

# The Pacific Explorer February 2010

Pacific Explorers Dive Club PO Box 9443,  
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**WE MEET** the second Wed of each month except December at a Denny's Restaurant on Topanga just north of Roscoe. Meeting starts at 7 PM. Show up early for socializing.

**Lucky Larry, our club lobster, went home with**

**Wally Burke**



**Speaker of the Month**  
... Erika Marchino/Kevin Sullivan

In late January, an event was held to kick off shark conservation activities in the Los Angeles area for 2010. This event was cooperatively hosted by five different shark conservation organizations: Shark Safe Network, Iemanya Oceanica, Dorsal Friends, Shark Savers, and Shark Free Santa Barbara. Presentations at the event included conservation successes from 2009 and a preview of programs and projects from each group for 2010. The proceeds from the event were donated to the Shark Savers / Wild Aid "Say 'No' to Shark Fin Soup" campaign in mainland China.

This February, Erika Marchino of Dorsal Friends and our own VP Kevin Sullivan will be giving us a brief synopsis of the information presented at the conservation event, including screenings of the Shark Savers Public Service Announcement and advertisements featuring Yao Ming, the center for the Houston Rockets. If you are interested in knowing what will be happening with shark conservation in Los Angeles in 2010, this presentation is for you!



**Boat Dive: Saturday, February 20th Avalon Harbor Clean UP ...by Karen Norris**

The February boat dive for the club will be on the 20th. We will be doing the Avalon Harbor Clean-up! Sign up soon to get the early registration price. Also, you'll get a coupon for a discount on the ferry. Here's the scoop:

**boat:** Catalina Express (<http://www.catalinaexpress.com/>) (310-519-1212) or limited service on Catalina-Marina Del Rey Flyer (<http://www.catalinaferries.com/home.html>) (310-305-7250)

**contact:** [http://www.catalinaconservancy.org/index.php?s=join&p=catalina\\_conservancy\\_divers](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org/index.php?s=join&p=catalina_conservancy_divers)

**board time:** 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. (check-in)

**departure time:** 9 a.m. safety briefing; 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. clean-up dive

**return time:** 1 p.m. awards and door prize drawing

**cost:** \$35/50 (register before/after Feb 6, 2010) + transportation costs

**notes:** fee includes event T-shirt, one door-prize ticket, and discount coupons

**details:** The Avalon Harbor Clean-Up is the only opportunity to dive the Harbor at Avalon. Bring a bag (mesh hunting bags work very well) to gather junk from the floor of the Harbor; awards are given for the most unique found items! After the Clean-up, you can dive the park at Casino Point. Register on-line early to get a discount coupon for transportation to Catalina and a break on the registration fee.

The Avalon Harbor Clean-Up is a fun event. Nowhere else do you see so many divers actually diving! There are 3 entries to the harbor for diving. I've dived from the steps and found that it's a typical sandy-bottom dive. I've heard that there are nudibranchs galore underneath the Green Pier. The dive park at Casino Point is the easiest "beach dive" in Southern California and it has all types of environments: wrecks, kelp, rocky reefs, and sandy bottoms. There is something for everyone.



## Beach Dive: Sunday, February 28th, 9 a.m. at the Old Marineland (Advanced) ...By Craig Hoover

Perfection may seem elusive in today's diverse world. There are so many different passions. The colorful threads of marine life fascinate at one moment; the tapestries of history at another. A third moment is perfect when these fascinations are shared. Old Marineland offers a crossroads for the different passions that call us to diving.

Marineland has witnessed a century of human drama. Smugglers used caves in the sea cliffs to store furs before the area was developed. One large cave is reported to be on the southern edge of the property. On October 13, 1895 a wooden hulled steamship called the *Newbern* ran aground and broke up on the rocks. A \$250,000 cargo of 25 pound silver bars was lost. Though most have been recovered two are reported to still be missing. The site got its name in 1954 from an amusement park that was the largest oceanarium of its time. A new resort called Terranea has been built in the past five years. It opened half a year ago and is very diver friendly.

