



the Primary Regulator

San Diego Dive Club Newsletter

December 2007

www.sandiegodiveclub.com

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President's Message

WARM vs. COLD

Warm water diving destinations seem to be the prevalent topic of most diving magazines, dive travel services, and underwater film festivals. Given enough chat time, most diving conversations will work their way around to tales of experiences in tropical waters. Over the years our club has traveled to several warm water locations and I have greatly enjoyed my time there. The benefits are several; less exposure protection, less weight, less gear, more flexibility, greater vis, vivid colors, little surge, and if you've had the blessing of being initially certified and experienced in cold water diving, warm water diving is just plain *easy*. It's common to fall into the trap of thinking the grass is greener elsewhere. What's better, warm or cold water diving? I say neither. They're simply different. I had a conversation with Mike Petscheck on this topic during which he made the comment that if our southern California waters were warmer, we would be living in the world's diving destination. He's absolutely right. My experiences slowly floating over warm water coral reefs in Bonaire mirror the time I've spent here cruising under kelp forest canopies. Using the surge to your advantage for travel, breathing to adjust depth, kicking only from your ankles to glide in slow motion through the kelp, along a wall or down channels, the Zen of diving is independent of location. The possibilities to witness underwater life diving the channel islands and along our coastal waters are endless. Garibaldi guarding eggs in it's nest, mating nudibranchs, giant black sea bass hanging motionless in the kelp, bat rays cruising through sand channels, schools of blacksmith obscuring the boat's ladders, strings of salps, molas, Catalina gobies too numerous to count, mats of metridiums, carpets of strawberry anemones, octopus, morays with rock shrimp, lumbering sheep crabs, football sized moon snails, dumb dumb sheephead, horn sharks, abalone, scallops, xmas tree worms, cowries, angel sharks, sea pansies and pens, sting rays, halibut, and fine scaled triggers. This list of our local wonders is only partial, all of you could add much more. And our future is bright with the prospect of more wrecks through the ships to reefs program. We have seen separate wrecks support many of the same species along with a few differences. This is most notable between the Ruby E's lack of metridiums and the Yukon's abundance of them. Here's hoping future wrecks will provide us with greater diversity of life and more dive operators to get us there. I guess I'll stick around awhile yet.

Scott Brown, President

San Diego Dive Club's December Dive

Location: Alligator Head (the Cove)
Date: Sunday December 9th
Time: 7:30 A.M.
Technical: High Tide of 5.9 feet @ 8:00 A.M.
Descriptions: http://www.shorediving.com/Earth/USA_West/CalS/La_Jolla_Cove/index.htm

Please join us at a dive at a spot that really has a mix of under water terrain - with kelp, rocks, and sand, and a wide variety of undersea life. Plan to suit up and get in the water at the slack of high tide.

Dive coordinators: Dennis Fox (760) 580-5951 / Jeremy Burns (619) 729-6260



Upcoming Events:

| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Dec 15 | Underwater Santa |
| Dec 16 | SD Bay Parade of Lights |
| Dec 25 | Christmas |
| Dec 31 | New Year's Eve |

At our next meeting...

Our speaker for December will be Matt Gieselman. He will be talking about and showing pictures from his recent Egypt trip.

Thurs, Dec 6th 7pm at Giovanni's
(see map on last page)

At our last meeting...

Mike King regaled us with pictures and tales of wonder from the club's trip to Roatan. Afterward, the Ladies did the same with their trip to Laughlin. Obviously some folks are more photogenic after a few drinks.



Point Loma
(619) 224-6777

La Jolla
(858) 453-5656

Mission Valley
(619) 718-7070

Tours
(800) 660-2754

Raffle Winners

| Winner Name | Prize Won |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Mike Petschek | Pelican Case |
| Mike Thornton | Dive wrist slate |
| Kevin Lass | Truck tank holders |
| Peggy Petschek | Wet Suite Eeze powder |
| Dave McNair | Wet Suit Hanger |
| Mike King | Deluxe Trident Diver's tool kit |
| Brian Foster | Diving Safari Hat |
| Randy Thomas | Diving Safari T-shirt |
| Jared Smith | Diving Safari T-Shirt |
| Sandy Miller | San Diego Dive Club T-shirt |
| Merrienne Dean | Shark wool beanie cap |
| Dave Pierce | Wetsuit Cleaner Kit |

\$3 OFF any \$15 purchase

OR

\$5 OFF any \$25 purchase

Not valid with any other offer or specials.
Dine in only. One coupon per visit.

GIOVANNI'S
RESTAURANT

RealFlavorMag.com



KEARNY MESA 9353 Clairemont Mesa Blvd 858-279-6700
CLAIREMENT 6133 Balboa Ave. 858-278-9191

Membership has its privileges!

Enjoy the many benefits of being a member of the club. Joining is simple. Fill out an application at a club meeting. First years dues are \$30.00. Renewing membership is \$20.00. Renewals are not accepted at the store or through the mail. If you have a question regarding membership, lost cards, or you're not receiving your newsletters, contact the Vice president.

Membership Benefits

- 10% discount on non-sale dive gear
- 10% discount on dive gear rentals
- 10% on continuing education classes
- 10 Free air fills, 10% disc after that
- Quarterly buddy lists
- Comprehensive and informative monthly newsletter
- Entertaining and informative monthly meetings
- Monthly scheduled club dives
- Meet new friends & dive buddies
- Group travel to exotic diving locations
- Ocean, lake and beach cleanup events
- Special members only events
- Fantastic monthly and quarterly raffles

Monthly Raffles – Great Prizes

Tickets may be purchased at each meeting for that night's raffle prizes.

Quarterly Raffles

Save your losing tickets for the quarterly meeting when we draw a grand prize from the losing tickets of that night and the two previous meetings.

Quarterly raffle months are:

January, April, July, October

36th Annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights 2007



Sunday, December 16, 2007
Boarding at 4:00 PM, Depart at 5:00 PM
Fireworks & Parade on San Diego Bay - 5:30 PM until 9:00 PM

Happy Holidays!

The Southwest Section of SNAME and the San Diego Dive Club have chartered the Ocean Odyssey out of H&M Landing for the 36th Annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights. Come join fellow members and their families and participate in a great San Diego tradition. The Ocean Odyssey crew is going to decorate the boat in its finest holiday decorations and you're invited to come along and join in the festivities. You not only get to watch the parade from a prime front row seat, but you also get to be in it.

This year's theme is "YO HO HO...A Pirates Christmas!" Come along and participate in what has become a traditional Holiday present to San Diego from the boating community. Ticket prices are \$25 per person for SNAME or SDDC members and immediate family, \$15 for children 12 and under, and \$30 for non-members. There will be plenty of hot appetizers and non-alcoholic refreshments available. A no-host bar will be available for beer and wine. Lots of door prizes will be given away to kick off the giving season. To purchase tickets come to one of the monthly meetings or contact Richard Burns 619-544-8616 or by e-mail burns@nassco.com

For more information about the 36th Annual Parade check out: San Diego Parade of Lights

Ocean Odyssey is available for boarding at 4 PM, with estimated departure of 5 PM. Do not be late; once we pull away from the dock you have "missed the boat". Located conveniently in beautiful San Diego Bay ten minutes from San Diego Lindbergh International Airport. Adjacent parking is available. The first 1/2 hour is free and then it's \$1.00 per hour up to a maximum of \$5.00 for 24 hours. The OCEAN ODYSSEY is located at: H&M Landing, 2803 Emerson St., San Diego, California 92106 (619) 222 - 1144.

San Diego Dive Club Officer's Meeting

Have some ideas and suggestions on the direction the dive club should be heading? Come share those ideas with the club officers. All members are encouraged to participate in the San Diego Dive Club Officers' Meetings. The Officers' Meetings are usually held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at :

Marie Calendar's, 6950 Alvarado rd. La Mesa

The officers of the club try to anticipate the needs, desires and best interests of the club, but remember that this is your club too, and we need your new thoughts and ideas to keep the club fun and exciting.

They're almost here !



**Do you have a space on your BC ready?
Visit your local dive shop for details**

www.cs2r.org

Underwater Santa Photo Shoot and Toy Drive

Santa arrives at the Point Loma Sport Chalet pool
Saturday, Dec 15, 2007 2:00PM until 6:00PM
3695 MIDWAY DR.

NO SCUBA EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

The San Diego Dive Club is hosting a submerged Santa Claus at the bottom of the Point Loma Sport Chalet pool, complete with lighted Christmas tree, wrapped gifts, and a chimney. *Dive in the pool and have your photo taken on Santa's lap to support St. Vincent De Paul.* Participation will afford you two free digital photos taken by our diving photographers. They make unique holiday cards. We can also provide a CD-ROM of your photos for \$10.00.

No previous experience necessary! We provide the equipment and professional SCUBA instructors will be there to guide you. This is a great way to try out SCUBA, who knows, maybe you'll like it and sign up for a full class. If you are already SCUBA certified be sure to bring your cert card.



Bring an unwrapped toy (suggested value \$10 - \$20) for the kids at St. Vincent De Paul Homeless Center.

Minimum age for SCUBA with Santa is 10. Santa will snorkel with kids younger than 10.

