

The Pacific Explorer

October 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...

Is Bob Casselman. He will be speaking on the sinking of the USS Orinskany. He will have a slide presentation and will give a brief history of the vessel.



Beach dive of the month...

The October club beach dive will be a night lobster dive Saturday September 30th at Leo Carrillo north. We will meet in the parking lot at 6:00 PM, sunset is at 6:39 PM. Take PCH west past Zuma to Leo Carrillo parking lot entrance on right. Parking is \$10.00. I can almost guarantee that you will get some bugs here. See you guys there



Boat dive of the month...

The club boat dive for October is a night dive charter on Saturday the 14th. We will be taking the Pacific Star to Catalina Island. The cost is \$140 and includes air fills and food. The Pacific Star has nitrox available. This is a Hollywood Divers charter. You can reserve your spot at the dive shop or by calling 323-969-9875. The boat boards on the 14th at 9 am and departs at 10 am. They are expecting to return by 10 pm.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS

We had an excellent turnout with 10 folks showing up for our club beach dive at Stairsteps Beach (or 40000 PCH). Unfortunately the general consensus about the conditions was...well, at least the water was WARM! The surf was a bit more than Liz and I wanted to deal with, so after a couple of entry attempts (and nearly losing some fins) we opted to hang out on the beach. It was a great day to hang out with everyone and I was very encouraged to see several new members among the attending divers that day.

Now fast forward one day. On Sunday, September 17, Hyirer (Harry) Khachatoorian was involved in a diving accident aboard the Great Escape at San Clemente island which ultimately claimed his life. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family, several of whom were on the boat with him at the time of the accident, and also those who were on the GE that day. The investigation as to what caused this tragedy is ongoing, but regardless, it is a sobering reminder at how fragile life is, and how we must always make safety our first and foremost concern when diving. I have 2 reasons for mentioning this incident in this month's article.

The first is that this is the second SCUBA related fatality in Southern California in two months. There is absolutely nothing to suggest that they are related, but the closeness of these events is a bit scary. The second is that I know from a couple of personal experiences that many things can happen when you are participating in any activity in the ocean, and there is never any good reason to compromise safety when the outcome can be so dire. I will never be embarrassed or second guess myself when I take the safe road, even if I find out later that the urgency was not what it appeared to be. Whether it's aborting a dive just because you're not really comfortable that day, accepting a tow from your buddy or a local lifeguard because you're tired, or calling 911 when you believe someone is truly in danger, as long as everyone goes home to their families and friends in the same condition as when they left, everything else is noise.



LA PAZ!!!!

By the time you read this article it will be less than 2 weeks from our departure to La Paz...YAAAAHHHOOOOOO!!!!!! We are all very excited about this trip and can hardly wait to get there. We are going to have a pre-trip pot luck barbecue for trip participants at Joe Razo's house to discuss trip details, hand out travel packages (including tickets), and get any final questions answered. There have been a couple of hurricanes blow through the far south Baja area (Cabo San Lucas), but all indications are that there have been no ill effects in La Paz. Nonetheless, we hope everyone has heeded our advise and secured trip insurance by now. 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.

LOBSTER SEASON LOOMS!!!!!!

I can hear the cobwebs being brushed off of wetsuits even now! Lobster season always seems to bring out three times as many divers than are in the water at any other time in SoCal. Dive boats dedicate multi-day trips just for going to bug holes, SCUBA shop compressors are loaded to capacity, and all the legal-sized bugs hightail it into 131 or more feet of water or no-take zones almost on cue at midnight on opening day. Season opens at midnight on Friday night/Saturday morning of September 29/30th...and there won't be an inch of free beach space throughout SoCal for all the divers until next April! OK, maybe that last bit is a stretch, but things do get much busier during lobster season, so if you're trying to get out there on a boat, definitely get your reservations in well ahead of time. And don't let lobsters be your only excuse for getting in the water. Liz and I recently had well over 50 ft. visibility and 67 deg. F water on the backside of Anacapa. As I said last month, the best time to dive Southern California is RIGHT NOW!!

