
The Pacific Explorer

November 2007



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

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.



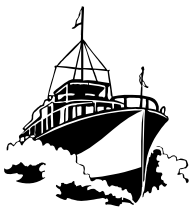
Speaker of the month...

The speakers for November will be our very own Russell Burt and Vernon Brown. Vernon and Russell will be presenting photos and video of their trip to Curacao earlier this year. Traveling with Tony Patta and his family, they experienced the clear water, currents and island attitude typical of the Caribbean, albeit with a European flair (Curacao was a Dutch colony). They even got to dive with a "wild" dolphin. Come see what they think of the Netherlands Antilles.



Beach dive of the month...

The November beach dive is at Malaga Cove in Palos Verdes on Saturday November 17 at 9 AM. The walk down to the beach is very steep but the road is paved. This is a fairly protected beach with usually small surf this time of year. You have the choice of entrances either over rocks or sandy beach. Depths are typically 20-25 ft. Directions are a little complicated; take 405 south to Hawthorne Blvd. Right on Hawthorne to Via Velmonte, right on Via Velmonte to Palos Verdes Drive N, right on Palos Verdes Drive N to Palos Verdes Drive W, left on Palos Verdes Drive W to Via Almar, right on via Almar, right on Via Arroyo then right on Paseo del Mar. Look for Gazebo on bluff and you're there.



Boat dive of the month...

The club boat dive for November is Sunday the 11th. We will be taking the Magician to Santa Barbara Island. The cost is \$150 and includes air fills and food. The Magician has a membrane system and can provide 32% nitrox fills. This is a Sport Chalet charter so club members are eligible for a 10% discount. The boat boards on the 10th at 10 pm and departs at 2 am on the 11th. They are expecting to return by 6

pm.

Since this trip will fill up quickly, Pacific Explorers has reserved 6 spots on this boat. To sign up for this trip call Annette at 1-800-348-3794 and let her know that you are requesting one of the Pacific Explorers spots.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS

Well folks, conditions have been a bit spotty lately. Liz and I have been trying to get our own boat out to the Northern Channel Islands, and keep getting our minds changed by wind conditions. In fact, we were supposed to be out on the Mr. C tomorrow (10-21), but they are predicting such strong Santa Ana winds that boats have been ordered out of Avalon Harbor for safety. Needless to say, the Captain has wisely canceled the trip to avoid any complications. However, beach dive conditions have been good, and we had easy entry/exit for the club dive at Malibu Rd gate #2 this morning. Conditions were rather surgy, but vis was an OK 10 ft. or so. There were lots of large fish (opal eye and rubberlip perch) to be seen, but there didn't seem to be any bugs hanging around the area.

Our speaker at the October meeting, Mark Strickland, showed us some amazing photographs from the Indonesia, Thailand, and Burma region, highlighting his presentation with little known behavior characteristics of the animals. This was a really great presentation and was very timely in that our travelers to Indonesia had just returned less than 2 weeks before. We hope to have Mark back again as he has some amazing photographs and great stories to go with them.

We held nominations for 2008 board positions at the October meeting, and the following people were nominated for next year: Kevin Sullivan, President; Liz Sullivan, Treasurer; Dave Carlson, Newsletter Editor; Kathy White, Membership; Russell Burt, Webmaster; Karen Norris, Boat Dive Coordinator; Mike Bushell, Beach Dive Coordinator; Craig Hoover, Opportunity Drawing Coordinator. At the end of the meeting we still had openings for Vice President and Secretary. Please let us know if you are interested in helping us by either locating guest speakers or taking notes at the club board and general meetings each month.

UPCOMING

I have heard that the Magician club dive to Santa Barbara Island in November is pretty much sold out, which is great! I hope to see lots of familiar faces on the boat as this is a great time of year to dive that location. Mike's next beach dive will be at Malaga Cove, which is admittedly a bit of a hike, but is usually easy going as far as entry and exit. I have heard lots of reports of octopus sightings at this location, so I am definitely looking forward to the dive.

As of the writing of this article we have received ZERO entries in the 2007 Photo Contest, which I have to say is rather disappointing. I was sure we would get some great entries this year, especially considering the photo opportunities that Indonesia must have presented. I am still hopeful that we'll still receive at least three entrants per category so we can hold the contest this year.

