

The Pacific Explorer

November 2006



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

Our next meeting is the second Wednesday of the month. Pre-meeting Social at 6:30 p.m. and our monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Denny's at the corner of Topanga Canyon and Roscoe in Canoga Park.

Speaker of the month...



Joe Drago on Sipadan

My wife and I chose to go to the South Pacific because we wanted to go back to that part of the world where we enjoyed the culture and diving of Fiji so much. Of course, this time it was much further than Fiji. Of the reasons we chose Sipadan were to experience a different culture on land, (even though we stayed in a water village) and underwater the bio diversity is said to be one of the best in the world for small critters and macro photography, which with its challenges, ie. muck diving, made it the place for us.

I've been diving for 14 years, I work for the Tonight Show as a Propman, a certified Motion Picture Diver, and as a Sport Chalet Instructor for my main source of income. I just finished a movie called De je Vu with Denzel Washington due out in mid November where I did underwater set construction, camera assisting, and safety diving. I am an avid underwater videographer, and have upgraded my equipment to High Definition which I am compiling a demo reel for, and hope to get work in the industry soon. Other hobby's are mountain biking, rock climbing, mountaineering, telemark skiing, snowboarding, ham radio and flying. And no I don't have any spare time!

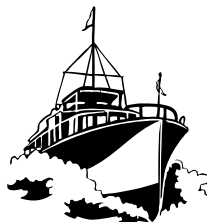
Beach dive of the month...



11/11 - Deer Creek

The November beach dive is at Deer Creek. We will meet there at 9 AM on Saturday November 11. Directions are as follows; take PCH west past Neptunes Net restaurant, all the way to Deer Creek Road, just past Deer Creek Road make a U-turn and park near the staircase to the beach. The staircase is about twice as long as the one at Casino Point with only about a 15 step walk to the water. This is a strong reef with lots of life. This is the last official club dive of the year so let's have a good turnout.

Boat dive of the month...



11/4 - Great Escape

The club boat dive for November is Saturday the 4th. We will be taking the Great Escape to Santa Barbara Island. The cost is \$150 (early bird sign up is \$140) and includes air fills and food. This is a Reef Seekers charter. The boat boards on the 3rd at 10 pm and departs on the 4th at 1 am. They are expecting to return by 6 pm.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

LA PAZ!!!! Well, all I can say about our trip to La Paz is that it was a wonderful success!!! I want to thank everyone who went on the trip for helping Liz and I make it as smooth as possible. I can't imagine how the trip could have worked out much better, except if we had actually seen hammerheads during our dives at El Bajo! If you have never been to La Paz or the Sea of Cortez, you **MUST** put it on your "to do" list. There's a reason Jacques Cousteau called it the "World's Aquarium". Liz and I were absolutely thrilled with the diving at La Paz. We were amazed at the variety of life and at how different the dive sites were from each other. Where on other trips things start looking alike after three days or so, we were always delighted by the changes in topography and life surrounding each dive site. Club Cantamar was comfortable and very accommodating, and made sure we got to all the major dive sites. Finally, the snorkel experience with a 15 ft. whale shark was absolutely incredible...one of those things you'll never forget! Stay tuned for trip reports and a club presentation in the near future. **VIVA LA PAZ!!!!**

SAFETY Well, I wish I had better things to talk about than safety, but there have been a couple of recent events that keep this in the forefront of my thoughts these days. I have recently heard about a couple of cases of DCS that struck a cord with me. In both cases the affected persons were diving with other people who very nearly matched their own profiles and who did not get DCS hits, dove on computers, and stayed within the computer's no-deco limits. One thing which seems to have played a part in both cases is dehydration, and also potentially post-dive alcohol intake (during multiple-day diving). I can't stress enough how important it is to stay hydrated while you are diving. DAN has indicated that dehydration is one of the most major physical conditions increasing a diver's risk of DCS. If you're traveling and get a case of "Montezuma's Revenge", make sure to keep drinking as much water or electrolyte fluid (e.g. – Gatorade) as possible, because dehydration is a significant result of this diarrhea. Remember that sodas are not really a good source of hydration. If you're having a drink or two after a day of diving, be sure to imbibe responsibly, and follow it up with lots of water or electrolyte. This will also help avoid headaches the next morning too (alcohol dehydration is what leads to hangovers). If you suspect you have DCS symptoms, don't shrug it off...seek medical assistance **IMMEDIATELY**. In many cases, immediate treatment can be the difference between a full recovery and potential permanent damage. **BE CAREFUL OUT THERE FOLKS!!!!**