DIVE ON...

Your President, Kevin Sullivan

Dive! The Hell You Say By Mike Bushell

A couple of weekends ago Dave Bentley, my son Corey and myself planned a dive for Escondido Beach. It didn't look too promising because the CDIP model showed a three foot swell, but we thought we would check it out anyway. When Corey and I arrived Dave was already there checking out conditions. There were two divers lying on the beach catching their breath. Dave said one was an instructor and the other a very experienced diver and they had been nailed by a big set and didn't make it out their first attempt. There was a long interval but when the sets came they came fast and were definitely overhead, crashing straight down and sounding like sonic booms. Their second attempt entering they timed much better and were successful.

We watched the surf for a while trying to decide whether to attempt a dive or not. Corey said " I'll wait for you guys in the car". We watched the surf until the two divers returned. They waited for a lull and kicked like hell for the beach, they had both got their fins off when the swell came up and they were hit pretty hard but stayed on their feet. Lucky for them it was a small set this time.

I could tell Dave really wanted to get wet but I did not feel comfortable with the conditions and told him I'd like to call it a day. He did not question my decision, all he said was "Let's go to breakfast". You know Dave just the thought of a meal will change his whole outlook on a situation.

My point here is that sometimes circumstances can dictate calling off a dive. We are not all as skilled and experienced as Dave Carlson who would probably still dive even if he forgot his BCD, he would just use bungies to attach his tank and go for it. But for most of us if there are conditions or circumstances that could lead to possible complications or disaster it is best to cancel and dive another day. Sometimes caution is the better part of valor.



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

ABsolutly Great by Steve Peterson

I hope it is ok to brag about my abalone diving and camping trip to Fort Bragg. I'm not sure if I should brag about my 9 & 5/16 inch ab, 3 ab pearls, the interesting people I met, or the two abs I took with only my fingers (I had loaned my iron to Bob Rydgig). Anyway, I had a ball! Lots of fun diving, more abs than you could point your ab iron at, and many gluttonous abalone dinners. At a couple dive spots, the abs were almost like "shingles on a roof" once you got below 20 feet. In California, as most of you know, abalone can only be taken freediving, only north of the Golden-Gate, and only for recreation (not for commercial use).

My trip started out by meeting up with Dave Carlson from the Pacific Explorer's dive club, his lady-friend Kathy, and some their hard-core diving friends at MacKerricher State Park (about 3 miles north of Fort Bragg). We went into town and bought our ab-cards and then scouted out dive spots. It was kind of rough on the outside waters, so we were looking for a spot with a little protection from the swell. This area of coastline has numerous rocky points and headlands with protected sheltered coves in between. Once I saw the beach at Russian Gulch, where I had an easy kayak launch with abalone on the outside point, I knew I was in heaven. Four of our group climbed down the cliff and jumped in the water at the point. They then grabbed their abs in the lee of the point and kicked their inner-tube-floats 600 or so yards back to the beach inside the fiord-type-cove. Me, I launched my kayak from the most scenic beach I have ever launched from. It had a small protected sandy beach where the stream enters, surrounded by rugged steep cliffs carpeted with pine trees. While paddling out, I met a few locals who were returning with their catches. They were really friendly and were willing to tell me where to look. I took that as a sign of abundant abalone if the locals were so helpful. By the time I anchored, most of my group was well on their way to limiting-out. Even in my younger days, I never claimed to be a real freediver. I had not free-dove for years and it took me a while to get that snorkel thing figured out again. I went right to where someone advised me to, and started finding abs in about 8 to 10 feet. I had to work a little, but before too long, I got mine. I had forgotten how much those red abalone weigh. Those things get heavy when you are trying to swim with them.

