



# the *Primary Regulator*

## San Diego Dive Club Newsletter

September 2008

### Inside This Issue

- President's Message
- Upcoming Events
- Photo Tip
- Dive Knowledge Quiz
- Photo of the Month
- Birch Aquarium
- *Other Side of the Glass*

### 2008 Officers

~President~

**Mike King**

[scubamike44@yahoo.com](mailto:scubamike44@yahoo.com)

(858) 361-0402

~Vice-President~

**Steve Anderson**

[unclesteve@cox.net](mailto:unclesteve@cox.net)

(619) 462-3439

~Treasurer~

**Peggy Petschek**

[Pegemail1@aol.com](mailto:Pegemail1@aol.com)

(619) 669-3684

~Secretary~

**Evie Burton**

[eviejonesburton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eviejonesburton@sbcglobal.net)

~Entertainment Coordinator~

**Barbara Lloyd**

[barbara.lloyd@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.lloyd@gmail.com)

~Community Representatives~

**Kevin & Barb Lass**

[bountifulbarb@hotmail.com](mailto:bountifulbarb@hotmail.com)

~Dive Coordinators~

**Dennis Fox**

[DHFox@aol.com](mailto:DHFox@aol.com)

(760) 580-5951

~Equipment Coordinator~

**Steve Fellet**

[s.fellet@world.att.net](mailto:s.fellet@world.att.net)

(858) 560-5645

~Store Representative~

**Dave McNair**

[netdave1@yahoo.com](mailto:netdave1@yahoo.com)

(760) 822-1845

~Publicity Representative~

**Rich Burns**

[sddiver@cox.net](mailto:sddiver@cox.net)

(619) 697-6589

~Club Historian~

**Betty Parish**

~Newsletter Editor~

**Mike Thornton**

[mthorn3478@aol.com](mailto:mthorn3478@aol.com)

## President's Message

The kids have returned to school, and another summer of 3R's, beach holidays, and warm water diving is behind us. As we move into the holiday fall season we find the water is still warm, the Squid were running in August (how cool is that?), snow in August!

The 3R's have provided some great experiences for us all, and I hope you all had at least one opportunity to experience it for yourselves. Our diving goes on with the trip to Catalina on the Horizon at the end of the month... for those going that is always great fun, for those not going ... why not? Limited space is always a problem... find our dives here and new experiences.

The holiday season will be upon us so fast... remember the Scuba Santa and all other activities that we bring to this season. Remember to assist in these great adventures and help create a fantastic time for those participants. Its never too early to lend a hand!

Its now time to go Blow bubbles!



**Michael J. King**

PS - Remember to write your diving experiences and give them to Mike Thornton so he can share them with everyone in the newsletter. We also would love to see some of the photos that you have been taking ... we see them in the online posts... bring a CD to the dive club to share during open carousel and spend 3 to 5 minutes highlighting your experiences. And remember... raffle tickets await those who win the monthly photo contest.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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\*\***

- Sep 18-21 **Horizon 3 Day Channel Isl. Trip**
- Sep 20 **Beach Cleanup, Sport Chalet**
- Sep 27 **Movie at Beach & Carne Asada**
- Sep26-Oct4 **Bonaire Trip, Sport Chalet**
  
- 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...

Bert Kobayashi provided an informative and interesting talk on life in the deep oceans. He even brought samples of this fascinating life for us to observe for ourselves.

## Monthly Raffle Winners

Winner Name	Prize Won
Cody Gilstrap	Fin Spring Straps
Scott Brown	Tangerine Altoids
Scott Brown	Magnetic U/W Slate
Cody Gilstrap	Stainless Multitool-
Kevin Lass	Gear Retractor Kit
Scott Brown	Reef Check T-shirt
Marianne Dean	Dry Box
Matt Gieselman	Pelican case/dry box
Steve Follet	Wetsuit Drying Hanger
Cody Gilstrap	Duffle bag
Scott Harris	Super Berry Drink
Dave McNair	Dive Care Kit

