12:28:41 EST) In a news release dated April 26, 2006, Divers Alert Network (DAN America) and clinic members of the SSS Network of Recompression Chambers (SSS) announce that they have reached a settlement in the recent legal action over billing practices.

Representatives of SSS announced that DAN America insurance is once again accepted as a result of the resolution of the outstanding claims that were the basis for the lawsuit. The terms of the settlement remained confidential. The SSS Network of Recompression Chambers and DAN America have pledged to work closely together to ensure that injured divers will receive the most appropriate and effective medical care.

This announcement brings to an end a long simmering dispute between DAN and the SSS chamber network over what exactly constituted "reasonable and customary" charges. DAN had claimed Mr. Mauricio Moreno, owner of SSS, said his charges are "reasonable and customary," even if the charges are significantly higher than similar services elsewhere. At one point, the SSS chamber network dumped DAN America insurance at ten popular diving destinations around the world.

EQUIPMENT ALERT

Sport Chalet will not be filling ALL aluminum cylinders.

Tanks, made by Luxfer before May of 1988 or made by Walter Kidd before June of 1989 will not be filled by Sport Chalet. This is because they were using an aluminum alloy, AL6351, that has been the source of some cylinder failures.

Sport Chalet will give you a \$40 credit toward the purchase of a new cylinder, aluminum or steel. Check your tanks and do it while they are giving the credit. It may not last for long.



June 24-25 Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, CA
[CLICK HERE for Advanced Online Registration Savings](#)

- 57,000 sq. ft. of diving related exhibits
- Latest innovations in diving gear
 - New, revolutionary gear introduced at show!
- Dive travel representatives and displays
 - Big Savings on Dive Travel!
- Instructional agencies with top diving experts
- Special displays, including:
 - Nick Icorn's Museum of Diving History
 - Wreck artifacts from the CA Wreck Divers
 - Photos from the U/W Photographic Society

**OVER 200 BOOTHS OF
EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES
AND EXOTIC LOCATIONS**

Schedule of Events

Sat., June 24	Exhibits Open • On-site Seminar Registration • Ticket Sales	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
	Seminars	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
	Continuous Underwater Film Festival	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
	Catalina Casino Party Benefit & Silent Auction Including Presentation of California Scuba Service Award	6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Sun., June 25	Exhibits Open • On-site Seminar Registration • Ticket Sales	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
	Seminars	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
	Continuous Underwater Film Festival	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHT CASINO BENEFIT

- At the Convention Center; Las Vegas-style gaming
- Silent Auction and Drawings for Prizes
- Presentation of the California Scuba Service Award
- Thousands of dollars in prizes and silent auction items offered by dozens of sponsors ([click here](#) for a list of sponsors)
- Benefiting non-profit [Catalina Conservancy Divers](#)—volunteer divers working to protect and restore Catalina Island's marine ecosystem

Sunday Door Prize & Grand Prize for the weekend is a trip on the luxury live-aboard [Palau Aggressor II](#).
Airfare provided by Continental Airlines.

West Hills (818) 710-0999											
Open	Adv	UW Nav	Rescue	EFR	UW Photo	Wreck	Deep	Nat Geo	Night	Haz Inj	O ² First Aid
5/8	5/2					5/10		5/4			
5/17	5/15										
	6/1										
Porter Ranch (818) 831-9520											
	5/31		5/13		6/3	5/9			7/18		
	6/16		7/8								
Dates subject to change. Please check with your local Sport Chalet Dive Center to verify dates and times.											

A SATURDAY DIVE AT OLD MARINE LAND

By Diver Dave Carlson

Saturday the 22nd Kathy and I hooked up with some guys that just finished an Advanced Class with us for an extra dive and as it turned out it was also the club beach dive of the month. These guys have been a lot of fun so we wanted to do some thing extra with them. The weather was looking iffy but it turned out to be quite nice and I even opted to use my wet suit. Hey it was just one dive. Mike and Cory still gave me a hard time since I don't mind wearing my dry suit on a beach dive. We got there at 9 and there was a nice crowd of divers there already. So we started asking about conditions. OUCH, the water is 52. Maybe I should have brought the dry suit. Hey, no maybe about it, I made a big booboo. Oh well.