Kathy is taking reservations for the Holiday Party, which is scheduled for Sunday, December 2 at Tortilla Loca in Reseda. You don't have to be at the November meeting to sign up for the party, just e-mail the board at board@pacificexplorers.org and let us know you'd like to come, and how many in your party. We are asking that folks pay before the party, so if you aren't at the November meeting be sure to send a check for \$20 per attendee to the club PO box. This will be a definite DO NOT MISS occasion, and the room at the restaurant is absolutely HUGE!! I know Liz and Kathy are working on some extra fun activities for the party, so be sure to get your reservation in.

DIVE ON...

Your President, Kevin Sullivan

PT. VICENTE MEMORIAL DIVE STORY By Mark Navas

Date: Mon., 17 Sept. 2007 13:04:46 -0700

I beach dove Pt. Vicente in Palos Verdes Sunday. Water temp was a crisp 57F with the water visibility down @ 5'-15' and surgy. The spearfishing tournament started at 8:00 am. The ocean surface was smooth but had a 2'-3' 7 second bump from the west swell. The air was calm with sparse fog and partly sunny. My buddy Joe Whitmore and I made it through the rocky surf zone and we stopped at the first kelp bed. It was lifeless and murky so we continued out toward the south point wash rocks. An hour later it was a total whiteout when a thick fog bank rolled in dropping visibility to 40 feet. The fog was sitting on the water. The sun disappeared, I couldn't see shore or my buddy SPOOKY! I could barely make out where the sun was through the white murk which was my only reference back to shore.

Being in a timed tournament I had to keep diving the dark bottom alone. An hour later the fog broke up and I could see where I was and found my buddy. We had drifted south a hundred yards from where I thought we were and to my luck it put me in a cavey and ledgy rock bottom area. I swam slowly across the murky bottom and found a cave. Drifting into the 4 foot cave opening, my eyes adjusted to the black hole and I saw something moving. By the time I could swing my gun and fire, the huge male Sheepshead bolted out the back door of the cave. Knowing this species of fish is a reef dweller I figured he might return to his cave. Since there was so little life at this location I needed this fish to win. I held onto a kelp stalk for 10 minutes to keep me in the same place by the cave. I dropped down again and slowly peeked around the corner of the cave opening and there he was! I slowly pulled back and went up. Trying to stay calm I got some air, relaxed, turned on my gun mounted flashlight and quietly sank back down to the cave opening. I slowly slid around the corner of the cave opening and slowly scanned the black hole with the light. All of a sudden he popped out of a side cave inside the main cave and as I swung the gun and pulled the trigger he bolted. All hell broke loose inside the cave as his massive tail stirred up all of the sediment in the cave until the visibility was zero. Staying at the mouth of the cave, my spear gun blew out of my hand as I heard him slamming the spear shaft against the rocks so I bolted for the surface. I inflated a float and clipped it to my float line keeping tension on the gun and fish.

My heart was pounding and out of breath from the adrenaline and recovering from the minute long fight underwater. My buddy Joe came over wondering why my float was inflated. I had Joe spot me as I went down to untangle the fish from the murky dark cave. Gliding down and following my shooting line, I notice the line when into the cave, wrapped around a rock then continued out of the cave toward open reef. My heart sunk as I thought the fish had tore free. Continuing to the end of the line I see the spear shaft was under a rocky ledge. As I looked under the ledge I was amazed to see my fish laying there, expired. Lifting the massive fish was like swimming with a bag of rocks since the spear punctured his air bladder. Swimming toward the surface I see Joe's eyes open like saucers as he compares the size of the fish to me. We both screamed a victory cry as we marveled at the massive size of his head and teeth. Both of us were cold and our hands and feet were starting to get numb from soaking in the cold water for 3.5 hours so we headed back to shore.

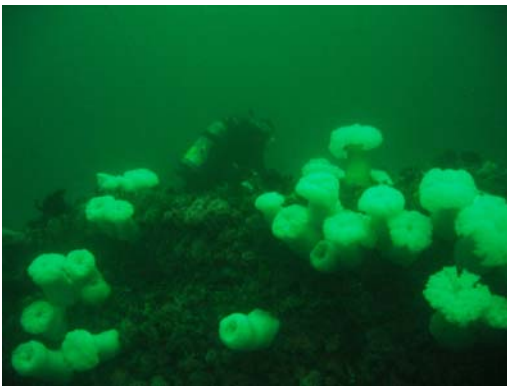
After a 15 minute hike up the cliffs (AKA: Cardiac Hill) to the parking lot we weighed the fish which tipped the scale at 21.4 lbs. It was the largest fish of the tournament awarding me the Al Shuck point and 100 points for the meet! This win jumped me into 2nd place overall in points for the year. Now the hard part will diving very hard at the next 3 meets to take the 2nd place trophy for the year tournaments, cross your fingers!