**\$3 OFF** any \$15 purchase

**GIOVANNI'S**  
RESTAURANT

OR

**\$5 OFF** any \$25 purchase

RealFlavorItag.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

## Don't miss **Tom Kendrick** at our next meeting...Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Giovannis

Sonoma county resident Tom Kendrick was a California sea urchin diver for 22 years. His diving career originated from his search for secret surf spots at the Channel Islands, and took him from Santa Barbara to Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, northern California, and the shark-infested Farallon Islands. His book, *Bluewater Gold Rush*, has been featured in *California Diving News*, *The Surfer's Journal*, *National Fisherman*, *Historical Diving Magazine*, and on PBS. *Huell Howser's California's Gold* a screenplay is currently in production. For more information: [www.bluewatergoldrush.com](http://www.bluewatergoldrush.com)

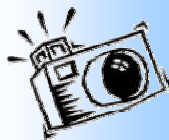
## DIVING KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

The first person to respond to the editor ([mthorn3478@aol.com](mailto: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. **Dive Instructors not eligible.**

**Q: Why does sound travel faster in water than in air, and approximately how much faster is it in water?**

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

## Photo Tip of the Month



Digital Cameras have the added benefit of many many photos... do not be shy and take photos. Take lots of them and adjust the camera all the time. You never know where that good shot will come from so make sure you take as many as possible to choose from.... Take advantage of this benefit.

~ Mike King



**BIRCH**  
**AQUARIUM**

Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
UC San Diego

**Mission:** To provide ocean science education, to interpret Scripps research and to promote ocean conservation.

**Location:** 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla, Calif.

**Hours:** 9 a.m. 5 p.m. daily, Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days

**Information:** (858)534-FISH or <http://aquarium.ucsd.edu>



# SCUBA CHARTERS

**- REMINDER -**  
Dive Club members get  
10% off charters

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.

**August Photo Winner: Barbie Lass, Octopus - Coronado Islands**

## Other Side of the Glass

by Mike Thornton

So there I was, at a "bonecrushing" 20 feet deep.....surrounded, in close proximity, by a swarm of over 170 creatures and up to 35 different species, including the California state marine fish - the Garibaldi, multiple species of sharks and rays, Sheepshead, Rockfish, and strangely enough the most dangerous of them all - a large halibut with teeth big enough to take off a knuckle. My first task was to reach within inches of a brood of Moray Eels and operate an underwater valve that would create suction at the working end of the hose I was holding. After mustering the courage to look an eel in the eyes while I stretched my arm as far as I could under his belly to reach the valve, I went to work.

This was not your typical SoCal dive; this was an Aquarium Dive. No surf entry, no boat rides, no gear haul or gear clean up, and best of all it's free. Though I was surrounded by indigenous plant and animal marine life, the Kelp stalks, and sea grasses cleverly concealed the artificial structures of the 70,000 gallon Kelp tank at Birch Aquarium. And just on the other side of the thick acrylic window was several dozen wide-eyed spectators ages ranging from 3 to 63, many in awe of the divers as much as the fish. The dry docent narrated and relayed questions from the audience to my buddy diver near the front of the tank, via a communications umbilical. I went about my secondary job of underwater trash collector, but my primary role is always to enhance the safety of the comm-diver and help ensure a pleasant experience for the viewers. Several minutes into the dive, my buddy returned to the surface for the feed bin, while I made certain his umbilical didn't become entangled in the kelp, as much for my buddy as the health of the kelp. After a fairly tame feeding frenzy, and several more minutes of interaction with the onlookers, we left for the surface - bottom time ~30min. No where else in San Diego can you encounter as many different variety of marine life in such a compact location in such a short time.

So check out the Kelp Tank Feeding Shows, every Tuesday & Thursday at 12:30, Saturdays at 2pm, and Sundays at 10:30; or watch it on the live Kelp Tank webcam (sorry no audio at this time), at:

[http://aquarium.ucsd.edu/Education/Learning\\_Resources/Kelp\\_Cam/](http://aquarium.ucsd.edu/Education/Learning_Resources/Kelp_Cam/)

And, if you're interested in experiencing the ocean world from the other side of the glass yourself....your first step is to obtain **Rescue Diver certification**, additionally you must:

- Have a Minimum of 50 dives, 12 within the previous 12 months
- Provide a Diving Medical Evaluation and Doctor's Approval
- Pass a Check-out dive with Birch Aquarium staff
- Have Current CPR/First Aid/O2 Administration Certifications
- Pass an Aquarium Diver written examination

For more information contact Mark Ball, Aquarist, at [kelptank@ucsd.edu](mailto:kelptank@ucsd.edu)





## 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](mailto:mthorn3478@aol.com) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> 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