The other news was that there was a red tide off the point but the vis in spots was 50 feet. Bummer about the red tide. But the surf was down and getting in and out would be a snap. After looking things over you could really see the red tide off the point. I had been up to Ventura on Thursday and the red tide was thick up there but I didn't expect it to show up down here. We geared up and strolled down to the water and walked in, piece of cake. I had one fella Dave, and Kathy had 2 guys Don and Tony while Mike and Cory made up the rest of the pack.

Cory was out for scallops. We dropped down and headed south and promptly got separated because of the red tide. We had already made plans for this so Dave an I continued on our dive as well as did Kathy and her crew. This was a classic beach dive, you never know what you're going to get. We trolled around and found a ray, octopus, and all of the usual critters. Vis was spotty because of the red tide. Kathy and her gang found a big open area that was clear and they had that 50 foot vis. Dave and I walked out after about 30 minutes, someone needs to relax and work on his breathing rate.

Kathy and the guys surfaced after 54 minutes and made a rock exit just north of the beach area because it was so calm. Mike and Cory popped up just around the south point and made the swim back with no problem. All in all it was a good dive, Mike and Cory got some scallops, all the guys had a blast, and even I had a good time because I didn't get as cold as I thought I would. In fact, nobody was complaining about getting cold. This dive turned out just fine, the only bummer was that it could have been an awesome dive if that dang red tide hadn't shown up. In areas without the tide, vis was great and that would of made thing just perfect. This dive just goes to show you that you never know what to expect at the beach some days. Hey, it was suppose to rain but we opted to give it a shot and had a nice dive.

TWO DAYS AT THE BEACH By Russell Burt

Sat. 4/15

I joined Dave Wait for an Open Water class at the beach on Sat. April 15. He chose Leo Carillo for his students'—there were only two of them—first dive. Unfortunately, the waves were a bit larger than is desirable for new divers, and he had to scrub the dive. But some of the details are fun:

We started by taking the students into the surf without scuba gear so they could do a skin dive. The waves were not huge, but the periods between sets were very short so there wasn't much of a break. Everyone handled the skin dive without problems; it was dealing with scuba gear that presented some challenges.

Paul Janke, Dave's divemaster, went to set the float. He handled it, but I was glad I wasn't him that day! Carrying a float through relentless surf is a pain in the tuckus. Since I wasn't working that day, I just had fun watching (i.e. laughing). Of course I lent a hand where needed (with the students), but Paul is a professional so I just let him huff and puff his way through the surf. Good job, Paul!

Dave and I decided to take his students one at a time, so each student had an instructor as a buddy. Dave went out first, and got his guy beyond the surf zone. But the poor lad was spent, and a bit anxious besides, and Dave rightly decided to scrub the dive. Fortunately for me, I hadn't taken my guy out yet, so we were fine. When the exhausted student came out, he spilled a bit of breakfast on the beach. Poor guy! He was a real trooper, though.

And Paul had to bring the float back in!

Then we all went to breakfast at Starbucks. That was the best part of the day.

Sun. 4/16

Since I had a scrubbed dive on Sat., Peter Bortoli asked me to join him for a dive at Corral Beach on Sunday. He had one student (Ron Heston's wife) who was finishing her Open Water certification, but also Ron and his daughter tagged along. The conditions at Corral were much better than at Leo Carillo the day before, and we got into and out of the water without any problems. The dive itself was only ho-hum; vis wasn't great and there weren't a lot of critters. However, we did see a lot of flatworms, a big sheep crab, a barred sand bass, and some little crabs. It wasn't the best dive, but it was nice to get some bottom time. Plus, there's another newly certified diver in the world! Thanks for the invitation, Peter.

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC SPECIAL EVENT

Dazzling and Dangerous Members Preview

Members will be among the first to see into the Aquarium's new exhibit, *Dazzling & Dangerous: Venomous Creatures*. Meet the surprising faces behind the fangs, stingers, and spines of some of the beautiful but dangerous animals that lurk in our ocean and on land. Get up close and learn why venom is the weapon of choice for these animals! *Dazzling & Dangerous* will open to the public on May 26.

At our members-only previews, enjoy talks with marine biologists, special activities and entertainment, and dining specials.