Club Dive Trip on the Sundiver on 9/3 By Liz Sullivan

The Club's September boat dive was on Labor Day and the destination was to some local wrecks in the San Pedro area. Kevin and I boarded the boat the night before since we found out that there are double bunks available for those who would prefer to not wake up at some horrible hour of the morning to get into a car and drive. That night, we got to meet the second captain Kaya and had a nice conversation with her before we turned in for some sleep. She told us that our club had about 2/3 of the boat booked which we did not believe at first. After a nice chat we went downstairs and felt our first thermocline of the trip. The Sundiver has just about the BEST air conditioning I have felt on a boat. The bunk room below was cool and comfortable which was very welcoming because that particular weekend was an absolute stinker if you remember the triple digits.

The next morning Kevin and I awoke to happily see several Pacific Explorers boarding the boat. First the early risers Mike Bushell and Dave Bentley then Joe Razo, Paul Janke, Kalani Patterson, Patrick Desbrow and Dave & Kathy. It kind of felt like Christmas morning to see so many friends on the boat. I was hugging everyone since I was well rested. We got our stuff together and hung out as the boat driven by Captain Ray made its way out at about 7:00 am.



Our first stop was the ACE I. Recent dive reports had good conditions for this site and we were excited since we had never been to that wreck before.

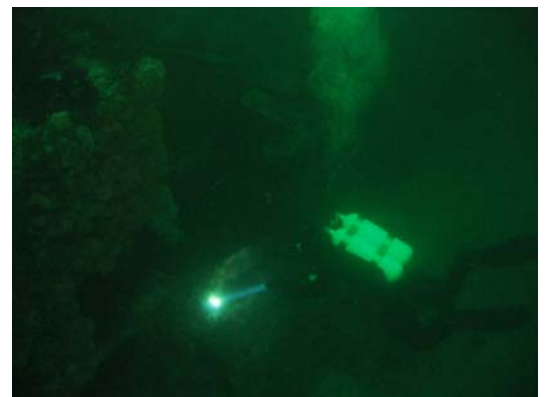
The ACE I is a 150 foot infantry landing craft that was sunk in 1948. It is upside down in the water and therefore it is also referred to as the "upside down wreck".

Descending down the anchor line of the Sundiver, the dive at first seemed bleak. The water was, well, yucky...and cold, too. Below about 60 feet, the visibility opened up very nicely and you could clearly see the wreck below covered with giant Metridium and other colorful forms of life. There was no current either – it was absolutely beautiful. I did not have my camera this time as it was broken but I was happy just to take in the sights of the wreck and it's inhabitants. The wreck sits in about 125 feet of water and our dive was a bit shallower than that but needless to say it was way too short a dive and I never made it around the entire thing. This was probably just as well since the water was in the 50's. I'm not sure if it was the wreck or the great conditions or both but I really liked this dive a lot!

During the surface intervals, Dave Bentley read aloud the histories of the wrecks we were diving to a group of avid listeners. Kathy and I smiled as we watched the group of men huddled around like they were listening to "Twas the Night Before Christmas". I wanted to get them all cups of cocoa. The story telling was a good lead-in for the second dive to the Olympic.

The Olympic II is a large fishing barge that sunk in 1940 when it was rammed by a Japanese freighter. The freighter immediately reversed it's engines following the impact causing the gaping hole in the side of the Olympic to fill with water causing the boat to sink within two minutes. There were eight fatalities as a result of the wreck five of which were teenagers.

As usual, Captain Ray anchored us very close to the wreck but away from the stern as a private boat was fishing there. The Olympic was a bit shallower than the first wreck but the water was murkier as it normally is in that area. Kevin practiced with his new reel and ran a line to the wreck and we then circled the area without going too near the stern since Captain Ray warned us about the dangling fish hooks. The dive was a blast and there was too much to see in too little time. We were happy to have the reel line



since poor visibility plus a slight current can make finding the way back to the anchor a chore on any dive.

Back on the boat we had a delicious lunch and all talked, laughed, gave and listened to advice and just relaxed. The last dive was a rock pile near the harbor. Since conditions had worsened, Kevin and I made it a quick dive so we did not see too much of the area. We both felt very satiated with the first two dives and were happy to call it a day.

