

The Pacific Explorer March 2010

Pacific Explorers Dive Club PO Box 9443,
Canoga Park, CA 91306
Web site – www.pacificexplorers.org
Contact us – board@pacificexplorers.org



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

Lynn Bushell



Speaker of the Month - Fish Identification
... Kevin Sullivan

Q – What kind of fish is that? A – It's a rockfish. Q – Yeah, but what KIND of rockfish? A – Uhhhhhhh...a rock rockfish? ☺ If you have ever wondered during a dive "I wonder what kind of fish that is?", then the March Pacific Explorers presentation is for YOU!

We will be showing parts from the DVD "Central Coast Rockfish" and utilizing Reef Check California fish identification resources to help you know those little differences between some of fish that you may encounter here in Southern California. If your like most of us, knowing those little nuances between the blue and black rockfish or the sargo and pile perch are just a little cryptic. Knowing how to distinguish them can really help make your dives much more enjoyable. And if you're considering becoming a discriminating spear fisher, it can be the difference between dinner and an unpleasant encounter with your local DFG representative!



**Boat Dive: Saturday, March 27th, SM1/Gosford wrecks
near Point Conception ...by Karen Norris**

boat: Conception; **contact:** Truth Aquatics (<http://www.truthaquatics.com/>) (805-962-1127)

board time: 6 p.m. – 12 a.m. Friday night

departure time: 4 a.m.; **return time:** 5 p.m. (or so)

cost: \$131; **notes:** fee includes meals and air fills

details: The SM1 was originally a 204-ft long Navy landing craft. After being made into an oil drilling barge, she sank upside down in 75 ft of water near Gaviota. The SM1 can be penetrated and is considered an advanced dive due to its depth and risk of currents. The Gosford was a 281-ft four-masted cargo sailing ship. In 1893, just 2 years after being built, she caught fire and sank in 35-40' of water. Wolf eels have been known to inhabit the starboard bow. The Gosford is just 10 minutes from the SM1.

Truth Aquatics has a fine fleet of 3 boats. All three boats are especially comfortable with a large dive deck and very nice bunks. I like to have dinner at the Santa Barbara Harbor and then board the boat for a snooze before hitting the water in the morning. The Pacific Explorers attempted this trip several years ago. Rough seas kept us from the SM1 and the Gosford wrecks however Truth Aquatics still put us in the water, letting us make two dives on a recent wreck in the mouth of the Santa Barbara Harbor



Beach Dive: Sunday, March 14th, 9 a.m. at Escondido ...By Craig Hoover

Okay, I'm not going to lie to you. The water is going to be cold. The visibility is not going to be stellar. I'm not going to promise that the storms won't want to join us on our monthly beach dive. We are very popular you know. Why, a couple tsunamis came all the way from Chile to try and meet us the last time we scheduled a beach dive. What I can promise you is that if you decide to be a part of this event, you will have earned the title, Pacific Explorer.

Escondido lies to the east of Point Dume. Much of the northwest swell, common in winter, deflects off the point. This makes Escondido a calm dive when other sites are pounded by surf. The protected nature of Escondido is good for giant kelp as well as divers. Deeper stands on the east end of the reef resemble a mature forest. The canopy is thick enough to block out light. This leads to fewer healthier clusters of stipes. The effect is of swimming among large tree trunks. The kelp rises from low rocky structure that is home to red and golden gorgonians; a type of soft coral. Extensive reefs hold large populations of both sheepshead and bass. Watch for large tube anemonies on the outer edges of the reef.

Directions are as follows. Take Malibu canyon to PCH. Turn right and go three to four miles. Pass Geoffrey's Restaurant and make an immediate U turn. Parking is on the shoulder toward the bottom of the hill. There is a fifty to hundred yard wall to the beach and an easy sandy surf entry. I hope to see you there.



Conservation and Regulations

.... By Mark Navas

DFG Investigating Cause of Brown Pelican Deaths

Paraphrased from two reports

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is collaborating with other wildlife experts to investigate a brown pelican crisis all along the California/Oregon coastlines. Since mid-January, hundreds of the seabirds have been coming ashore in a variety of conditions, from confused to dead. Scientific investigation indicates shortages of preferred prey like anchovies and sardines, rough winter weather and oceanographic conditions as the primary causes for the pelican mass-stranding. Shortages of preferred prey items could be caused in part by the current El Nino event. A similar stranding event happened this time in 2009 mainly due to a widespread food shortage.

DFG's Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center in Santa Cruz has performed necropsies on 12 pelicans. Most of these were adults in breeding plumage that ranged from thin to good nutritional condition. Three of the dead pelicans had innkeeper worm parts in their intestines, and a few had what appeared to be seal or sea lion bite wounds on the breast, neck or back, with secondary bacterial infections. The necropsies have found that pelicans are eating unusual prey items, which is indicative that they are having trouble finding or accessing their normal prey of anchovies and sardines. Some pelicans have also had waterproofing problems with their feathers, possibly related to storm runoff from recent heavy coastal rains.

IBRRC is feeding captured birds with more than 1,000 lbs. of fish per day between its two centers. Live-stranded birds are responding quickly to feeding and the DFG is donating frozen trout to these organizations to assist with the rehabilitation effort. Anyone who wishes to help with care of the pelicans can make donations online a <http://www.ibrrc.org>. Donations are tax-deductible.

California brown pelicans were removed from both the state and federal endangered species lists in 2009.

How Safe is the Ocean after it Rains?

Many times during a heavy rain, your local sewer treatment plant may need to open the floodgate and let untreated sewage into the ocean. Human bacteria's and what ever else washes off the roads can cause serious health issues to divers. I met a diver who caught a flesh-eating bacterium from diving the L.A. break wall after a heavy rain. It took him two months to get rid of it.

There is a website that monitors beaches and ocean bacteria levels for the entire state. It's always best to check this site and use common sense after any rainstorm before diving. Go to: <http://www.healthebay.org/brcv2/default.aspx> for details on your area.

Dive Safe,



Surface Interval From Your President

I am always amazed at the diversity of the membership of the Pacific Explorers Dive Club. Maybe diversity is the wrong word but we have divers of all ages and walks of life. We have members with certifications from Open Water to Instructor. We have divers whose interests range from hunting to surveying to photography or to just getting wet for the thrill of it. We have members that enjoy the local beach diving or the local boat diving or international warm water trips. We have members that rarely get in the water but religiously attend all of the monthly general meetings for the diving related presentations, the chance to win the opportunity drawing, the chance to just get together with fellow divers and maybe even for dinner.

As of February 21st my grandson, Corey's son Cole became a PADI Junior Certified Scuba Diver. Cole just turned 10 at the end of December. I believe this makes him the youngest ever member of the Pacific Explorers. I'd like to thank David Carlson his fearless instructor for his effort in helping Cole reach this goal.

There were four in his class, the other three were adults and he got no special treatment. His first open water dive was at Corral Beach and they had only 3 foot visibility. Sunday February 21st we headed off for the Spectre to finish off his open water skills. I tried to be as supportive as I could and told him the giant stride off the boat would only be a 30 ft. drop. Corey was even tougher on him than I was. Corey and I both had roller bags Cole was stuck with a hand me down old school bag with no wheels. Corey told him if you're going to dive you've got to do every thing yourself. You should have seen him with the tank and BC on his back and dragging that bag with all his gear and weights from the parking lot to the boat, but not one word out of him. The first thing he did when we got on the boat was he walked over to the gate and turned to me and said that's not 30 ft. it's only 10. I was watching him make his first entry, he got in line put on his fins then his mask, gave the Dive Master his number and without hesitation made his giant stride into the water.

Now that Cole is a member of the Pacific Explorers our club has become even more diverse. We now have members whose ages range from 10 to 70.

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.

My Open Water Certification & Dives

.....by Cole Kiblinger

In January I started my classes for scuba diving. In the first session it was just an orientation. It was just signing papers and going over what we'll be doing in the classes. The second and third classes were just going over our test, taking test, and learning stuff. The fourth class we went over our test and reviewed for our FINAL TEST. Then we did the test. I PASSED!!

In the first pool session I was very anxious but, it turned out to be fun and exiting. We went over a few skills and then we had to do 20 laps in the pool. I was the last one to finish because I wasn't used to swimming with fins, but in the second pool dive I got used to them. In the third pool session we covered everything plus a couple more exercises.

On Saturday February 13, 2010 I was going on my first beach dive. We set up our gear, swam to the kelp, and dropped down. The visibility was about five feet in the beginning but, at the end of the dive it shortened down to about two to three feet. It was weird because when I was holding Don's [another instructor that was helping out] hand his body and half of his arm faded away.

On Sunday February 21, 2010 I was going on my first boat dive. I set up my gear right when we got on the boat. It was my first time in the ocean so my dad gave me some Dramamine [seasickness pills] to prevent me from getting sick. It didn't work. I still got very seasick, but when I got in the water I was perfect. We all dropped down and swam around. I saw Sea urchins all over the place; I also saw fish and eels then we went over some of our skills.

On the second dive I saw a bug [lobster], but it was too small to take. On the second dive I also saw about three sea slugs. They are fat and have suckers on them. After the second dive we had lunch.

On the third dive Dave Carlson [my instructor] showed us how to take the meat out of scallops. Then, we swam around some more.

When we got back on the boat we packed up our gear and some of us slept on our bunks. After a month of hard work I finally got my certification for scuba diving!

Three Generations of Divers

....by Corey Bushell

This past month my stepson Cole has been taking his open water certification. It's been a challenging month to say the least. The class offered quite a bit of challenging information for someone who just turned ten years old. Cole started out rocky in his first pool session, but after some hard work with him in the pool with myself and his determination to succeed he did it!

Cole's certification now represents three generations of divers in my family. This past Sunday February 21st, Cole finished up his open water training and became a certified diver. I'm very proud of him. Along this process, it has relit a fire in me with scuba diving, one I have been lacking the past year. Since I was sixteen, I scuba dived with my father Mike Bushell. I now realize with my father about to turn 70 years old in April, I may not have much more time to dive with my father. I'm sure as he gets older his body will not be able to do the things he does now. Now that Cole is certified, we intend to scuba dive with my father as much as possible. It will be a great bonding experience for the three of us.

While Cole was taking his final open water on the Spectre, my father and I went off and dove on our own with Mike while his girlfriend was taking the class with Cole. We were supposed to go to Anacapa but because of the weather conditions and the swell which was pretty bad, we went to Santa Cruz. Due to this being the only spot; we stayed at the same location for all three dives. Our first dive we saw a lot of fish, a couple of bugs and the normal things you would see. Visibility was about 30-40 feet. On the second dive I was able to catch a nice size bug. Towards the end of the second dive a harbor seal came up and started to play with us. We played for a minute or two and then he jetted off only to come back with another friend. They both played with us for a few and then we surfaced and had a great lunch only the Spectre can provide! (Best on any boat dive)

The third dive we went out around the pentacle and ran into a huge sea lion, which, just like the seals, just wanted to play with us. He swam with us for 3-4 minutes, even getting close enough that I could touch him if I wanted to. Also by the 3rd dive, visibility started to worsen so we decided to head on up.

Overall it was a great day. Good diving, water temperature was excellent, did not get cold one. And to top off the day Cole got his open water certification. Hopefully this 3 generations of divers will continue on to 4 generations and more!

Minutes - Pacific Explorer's Dive Club Board of Directors Meeting at Macaroni Grill, Simi Valley

February 3, 2010 7:00 p.m.

President:

Discussed spare P.O. Box keys.

Patches: *Vendors, *set up costs and specs, *Guarantee/warranty, *Iron-ons and cost, *Resizing.
Kevin to call

Vice President:

Shark Campaign presentation for February

Treasurer:

Not present

Membership:

13 people going to Fiji for annual club trip

Webmaster:

13 people going to Fiji for annual club trip

Boat Dive Coordinator:

2/20 Avalon Clean Up

Beach Dive Coordinator:

Beach conditions have not been as good lately and the Redondo squid dive was cancelled.

2/28 Old Marineland

Newsletter:

No articles yet for February

Marine Conservation Officer:

Absent

.

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

February 10, 2010 7:00 p.m.

President:

Vice President:

Kevin Sullivan and Erika Marchino presented a synopsis of the recent conservation event and media campaign in China by Shark Savers.

Treasurer:

Bank account is good

Membership:

113 members and one visitor
14 People for Fiji and final payment is due next month

Webmaster:

Website is up to date

Beach Dive Coordinator:

Beach dive for February (Old Marineland) changed to Saturday 2/27.

Boat Dive Coordinator:

Feb Avalon Clean Up 2/20
March 27th will be on the Conception (Truth Aquatics) to the SM1/Gosford wrecks, weather permitting!

Newsletter:

David T. in Tahiti!!! Everyone is jealous.

Opportunity Prizes:

Dorsal Friends T-shirts – Jeff Adler and Dirk Drossel
Kevin – Raptor coupon, book, calendar
Tee-Shirt/Mask strap – Dave Bentley
Fins with spring straps – Cole Bushell
Lobster Kit – Corey Bushell
Neoprene vest – Arturo Velasquez
Larry the Lobster – Lynn Bushell

2010 Explorers Dive Schedule Come On Out and Get Wet

Month	Date	Location	Boat	Contact	Cost	Notes
Mar	27	MS 1/Gosford	Conception	A	\$131	
Mar	14	Escondido	Beach	1	Free	9 a.m.

Contact and Note Info		
A	Conception	www.truthaquatics.com
1		

Boat	Location	Phone	URL
Bottom Scratcher	Long Beach	714-963-4378	http://www.bottomscratcher.com
Cee Ray	Long Beach	562-867-9738	http://www.caywind.com/ceeray_home.htm
Explorer	Ventura	805-646-0836	http://www.explorerdiveboat.com
Conception	Santa Barbara	805-962-1127	http://www.truthaquatics.com
Great Escape	Long Beach	866-348-3262	http://www.diveboat.com
Horizon	San Diego	858-277-7823	http://www.horizoncharters.com
Lois Ann	San Diego	800-201-4381	http://www.loisann.com
Magician	San Pedro	818-499-7101	http://www.magicianscuba.com
Peace	Ventura	866-984-2025	http://www.peaceboat.com
Raptor	Ventura	805-650-7700	http://www.raptordive.com
Sea Bass	San Pedro	818-652.5859	http://www.diveseabass.com
Spectre	Ventura	805-483-6612	http://www.calboatdiving.com
Sport Chalet		909-923-8207	Audrey
Sundiver	Long Beach	800-555-9446	http://www.sundiver.net
Sunfish	Oxnard	805-644-1499	http://www.socaldive.com
Truth	Santa Barbara	805-962-1127	http://www.truthaquatics.com

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-----	president@pacificexplorers.org
VICE PRESIDENT-- KEVIN SULLIVAN-----	vicepresident@pacificexplorers.org
TREASURER-- LYNN BUSHELL-----	treasurer@pacificexplorers.org
SECRETARY-- LIZ SULLIVAN-----	secretary@pacificexplorers.org
MEMBERSHIP-- DAVID CARLSON-----	membership@pacificexplorers.org
WEBMASTER-- RON BRUNSKI-----	webmaster@pacificexplorers.org
BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR-- KAREN NORRIS-----	boatdive@pacificexplorers.org
BEACH DIVE COORDINATOR-- CRAIG HOOVER-----	beachdive@pacificexplorers.org
OPPORTUNITY COORDINATOR-- ROSS WIDEL-----	prizes@pacificexplorers.org
MARINE CONSERVATION OFFICER-- MARK NAVAS-----	conservation@pacificexplorers.org
NEWSLETTER-- DAVID TSAO-----	newsletter@pacificexplorers.org

Web Site: www.pacificexplorers.org

Board: 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.

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.

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