The entire Aquarium will be open with the exception of Lorikeet Forest. For the animals' sleep patterns, exhibit lighting will begin to dim at 8:30 p.m.



Aloha Dive Schedule			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Destination & Departure Time</i>	<i>Boat</i>	<i>Price</i>
7-May	Anacapa / Santa Cruz; 7:00 a.m.	Great White	\$145
13-May	Anacapa / Santa Cruz; 7:00 a.m.	Great White	\$145
14-May	Anacapa; 7:00 a.m.	Peace	\$129
20-May	Anacapa / Santa Cruz; 7:00 a.m.	Great White	\$145
21-May	Anacapa / Santa Cruz; 7:00 a.m.	Great White	\$145
3-Jun	Anacapa; 7:00 a.m.	Peace	\$129
4-Jun	Anacapa / Santa Cruz; 7:00 a.m.	Great White	\$145
10 - 11 June	Outer Islands; Midnight Friday 6/9	Peace	\$295
17-Jun	Anacapa / Santa Cruz; 7:00 a.m.	Great White	\$145
18-Jun	Santa Rosa; 4:00 a.m.	Great White	\$165
24 - 25 June	Santa Rosa / Santa Cruz; 4:00 a.m.	Great White	\$299
<i>All prices include food/air. Nitrox available @ extra cost.</i>			
<i>Call 818-700-8134 for reservations.</i>			

WHALE DIAGNOSED WITH LIFE-THREATENING INFECTION

ATLANTA - One of the Georgia Aquarium's five prized beluga whales has a life-threatening bone infection and veterinarians are trying to find out what's causing it and how to treat it, aquarium officials said.

Gasper, a 17-year-old male beluga whale brought to the Atlanta aquarium after being rescued from a Mexico City amusement park, has been ill for several years and doctors just diagnosed the potentially deadly infection, osteomyelitis, in his right pectoral flipper and tail, said Tim Binder, director of husbandry at the aquarium.



"We're certainly alarmed," Binder said Sunday. "This is a disease that could be life-threatening."

Gasper also has skin lesions, a symptom of a different or possibly the same underlying illness causing osteomyelitis that remains to be diagnosed, Binder said. He probably developed all those ailments after his immune system was weakened because he lived in a "stressful" environment surrounded by a large rollercoaster in the Mexican park, Binder said.

"His health was in decline when he arrived" in Atlanta in October, Binder said. He said Gasper had lost 200-300 of his normal 1,400 pounds and, in addition to a high-calorie diet, aquarium staff started a battery of tests.

The bone infection, which causes inflamed bones to swell, was diagnosed only now because it requires specialized technology - "it's difficult to X-ray a whale," Binder said.

Because treatment for osteomyelitis - which causes inflamed bones to swell - can be lengthy and challenging, Gasper has been moved to an off-view pool where he's been monitored 24 hours a day, Binder said.

The other beluga whale with which he shared the main tank, Nico, came from the same amusement park but hasn't shown any sign of illness, said aquarium spokesman Dave Santucci. Nico remains with three female belugas in the aquarium's 800,000 gallon whale habitat.

Aside from resting more than usual, Gasper is handling his ailments well. "Yesterday, he was blowing bubble rings and playing in the pool," Binder said. "This animal has been very easy to work with."

HOLLYWOOD DIVERS CLASS SCHEDULE							
Open	Rescue	UW Photo & Video	Wreck	Drysuit	Nitrox	CPR 1st Aid AED	DECO Procedures
5/13	5/1	5/17	5/2*	5/2*	5/9	5/10	5/18
6/10	6/5	6/14	6/8*	6/8*	6/12	6/5	6/15
6/22	7/10	7/19	7/18*	7/18*	7/4	7/10	6/30
7/22	8/7	8/16	8/15*	8/15*	8/8	7/12	7/13
8/19	8/14					8/9	8/17

Dates subject to change. Please check with Hollywood Divers to verify dates and start time. (323) 969-9800, (818) 990-2279
<http://www.hollywoodivers.com>

OTTER RECOVERS FROM EXTENSIVE SURGERY AFTER ATTACK

A 7-year-old male sea otter attacked by what researchers guess was a great white shark has recovered from surgery, according to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The otter washed up on a beach near the aquarium in January. Aquarium staff found two fresh bite wounds on the animal's left shoulder, likely from a shark, experts said.