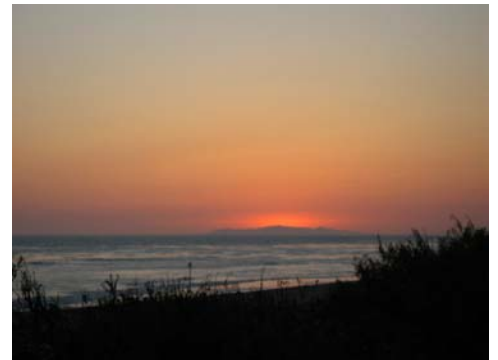


In general, it is interesting to see how different people appreciate wreck dives. Some go in, others stay outside. Some people simply love learning the history of the wreck and some like the trinkets they can find. Others merely enjoy the life that is sustained on and around the structure. No two wrecks look the same and you can find them right side up, upside down, on it's side or even at an angle. Whether you find it deep or shallow, in salt water or fresh, corroded or somewhat preserved, big or small each one has a story. Diving a wreck is never a boring dive.

Kevin and I really had a great time on the Sundiver and Captain Ray is a great captain for a day of wreck diving. I'm really thankful to the captain and crew of the Sundiver for making this a memorable day and we can't wait to do it again.

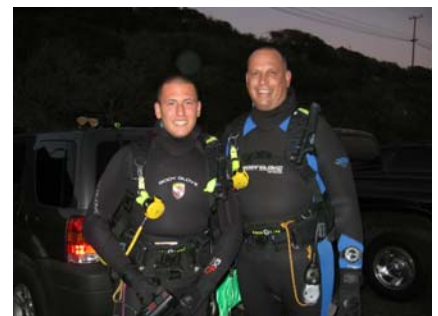
LEO CARRILLO LOBSTER DIVE By Kathy White

Dave and I headed down to the beach Saturday afternoon, 29 September, for the night lobster dive. We just got back from our trip to Indonesia, tropical climates, **warm** 85-degree waters, clear visibility, and tons of things to see. With major "jet lag" still affecting our bodies, we decided hanging down at the beach, our favorite place to be, would be just what we needed to clear our heads. It was a **beautiful** evening, cool, dry, and knowing the water temp. would be at least 20 degrees cooler! There was a gorgeous sunset shining over the Channel Islands, the sky was pretty with tones of pinks, orange and purples, we were happy to be home in our own backyard of diving.



Dave was planning on diving, I was on call for the chamber--so unable to go out and dive, decided to hang on the beach, relax and make hot cocoa for everyone. Divers began to appear; we had 11 people show up, 9 of them club members, and 9 divers for the evening. The club members were Dave and I, Tom and Leslie Pelosi, Craig Hoover, Russell Burt, Don Davis, and Mark and Matthew Kolodziejczyk. Don, Mark and Matthew did 2 dives, and Don, Matthew, and a future club member (many times guest) David Patton, caught lobsters. David said there were all of "shorts", and other critters seen

were crabs, shovel-nosed guitarfish, large sheep heads, horned shark, halibuts, electric ray, green lingcod, and the usual variety of fish. It turned out to be a fun, beautiful evening, with great weather, yummy hot chocolate and good conditions with great viz, (even though the water wasn't 85 degrees!).