Marineland offers access to several dive areas. The point is a rocky reef descending to 70 feet a hundred yards offshore. Purple gorgonians are common on the deeper parts of the slope. Nudibranch enthusiasts will find a huge variety on this site. At twenty feet tall, Ted's pinnacle sits at

the foot of the slope. Phil aka Max Bottomtime aka OML's Mayor has placed a statue of a water goddess at the foot of this pinnacle. Photos of her may be periodically found on the website [diver.net](http://diver.net). The entry off the point is difficult, exits are called evolutions. Many divers prefer to enter at the point and exit a hundred yards to the east at the cobblestone beach. 120 reef is also accessible from the cobblestone beach. Structure lies in 20 to 45 feet with relief up to ten feet high. Golden gorgonians and schooling fish are common here. Entry and exit are over loose rocks.

The shoreline at Marineland faces south. Swell in the winter is strongest from the northwest so this is one of the most protected sites in Palos Verdes for winter diving. Shore access is by a ten to fifteen minute walk over a paved moderate slope. There are golf cart transports that might accept donations to transport a diver or two, but this is unreliable. Benches line the paths for a quick rest on the way to and from the water.

Directions are as follows. Take the 405 South to the 110 south and exit at Gaffey. Turn left on Gaffey and then right on 25th. 25th becomes Palos Verdes Drive. Go around six miles and look for a sign saying Terramar. Make a left. Public parking is on the left in a specified lot. Alternatively this site may be accessed from PCH and Palos Verdes Drive.



## Conservation and Regulations

.... By Mark Navas

### What fish are Legal to take in 2010?

The 2010 Fishing regs constantly change from day to day. The law reads that: "The Department may modify the seasons, depth constraints, bag limits or size limits for any species of federally-managed groundfish, California sheephead, ocean whitefish and greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Check this web site regularly or call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline ((831)649-2801) for the latest information."

Since the laws change so quickly, the DFG has a website that summarizes all of the species of marine life and tells you what's Open, Partially Closed and Closed. Please go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mapregs5.asp> to view the latest changes to the laws BEFORE you go out.

The DFG separates fisherman into three categories. You need to know what category you fall into and know what restrictions you are held to. You are either a "Shore-Based Angler", "Diver" or "Boat Based Angler".

For example if you want to take a Cabazon, currently they are closed to Boat-Based Angles but open year round to Shore-Based Anglers and Divers. Beware that if you are on a boat dive and Spear fished a Cabazon you still might get a ticket if you are also in possession of a Fishing Rod. Yes, even if the Rod is in the holder and not rigged for fishing, it is up to "The discretion of the officer" to write you a ticket for having the Rod onboard. The safest thing is to have NO Rods on the boat if you plan to take any fish that is on a Partially Closed list (Cabazon, Sheephead, Greenlings, etc). Know before you go!

Dive Safe, Mark



## ***Surface Interval From Your President***

This month I'd like to talk about kayaking and kayak diving. Kayak diving is a cross between beach diving and boat diving, kind of boat diving on the cheap. You can purchase an ocean kayak that is designed for diving for about \$700. The most common ones are made of polyethelene and are about 14 foot in length weighing only 50 pounds. The beauty of the ocean kayak is you don't need a Semi to transport it, in fact once I saw a 14 foot kayak atop a Karmann Ghia. Now you probably ask, how do I get this 14 foot 50 pound behemoth to the surf? Craig Hoover carries his, but that is above my physical capabilities. I have what is known as a skate, it is a kind of a dolly with large balloon tires that can be bungied to one end of the kayak. Then just pull it down to the surf like a wagon. Now you ask, how do I get this through the surf? It is easier than beach diving, this thing will plow through 3 foot surf like a knife through butter provided you keep head on into the wave, please don't turn sideways. Now that you are out in the open ocean you have the capability of reaching dive sites previously unreachable with just a pair of fins.

The ocean kayak opens up other recreational activities. Just getting out and exploring the California coastline is a great adventure. You can make a picnic of it too because the ocean kayaks have watertight hatches. Lynn and I have been kayaking from Malibu to Monterey for the past 11 years. We have kayaked with seals, sea lions, sea otters, whales and dolphins. We have even surfed in them, sometimes unintentionally. Some of the more memorable kayak trips were to Shell Beach just north of Pismo and Morro Bay. The access to the beach at Shell Beach is a 60 foot staircase. The guys from Central Coast Kayaks just drop them and let'em slide down the staircase. Lynn and I carry ours. It's about a mile kayak ride south to what is known as the Dynosaur Caves. When the tide and surf is just right you can kayak into this giant cave and it has a opening in the back. Just wait for a little swell and out you go. There are lots of little coves where you can have a picnic lunch. We usually make a day of it and then have dinner at McClintocks a great steak house. Then the drive home is about 3 hours.