During a three-hour surgery at the aquarium, a veterinary surgical specialist attached small surgical steel plates to each broken bone. The otter survived the procedure and four hours of anesthesia, and was eating and grooming within hours using the surgically repaired limb.

"This was a major, very aggressive procedure done on this animal," said aquarium veterinarian Mike Murray, who also works for the Sea Otter Research and Conservation program. "It really validates that these are tough little guys who can be good surgical candidates."

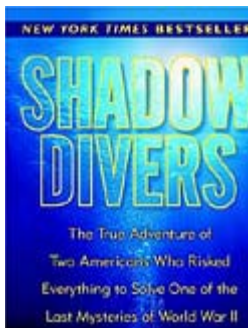
The otter was released April 17.

How To Fail Your Open Water Test



- Tell your instructor you will race him to the surface.
- Lie face down and motionless while holding your breath.
- Loudly proclaim that safety stops are for "wossies".
- Show up with a set of tables based on your own algorithm "that's WAY better".
- Spit in your wetsuit and pee in your mask.
- Ask your instructor, which fin goes on which foot.
- Tell your instructor there is no way you can lift a cylinder with 2000 pounds of air in it.
- When asked for your dive plan, you hand over a bundle of travel brochures.

FAILING GRADES BY HEAL THE BAY		
4 week average ending April 24, 2006		
Beach Name	Dry	Wet
Trancas Beach entrance	A+	F
Paradise Cove	F	F
Puerco Beach- at lifeguard station by bridge	A	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Topanga State Beach	F	F
Will Rogers Beach- Pulga Canyon storm drain, 50 yds east	B	F
Will Rogers State Beach- Santa Monica Canyon	F	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier - 50 yards downcoast	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Ocean Park Beach- Ashland Av. storm drain, 50 yds south	A+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Windward Av., 50 yds north	A+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	D	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A+	F
Dockweiler Beach- 50 yds south of Ballona Creek entrance	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach- projection of Culver Bl.	A+	F
Dockweiler Beach- Imperial Hwy storm drain, 50 yds north	A+	F
Manhattan Beach -projection of 28th St.	F	A+
Hermosa Beach Pier- 50 yards south	A+	D
Redondo Municipal Pier- 50 yards south	F	D
Redondo Beach- projection of Avenue I	A+	D
Cabrillo Beach- harborside at lifeguard tower	F	B



BOOK REVIEW *SHADOW DIVERS* LIZ SULLIVAN



This winter has created a lot of great opportunities to snuggle up with a good book as the rain fell outside. It was on one of these diveless weekends that I thumbed through my stack of unread dive related books searching for a new victim. *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson is a bestseller book (soon to be movie) that a few dive club members had read and enjoyed. By their suggestion, I bought the book but then put it on a shelf only to forget all about it. I could not put it down once I finally got it open.

The story is mainly about two wreck divers, John Chatterton and Richie Kohler and their rivalry turned friendship after embarking on a quest to identify a sunken WWII German U-Boat found off the coast of New Jersey in 230 feet of water. The story begins in 1991 with the discovery of the wreck after a local fisherman entrusts the numbers for the location of his new fishing site to the captain of *The Seeker* dive boat, Bill Nagle.

From then on, the book is somewhat of a mystery novel combined with great biographical insight and technical detail. No historian, expert or government could verify a sunken submarine in that area and there are so many twists and turns from that point on that it's hard to believe the book is not fiction. The wreck did not give up its identity easily and the divers did not take short cuts in their search. Both Chatterton and Kohler worked endlessly in and out of the water trying to identify the sub while at the same time respecting the site as a war gravesite with the crew remains still eerily on board. It really is a very moving and fascinating book with lots of details and information.

To add, this is a book that is great for non divers too. My mom read it right after I did and she said that she learned a lot more about diving by reading it. Of course I had to tell her that deep sea wreck diving is not what Kevin and I have ever done – she was concerned! Regardless, the book does give good insight into wreck diving, the motivations involved with the sport and the dangers that can result.

