



the *Primary Regulator*

San Diego Dive Club Newsletter

December 2008

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President's Slate

It's the end of the year... time for Santa to go diving in the warm water of Sport Chalet Pool to thrill of "Scuba Kids" of all ages, types and scuba skill levels! Time to think of family, friends and ... that regulator? Did you get your maintenance done this year? As we are moving to winter we find the best visibility of the year and more reasons to get those last few dives of the year in! Plus that Lobster license is only good for another 30 days. Christmas Lobster dinner... oh la la.

Winter in San Diego has a whole other meaning than in the remainder of the country. Those in Colorado have planned their mid-winter escapes to Roatan, Cayman, Bonaire, Cozumel, Hawaii and other such warm water destinations. Did you know that the best time to dive the Pacific Northwest (for visibility) is now? That drysuit could use a workout?!? Or maybe even with our weather that South Pacific destination is calling? Whatever the call... find yourself there and having another experience well remembered.

And thinking of experiences... we have a whole year of activities to plan. Dives to consider, places to go and things to do as a club and a group of people with a "diving problem". Take a moment and think of those websites you reviewed and places you've wanted to go... and give us your ideas.

I have heard thoughts of Catalina (Avalon) weekends, Underwater Poker Dives, Beach Parties, Travel to Warm Water Regions, Local dives, Underwater Pumpkin Carving and ????. Be sure to make your idea known because you never know how it will end up and you could be the reason for a new Club Tradition. (The red-dress dive is becoming infamous! And NOT just because only guys win every year! ☺)

Its now time to go Blow bubbles!

Michael J. King



SAVE TREES!! SAVE TREES!! SAVE TREES!!

Still receiving the newsletter via snail mail? Did you know you can access it online at www.sandiegodiveclub.com? If you're receiving the newsletter via letter mail, have access to the internet, and would like to do your part for the environment. Email the editor now at mthorn3478@aol.com to change.

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 held at **6:30 PM** on the **3rd Thursday** 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.



Long Range Calendar

****San Diego Dive Club sponsored events****

Nov30-Dec7 Grand Cayman Trip, Sport Chalet

Dec 6 Scuba Santa, PL Sport Chalet

Dec 13/14 SDDC Disneyland Trip

Dec 21 Parade of Lights

Dec 25 Merry Christmas!!

Apr 11 U/W Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast

Apr 24-27 Two Harbors, Catalina Trip



Don't miss Tom Phillips at our next meeting... Thursday, November 6th, 7pm at Giovannis

Outside of the landlocked city of Brussels, Belgium lies the **world's deepest swimming pool, Nemo 33**, as in 33 meters deep. It's actually 35 m / 115 ft deep and built from the bottom up for scuba divers. Divers travel from all over Europe to dive in this "Disneyland of Dive Sites" Whether it is to explore the underwater cave, the shipwreck or to be served champagne 10 meters below, divers never get tired of this place. During your surface interval, you can walk through the diving museum, dine at the nice restaurant or relax in the bar sipping drinks with names like "trimix" or "nitrox". Tom spent three days at Nemo 33 last June and left wanting more. **He will share his images and experiences with us from this amazing dive site.**

Tom is one of the original founders of the San Diego Dive Club. He has worked for Sport Chalet, US Divers and is currently the Product Manager at Aqua Lung. He's been diving for 28 years and an active instructor for 25 years. Whether test-diving new equipment or diving with his newly-certified children, he never tires of it.

Monthly Raffle Winners

Winner Name	Prize Won
Steve Fellet	Akona regulator bag
Walt Weaver	Trident scuba tank rack/holder
Mike Petschek	Mask-anti UV/Glare/Fog
Cody Gilstrap	UK SL4 light
Clyde Dugosh	UK mini Q40 xenon light
Mike Petschek	Monterey Bay Dive Co. t shirt
Peggy Petschek	Gear clip, flashlight/gear retractor
Bryce Newall	<i>Diving & Snorkeling-USVI (Book)</i>
Sandy Miller	Diver's first aid kit

GIOVANNI'S
RESTAURANT

\$3 OFF any \$15 purchase
OR
\$5 OFF any \$25 purchase

RealFlavorMag.com



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

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

At our last meeting...

Alberto Mantovani, CEO of DiveNav presented virtual diving with eDiving. Interesting.....including a little "mishap" in Scripps Canyon. Check it out at www.divenav.com It's just the right price....free!

DIVING KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

The first person to respond to the editor (mthorn3478@aol.com) with the correct answer will receive **5 free raffle tickets** at the next regular club meeting. You must attend to receive your tickets. **Sorry, Dive Instructors not eligible.**

Q: Who is credited with building the first "atmospheric diving suit" in 1715?