I dove with Dave and his friends for 4 days, diving a different spot each day. We ate abalone three nights in a row before getting "abbed-out" and then took a break for Italian food. The same day that group was disbanding, club member Bob Rydgig and some of his friends were meeting at Van Damme State Park, about 10 miles south of Fort Bragg. I hooked up with them and dove two more interesting spots. One of these was kind of a walk to the water, step in, and swim about 20 feet to the ab grounds. The other was a little more challenging. It was best to use the rope to help slither down a 10 foot cliff-face, then slide down the 30 foot crumbling-shale-slide one person at a time. It was also then a good idea to get away from the "fall line" at the bottom, just in case the next person coming down knocked some rocks loose. As one of the guys said, "This is like an Indiana Jones movie!" Anyway, this protected little cove was like diving in a cathedral! It was really something! Ya just gotta trust your rope guys. If Bob and his friend Larry Marting gotten mad and taken their rope home, we would have had a heck of a swim along the cliffs to the next get-out-area. I had to hit the road, so I grabbed my abs in about 4 dives & slithered back up the cliff while the rope was still there. Oh ya, I guess I should mention that Larry's son, Brett, somehow managed to talk a few of his buddies into diving for abs and this was their first time in wetsuits. From what I heard, a couple of the new guys liked diving so much, the only way the rest of the group could get them out of the water was to start throwing rocks at them.

Since I last dove abs, the state has come up with a whole bunch of new regulations. In addition to your fishing license, you need an ab-card. This is a punch-card with 24 punch-holes and spaces to write. As soon as you get to your car, you are required to punch-out for each ab and fill in the date, time, and location. The wardens and the park rangers are real sticklers about this too! No slack at all and stiff fines for the careless. The limit in possession is 3 abs total. This means that you've got to eat the ones you caught today so that you can go diving again tomorrow. So each night becomes an ab feast. I would recommend to take a few non divers with you on these trips. Not only can they help you eat up your catch, they might help in the preparation or watch your dog while you dive.

I have never stayed in a campground where divers were the "top dogs" before. In Yosemite, the climbers are the kings; in Costa Rica, the surfers; around Fort Bragg, ab grabbing is the game. Most campsites had at least one wet-suite hanging out to dry. Around dinner time, you would hear the echoes of abalone hammers resonating throughout the forest. One night at Bob's campsite, we were preparing a "double-boatload" ab feast---kind of a undeclared abalone gorging contest. Most of us planned to dive the next day, hence we had to use up our catch from that day. We had three pounders going at the same time. None of these guys had any rhythm and it bothered a neighboring camper. She came over and complained about the noise. I quickly apologized for our noise and promptly lied in telling her that we were almost through and would be done in just a minute (we still had two heaping platters of slices left to pound). She obviously knew nothing about abalone, what we were doing, or what the slimy stuff was worth. About an hour later, we took her a mounded plate full of cooked ab steaks & she then turned into a happy camper after all. I just wish I could have seen her face when she went into town, started asking about abalone, and learned the value of that stuff.

P.S. This article is dedicated to those club members who were interested, but couldn't make the trip. All other dive spots sworn to secrecy. If you ask, I'll lie my ass off to protect credibility & abalone. We will be returning next year, so come with us to see the area.

CLUB ELECTIONS

The time for club board elections is drawing nearer. We will be holding nominations at the October general meeting, and elections will be held at the November general meeting.

This is very important for our club to remain successful to have energized, caring folks in the club board. 2006 has been a really good year, and our membership is very strong. This is largely due to the excellent work all the board members have done for us this year. I've been fortunate that basically all I've had to do is ask for ideas, and the current board has been awesome at coming up with ideas to move the club forward, provide fun dive activities, and offer sage advice on issues that pop up from time to time. Being on the board really is not hard work, and is another great way to get involved with the sport we all love. We have one board meeting per month on the Wednesday preceding the general club meeting, and then a small amount of involvement to make sure activities run smoothly. Here is a list of the positions and a brief description of what they involve:

PRESIDENT: Provides general direction for the club and acts as "ring master" for the board and general meetings. Actually, probably one of the easiest positions!

VICE PRESIDENT: The VP's main job is finding entertainment for the general club monthly meetings. This can be very fun because you learn a lot about the sport and the marine environment when you start considering speaker topics. There's a LOT of info. out there to be had.