ELECTIONS I've sent out a couple of e-mails in the last month or so asking for volunteers to help us out on the club Board of Directors. I'm a little disappointed that we've not gotten an overwhelming response, or to be honest, much of a response at all. Please consider helping out in a BOD position this coming year. I promise we'll make it very painless, and you'll be surprised how much more you get out of the club by participating. Elections will be held during the November general meeting.

PHOTO CONTEST!! So far we've only gotten a few entries for this year's photo contest, and I know for a fact there are a bunch of excellent photographers in our ranks. Don't hesitate to send in your best because time is drawing short. Entries are due by the general club meeting on Wednesday, November 8 to allow us time to organize, get the submissions judged, and get prizes together. Categories are 1) Best Marine Life; 2) Best Macro; and 3) Best Diver-in-Photo. Prizes will be awarded at the 2006 Club Holiday Party. Speaking of which....

HOLIDAY PARTY This year's holiday party is scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd at BJ's Brewery and Restaurant on Canoga Ave. in Woodland Hills. As usual, the party will go from 12:30 noon to 4:00 p.m. We've moved to BJ's this year because we kind of "outgrew" Two Guys from Italy last year. We want to make sure we can accommodate everyone who would like to attend. Be sure to sign up and pay (payment **MUST** be received in advance) by contacting us at board@pacifexplorers.org or coming to the November general meeting.

***DIVE ON...Your President,
Kevin Sullivan***

PACIFIC EXPLORERS DIVE CLUB

HOLIDAY PARTY!!!!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd

12:30 - 4:00

BJ'S BREWERY & RESTAURANT

6424 Canoga Ave. Woodland Hills 818-340-1748

\$18.00 per person all you can eat buffet!!!

Pizza, Pasta & Salad, (non-alcoholic drinks included)

Please RSVP 818-709-1591 or e-mail kathywhite@socal.rr.com

Payments due by November 25th, either at November's club meeting,

Or send to: Pacific Explorers PO Box 9443 Canoga Park 91309

(Please no payments at door)

Thanks!

LOBSTER/HALIBUT DIVE AT LEO CARRILLO SEPT 30, 2006 By David Carlson

Ever since the beach dive at Ed's home in Malibu, the beach dives have all been a big success and this was no different. Kathy and I arrived early because we had a bunch of Divemaster candidates showing up for the night dive with the club and their first dive with us too. We had a great turn out of 18 participants. Kathy, myself, and Kevin Shapiro headed out with most of the other divers at dusk. There was more of a swell than I would really have liked but what the heck, time to get wet.

We dropped down at about 18 feet and headed west parallel to the coast for a bit before getting into a little deeper water. The vis was getting surprising nice. At first we had the usual 5 feet but when we got out to 26 feet of water I was holding my light up to see just how far it would shine. I was lighting up rocks 20 feet away and counting the urchins on the rocks. I was amazed at the vis at this point. This has to be the best dive I have had at Leo in a very long time. Well, the good vis really wasn't helping with the lobster hunting. We found a few shorts before heading in because my DM candidate was running low on air. I did manage to catch one legal bug on the way in. We finally got to 10 feet of water and surfaced.

Kathy handed me her light as mine was getting dim. Kathy and Kevin started in while I thought I would cruise the shallows for a bit. Hmm, the swell was rolling me around nicely but the vis was fine at 3 to 5 feet. I would wash back and forth looking in-between the rocks and the eel grass. It was looking good for me now, I had caught one that was clearly legal and one that was going to be close. My gage went in when my light went in with Kathy. All of a sudden something was bumping into my thigh and waist. What the !@%. I swung my light around and saw a big fin. OH MY! Hey that is a big halibut. Hmm, he would go good with lobster I thought. The big guy sat down in a little sandy strip. I thought about how I cannot see a thing when someone shines their light in my eyes at night and so stuck my light right in the poor boy's eyes. I slipped my game bag under his chin and then goosed him in the tail and presto, he jumped right into the bag. His tail stuck out about 2 inches so I had to keep a tight grip on the opening of the bag. Now he wasn't happy and wanted to take me for a little ride.