SANTA CRUZ By Mark Navas

I took my boat to Santa Cruz Island Saturday with friends for some Lobster diving on the opening day of the season. The morning conditions were bad as we pounded our way across the channel in rough seas until we could get behind the island for protection from the north wind swell. We dove a new spot called Yellow Bluff on the backside of Santa Cruz east of blue banks. The underwater topography was amazing with huge sheets of bare stone covering the bottom. The slabs had large cracks, troughs and ledges to explore and were filled with sea urchin's but no lobsters. I found a huge bolder in this baron stone field that had kelp growing all over it. I would drop down and slowly approach the boulder from the outside which helped to not spook the fish in the kelp bed. I shot a good size Kelp Bass and a huge Sargo for our dinner that night so the pressure was off. I continued diving around the reef looking under ledges, in caves and cracks for lobsters. As I pulled my head out of a crack I noticed a huge male Sheepshead cruising slowly watching me in his territory. I was almost out of air but had to stay there if I wanted a chance at a shot. I immediately stopped moving to save air and slowly sank to the bottom trying not to get pierced by the sea urchin mine field I was laying on. He would not come closer then 20 feet so I slowly lifted off the bottom and gave a kick toward him as I pulled the trigger for a Hail Mary 15 foot shot. The shaft hit him in the gut and he tumbled and thrashed for only a few seconds before the shaft ripped out pulling organs with it. Still on the bottom I stayed silent and watched as he bolted off into a trough. I raced up for air and slowly headed in the direction he went. 40 feet from the shot I saw a huge cloud of muddy water near a large rock on the bottom. I suspected he had found a cave and stirred the bottom getting inside. I stayed clear and let my gun and shooting line sink to the bottom near the rock. I swam back to the boat, grabbed a flashlight and returned to the gun. As I approached I saw a large male Sheepshead cruising slowly by the rock with 3 other huge females. Then I realize that there are 2 huge males and that's not my fish. I turned the light on and slowly dropped down and approached the rock, it was solid with no ledge or cave. I dropped in again from the opposite side and then could see a one foot wide by 2 foot tall slot in the side of the trough and slowly approached. Shining the light in the hole all I could see were the huge scales on the side of his body. I backed away, pulled 1 of the 2 bands off the gun for a point blank low power shot. He was now pinned in the hole but the shaft would not go through since the shaft was hitting the rock wall. I reached into the dusty hole feeling around blindly until I found the tail. I grabbed the tail and pulled him out from the cave forcing the shaft through the fish and swam to the surface where I dispatched him. As I swam to the boat my buddy Quentin (aka "Q") was yelling "check this out" as he held up his 16 lb. female Sheepshead, his personal best ever. He was very happy having the largest fish of the day until I hauled my fish onto the deck, the look on his face confirmed it.....My Sheepshead was almost 23 pounds and was missing most of his teeth from old age. The knot on his head and scales were huge which meant he was probably around 30-40 years old. This was the largest Sheepshead I've taken all year and made for a great memory!

We headed back around the island to face the rough seas home but to my surprise it was almost flat calm! The winds were calm and not a cloud in the sky, it seemed our luck was changing. We popped a sack of scallops off the rocks east of Scorpions Rock and headed home. We reached the harbor, anchored, filleted the fresh catch



and started the BBQ and rice. After a great meal it was dark so we suited up for the night dive. Snapping glow sticks we taped them to our snorkels to keep track of each other in the dark. Since we had thrown the carcasses under the boat an hour earlier, that was my first place to start diving. I hit the bottom at 10 feet which was so murky that my high powered flashlight could only light the bottom 2 feet from my face. Slowly scanning side to side I found the Sheepshead carcass with a huge Sheep Crab (aka Spider Crab) and Rock Crab having a feast but no Lobsters. We worked our way along the murky rock break wall for 20 minutes before giving up, it was pointless. We decided to go out to the front side of the break wall where it would be clearer water. The swell was up and slamming the wall with 2-4 foot waves. Q & I got in first to see if it was even possible to dive. The water was clearer but now I could only see 4 feet in front of me. Diving down 10-15 feet it was like a wash machine as the surge of the waves would shoot us underwater banging into rocks and spinning us around while hanging onto the rocks to hold a position. After 2 dives we decided this was way too dangerous and aborted the Lobster dive.

We all had a great day and will have our chance next time at some Lobsters!

Coral Beach By Karen Norris

It's an October Saturday morning and the threat of Santa Ana winds prompted a small-craft advisory across the Santa Barbara Channel. My shoulder surgery in June had left me high and dry for too long. The canceled boat trip meant my long-awaited return to diving was going to be postponed. I was so disappointed. I really wanted to get a boat dive in before attempting beach diving again.

The funny thing about going to a harbor to catch a boat is that you don't see the ocean until you're actually on the boat, heading out of the protected harbor. There was no wind in the parking lot. My dive buddy and I decided to drive south on PCH from Pt. Mugu. Even if we couldn't dive into the ocean, we'd at least be able to see the water. I, of course, had an ulterior motive – perhaps we could dive at a beach! Santa Anas may be bad for boats, but good for beach conditions. The offshore winds can flatten out incoming waves.

Deer Creek looked undiveable: there was a short-period northwesterly swell hitting the beach. My recovering shoulder needed ideal conditions for a beach dive. Heading further south (east) on PCH took us past Leo Carillo and then Nicolas Canyon. The kelp beds are extensive! There was not a hint of wind in Malibu. We rounded the curve at Point Dume and were greeted with the view of a flat ocean. Point Dume and its submarine canyon shield beaches to the east from northwesterly swells. Indeed, the water at Corral Beach was calm.