TREASURER: Responsible for maintaining the "books" for the club's bank account and getting the annual taxes submitted. **DON'T FREAK** about the last bit there...we have an accountant so all you really do is give them the bank statements for the year and let them punch the calculator buttons. Also responsible for purchasing the monthly raffle prizes (along with help from other board members).

SECRETARY: Takes the minutes at the board and general meetings. Toughest part of this one is trying to hear what everyone is saying in the middle of a loud restaurant with everyone talking at once!!

WEBMASTER: Just what it says. This person takes care of posting things on the club website and making sure it stays accessible (which basically just involves calling the ISP if things aren't working). Obviously, some computer and web literacy are required here.

NEWSLETTER: Puts together the monthly newsletter. The toughest part of this job is convincing folks to do articles and get them submitted on time.

MEMBERSHIP: Makes sure we have membership applications and liability release forms on file for all members, maintains the club membership roster, greets new members and visitors at the general meeting, sends out renewal reminders.

BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR: Plans the monthly club boat dive activities. It is not required that the coordinator participate in every outing, but this generally should be someone who dives regularly.

BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR: Plans the monthly club beach dive activities. Again, it's not required to show up to each and every event, but this should generally be someone who actually **DOES** beach dive!

RAFFLE COORDINATOR: Sells raffle tickets at the monthly club meeting.

SCUBAPRO RECALL

Scubapro is recalling some of their X650 regulators due to a defect that could result in full regulator failure at depth. Please contact Scubapro if you have an X650 and are not sure of its status with respect to the recall.

SUUNTO RECALL

Suunto Oy has identified a software bug in the D9 and D6 instruments. The products affected are:

D9 serial numbers 62102582 and below

D6 serial numbers 62103693 and below

If any of you have purchased either a D6 or D9 that fall under the serial numbers on the attachment please contact Lucia at Aqua Lung (760-597-5072) to get an RM number to get it upgraded.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year (And Anacapa in September) Liz Sullivan

The front-runner for “happiest place on earth” is still probably Disneyland. I can’t really argue with that one. So what is the most wonderful time of the year? Can it be during the holidays: Christmas, Hanukah or Thanksgiving? I know there is more to the holidays than the food but wintertime and the holiday season are rather ho-hum for me. In general, fall is my favorite season in general and for the diving. It is also lobster season for the “buggers” and that alone makes it safe to say that October might be deemed the holiday month for divers.



Winding back a little, Kevin and I did not do much diving in August. So many things got in the way and the wind was up on days we wanted to go out on the boat so we hung our hopes on September. September started out quite busy for us so we waited and tried getting out mid month. Finally we just took Monday the 18th off work and went out to Anacapa. Playing hooky from work is always a good idea when the weather is nice.

That day, the trip across the water was smooth and Kevin had the boat going at about 20 knots with both the wind and swell low. On our way out, we never said a word about the fantastic weather and conditions to each other. I have never been a superstitious person until I started boating and now I know to never compliment the weather and sea gods until you are safely on your way back home. We both had a good feeling about the day.



Kevin pulled up to the backside of Anacapa and we decided to dive shallow since we were by ourselves. The Spectre did show up but that boat wasn’t very full. It was the perfect day to be on the Spectre and I’m sure that everyone on board were in heaven. We anchored in 30 feet of clear blue water. You could see easily right to the bottom. And yes, the water temperature was still very warm. The only thing we were missing was kelp. There was always an abundance of kelp in this area, especially in the shallows. It seemed to be missing which was very disappointing.

I got into the water first and told Kevin that I was going down to the bottom to snap a picture of him jumping in. It was so nice to be able to say “meet you on the bottom” and know that he would have no

problem finding me. Standing on the swim step, Kevin could see me so well that he could tell when I had the camera pointed up at him or if I was looking away. The last time we could descend separately was in Fiji on a drift dive.

Dropping down to the bottom, we didn’t expect to see a lot of life with the absence of kelp but we were mistaken. On that dive, we saw an Octopus, bat ray, harbor seal, nudibranchs and a big school of tiny mackerel. To top it off, we practically got run over by a giant black sea bass! The sea bass swam straight at us and passed us at about 5-10 feet in distance. I truly think this encounter would have freaked out a new diver because of the directness and size of the dude. It was awesome that he was very curious and unafraid. Kevin managed to snap a few pictures of him steaming by. Oh, and the temperature was about 67 degrees at 40 feet. Warm water divers would be comfortable with the dive we did. Hint, hint....you know who you are!

After a little over an hour of diving, we surfaced and climbed aboard the boat to be greeted by our Terrier. He doesn’t get the whole diving thing that mom and dad do. The three of us spent the next hour on the bow with snacks and sunscreen watching the fish jump out of the water as they were being chased from below by something.

On the way home, we fished out a bunch of balloons floating on the surface of the water so we got a little clean up done that day to boot. That day was truly a perfect and relaxing day. Advice – take a ditch day from work and jump aboard one of the local dive boats and take advantage of the conditions. It doesn’t get more wonderful than this!!!!



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



Scuba Diving Anacapa Island By Chris Russello

The Anacapa Island group is the southernmost of the northern group of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands.

Anacapa lies a short distance offshore from Port Hueneme and fast private boats can make the crossing in less than half an hour. Charter dive boats take approximately an hour and a half. Its proximity to shore offers divers a tremendous resource close to home.

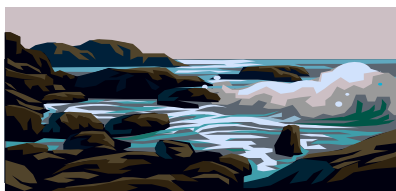
Anacapa Island, whose name was derived from the Chumash Indian word *eneepah* that means “ever changing” or “deception,” has often perplexed navigators. Sailing straight southeast for Anacapa from neighboring Santa Cruz, the three tabletop like islets appear to be one land mass. Heading south out of Ventura Harbor, all three islands are easily discernible.

The Anacapa group of islands received little attention until 1853 when the Pacific Mail steamship Winfield Scott slammed onto the rocky shore of the northwest end of the middle islet. Although there’s not much left of it now, it’s still a fun place to dive.

Numerous underwater fissures, caves and caverns ring the islets of Anacapa. Ledges, rocky reefs, walls, drop-offs and opulent kelp beds have beckoned many divers over the years. Sea lions, cup corals, gorgonians, nudibranchs, anemones, moon snails, bat rays, horn sharks, lobster, abalone and a variety of starfish are all part of the thriving aquatic life that makes up the natural aquarium at Anacapa.

My favorite dive sites at Anacapa Island are Coral Reef, Portuguese Rock and Landing Cove. Coral Reef is appropriately named because it is, just that... beautiful coral reef! Numerous stone corals dot the rocks and ledges and the terrain within the kelp bed is a mass of jumbled rock piles and ledges. Unfortunately heavy currents can rip through this area creating unfavorable diving conditions, however, when the currents die down, water clarity usually remains and great diving awaits. Portuguese Rock (Brown Pelican Fledging area, front side) has lots of really big fish, bat rays, massive rocks to explore and overall great visibility. Landing Cove (East end, front side) has a huge underwater arch. I recommend taking new divers and out-of-towners to this site because swimming through the arch is always an impressive and memorable dive.

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. Next time...“Santa Cruz Dive Sites!”



Tri-Club Dive Meet Report By Mark Navas

I dove the 1st annual Tri-Club Meet today. This was a freediving spear fishing tournament involving all three freediving clubs in southern California; the San Diego Freedivers, Long Beach Neptune's and the Los Angeles Fathomiers. This was a very technical dive since you could only count Bass and pelagic fish for the weigh in plus you were only allowed to weigh in one fish! There were only 3 places awarded, 1st, 2nd and 3rd so I needed a big fish!