Lastly, if you do read it, please don't stop at the epilogue at the end of the book. There is some great information in the epilogue that sort of ties the book together. And don't look at the pictures at the back of the book until after you read the entire thing since it will spoil some of the suspense if you have not already read other books that discuss this particular wreck.

The writer Robert Kurson has done an excellent job researching many of the people in the book and brings great facts and stories about the divers and some of the crew that perished on the sub. I really hope that the movie, to be directed by Ridley Scott, does not miss too much of this. I really suggest that if anyone is interested in seeing the movie that they read the book first. Then pass it on to someone else to read.

TRIP REPORT BY WALLY BURKE

April 14th, Good Friday – Spectre to Anacapa Island

The weather prediction was for rain – ½ to 1", and thunderstorms. Nancy & I decided to try it anyhow and boarded the Spectre at 7:05 AM. After picking spots for our tanks, prepping our gear & then stowing our gear bags, we went into the main cabin to sign in and fill out the required paperwork. And it was just in time – it started to drizzle as we entered the cabin.

We ordered some breakfast and sat down and wanted while talking to some of the other divers. One guy drove up this morning from San Diego and another guy from Riverside. Both had been on the Spectre before and like the boat, crew, and dive sites. This was Nancy's and my 3rd time on the boat as well.

We got our breakfast and the boat left the dock promptly at 8 AM. 32 divers had reserved for today, but probably due to the bad weather reports many cancelled, and we left the harbor with only 17 adventurous divers on board. It drizzled and occasionally showered on the way to Anacapa, but the seas were calm – the best I've seen in the past year.

At the first dive site on the near side of the island near the west end the boat set out its anchors (they use two), but then decided the current was running too much, so they pulled up the anchors and we moved around to the back side of the island. We dropped anchor(s) again at a site called "East Channel". As we all went out to gear up we found that the showers had stopped and the sky was patchy blue & clouds. Anacapa looked beautiful! The plants were brilliant green and the *Coreopsis* was blooming with bright yellow flowers.

Continued next page.

Santa Cruz looked so close that you felt you could swim to it – it was bathed in bright sunshine and it looked great also. Nancy & I began our dive at 10:52 AM with a giant stride off the side of the boat. The water temp at the surface was 55° and the bottom at 33 feet was 54°. This is pretty typical of what we've been seeing at Catalina for the past two months. There was no current and very minor surge. The vis was about 30-40 feet, a little better than we had seen so far this year.

The site was full of life. The reef was covered with Red & Purple Sea Urchins – thousands of them in various sizes. There were lots of Blacksmiths and Senoritas, some Black Surfperch, and Halfmoons. There were of course several Garibaldi's, some Rock Wrasse, Sea Cucumbers, and several types and colors of Sea Stars. We saw a couple of Rock Scallops, several different colored Nudi's, and black, white, and striped Limpets. We saw a Horn Shark resting out on the sand, and we inched up and got a good look at him close up.

We had just bought a housing for our digital camera and had also just completed our Digital Underwater Photography class, but we hadn't brought the camera with us because we thought that with the predicted storm it would be too dark for good photos. Dang! We were wrong. We missed lots of good possibilities on this and the subsequent dives. We surfaced after diving for 43 minute happy with the great dive (other than not having our camera!).

The boat moved to a new dive site while we did our surface interval and had a snack. We anchored at "Underwater Island" which is a reef just off shore surrounded by sand. We entered the water at 12:38. The water temp was the same as before – 55° at the surface and 54 at 62° feet. There was no current and very little surge. Vis was about 30 feet. Once we reached the bottom we were amazed – the sand seafloor was covered with Brittle Stars, the majority about 4-5 inches across, but some were just over an inch while others were over a foot across. Most the Brittle Stars were a sandy-tan color, while others were brown and a few were bright orange. Most of the Brittle Stars on the sand had one arm raised straight up, so the sand appeared at first glance to be covered with a growth of sea grass.