Time to end the dive was my thought. It turns out that in my struggle with the halibut, I lost one lobster, the shorter of the 3 so no big loss. Everyone had a nice dive and a few people got some lobster. Mark Navas in the photo did real well for himself. Kathy and I enjoyed a nice halibut and lobster dinner the next night and all was good.



Check out **Aloha Dive** calendar at <http://www.dive-aloha.com/> and press the calendar button on the left.



SCUBA DIVING SANTA CRUZ ISLAND by Chris Russello

Santa Cruz is an island rich in history and natural resources. Unfortunately, the limited space here allows only a short overview as follows: According to popular legend, in 1769 Captain Juan Perez led a party of Spaniards as they hiked along the island. One of the expedition's friars left behind a walking staff decorated with a small iron cross on its handle. The local Chumash Indians found the staff and returned it the following day. The explorers thus bestowed the island the name "Santa Cruz" meaning "Holy Cross."

Control of the island later passed from Spain to Mexico and eventually to the United States. Santa Cruz's fertile hills and lush central valley became home to olive groves, grape and vegetable fields plus a winery that bottled its own private label. Ranching also prospered. Captain Ira Eaton and his wife ran a resort at Pelican Bay from 1910 to 1937. Their guests included many celebrated Hollywood stars, including William Boyd and John Barrymore. Today, the island is still controlled by private owners; however, the National Park Service is negotiating its eventual purchase.

At 25 miles long, Santa Cruz Island is the largest of all the Channel Islands. It is especially endowed with an appropriate mix of anchorages and diving areas to meet every underwater explorer's needs. Regardless of the weather, one can always find many sites where conditions are good for diving.

My favorite dive sites at Santa Cruz Island are Drop-Off Reef, Yellowbanks Reef and Scorpion's Anchorage. East of Valley Anchorage, a group of radar towers sit atop a cliff overlooking a mile-long reef system. Drop-Off Reef, near the middle of this system, is perhaps the most interesting featuring clear, calm shallow water, golden kelp, fascinating topography as well as bat rays, sheep crabs and occasionally black sea bass. Yellowbanks, named after the tall cliffs at the southeast corner of the island, is an extensive offshore site. Expect to find almost anything out here including an abundance of invertebrate life, bat rays, halibut and lobster clustering beneath the narrow ledges. Around the corner from Yellowbanks is Scorpion's Anchorage. Cascading down from the shore live an abundance of marine life in the rocky ledges and small walls. The unique attraction at this site is the wreck of an old wooden minesweeper sitting on the sand in 60 feet of water.

Submitted by: Chris Russello, Owner, Aloha Dive in Northridge and Woodland Hills. Russello has been a certified SCUBA diver since 1972. He holds SSI's highest instructor ratings as well as a 100 ton Captain's license. He and his professionally trained staff are ready and able to serve all your recreational SCUBA diving needs. To ask Chris a question, contact him at aloha@dive-aloha.com or call 818-700-8134 or write him at Aloha Dive, 9250-16 Reseda Blvd., Northridge, CA, 91324.



HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN 6 PACK

1. Get 5 other divers.
2. Decide where you would like to dive is Southern California.
3. Call Colleen at Aloha Dive and book The Great White.

It's that simple. Go to your favorite dive sites with your favorite dive buddies.

For additional details, call Aloha Dive at (818) 700-8134

Minutes from the October 2006 General Meeting of the Pacific Explorers Dive Club

Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2006

Raffle Prize:	Raffle Winners:
Hollywood Divers Mesh Bag	Paul Kane
Hollywood Divers Mask Strap, & lobster gauge	Bob Casselman
Mares Avanti Quatro Fins	BJ Rodgers
Dive Stocking Cap	Steve Rodgers
Tank Light	Frank Miller
Trident foam 3-tank holder	Ron Michalzki
Lobster Hunters gauge-on-a-light kit	Michael Griffith
Hand fan - from Bali	Ron Michalzki
Hand fan - from Bali	Sandra Velasquez
Quarterly Raffle Prize:	
\$45 Sport Chalet Gift Certificate	Carla Navas

Guests:

Colleen from Aloha Divers

BJ & Steve Rodgers, members of the Whalers dive club, who joined our club tonight.