The other memorable kayak adventure was at Morro Bay. We were Kayaking in the back bay and were unaware of the consequences of the tidal changes, the back bay is very shallow. The tide went out on us and we were left high and dry, well not dry because it was really quicksand. We were about 50 yards from shore but sitting on the wet sand. We got out of the kayaks and immediately sunk to our knees in mud. Somehow we slushed our way to shore with kayaks in tow. Later, people at the hotel told us we should consider ourselves lucky because some people have gotten stuck out there. Ever since that experience we take the tide charts with us.

The Ocean Kayak is a great vehicle for diving and ocean adventure and I highly recommend them.

*Let's Dive*

*Mike Bushell*



We need a \$200 deposit ASAP with the balance due  
March 10th!

We have booked 28 spots for our annual  
warm water vacation.

We will be flying Air Pacific direct from LAX to Fiji.  
We are staying at the Garden Island Resort on the  
island of Taviuni.

<http://www.gardenislandresort.com/>

3 days of 3 tank dives and 2 days of 2 tank dives.  
Single supplement is + \$505.

Non-diver is -\$350? Have to confirm that one.

# Minutes - Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting at Hiro Suke Sushi

January 6, 2010 7:30 p.m.

**President:**

Mike thanked the board for all the help at the Holiday Party. Budgets for future opportunity prizes discussed.

**Vice President:**

Kevin discussed his continuing support of shark conservation groups.

**Treasurer:**

Liz to turn over the books to Lynn Bushell. Kevin and Liz to check once again with Wells Fargo to set up the new account and close out the Citibank account.

**Membership:**

114 members; 7 past due

**Webmaster:** Absent

**Boat Dive Coordinator:**

1/24 Peace dive to Anacapa

2/20 Avalon Clean Up – Karen will email club about early registration

July – Begg Rock

**Beach Dive Coordinator:**

Redondo 1/30 – no squid yet

2/28 Old Marineland

**Newsletter:**

Doing ok with articles. Fiji flyer needs to go into newsletter. Send Dave C. and Dave T. Iemanya link for newsletter.

**Marine Conservation Officer:** Absent

**Business:**

Fiji hotel under construction? Dave C. looking into it. Also, hotel has rooms for 3 people if needed. Count is currently at 9 people. 12, 18 and 14 are the best numbers for traveler refunds. Final payments due at March meeting (payment due April).

Patches – Need to see about club response prior to committing to a set up fee. Craig will email Mark and communicate board decision with him.

Guest Speaker – Karl Huggins – “The Catalina Surge”

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# Minutes from the Pacific Explorer's Dive Club General Meeting at Denny's Restaurant

January 13, 2010 7:00 p.m.

**President:** Introduced Mark Navas to discuss the club patches - club members showed good interest. Mark mentioned AB634 which passed the assembly vote and is now up for vote in the Senate.

**Vice President:** Introduced Ken Kollwitz who briefly discussed organizing local dive trips through his new venture Channel Islands Dive Adventures. Some upcoming trips would be on the Raptor, the Lois Ann and some multi day trips. The trip loads for his trips will be limited to 16 persons maximum.

Discussed the Shark Party on 1/24 – this event is to introduce several groups that promote shark conservation and their plans for 2010. The event will also show some of the media from Shark Savers/Wild Aid that is being used in China to bring awareness and stop consumption of shark fin soup. Proceeds from the party will go towards the international billboard and media campaigns.

Introduced the guest speaker Karl Huggins who presented on the surge of hyperbaric accidents that were treated at the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber in 2008.

**Treasurer:** Lynn Bushell informed the club of the move from Citibank to Wells Fargo where the club would not have to pay any fees on the account.

**Membership:** 3 new visitors attended the meeting. Club membership stands at 114 members.

**Webmaster:** All is good

**Beach Dive Coordinator:** Colder water and poor visibility due to the change in season. 1/30 will be the annual squid dive at Redondo Beach with a late afternoon dive at 3:00 PM and the night dive at 6:00 PM.

February will be Old Marineland and Craig mentioned that this is considered an advanced dive due to the long hike up and down the hill.