We staged the dive at Leo Carrillo State Beach in Malibu and started at 8:00 am. It was calm and slightly overcast with air temps in the mid 60's. My two dive partners and I took our kayaks from the beach and headed north to County Line about 2-3 miles away. Using a portable fish finder on my kayak, I was able to find, aka "Twin Rocks", about a 1/2 mile out from shore plus using a shore reference structure to find the spot. Twin Rocks is a large rock structure with a few large ledges and caves that sits at 52 feet deep with the top of the rock at 38 feet. We all took turns diving the small top and sides of the rocks structure which is where I shot my 1.92 lb. Sand Bass at 45 feet. It was not a great size fish but it was one of the few fish that could actually be weighed in so I was happy to be on the score board. We tired out quickly and got cold diving those depths. My deepest dive there was 49 feet but with a 28 pound weight belt at that depth and no BCD was like swimming around with an anchor tied around my waist! Next, we headed closer to shore finishing our diving at Harrison's Reef 10-30 feet which was very murky, 5-10' vis and still cold at 60F. The water temp was 60F everywhere we dove and my buddies were getting cold since they were wearing 5 mm wetsuits. I wore a 7 mm suit and was warm all day. It pays to call the surf report the night before to get the water temps! The water visibility ranged from 4 to 20 feet depending on the location. At 1:00 pm the wind had picked up to 15 kts with white caps so we started heading back.

At 1:30 pm we were all on shore and I blew the whistle officially ending the tournament (I was also the event recorder and weigh master). Everyone was back on time and no one was disqualified. We all weighed in our catch and to my shocking surprise I took 3rd place overall with my small Sand Bass! It was very slim pickings out there which has usually been my experience diving Malibu so everyone was feeling the pressure to dive as hard as they could.

Jay Riffe, of Riffe Spearguns International, is the president of the Long Beach Neptunes and awarded the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques to the winners. Everyone had a great time diving and we heard some good fish stories at the weigh in.

The BBQ that followed didn't go as smooth. Our club President of the Fathomiers brought a nice BBQ but it ran out of propane after only a few burgers. Since the only food left was chips and soda's the crowd quickly dispersed to go eat! All in all it was a great day and I'm looking forward to the 2nd Annual Tri-Club Meet!



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

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

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at a Restaurant in Woodland Hills.

President-Kevin Sullivan: Kevin announced that he sent the final payment to World of Travel today for La Paz. There will a small refund coming to each of the La Paz travelers. Aerocalifornia is still not flying. It's a good thing we switch the flights to American. Hurricane Jon hit Cabo, but the damage seems to be minimal. It should be less in La Paz. Kevin researched Bonaire as a possible warm water destination for next year. However, after discussion it was decided we will go to Indonesia next year. Maybe we'll go to Bonaire in '08. We also discussed the need for travel insurance. We all agreed that anyone planning to go on a dive trip should have trip insurance. We will look into partnering up with Dive Assure Insurance, and put a link on our website for members to get insurance with at a discounted rate. We will announce the details once they are known. We discussed the impending club elections. Some of the board will be stepping down at the end of the year, and others are willing to help out where needed. We will ask the membership for volunteers to join the board and participate more in directing our club. Nominations will occur at the October membership meeting, and voting at the November meeting. One last bit of information - Aloha Dive in Simi Valley has closed. Their other two stores in the valley are still open however.

VP/Entertainment-David Carlson: Our speaker this month was going to be our own Russell Burt, but he is having surgery, so Dave will give a slide show of his & Kathy's Fort Bragg Abalone trip. In October Bob Casselman will make a presentation on the USS Oriskani, recently sunk as a reef in Florida. Bob will cover her from her beginning up through her sinking. In November, Joe Drago will give a talk on Sipidan. David has been working with Kathleen Hook-Griffith regarding a club trip to Indonesia next year. After discussion, the board decided this was the best spot to go in 2007. Dave will work out the details and present them at the next BOD meeting.

Treasurer-Kathy White: Kathy said the books are balanced, and the club money is in good shape. She has booked BJ's Brewery & Restaurant for our Christmas party on Sunday, December 3rd from 12-4. We need to make an announcement about the photo contest at the meeting next week.

Newsletter-Jeffrey Adler: Jeff will be out of town at the beginning of next month and will miss the BOD meeting, and probably the membership meeting. Jeff needs all newsletter articles and pictures NO LATER than 9/26/06. Jeff reminded us that the Quarterly Raffle will be at the October meeting.