Covered skin takes the best photo. Many people dress up in festive clothing. Bring a towel and your swim suit. The water temperature will be around 80°





SCUBA CHARTERS

Reservations can be made at any Sport Chalet or at 1-800-348-3794

Remember SD Dive Club members get 10% off charters

| Date | Day | Boat | Destination | Price* | Depart*** | Return | Departs From |
|--------|-----|--------------|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| 1-Dec | Sat | CeeRay | Catalina | \$115 | 7:00 AM | 6:00 PM | Long Beach |
| 1-Dec | Sat | Great Escape | Catalina | \$125 | 7:00 AM | 6:00 PM | Long Beach |
| 1-Dec | Sat | Spectre | S.Cruz/Anacapa | \$110 | 7:00 AM | 5:30 PM | Ventura |
| 2-Dec | Sun | CeeRay | Catalina | \$115 | 7:00 AM | 6:00 PM | Long Beach |
| 2-Dec | Sun | Magician | Catalina | \$120** | 7:00 AM | 5:30 PM | San Pedro |
| 8-Dec | Sat | Great Escape | Catalina | \$125 | 7:00 AM | 6:00 PM | Long Beach |
| 8-Dec | Sat | Magician | Catalina | \$120** | 7:00 AM | 5:30 PM | San Pedro |
| 9-Dec | Sun | CeeRay | Catalina | \$115 | 7:00 AM | 6:00 PM | Long Beach |
| 9-Dec | Sun | Spectre | S.Cruz/Anacapa | \$110 | 7:00 AM | 5:30 PM | Ventura |
| 15-Dec | Sat | Magician | Catalina | \$120** | 7:00 AM | 5:30 PM | San Pedro |
| 16-Dec | Sun | Magician | Catalina | \$120** | 7:00 AM | 5:30 PM | San Pedro |

* Price includes food and air fills **Nitrox available for additional charge

***Boarding time is 1hr prior to departure, except the 2am charter boat boards at 10pm the evening prior.

November Club Dive

On Friday, November 9th, the club hosted a dive at the **Children's Pool**. We set up base camp just a little down the beach from the lifeguard station at 5:30, and discussed the day's events at the pool. Turns out that we missed some excitement with an injured seal and Sea World reps coming by to take it to their E.R. facilities earlier in the afternoon. So we all suited up and splashed in the pool at about 6 pm. The surface was calm and glassy, but disguised a nasty 6-8 foot underwater swell that bounced us around the reefs for most of the dive. Kevin (Lass, my buddy for the night) and I saw some really big "bugs" in a spot that we will keep to ourselves, but everyone else was hunkered down; riding out the roller coaster ride we were on for most of the dive. We popped back up and headed back in to enjoy some fire-grilled pizza. A great alternative to the stove, and a lot easier to get down on the beach!

Just another awesome day in San Diego in the fall. I can't decide which Santa I look forward to more. I mean, presents are great (Claus), but who can beat 80 degree days when others are preparing for the first snow of the year? We'll see you in the water--

--Jeremey Burns, Dive Coordinator

As of 11/1/2007

New members

None

Renewing members

Debi Peterson

Philip Peterson

Jim Shrove

There are 105 current members

Photo of the Month Contest

The club officers have come up with a friendly contest we all can enjoy. Here's how it works: Take an underwater picture, frame it for easy display and set it up at the meeting with all the other entries.

Everyone in attendance votes for their favorite picture and the winner receives five raffle tickets. The intent here is to involve as many people as possible in fun and entertainment. Even a friendly contest has rules (not guidelines) and we'll all be operating under the honor system.

- Underwater pictures only (Digital or film)
- Taken during the time since the last meeting.
- One picture per person per month.
- Display your picture as you shot it with your camera and lighting settings.
- Cropping is OK, but please refrain from zooming in on your subject or using Photoshop before printing.

One vote per person and you must be present at the meeting to vote. Each month's winning picture may be displayed at the following month's meeting as the previous month's winner. We have several excellent photographers within our membership and as this contest continues, I hope to see the photo display table crowded with stunning pictures for all our viewing pleasure.

Last Months Winner: Randy Thomas Morav Eel / Roatan



DIVE CLUB MEETING LOCATION

1st Thursday of each month @ 7:00 P.M.
at

Giovanni's Italian Restaurant
9353 Clairemont Mesa Blvd

From 163 take Clairemont Mesa Blvd. East
From 15 take Clairemont Mesa Blvd. West
Giovanni's is on the South side of Clairemont Mesa
on the West side of Ruffin

Monthly raffle drawings!

January, April, July and October are the club's quarterly meetings and we will have a grand raffle prize.

The winning ticket is drawn from that evenings batch and from the previous two months.

ONLY CURRENT CLUB MEMBERS ARE ELLIGIBLE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!!!

Newsletter Submissions

The "Primary Regulator" is your newsletter. Brief articles and items of interest related to diving for the Newsletter are encouraged from all members. Articles may be of local diving sites, trip reports, lessons learned, etc.

Please submit them electronically to the Editor at mthorn3478@aol.com no later than the 15th of the month. Submissions are subject to editing. Additionally, let me know if there are things you would like to see in future editions of the newsletter.

San Diego Dive Club
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Check your mailing label to see if you need to renew your membership



www.sandiegodiveclub.com