A: Find out the answer & winner at the next Club Meeting.

*An Atmospheric Diving Suit is an anthropomorphic, single-person, articulated submersible that allows the operator, or "pilot", to remain at one atmosphere of pressure regardless of depth.



Photo Tip of the Month *Prevent a Flood*



A flooded housing can be the worst experience of a photographer... especially the first time it happens. Most floods are very avoidable... here are some tips from Steven Frink of Scubadiving Magazine:

Do all pre-dive prep in a clean, well-lit environment, and give it 100% of your attention. *Engaging in casual chitchat or listening to the dive briefing during your setup invites disaster.*

Inspect all O-rings before seating a port or closing the back of the housing. *If you wear glasses, by all means, wear them for this task!*

Use the right O-ring grease. The silicone, viton or other material that goes into making the O-ring is optimized for a particular kind of grease. If you use the wrong grease on o-rings they will likely swell, increasing their chances of crimping outside the groove.. Also, be aware that not every O-ring requires grease. Some are essentially gaskets, rather than sealing surfaces, that have to slide within a cylinder or shaft. *Reading the owner's manual can save considerable grief later.*

Do a 360° visual inspection of the housing exterior to ensure no O-rings extrude.

Test the housing by submerging it in a freshwater rinse bucket. Are bubbles percolating from the housing? If so, you've got a flood, and catching it there minimizes the submersion time and the amount of water that intrudes. Also, any water that does get inside will be fresh, not salt, increasing your chances of saving the camera and lens.

Have someone hand you the housing once you're in the water rather than jumping in with it. The force of the water slapping against a dome port or other seating surface can cause a flood

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

Contact your local Sport Chalet

Point Loma (619) 224-6777

La Jolla (858) 453-5656

Mission Valley (619) 718-7070

Photo of the Month Contest

A friendly contest we can all enjoy. Here's how it works. Take an underwater photo, frame it for easy display, and set it up at the club meeting with the other entries. Everyone in attendance votes for their favorite picture and the winner receives five free raffle tickets. Membership is not necessary to vote. One vote per person.

The intent here is to involve as many club members as possible in the 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 since the last meeting
- The photographer must be submersed in the same liquid as the subject
- One picture per person per month
- Display your picture as taken with your camera and lighting
- Cropping is OK, but please refrain from zooming in on your subject or using any form of Photoshop'ing before printing

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, hopefully we'll see the photo display table crowded with stunning pictures for all our viewing pleasure.

November Photo Winner: Randy Thomas, Anemone with fish, Philippines

Enter the "Super Bowl" of Underwater Photography:

Now photographers at all levels can compete in the big photo competition hosted by DivePhotoGuide.com and Wetpixel, which they call the "Super Bowl of international underwater imagery competitions." They've introduced a Novice category in the Our World Underwater competition; \$45,000 in prizes includes camera gear and dive trips to Papua New Guinea, Socorro Island, and the Solomons. For more advanced photographers, there's the DEEP Indonesia underwater photography competition, with \$30,000 in gear and Indonesia dive trips.

Entry deadline for both is January 15.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.underwatercompetition.com/Competitions>

The San Diego Underwater Photographic Society (SDUPS), in conjunction with its 40th Film Festival is sponsoring a worldwide underwater film competition that includes a \$500 first place prize.

The competition is open to any underwater film maker. The winner will be determined by audience vote on April 25, 2009 during SDUPS's 40th Film Festival. The event will be held in San Diego, California at Qualcomm Hall which features a state-of-the-art high definition projection system.

The films are limited in time to 5 minutes and must contain at least 70% underwater content. [Complete contest rules and entry forms are available at www.sdupsfilm.com.](http://www.sdupsfilm.com)

Deadline for entries is February 13, 2009.

For more information, email hgruenha@nethere.com

November Council of Divers Meeting Notes

Rob Edwards, Marine Microbiologist from SDSU and Liz Dinsdale, Coral Biologist, spoke on the effects of humans on the marine environment at Christmas Island and the surrounding chain of islands. They tested the island chains in 2005 and again in 2007. Their results showed that the larger populated islands had a much higher degree of dead coral and decline of fish and sharks, due to waste, toxins and overfishing. The low or uninhabited islands had very healthy coral with large fish and shark numbers.

Plan Your Dive



Dive Your Plan



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
ELIGIBLE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!!!***

Dips, Tips and Trips

Send a description of your favorite local dive spot, your best Dive Tips or U/W Photo Tips, or a brief report or article describing your last Dive Trip. Each month we'll select and publish the best ones in the *Primary Regulator*.

Submit them electronically to, mthorn3478@aol.com no later than the 15th of each month. Submissions are subject to editing.

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