The vast majority of the Brittle Stars were below 60 feet, with some up to 50 feet, but at that depth there was a sudden cut-off, so that there was almost a "line" on the reef where above it there were virtually no brittle stars. As we continued our dive we discovered that the Brittle Stars completely surrounded the entire reef for as far as the vis would allow you to see. I don't think I'm exaggerating to say there must have been a million of them or more. We also saw two Sunflower Sea Stars – these have over a dozen legs. One was on the side of the reef in plain view and appeared to be at least 18" across, while the second was in a crevice and it was hard to tell its full size, but it could have been 50% larger than the first one.

We were also surprised to find a memorial plaque on the bottom beside the reef commemorating a diver who died in 1998. It was somewhat overgrown and hard to read the details of why it was there. Towards the end of the dive we were admiring a large school of Blacksmiths when all of a sudden the entire school darted away from us to the left. Nancy was on my right, and as I turned to my right to see what had scared the fish Nancy visibly "jumped" and my eyes popped open as this large shape shot up beside Nancy before we both recognized it as a Sea Lion.

It stopped about six feet in front of us and we studied each other for a moment, then it darted behind us. As we turned to follow its motion it disappeared into the distance. I learned later back on the boat that it had visited several other divers as well. One guy claimed it showed its teeth at him, which he took to mean "get out of my territory", but none of the rest of us felt that way; we all thought it was just curious about us.

The boat moved again to a third site while we ate lunch. This spot – "West Channel" was to be our final dive of the day. Nancy & I entered the water @ 2:48 PM. The water temp was the same as before & the vis was not quite as good as the previous sites with 30 foot max. We dropped down to the bottom @ 42 feet and cruised around looking for critters. We spotted another Horned Shark, a lot of Brittle Stars, and various other types and colors of Sea Stars. We saw a small Halibut out on the sandy bottom, and then in a ravine we ran into a school of large (~18" long or so) fish with a white spot on their upper backs. I'm not sure what they were, maybe Opaleyes? We didn't remember seeing this fish previously.

We had a LOT of surge at this site and both of us got whacked into a Sea Urchin, but luckily in both cases the Sea Urchin got the worse of the encounter. We didn't end up with any spines in our skin.

We surfaced after 39 minutes of diving and returned to the boat where we started disassembling and packing our gear for the trip home.

The seas were still calm going back to the mainland and we got back into the dock at Ventura Harbor at 5 PM sharp. We quickly disembarked and drove home after a great day of diving.

**Pacific Explorers Dive Club Trip
Club Cantamar Resort, La Paz, Baja California
October 7-14, 2006**

- * Club Cantamar is located 30 minutes outside of town
- * 45 minutes from La Paz airport
- * Secluded waterfront property
- * Pool, bar & restaurant on site
- * All rooms have mini refrigerator, satellite tv, a/c and telephone
- * Junior Suites and Condos also available
- * Sea of Cortez diving Dive with sea lions, manta rays, schools of jacks & marlin
- * Encounter dolphins, whales, hammerhead sharks and whalesharks
- * Kayaking and Sport fishing
- * Nitrox available



Package includes:

- Round-trip Airfare from LAX to La Paz, Baja California
- Airport Transfers
- 7 nights lodging at Club Cantamar Resort, standard double room
- 3 meals daily on dive days
- 5 days of 2 or 3 tank boat dives including a day at Las Animas
- Hotel, Airline, and Departure Taxes included \$1,120 per person double occupancy

\$863 Non Diver Double Occupancy \$1,355 Diver Single Occupancy

For more information and reservations contact:
Kevin Sullivan, Pacific Explorers Dive Club President

president@pacificexplorers.org

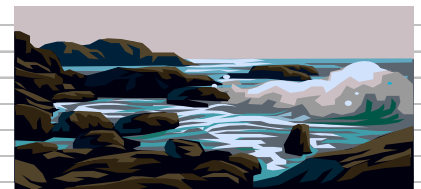
Cell. Phone: 805-551-8940

Some restrictions apply. Prices are subject to change without notice. Terms and conditions available upon request. Travel Arrangements through World of Diving: CST#2071673-40