Corral Beach holds special memories for me. While it isn't the site of my first beach dive, it is the beach I've dived most often. I've seen a wide variety of sea life at this beach. Once, during my swim out to the reef a group of dolphins swam towards and then underneath me. I know the minefield of rocks that lurk beneath the waves. I also know how the incoming waves reflect off the beach and become outgoing waves. They interact with incoming waves, producing big, sharply peaked waves that break oddly. Going out through the surf and later, coming back in again, you have to watch out for the outgoing waves as well as the incoming waves! Sneaky! Despite the minefield and tricky waves, Corral is an easy beach to dive: it's a very short walk from the road down to the beach and the surf zone is relatively narrow.

Flat ocean, no wind, sunny skies, and knee-slapper waves – how could we say no to a beach dive? As I had hoped, entry was very easy. The surface swim out to the reef was also easy. On all beach dives, I like to check the visibility during the surface swim. It looked great! I could see the bottom! Visibility remained 10-15' throughout the dive. Clouds of senioritas, perch, and occasional kelp and sand bass accompanied us during the dive. I searched and searched for an urchin with which to feed the fish – not a single urchin to be seen! Instead, there were plenty of young stands of giant kelp. In a month or so there will be a sizable bed of kelp at Corral. I also saw many dead man's fingers. I've never seen this red tubular algae at Corral before. I found one octopus, several large and one very small Navanax inermis nudibranchs, some unknown orange dorids, a lovely giant kelpfish pretending to be a blade of kelp, several yellow crabs that would be good eatin', and two small lobsters. The exit from the water was as easy as the entry. Despite the 58° water, it was a great return to diving and I'm looking forward to my next dive!

><(((°)* PACIFIC EXPLORERS DIVE CLUB ><(((°)* "HOLIDAY" PARTY!!! :

Sunday, December 2nd

12:30 - 4:00 PM

At

"Tortilla Loca"

Mexican & Seafood Restaurant

18134 Sherman Way, Reseda

(818) 344-3510 (plenty of parking in the back)

\$20.00 per person all you can eat buffet!!!

Traditional Mexican Fiesta!

(Nonalcoholic drinks & tip included)

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

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

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

(Please no payments at door)

><(((°)*Thank You ><(((°)*

THREE DIVES ON THE SUNFISH, SEPTEMBER 16 2007 BY WALLY BURKE

Anacapa "The Aquarium"

Surface Conditions: Mostly sunny, calm

Water Conditions: 20-30 ft vis, 63 degrees surface, 61 degrees bottom, no current, no surge.

Depth: 86 feet maximum. Dive time: 41 minutes

Nancy & I went on the CID club trip on the Sunfish. This was our first time on the Sunfish, and there was a total of 14 club members and 2 nonmembers diving, plus 1 non-diver (Tessie, Ken Kollwitz's wife).

We boarded the boat in Channel Islands Harbor, got our gear ready and said hi to our fellow divers. We filled out the waivers just before heading out to sea.

Once out of the harbor it got a little bumpy and wet. We started getting a lot of sea spray over the starboard bow, which caused some people to go inside, and the rest of us huddled on the back deck out of the worst of the spray, with the lucky ones wearing dive jackets (although I found my leaked at the collar!).

As it was rough we headed to Anacapa and went around the arch to the backside. Once we got around Anacapa it immediately calmed down and it was beautiful. Since we were there it was decided to do our first dive at The Aquarium.

Nancy & I were side by side checking out the abundant life on the reef when suddenly she yanked on my arm and pointed up and ahead of us. I looked, and about 15 feet away was a giant Black Sea Bass. As I looked at it I saw several others nearby, so as I scanned around I saw we were in the middle of a "school" of them. I counted 8 of them, and one of them came within about 10 feet of us. All of them were well over 4 foot long, and they are huge as well as long.

We watched them for a while as they slowly and calmly swam by us until they were out of sight. What a treat! I had only seen two of them previously and they were at a distance so that I could only make out their size and shape. These were so close I could make out every detail on the one closest to us.

We went back to checking out the reef with occasional looks around to see if the Black Sea Bass were around but we never saw them again. We did see the largest Sea Hare I've ever seen. That thing was a monster. Once we were back on the boat several others commented that it was the largest they had ever seen also.

Back on the boat we were all sharing our stories about the Black Sea Bass. Everybody got to see them, some saw less than us, while Ken said he saw 11 of them.

This was the highlight of our trip and if we didn't do another dive we would have been happy with the trip.

Santa Cruz Island "Pink Ribbon"

Surface Conditions: Sunny, calm

Water Conditions: 15-25 ft vis, 63° surface, 61° bottom, no current, some surge.