**Boat Dive Coordinator:** 1/24 Peace to Anacapa  
Feb Avalon Clean Up  
July Begg Rock – this one books up fast so reserve spots and bunks ASAP

**Newsletter:** David T. reported that he is getting articles.

## **Opportunity Prizes:**

Dive Log Book donated by Ye Old Dive Shop – Shannon Burke  
Gear clips, slate and weights – Wally Burke  
T-Shirt and dive hanger – Paul Kayne  
Nemo Pelican Dive Light – Frank Miller  
Dive Jacket – Nancy Burke  
Mug and hat – David Tsao  
Larry the Lobster went home with Wally Burke

## 2010 Explorers Dive Schedule Come On Out and Get Wet

Month	Date	Location	Boat	Contact	Cost	Notes
Feb	20	Avalon Dive Park	-	A	\$35/\$50	
Feb	28	Old Marineland	Beach	1	Free	9 a.m.

Contact and Note Info			
A		Avalon Dive Park	Catalina Express
1			

Boat	Location	Phone	URL
Bottom Scratcher	Long Beach	714-963-4378	<a href="http://bottomscratcher.com">http://bottomscratcher.com</a>
Cee Ray	Long Beach	562-867-9738	<a href="http://www.caywind.com/ceeray_home.htm">http://www.caywind.com/ceeray_home.htm</a>
Explorer	Ventura	805-646-0836	<a href="http://www.explorerdiveboat.com">http://www.explorerdiveboat.com</a>
Great Escape	Long Beach	866-348-3262	<a href="http://diveboat.com">http://diveboat.com</a>
Horizon	San Diego	858-277-7823	<a href="http://horizoncharters.com">http://horizoncharters.com</a>
Lois Ann	San Diego	800-201-4381	<a href="http://www.loisann.com">http://www.loisann.com</a>
Magician	San Pedro	818-499-7101	<a href="http://www.magicianscuba.com">http://www.magicianscuba.com</a>
Peace	Ventura	866-984-2025	<a href="http://www.peaceboat.com">http://www.peaceboat.com</a>
Raptor	Ventura	805-650-7700	<a href="http://www.raptordive.com">http://www.raptordive.com</a>
Sea Bass	San Pedro	818-652.5859	<a href="http://www.diveseabass.com">http://www.diveseabass.com</a>
Spectre	Ventura	805-483-6612	<a href="http://calboatdiving.com">http://calboatdiving.com</a>
Sundiver	Long Beach	800-555-9446	<a href="http://sundiver.net">http://sundiver.net</a>
Sunfish	Oxnard	805-644-1499	<a href="http://www.socaldive.com">http://www.socaldive.com</a>
Truth	Santa Barbara	805-962-1127	<a href="http://truthaquatics.com">http://truthaquatics.com</a>

**New Members**

**Renewed Members**

## 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 Sport Chalet @ (800) 348-3794. (Note: Some activities may not be through Sport Chalet Charters). All participants in beach diving activities will be required to complete a club release of liability/assumption of risk form.

## PACIFIC EXPLORERS 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT-- MIKE BUSHELL-----	<a href="mailto:president@pacificexplorers.org">president@pacificexplorers.org</a>
VICE PRESIDENT-- KEVIN SULLIVAN-----	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@pacificexplorers.org">vicepresident@pacificexplorers.org</a>
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NEWSLETTER-- DAVID TSAO-----	<a href="mailto:newsletter@pacificexplorers.org">newsletter@pacificexplorers.org</a>

Web Site: [www.pacificexplorers.org](http://www.pacificexplorers.org)

Board: [board@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:board@pacificexplorers.org)

**Pacific Explorers Dive Club, PO Box 9443, Canoga Park, CA 91309**

### Newsletter/Web Contributions

If you have pictures you would like to see published in the newsletter, please send them to David Tsao at [newsletter@pacificexplorers.org](mailto: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 Ron Brunski at [webmaster@pacificexplorers.org](mailto:webmaster@pacificexplorers.org).

### MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

Monthly meetings with entertainment and opportunity drawings, scheduled beach and boat dives each month, group international travel, 10% discount on non-sale dive gear, Con-Ed classes, dive trips, rentals, and gear repairs at **Sport Chalet, Hollywood Divers**, and **Reef Seekers**, 10 free air fills.

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