DO NOT FORGET TO GET INFORMATION ON DIVE TRIP INSURANCE

Seafood Watch for the US West Coast by the Monterey Bay Aquarium

BEST CHOICES	GOOD ALTERNATIVES	AVOID
Abalone (farmed)	Basa/Tra (farmed)	Chilean Seabass/Toothfish*
Catfish (US farmed)	Clams, Oysters* (wild-caught)	Cod: Atlantic
Clams, Mussels, Oysters (farmed)	Cod: Pacific (longline or trawl-caught)	Crab: King (imported)
Cod: Pacific (trap or hook & line-caught)	Crab: King (AK), Snow (US), imitation	Dogfish (US)*
Crab: Dungeness, Snow (Canada)	Dogfish (BC)*	Grenadier/Pacific Roughy
Halibut: Pacific	Lingcod	Lobster: Spiny (Caribbean imported)
Lobster: Spiny (US)	Lobster: American/Maine	Monkfish
Pollock (wild-caught from AK)*	Mahi mahi/Dolphin/Dorado	Orange Roughy*
Sablefish/Black Cod (AK, BC)	Rockfish (hook & line caught from AK, BC)*	Rockfish (trawl-caught)*
Salmon (wild-caught from AK)*	Sablefish/Black Cod (CA, OR, WA)	Salmon (farmed, including Atlantic)*
Sardines	Salmon (wild-caught from CA, OR, WA)	Sharks*
Shrimp: Pink (OR)	Sanddabs: Pacific	Shrimp (imported farmed or wild-caught)
Spot Prawn (BC)	Scallops: Bay, Sea	Sturgeon*, Caviar (imported wild-caught)
Striped Bass (farmed)	Shrimp (US farmed or wild-caught)	Swordfish(imported)*
Sturgeon, Caviar (farmed)	Sole: English, Dover, Petrale, Rex	Tuna: Bluefin*
Tilapia (farmed)	Spot Prawn (US)	
Trout: Rainbow (farmed)	Squid	
Tuna: Albacore, Bigeye, Yellowfin (troll/pole-caught)	Sturgeon (wild-caught from OR, WA)	
White Seabass	Swordfish (US)*	
	Tuna: Albacore, Bigeye, Yellowfin, (longline-caught)*	
	Tuna: canned light	
	Tuna: canned white/Albacore*	



April 5, 2006 Pacific Explorer's Dive Club BOD meeting minutes

Board members attending: Kevin Sullivan, Kathy White, David Carlson, Nancy & Wally Burke, Connie Richards, David Bentley, Mike Bushell, and Ed Mickus.

Guest: Stan Richards.

Called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at Sagebrush Cantina Restaurant in Calabasas.

President—Kevin Sullivan: Kevin announced that 19 people have paid a deposit for the La Paz trip in October. A second payment of \$200 is due in April from each of the people going. We have 12 rooms scheduled for double occupancy. If someone takes a room for one person we will have less than the planned 24 people. Currently we have 21 spots taken (because of some single occupants) and have 3 more people very interested in going. Chris Fox has information regarding trip insurance for those that want it. Kevin will email it to all of the members.

VP/Entertainment-David Carlson: This month (April) Mark Navis will speak about Free Diving and Spearfishing. In May, Mike Griffith will talk about diving in Indonesia, which MAY be our 2007 warm water dive location. June will be a presentation by the Bay Keepers & Kelp Restoration. July is tentatively set for Ed Mickus to discuss his trip to the Galapagos. In August, David Golden from Orange County will make an interesting presentation. In November, we will have a presentation on our club trip to La Paz.

Treasurer-Kathy White: Will purchase six items max for each monthly or Quarterly Raffle. We will also raffle off any donations from the contributing dive shops as well. If you have any suggestions for raffle prizes please email Kathy. We have 5 club tee shirts left for sale at \$5.00 each – ½ the normal price.

Membership-Connie Richards: We currently have 97 members.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: The website is going well. If you see some strange stuff when you get to the site it is because the site is "re-authored" periodically. Let Russell know and he'll fix it.

Raffle Coordinator-Ed Mickus: The raffle is going well. We're having good participation each month.