Webmaster - Russell Burt: Nothing new. Russell informed the BOD he would miss the next BOD meeting due to some surgery he needs. The board's best wishes are with him for a successful surgery.

Shore Dive Coordinator-Mike Bushell: Mike last month's dive at Shaw's Cove in Laguna Beach had 13 divers and went well. The next dive is September 16th at Staircase/40000 PCH/County line. October's dive is actually September 30th, a lobster hunting night dive at Leo Carrillo. November's dive will be Deercreek Road, just south of Sycamore Canyon on PCH.

Boat Dive Coordinator-David Bentley: We had 3 club members on the Lois Ann diving the Yukon and the Ruby E. The dive sites were great, as well as the hotel recommended by the Lois Ann. The next boat dive is September 29th on the Magician for a night lobster dive. On October 14th we're on the Pacific Star with Hollywood Divers. The last boat dive of the year is November 4th on the Great Escape to Santa Barbara Island with Reef Seekers.

Raffle Coordinator-Ed Mickus: Ed said the raffle is going well and he's selling lots of tickets. The board discussed the selection of prizes for the raffle. Ed has received complaints about the quality of the club stickers. Several members have reported them peeling off. Ed will contact the supplier about getting replacements.

Secretaries-Wally & Nancy Burke: Wally & Nancy reported their findings about the club going to Thailand as a possible warm-water trip next year. It doesn't look like a good spot for the club for a few reasons. Wally & Nancy will miss the next BOD meeting as they will be diving in the Caribbean.

Membership-Connie Richards: Absent

Kevin informed everyone that the Monterey Aquarium has another young Great White Shark on exhibit. This one is a male, about 5 feet long. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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

Raffle Whiners

Hollywood Divers Mesh Bag	Stuart Deats
Hollywood Divers Jellyfish Tee-Shirt	Stan Richards
Hollywood Divers Sea Dog Tee-Shirt	Kevin Sullivan
Lobster Squeeze Bag w/gauge	Al Koholos
California Lobster Diving book	Chuck DeGroot
Mini Q40 LED Dive Light	Jeff Adler
Lobster Hunters gauge-on-a-light kit	Ron Michalzki
Larry-The-Lobster	Dave Carlson

Guests:

We had eight guests this week.

Guest Speaker:

Dave Carlson presented a slide show on his and Kathy White's Abalone trip to Fort Bragg. It appeared that everyone had a successful trip and they did their part to reduce the Abalone population! Thanks for the show Dave!

Kevin told us club elections are coming up. Some of the board members are willing to participate again, and some are leaving for sure, and we want and need "fresh blood". Please support your club and run for one of the positions. Most of the positions are easy and take very little time. We'll take nominations at the October meeting, and will vote at the November meeting.

Kevin also told us that the warm-water club trip for next year will be Indonesia. The details are not worked out yet, but we will have more information next month. 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.

Also, 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.

Last, we are having our photo contest again this year. The categories are the same as last year. You can start submitting now, and the last date will probably be the November membership meeting.

Connie reported that we have about 100 members now.

David Bentley reported that the Yukon dive trip on the Lois Ann was great, and it will do it again in the future.

Mike reported that the last three shore dives have gone well with good club participation. Conditions are good now and it's a good time to get out and dive!

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
30 Sept	Sat	Leo Carillo	Lobster Night Dive	Free	Buy your License & Endorsement Stamp!	6 PM		
14 Oct	Sat	Pacific Star ³	Catalina	140	Food & Air	9 AM	10 AM	10 PM
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

⁵You 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

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 99 Members

New Members

Steve Roquemore

B. J. Rogers

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

David Bentley
Tanda Lockett
Jim Davis
Wally Burke
Mike Bushell
Liz Sullivan
Thomas Pelosi
Craig Hoover

Michael Carlson
Kevin Sullivan
Nancy Burke
Lynn Bushell
Al Kholos
Leslie Pelosi
Cory Bushell

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: