
The Pacific Explorer

September 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.



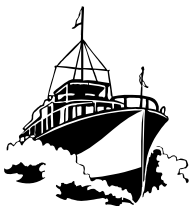
Speaker of the month...

Our featured speaker for September will be our very own David Carlson and Kathy White. They will be presenting Free Diving for Abalone from their trip last month to Fort Bragg. The seas have been flat most of the time and on this last trip we were kayaking through tunnels in the rocks that only had a 4 foot clearance. Flat would be an understatement. The coast line that they have is something I really wish we had some of down hear. Beautiful coves and great rocky points that make for a protected entry and exit with any kind of swell. The limit is 3 abs per day and 3 in possession. So, with our limit done early in the trip the only thing we could do was dive for fun or find someone to give our abs to so we could get more. It is not hard to get you limit as long as you don't mind a little swim.



Beach dive of the month...

The September club beach dive will be a night lobster dive Saturday September 29th 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 September is on Labor Day September 3rd. We will be taking the Sundiver for a day of diving on local wrecks and reefs. The cost is \$125 and includes tanks, weights and food. You are welcome to bring your own tanks as well. This is an open charter so you can reserve your spot by calling the Sundiver at 1-800-555-9446. The boat boards at 6 am and departs at 7 am. They are expecting to return by 5 pm.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

RECENT EVENTS

Wow, there has certainly been a LOT happening lately, both in and out of the water!

We were recently invited by Sport Chalet to have a table at their annual SCUBA tent sale at the West Hills store. They were very gracious and let us set up our table just inside the store entrance by the service counter, so that we were basically the first thing folks saw coming in to the store. This was an excellent opportunity to let more people in the dive community know about our club, and we had dozens of folks drop by and get more information about the club and diving in general. We even had some people join the club right on the spot! Special thanks are due to Jeff Adler who put together some special flyers that contained information about all the special benefits of being a club member, Liz who had some really nice signs made up with the club logo, and to Dave Carlson who coordinated our participation in the event with Sport Chalet. We broke up the weekend in to four 4-hour sessions with Dave and Kathy taking Saturday morning, Liz and I Saturday afternoon, I was back with Jeff Adler Sunday morning, and Mike and Lynn Bushell rounded off the weekend Sunday afternoon. Everyone at Sport Chalet was very supportive, and the managers and employees at the West Hills store went out of their way to make us feel welcome. We had an excellent couple of days hanging at the store and talking with all kinds of folks from every experience level, including people just starting to get interested in the sport. We even saw a couple of folks who got some information, and then went home and brought their families back to try the Discover SCUBA event! It really was special to be able to see all sorts of people getting new interest in the sport and our club. We also received back some very nice compliments from the Sport Chalet corporate folks, which really confirmed for us just how successful the whole weekend was. Thank you to everyone who helped support this very important event.

Next was our annual picnic/dive/BBQ at Leo Carillo this past weekend. I can only sum this up by saying this was our most successful picnic to date with over 50 people attending and around 20 diving!!! Thank you to everyone who came out and shared their food, and more importantly their company! This was a very beautiful day, even though the waters at Leo didn't fully cooperate as far as visibility went. The foods everyone brought were wonderful, and I certainly don't think anyone went home hungry Saturday afternoon. We also had several of our newest members join us (including some who actually joined at the tent sale!) which was very nice to see. It was very rewarding to see such a wonderful group of people enjoying each other's company and our common love of the ocean and diving. Kathy White deserves special thanks for doing most of the coordinating for the day, and several other folks helped tremendously by bringing barbecues, EZ-ups, chairs, and tables.

UPCOMING

People, if you haven't noticed yet, DIVING SEASON IS HERE!!! Despite the sketchy visibility we had at the Leo Carillo dive/picnic event fall season is the best time of the year to be in the water in SoCal. Water temperatures are basically as warm as they will get, and visibility is generally the best as well. Even if you aren't able to participate in club dives/events for whatever reason, you should definitely be trying to get in the water sometime. We have some excellent opportunities coming up with our next two month's club dives. In September we have a new adventure which is to visit some local wrecks along the SoCal coast on the Sundiver. Liz and I are really looking forward to this as we've done some recent trips to local wrecks, and have had some really cool new experiences. I know there are already several other Explorers signed up for this boat, so don't miss out! In October we are slated to do the South Bay oil rigs, which is always an excellent experience.

If you aren't keeping track, lobster season is nearly upon us!! Dave Bentley has scheduled opening night on the Magician (board the boat at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28, jump in the water at 12:00 midnight Saturday morning), and Mike Bushell has a beach dive scheduled the next evening on Saturday September 29 at Leo Carillo. Dave also has a 12-hour marathon 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. lobster dive on the Pacific Star scheduled in November.

Hope you all are heading towards the water...we'll see you there!!!!

DIVE ON...

Your President, Kevin Sullivan

A Word From Your Beach Dive Coordinator By Mike Bushell

You are going to have to bare with me, I am going somewhere with this article. On July 21st Lynn and I, Kevin, Liz and Jamie went on the Great Escape to San Clemente Island partly because I told them what a great dive spot it was. Lynn got sick and only made one dive and Kevin wasn't feeling well and missed the last dive. Well they didn't miss that much, the diving conditions were like a poor day at Corral Beach. Besides a 10 hour boat trip that cost quite a few bucks.

Saturday July 28th I was checking the local beach diving conditions and found them to be excellent, one foot surf, 25 foot visibility and 68 degree water temperature. So, Sunday morning I dragged Lynn out of bed early, dragged her to the truck kicking and screaming and headed for the beach (Lynn is not thrilled with beach diving). When we got to Leo Carrillo we found the conditions as reported. Lynn and I timed our entry to where the surf was only 4 inches, piece of cake. I have never seen Lynn so relaxed, in fact she did a 50 minute dive with air to spare on a 72 cubic foot tank. When we reached the first kelp bed we dropped down and took a 240 degree heading to the outer kelp bed. The visibility was 25 feet, better than our last dive at San Clemente Island. When Lynn's air got to 1700 psi we did our turnaround and navigated back to the beach. Lucky for me we surfaced right in front of the guard tower where we had entered, didn't want to make Lynn surface swim too far.

Now I'll make my point. As Beach Dive Coordinator I spend hours scheduling beach dive locations. The day before the scheduled dive I check the surf conditions, visibility, and weather conditions for that particular spot. If I feel that the conditions are not conducive to safe diving I will cancel the dive. I then send an email to the membership with this information and detailed directions to the dive spot. I also state the skill level required for the particular dive spot. All of this information is virtually 100% guaranteed. You now can make your own decision with no surprises and best of all Pacific Explorers beach dives are **free**. So when conditions are right for you why not come out and give it a try.

Club Dive Trip San Clemente June 16th By Clive Smith

Mark and my self were the only explorers to show up late Friday for the overnite trip to San Clemente. The Magican was a fine clean boat, with good food and a good crew. The visibility on all dives was less then ideal about 30 foot. Mark and I got chewed out by the divemaster after the first dive for drifting too far away from the boat Very easy to do while making a safety stop with no point of reference in bad viz. Have learnt by that mistake to make it back to the anchor line for the safety stop.

What's really cool about San Clemente is the the fantastic scale and lushness of the underwater environment. I can't imagine a better place to dive when the visibilty improves. Just makes you realize how lucky we are to be able to dive In Southern California. World Class diving on your doorstep.

2007 PHOTO CONTEST!!!!!!

Once again we are holding out annual photo contest with prizes to be awarded at the holiday party on Sunday, December 2nd. The categories will be the same as past years: BEST MARINE LIFE , BEST MACRO, BEST DIVER-IN-PHOTO Rules are:

1) Entries must be submitted electronically to any current board member either by e-mail or on CD by the general meeting on Wednesday October 10. 2) It is highly recommended that the highest possible resolution images be used for submission. JPG or TIF formats are preferred. 3) Digital alteration of photographs is allowed, but the base image must be an original photograph taken by the member during a dive/ocean experience. Digitally created images not based on original photography will not be accepted. 4)Photographs should be related to diving and ocean experiences, but do not necessarily have to be underwater images. As an example, a photograph of a breaching whale is an acceptable submission for marine life, while a submission of a hummingbird for best macro is not. These distinctions will be made at the discretion of the club board of directors, and these decisions are final. 5) Each member is allowed to submit no more than two (2) images in each category, for a maximum possible number of submissions of six (6) total per member. The total of six may NOT be divided up to get more submissions in a single category. Each category is limited to two per member. Extra submissions will be subject to deletion at the board's discretion without consultation to the submitting member. 6) Submissions must be the individual work of the submitting member. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. 7) Submissions must be photographs taken during the current calendar year. 8) Submissions are NOT required to be from club events, and may be from any dive experience the club member has had within the calendar year, regardless of affiliation.

We know there are some incredible photographers among our membership, so come on you shutter bugs! If this year is anything like 2006, the competition is going to be stiff!!

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting August 1, 2007

Attending: Kevin & Liz Sullivan, Dave Carlson, Kathy White, Jeff & Cheryl Adler, Mike & Lynn Bushell, Craig Hoover, Dave Bentley.

Kevin started the meeting with a discussion about the 2008 club trip to Bonaire. Dave C. will contact the agent we used for the Fiji trip and get some prices for various resorts and see about a deposit to secure our time frame. If the deposit is reasonable and we'll go ahead & reserve 12 double occupancy rooms (24 spots) for now.

Liz noted that all checks for the Indonesia trip have cleared.

The board voted on setting the annual holiday party for Sunday December 2nd at Arturo & Sandra Velasquez' restaurant.

Kathy noted that we had 1 new member and 6 renewals in the month of July. We have 25 people signed up for the picnic on Saturday August 25. She noted that we need to encourage folks to bring extra EZ-ups and chairs/tables.

Dave C. has Jamie Nixon set to talk about Bonaire at the August club meeting and Bob Rydgig for September about the Salomon islands.

The board discussed this year's photo contest including the possibility of adding a new category (or 2). The general consensus was to leave the categories as-is for now (best marine life, best macro, best diver-in-photo).

Dave B. noted that he'll need to release the reserved spots on the Lois Ann to San Diego wrecks soon. The planned trip on the Pacific Star in September was cancelled, so he is looking for something to replace that trip. October will be to the oil rigs and he is adding a December trip on the Spectre, which is new this year.

Mike is considering Malibu road for the October beach dive, and Malaga Cove for November.

Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting August 8, 2007

Kevin opened the meeting by noting a few important upcoming events. There will be a tent sale at Sport Chalet on Friday 8/17 through Sunday 8/19 and SC has offered to have the club set up a table at the event to help promote the club and diving in general. The club will have a table at the West Hills store from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Folks were asked to volunteer to staff the table for a 2 or 4 hour session on either day.

The club received information from a former member that there is a presentation at the West Valley police station community room on Tuesday 8/14 about the LA port security and the LAPD underwater dive unit deployment. The presentation is open to the public and divers in general may find this very interesting.

Mike Bushell, Kathy White, and Kevin all encouraged everyone to join the club picnic on Saturday 8/25. Folks are encouraged to bring extra EZ-ups and chairs/tables.

Jamie Nixon gave an excellent photo presentation about her recent trip to Bonaire, and staying at Captain Don's Habitat. This was a great teaser for next year's trip, and Jamie's photos were certainly an excellent preview on this destination.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING WINNERS:

Mike Bushell – Invertebrate book
Cody Brunski – Shark Week DVD
Ron Michalski – Hollywood Divers mesh bag
BJ Rogers – Beach dive bin
Rommell Braga – Booties
Jeff Adler – Water toys
Ron Brunski – Larry the Lobster
Dave Leffert – Yellow T-shirt
Lynn Bushell – Goodie bag

INDONESIA by Steve Peterson

My trip to Indonesia started by trying to talk Joe Razo into a cheap Baja dive & camping adventure. Somehow, Joe convinced me that I should spend some real money and go to Indonesia instead. Our trip was put together by travel agent Kathleen Griffith and her husband Michael Griffith, both divers. After talking to Kathleen, I realized that I couldn't afford not to go. Who better to travel with than a travel agent who knows all the tricks in the business? Who better to dive with than Michael, a fanatical diver who has never missed a dive in his life. I knew we would get maximum bottom time with such a combo. They also own property in Indonesia, and plan to retire there.

This was a two week trip to Sulawesi, broken down roughly as follows: 5 days on the live-a-board, 3 nights at the Santika resort, 2 nights in Singapore, a couple days in transit on either end. There were 16 of us all together, from throughout Southern Calif. From our club were Joe Razo, Wally Burke, Nancy Burke, and myself. Joining the four of us on the live-aboard were Michael Griffith, Dave Hamilton, and Marta (a Spanish citizen who was on vacation from her work in China).

I loved the live-aboard! It was just my style! I would describe the boat as slightly funky with lots of rustic charm. Now ya gotta realize that when you are out of the good old USA, sometimes things are done differently and more relaxed. I doubt if this boat would pass a Coast Guard Inspection or survive in the Santa Barbara Channel. However, it seemed to work OK in the calm Indonesian waters. There never really was an orientation to the boat or a safety briefing when we came aboard. I discovered our life jackets on day 5 as we were leaving. Joe had tossed his baggage on top of them in his "corner of the cabin" & that is where they safely stayed throughout our voyage. Joe and I did make it a practice to each take a mask and dive light to bed with us.....just in case bad things happened during the night.

What the boat did offer was the best diving I have ever seen! Warm crystal-clear water, pristine corals, fish that defy description, all the diving your body could handle, and a hard working staff that treated us like royalty. By the 2nd day, the crew knew each of us and our dive gear. They nicknamed Joe as the "Ninja" due to his black mask and black dive hood. I became the "cowboy" because my floppy sun hat reminded them of a cowboy hat. They treated me great and were a lot of fun. We quickly became accustomed into the routine of dive & eat, followed by another dive & eat some more, then dive again with food ready when we got out. I usually did 4 dives per day, with 5 on one day. Thank God we were diving NITROX! That stuff is really great on bottom time for what we were doing. Most of my dives were wall dives to 80 or 100 ft at the start and ended up in the shallows on top of the reef. Many of them exceeded one hour. . I had no aspirations of keeping up with Michael and Joe though. It seemed like they were in a race to out-do each other. They averaged 5 dives per day and one day they did 6. I tell you, those two were really rough on the dive-master. He was supposed to go on all the dives & was not used to working that much. He was dragging on our last day and really deserved a rest after we left. Aboard the boat the food was good and plenty of it! Nothing fancy, but all you wanted-----I have never been a picky eater either.

On day 5, after 3 great dives, the boat dropped us and our gear off at the Santika Resort dock. What a culture shock! All of the sudden, these fancy-dressed hotel workers want passports, paperwork, identification, and money! Aboard the boat, life was simple-----now we had decisions to make, people to tip, and actually had to sign up for dives in advance! The diving at Santika was an opportunity of a lifetime for photographers and fish ID folks. I saw so many strange creatures down there, that I didn't appreciate what I was looking at. I tried to find interesting stuff for the photographers I was diving with, point it out, and then back off. I was diving with Joe, Michael, and Dave. After some 20 dives together, we knew each others habits fairly well. As those 3 all tried to photograph the same critter at the same time, it seemed to develop into a polite water polo game-----a shoulder here, an elbow there, maybe a little kick with a fin when no one was looking. On about the 6th or 7th day of diving together, someone suggested a truce. I swear that truce lasted less than 1/2 a dive & the person who suggested the truce broke it first!

They run a very good dive operation at Santika with boats well suited for their needs. The hotel is fancier than it needed to be for me. I would have been happy with a beach shack and a hammock. If

you want to be pampered and not carry any of your gear then this is your kind of place. The meals were buffet, with lots to choose from. At breakfast they were squeezing fresh tropical fruits in any combination you wanted. Those looked so good, I was tempted to get a bottle of rum and forget the diving. Somehow I gained 8 pounds on this dive trip.