Depth: 69 feet maximum. Dive time: 41 minutes

This was Nancy & my second dive on the Sunfish. We left Anacapa and moved over to the backside of Santa Cruz Island. We were supposed to dive the Yellowbanks area, but the current was ripping there, so we moved further west until we found a spot where the bottom topography looked good and there was minimal current.

There was a lot of nice reef structure on the bottom, and as Nancy & I cruised around we spotted a large sheephead crab on one of the ledges and played with him for a while before moving on. We saw lots of Garibaldi, including the largest we've ever seen. There was a lot of life on this reef, but not as nice as the first dive at The Aquarium on Anacapa.

We saw a large bat ray swimming near us over the sand and parallel swam with it for a while checking it out. We saw several nice nudibranchs on the reef also. Three of them were large and fat, yellow with white spots, unlike the typical small, long and narrow nudi's we usually see.

I spotted a small octopus under a ledge and tried to lure him out so we could play with him, or at least see him, but he eventually moved back into his hole rather than coming out.

This was a good dive, but not as good as The Aquarium on Anacapa, which spoiled us for the day.

Santa Cruz Island "Sandstone Point"

Surface Conditions: Sunny, calm

Water Conditions: 10-20 ft vis, 63° surface, 63° bottom, small swells, lots of surge.

Depth: 49 feet maximum. Dive time: 28 minutes

This was our last dive of the day on the Sunfish. It was near the area referred to as "Yellowbanks", but not where you would normally dive. There was still too much current at that location. This site was chosen as it had good bottom topography and a fair amount of kelp.

We entered the water, dropped down to the bottom, and looked around. The vis was noticeably worse than the last site, but it was patchy. Sometimes it was OK, other times it looked like a beach dive with poor vis. Nancy & I headed west surveying the bottom for interesting life. After about 7-8 minutes of seeing virtually no life, we turned and headed south for a couple minutes. We still didn't see any life so we turned east again. We still didn't see anything of interest so we completed our pattern by turning north for a while. Finally we signaled to each other that we were bored as there wasn't anything to see, so we ended the dive with our tanks over half full.

This dive was ugly, with not much to see except for rocks and kelp. I would have expected a fair amount of life because of the kelp and the rocky bottom, but they weren't there.

The good news was that we were the first to board the boat again, so we got to pack most of our gear before it got crowded with divers.

The rough ride of the morning was gone, so the ride back to the harbor was uneventful. We got back about 5 PM, unloaded and said our goodbyes to our friends and headed home.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL DIVE TRIP



All inclusive package at the Fiesta Americana Cozumel Dive Resort

\$1450.00 pp/do (\$1125 Non Diver pp/do)

The above price does not include any potential discounts

Package Includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from LAX
- 7 Nights Hotel
- 5 Days of 2 tank diving
- All Meals and Drinks (including alcohol)
- All Taxes and Transfers

*Please submit **\$200.00** for deposit ASAP. Make checks payable to *Pacific Explorers Dive Club*.*

P.O. Box 9443

Canoga Park, CA 91309

Email questions to board@pacificexplorers.org

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting October 3, 2007

Board members present at meeting: Kevin Sullivan, David Carlson, Kathy White, Jeff Adler, Russell Burt, Mike Bushell, and David Bentley.

Kevin Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at BJ's Brewery & Restaurant in Canoga Park.

Kevin Sullivan- President: Kevin spoke on the idea of next years club trip, Bonaire or Cozumel. Other dive destinations brought up and discussed by group- Little Cayman, Grand Cayman, and Costa Rica. Kevin talked about elections for board positions, the need for interest from other members to join in. New positions open are: Secretary, Boat Dive Coordinator, and Vice President.

Club dues were discussed by the group, the idea of one price for new and renewal membership.

David Bentley- Boat Dive Coordinator: Dave talked about the boat dive- The Magician the night of September 29th, he was the only member on the boat in search of lobster. He did get lucky, there were lobster attained. The next boat dive will be at the oil rigs on October 13th on the Sea Bass. November 11th will be to Santa Barbara Island on the Magician, and December 8th to Anacapa Island.

Mike Bushell- Beach Dive Coordinator: Mike stated the night lobster dive was good at Leo Carrillo Beach, there were 9 members present, 3 of them caught lobster. The next beach dive will be at Malibu Rd.- 2nd gate on October 20th. November 17th at Malaga Cove, and December 22nd a night dive at Redondo Beach diving for squid.

Jeff Adler- Newsletter: Jeff stated the newsletter is doing well, allot of articles submitted. No changes noted at this time. Jeff brought up the idea of club members selling raffle tickets to win a spot on next year's club trip.

Dave Carlson- Vice President: Dave spoke of speaker for this month will be Mark Strickland, speaking on marine life behavior. He has speakers lined up for the rest of the year, and into the New Year 2008. November will be Russell Burt and Vernon Brown discussing Curacao. December will be our Holiday Party and photo contest.

Kathy White- Membership: Membership is doing well, we have had new members join every month, and many members renewing monthly. Kathy discussed the Holiday Party coming up December 2nd, at "Tortilla Loca", a restaurant owned by one of our club members, Arturo Velasquez, and has offered to have the party at his restaurant. Kathy will contact Arturo to finalize cost and details. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting October 10, 2007

President- Kevin Sullivan: Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 at Denny's in Canoga Park. He mentioned that he and Liz had gone scuba diving at Maui. He said that there was good shore diving at Black Rock; where they saw a school of eagle rays. Kevin also mentioned the deadline for submitting photos for the Holiday Party is Oct. 31

Vice President-David Carlson: David said that, "Indonesia was awesome". Everyone who went on the trip saw sea life that they had never seen before. He said that the dive operation was excellent.

Treasurer-Liz Sullivan: Liz is starting to receive payments for the Holiday Party. The price for the party is \$20.00; which includes a buffet meal and non-alcoholic beverages.

Membership-Kathy White: Kathy introduced 2 guests, Brandy and Dennis. She also said that members need to make their payment for the Holiday Party by Nov. 21.

Webmaster-Russell Burt: Russell requested that members let him know if they change their e-mail address. He also mentioned that members will not be receiving the newsletter, within a few months, after their membership expires.

Boat Dive Coordinator- David Bentley: David said that the Sept. boat trip on The Sundiver was great. He also mentioned that the lobster hunting trip out on the Magician was excellent. November 11 there will be a dive trip out to Santa Barbara Island on the Magician.

Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: On Sept. 29 a few of the club members attended the lobster hunting dive. He said that Dave and Kathy bagged 3 bugs. The club's next beach dive will be held on Nov. 17 at Melaga Cove.

President-Kevin Sullivan:

Kevin led the nominations for next year's board officers. Club members accepted nominations for all of the positions except Secretary and Vice President; which are still open. The nominations were: President- Kevin Sullivan, Newsletter-David Carlson, Membership-Kathy White, Treasurer-Liz Sullivan, Webmaster-Russell Burt, Boat Dive Coordinator-Karen Norris, Beach Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell and Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover. Please consider being the club Vice President or Secretary.

Guest Speaker-Mark Strickland: Mark gave a fabulous presentation on the sea life around Thailand and Indonesia. He leads 2 or 3 warm water dive trips each year. For more information about his upcoming trips you can visit his website info@oceanic-impressions.com

Opportunity Awards Coordinator-Craig Hoover:

Craig purchased and presented the following prizes to the following winners:

Trident Diving Bag-Kevin Shapiro

Larry the Halloween Lobster-David Leffert

A Guide to So. CA. Best Beach Dives book- David Tsao

Shark beanie-Michael Herrera

Hollywood Divers mouse pad-Nancy Burke

Princeton Tec LED Light-Mike Bushell

Wetsuit hangar- Arturo Velasquez

Akona dive bag-Karen Norris

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.



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



Beach Dives

Date	Day	Beach	Time	
17-Nov	Sat	Malaga Cove	9 AM	
22-Dec	Sat	Redondo Beach	3 PM	Squid Dive
2-Dec	Sun	Annual Holiday Party		

International Diving

21-28 June		Cozumel	1,450					
	Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return	
11 Nov	Sun	Magician	150.00	Food & Air	10 P 11/10	2 A	6 P	
8 Dec	Sat	Peace ⁵	129.00		6 A	7 A	6 P	

- 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
 - ⁶ Reserve your spot by calling Sea Divers 714-377-8044.
- ^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 KATHY WHITE
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 **99 Members** **New Members**

Elizabeth Milewski
Jennifer Coler

David Tsao

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Al Kholos
John Ayvazian
Andres Alfaro
Sandra Sanchez
Tom Pelosi
Paul Borchard
Ron Brunski

David Bentley
Ted Zalta
Auturo Velasquez
Alan Schwartz
Leslie Pelosi
Cody Brunski

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:

Kevin Shapiro MSDT from OWSI