Kevin was absent; he & several other club members are in La Paz on the club dive trip.

Dave Carlson led the meeting. He told us we had 18 divers for the beach lobster dive.

Guest Speaker:

Our own Bob Casselman presented a slide show with some video footage of the USS Oriskany - the recently sunk aircraft carrier now a reef in Florida. Bob landed on the Oriskany a long time ago and spent a while on her back when he had lots of dark hair! Bob shared the history of the "Mighty O" from its inception to recent sinking as an artificial reef. Thanks for the info Bob!

Dave reminded us club elections are next month. Some of the board members are returning, and some are leaving for sure, and we want and need some new people to step up and help out. Please support your club and run for one of the positions.

Dave reminded us that the warm-water club trip for next year will be Indonesia. The details are not worked out yet, but we are probably going in Sept of '07. Dave & Kathy are organizing it with Kathleen Griffith's help. It will probably be about 12 days long and about \$2800 each, but these numbers are subject to change.

Reminder - the Christmas Party is coming up. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 3rd; from 12-4 PM at BJ's Brewery & Restaurant on Canoga Blvd. Kathy said the restaurant is all-you-can-eat for \$18. They have pasta & pizza. Sign up NOW! She will need your payment by the November meeting if you want to go.

We will have a photo contest again this year like last year. Start getting your photos together. The deadline is shortly after the next membership meeting. Like last year you can submit two photos for each category. The categories are: Marine Life, Macro, and Diver in Photo.

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



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



Date	Day	Beach / Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return
4 Nov	Sat	Great Escape ⁵	Santa Barbara	150	Food & Air	10 PM	1 AM	6 PM
11 Nov		Deer Creek		Free			9 AM	
3-Dec	Sun	Holiday Party			Food & Air		12 Noon	4 PM

“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.

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

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

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

Bottom Scratcher (714) 963-4378	http://www.bottomscratcher.com/	Berth 55 555 Pico Ave Long Beach
CeeRay (562) 867-9738		Berth 55 555 Pico Ave Long Beach
Great Escape (866)348-3262	http://www.diveboat.com/	Berth 55, Pier C, Long Beach
Island Time (866) 488-3483	http://www.expressdivers.com/	182 Marina Drive, Long Beach
Magician (310) 548-6129	http://www.magicianscuba.com/	22nd Street Landing, San Pedro
Lois Ann (800) 201-4381	http://www.loisann.com/	
Pacific Star 626-716-1796	http://www.pacificstardiving.com	181 N. Harbor Dr., Redondo Beach
Peace (866) 984-2025	http://www.peaceboat.com	1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Spectre (805) 483-6612	http://calboatdiving.com/	1575 Spinnaker Dr.,105B-59
Sunfish (805) 644-1499	http://www.socaldive.com	3600 S. Harbor Blvd. #219, Oxnard
Truth Aquatics (805) 962-1127	http://www.truthaquatics.com	301 W. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

Minutes from the October 2006 Board of Directors Meeting of the Pacific Explorers Dive Club

Discussed the annual holiday party and board positions for next year.

PACIFIC EXPLORERS 2006 BOARD

PRESIDENT KEVIN SULLIVAN
VICE PRESIDENT DAVID CARLSON
TREASURER KATHY WHITE
CO-SECRETARIES NANCY & WALLY BURKE
MEMBERSHIP CONNIE RICHARDS
WEBMASTER RUSSELL BURT
BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR DAVID BENTLEY
BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR MIKE BUSHELL
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 100 Members

New Members

Mike Gulick

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

David Carlson
Alan Schwartz
Ted Zalta

James McDaniel
Kathy White

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:

Clive Smith Rescue

Naomi Torres Diving Emergency Specialist

Tony Patta Diving Emergency Specialist

Craig Hoover Divemaster

Kevin Shapiro Divemaster

Patric Desbrow Divemaster

David Patton Divemaster

Robert Smith Divemaster