Newsletter-Jeffrey Adler: Did not attend

Shore Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: The April 8th Beach Dive at Shaw's Cove in Laguna Beach was canceled due to a storm. There was six foot waves and chocolate surf. We'll try again in August. Mike is going to try to set up a dive at the old Marineland site in late April. He'll send out an email to the membership. On May 6 we will have a beach dive at El Pescador. There is a fairly long walk down the hill to the beach, but it has a great reef. Mike is planning the June beach dive for Pt. Dume. July 15th we're going to dive at Latigo Shores near Ed Mickus's place followed by a potluck BBQ. This was rescheduled due to rain in February. Shaw's Cove in Laguna Beach is the site for August. It was canceled in April but is such a nice site we'll try it again. It has a nice reef and is worth the drive. Parking is a bit of a problem, you have to park in a neighborhood. You MUST have a snorkel and a buddy to dive here.

Boat Dive Coordinator-David Bentley: March 25th was Farnsworth Banks on the Magician. We had five club members go. The diving was fantastic. You can see some pictures on the website and read about it in the April newsletter. April 30th we will be going to Anacapa for four dives through a charter by Aloha Dive Shop on the Peace. This is a great boat with possibly the best food of any dive boat. Nitrox is available. We have five club members signed up so far. The Sea Bass will be going to the oil rig on May 13th. The charter is through Hollywood Divers and costs \$125 including food & air. There are only 12 spaces available. You will get three dives on the rigs. Nitrox is available for \$8 per tank. The boat will leave at 6 AM and return about 2 PM. This trip is for Advanced Divers only, and you should have good buoyancy skills as the bottom is 300-600 feet! No hunting. 2 club members have signed up so far. On June 17th we will be taking the Truth boat out of Santa Barbara to the outer islands (San Miguel or Santa Rosa – it's the captain's discretion). The Truth is the largest boat up there, 85 feet long, holds 40 divers. This is an open boat and includes food and air. Dave is soliciting ideas for other trips that the members would like to see for later this year. Email Dave with your suggestions.

Secretaries- Wally & Nancy Burke: Nothing to report

The board voted on the following: To change the Quarterly Participation award amount from \$15 to \$45. To clarify that each person gets one entry in the Participation Award Raffle for each club dive attended, and one for each personally authored newsletter article.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Mike Bushell will host the next BOD meeting at a site to be determined later.

Wally & Nancy will host the meeting in June.



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



Date	Day	Beach / Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return	
6-May	Sat	Beach	El Pescador	FREE			9 AM		
13-May	Sat	Sea Bass	Oil Rigs Hollywood Divers***	125	Food & Air	6 AM	7 AM	2 PM	
10 Jun		Beach	Point Dume	FREE	Malibu		9 AM		
17 Jun	Sat	Truth Aquatics****	Outer Islands	114	Food & Air	7 PM 16th	4 AM	5 PM	
24-25 June		Long Beach Scuba Show							
15 July	Sat	Latigo Shores, Malibu & Club Picnic							
29 July	Sat	Catalina Express or Catalina Ferries	Avalon	54 67	Nada	Varies			
8-16 Aug		MacKerrcher State Park, Fort Bragg Camping & Abalone Skin Diving							
7-Oct - 14 Oct		Club Cantamar	La Paz, Mexico	1,120	Travel, Hotel, Diving, 3 meals daily				

"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.

You can reserve your spot on the Peace by calling Aloha Dive at 818-700-8134.

***You can reserve your spot on the Sea Bass by calling Hollywood Divers at
(323) 969-9800, (818) 990-2279***

****You can reserve your spot on the Truth by calling (805) 962-1127****
Catalina Express (800) 481-3470 Catalina Ferries (310) 305-7250

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.

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
Encore (310) 541-1025	http://www.encorediveboat.com/	200 Aquarium Way, 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/	
Peace (866) 984-2025	http://www.peaceboat.com	1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Spectre (805) 483-6612	http://calboatdiving.com/	1575 Spinnaker Dr.,105B-59
Truth Aquatics (805) 962-1127	www.truthaquatics.com	301 W. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

PACIFIC EXPLORERS 2006 BOARD

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RAFFLE COORDINATOR ED MICKUS
NEWSLETTER JEFFREY ADLER
CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER VERNON BROWN

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

Louis Spivak

We hope to see you all at our upcoming events!

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Louis Spivak
TJ Jones
Adam James

Tanya Spivak
Arturo Velasquez
Chuck Heinold

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Kevin Bryan
Antonia Montelongo
Diane Stevenson

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:

None Noted