



the *Primary Regulator*

San Diego Dive Club Newsletter

October 2008

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2008 Officers

~President~

Mike King
scubamike44@yahoo.com
(858) 361-0402

~Vice-President~

Steve Anderson
unclesteve@cox.net
(619) 462-3439

~Treasurer~

Peggy Petschek
Pegemail1@aol.com
(619) 669-3684

~Secretary~

Evie Burton
eviejonesburton@sbcglobal.net

~Entertainment Coordinator~

Barbara Lloyd
barbara.lloyd@gmail.com

~Community Representatives~

Kevin & Barb Lass
bountifulbarb@hotmail.com

~Dive Coordinators~

Dennis Fox
DHFox@aol.com
(760) 580-5951

~Equipment Coordinator~

Steve Fellet
s.fellet@world.att.net
(858) 560-5645

~Store Representative~

Dave McNair
netdave1@yahoo.com
(760) 822-1845

~Publicity Representative~

Rich Burns
sddiver@cox.net
(619) 697-6589

~Club Historian~

Betty Parish

~Newsletter Editor~

Mike Thornton
mthorn3478@aol.com

President's Slate

October is DEMA month! The time where all the new Scuba Equipment is shown and presented to the industry. For those lucky enough to go they will see the new items... Oh the new TOYS!! For all others you will have to wait for the write-ups in the dive magazines. All this brings us to Christmas... oh, yes, the time for those new toys to find their way into Santa's Bag!

As we move into the holiday season do not forget that gear maintenance that was not on your mind during all those diving months. Look at your tanks and regulator data and, if necessary, get a hydro, visual or a yearly regulator service. Also remember your BCD – most people take it for granted that it will always be working and forget to get a check out to make sure everything is tight and operating properly.

Also, its lobster season! If so inclined remember to go for a lobster dive.

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****

- Oct 22-25 **DEMA 2008, Las Vegas**
- Oct23-Nov1 **Fiji Trip, Sport Chalet**
- Oct23-Nov1 **Phillipines Trip**
- Oct 24-26 **Laughlin River Diving**

- Nov 1-8 **Roatan Trip, Sport Chalet**
- Nov TBA **Disneyland Day**
- 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!!**



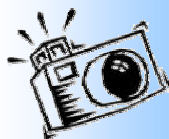
At our last meeting...

Tom Kendrick provided a colorful talk on the history of Urchin Diving in California. Chronicled in his book **Bluewater Gold Rush**, the stories were both informative and comical with many lessons. *Knowing the history of diving around California give us a better knowledge of where we are today.*

Monthly Raffle Winners

Winner Name	Prize Won
Melissa Maldonado	Abalone shell from Abion
Melissa Maldonado	Save a dive kit
Scott Brown	diver first aid kit
Scott Brown	lobster bag
Jeff Burton	<i>Blue Water Gold Rush</i> , book
Marianne Dean	Ca lobster diving kit
Mike Petcheck	T-shirt, Deep Down
Craig Mitchel	Lobster gauge, BC-clip, chemlite
Kathy Bouic	Lobster gauge, BC-clip, chemlite
Kevin Lass	Dive alert plus
John Swanson	mini spear gun

Photo Tip of the Month



Work flow is the term used to describe working with photos on your computer. When you are copying your photos remember to use the same format every time. That way the photos are not lost and are easily found. Remember to rename your photos and list them in any way that you can find them again. There are many ways to do this ... the choice is yours...

~ Mike King

SAN DIEGO DIVE CLUB TRIP REPORT

September 7th, 10 club members reboarded the Humbolt for a return engagement to the Coronado Islands. The day began with some adventure as the Humbolt left the dock with only a handful on board to lend assistance to the Kelp Connection who was taking on water and bellowing black smoke off the Point Loma kelp beds. She was able to make it back to port on her own steam but was laid up for repairs. We finally got underway to sunny skies and a little head wind. Our first dive was at the north island at the archway. The surge was too big to attempt a swim through although I tried. Visibility was excellent although the heavily fished waters are very barren of anything larger than bait fish. I had a school of mackerel run through. Skipper Ryan felt the conditions were unsuitable for are next 2 dives and took us to the kelp beds. Dive 2 was on the newly refound wreck the Lazy Daze. She's quite torn down with hardly any structure remaining and scattered everywhere but surrounded by impressive reef structure. Dive 3 was close by at Table rock.

A good day of diving!

~ Walt Weaver

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CLAIREMENT 6133 Balboa Ave. 858-278-9191

Don't miss **T.E.D. Talks** at our next meeting...Thursday, October 2nd, 7pm at Giovannis

TED Talks are inspired talks by the world's greatest thinkers and doers. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, & Design and TED Talks started in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from those three worlds. Since then its scope has become ever broader. We'll hear:

Tierney Thys: Swim with giant sunfish in the open ocean [17 mins]

David Gallo: The deep oceans: a ribbon of life [13 mins]

David Gallo: Underwater astonishments [5 mins]

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: Which organization requires hydrostatic testing of scuba cylinders and how often?

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

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.

September Photo Winner: Leslie Alstrand, Kelp with Anemone, Pt Loma

Kelp Diving Tips

by Mike Thornton

Perhaps nothing is as uniquely Southern Californian-Diving, as the experience of diving the giant kelp forests. Since the potential exists for divers to become entangled in kelp it is important to practice safe diving techniques, both to protect the diver and to avoid damaging the kelp plants. Streamlining your equipment, navigating under the kelp canopy and dealing effectively with entanglements will make kelp diving enjoyable and safe. Remember the acronym: **K.E.L.P.S.**

Keep Close: Keep in close contact with your buddy. It's easy to lose contact in a thick kelp forest on an overcast day with low visibility, and good dive buddies will monitor each other for entanglements.

Entanglements: If you become entangled, work slowly and deliberately to remove the tangle – thrashing about usually only worsens it. If you must, cut the kelp with your knife or break it by bending. Kelp has good longitudinal strength and is difficult to pull apart, but can be broken easily by bending it.

Low & Slow: avoid surface swims across the kelp beds if possible, if you must swim near the surface go below the surface canopy and between the kelp stalks at 10'-15' deep, moving slowly & deliberately, maintaining depth and with good fin awareness.

Perimeter/Penetration: if you're inexperienced at diving in kelp stay on the perimeter or penetrate no further inside than you can see out.

Streamline: Last but not least, streamline your gear. Trailing gauges, dangling goody bags, excess fin/mask straps all make excellent kelp-grabbers.

The California kelp forests are an enchanting experience and well worth learning the skills to safely enjoy them.



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
P.O. Box 81678
San Diego, CA 92138-1678

Check your mailing label to see if you need to renew your membership