On the return trip, we stayed in Singapore for 2 nights. Ever since I heard about the caning sentence of a US teenager for spraying graffiti, I have wanted to visit there. What a fantastic punishment! We should do that here! Singapore was an interesting place to visit, but be careful when bargaining with the locals. They are experts on separating you from your money. I thought I had bargained a good deal for our groups lunch..... only to find that the rice was extra, the veges extra, etc. I think they even charged me for the air I breathed while there. My \$15 meal cost \$40 before I was out the door. Oh yes, the price of an education in a foreign country!

I would highly recommend an Indonesia dive vacation! I had a great time! It was best diving I have ever seen and the locals were really friendly. (For those of you who don't know me, I guess I should add that I have been diving more years than I want to admit and spent a year teaching diving at UNEXSO in Freeport on Grand Bahama Island.) Nothing that I saw in the Bahamas compares to what I saw in Indonesia! You photographers, take lots of extra batteries because you will use them! The colors of the corals on the reefs were incredible and those weird critters found muck diving are out of this world!

Sat 7/28/07 at Nicholas Canyon Beach By Wally Burke

Nancy & I entered the surf without problem and then did a fairly long surface swim in the NW direction to the closest patch of kelp. We dropped down and the vis was about 10-15 feet with lot's of surge. There was a lot of eelgrass on the small finger reef, but other than a few fish and a couple of very large sea hares not much life to look at. We looked around for about 15 minutes and then decided to surface and swim to a larger bed of kelp.

After about another 10 minutes of slow and steady swimming we reached a very large kelp bed. We dropped down and saw a bottom similar to the first kelp patch, but this time the reef continued NW. After about 10 minutes of seeing nothing but a few small fish and a few more sea hares I came face to face with a 3-4 foot long leopard shark. He was about 3 feet away before he turned and left the area. Once he was gone I looked down and I was directly over a 3 foot long guitarfish. We took a long look at it, and as we turned to leave him, first one, then another batfish swam by about 6 feet away.

Once they left the area we decided to head in the general direction (NW still) that they and the leopard shark went. After swimming another 10 minutes and seeing nothing but a few sea hares, the vis started to get progressively worse. When it dropped below 5 foot we decided it was time to turn around and head back towards clearer water, and hopefully more interesting sites to see.

As we returned towards our starting point the vis did get a little better, but never reached 10 feet. As we only saw one medium size halibut on the return leg we decided to end the dive. Normally we would surface swim back in, but we had plenty of air, so we stayed on the bottom until we got to where we could stand up. We exited the water without incidence and went up to the showers and rinsed off the sand and salt water before breaking down our equipment.

Even though most of the dive was pretty boring, the 5 minutes or so where we saw the shark, guitarfish, and bat rays, along with the mild conditions and warm water made this a nice dive.



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



Beach Dives

Date	Day	Beach	Time	
29-Sept	Sat	Leo Carrillo North	6 PM	Lobster Dive
	Sat	Malibu Road	9 AM	
17-Nov	Sat	Malaga Cove	9 AM	
2-Dec	Sun	Annual Holiday Party		

International Diving

13-26 Sept		Indonesia	2,600	Air, lodging 21 dives, most meals
End of June		Bonaire		

Boat Dives

		Boat	Destination	Cost	Included	Boarding	Depart	Return
3 Sept	Mon	Sundiver	Local Wrecks	125.00	Food & Air	8 P 9/2	8 A	5 P
28 Sept	Fri	Magician ³	Opening Night Lobster Dive	120.00		7 P 9/28	9 P	6 A
13 Oct	Sat	Sea Bass ^{4A}	Oil Rigs	130.00	Food & Air	6 A	7 A	4 P
11 Nov	Sun	Magician ³	Santa Barbara	150.00	Food & Air	10 P 11/10	2 A	6 P
8 Dec	Sat	Peace ⁵	Anacapa Island	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

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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

108 Members

New Members

Rommel Braga
Roy Quisido

Denise Noguera
Greg Cosimati

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Jeffrey Adler
Scott Adler
Jim Davis

Hillary Adler
Eric Montoya
Chuck Heinhold

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: