



Laguna Sea Dwellers

The Orange County Dive Club

January 2008

January Photo Winner



Details on pg. 2

Upcoming Events

Jan 4th

Club mixer at the shop 5:30pm.

Jan 12th

Bottomscratcher open boat to Catalina. 7:00am.

Jan 16th

Club Meeting. 7:00pm.

Jan 19th

Club dive and BBQ. 11:00am.

Jan 24th

Night dive. 5:30pm.

Jan 26th

Whale watching. 8:30am.

Feb 10th

Bottomscratcher open boat to Catalina. 7:00am.

Feb 20th

Club Meeting. 7:00pm.

Meeting @ Newport Beach Tennis Club

Kelp Reforestation

Nancy Curuso

January 16, 2008

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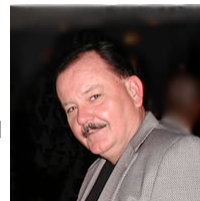
President's Message

Dear Members,

We are going into 2008 with many changes ahead of us. We had a great 2007, saw the Club grow to 207 members, of which 67 were new members. Many of the members hit new milestones in their diving careers. We should have three new Instructors, Grady Scallon, Russ Johnson and Jerry Mestas. We will also have Cathy Solomon and James Dodge getting their Dive Master certifications. Congratulations to all.

The shop had some fantastic trips this past year where our members participated. They went to Palau & Yap Island; some made the trip to the Philippines. Then we had the Club Members who travel to Cayman Brac, then only stayed 3 days because a small Class 5 Hurricane was barreling down on them. Can't say the shop does not offer "Dive Adventure" vacations! Then to wind down they year, many of us made our annual pilgrimage to La Paz, where we met new friends, Renee Periera, and swam with a 25 to 30 ft. Whale Shark. (Renee is now a new Member).

We bought a Seal to take care of, Hatman, and after a week or so he was off to play with his pals in the ocean. Didn't even say, "Good Bye!" We were able to get out twice to see whales, our local migrating Grey Whales and going out further we saw the mighty Blue Whales.



Cont'd on pg. 3

January 2008 Photo Contest—Channel Islands

And the winner is ... *Tim Williams*

Fourteen pictures were submitted for the January contest. Ten of fifteen eligible board members cast votes by assigning a numerical score of 3 to their first choice, a 2 to their second choice and an 1 to their third choice.

Tim's photo garnered 3 first place votes and one second place vote for a total of eleven points. Julianne's second place entry garnered 8 points and Tim's third place entry garnered 7 points. Tim is now the recipient of \$25 and a chance at winning a special grand prize at year-end. Congratulations!

Now is the time to submit entries for February! Remember, you can't win if you don't enter!

About the Photo

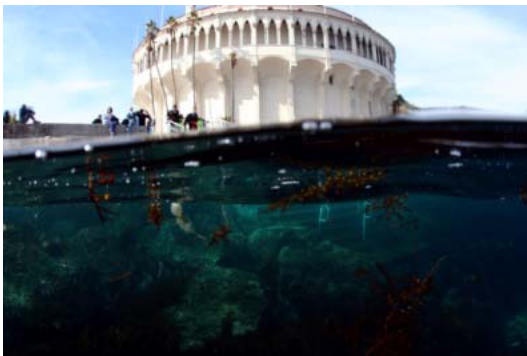
What: Kelp Diver
Where: Bird Rock, Catalina Island
When: March 2004
Who: Tim Williams
Depth: 45'
Camera: Canon 5S w/ Sea & Sea Wide Angle

See Page 7 for a listing of all 2008 Photo Contests!

2nd Place—Julianne Steers



3rd Place—Tim Williams



Looking Forward to February...

With February just on the horizon, Valentine's Day is the inspiration for this month's photo contest. We all know the holiday and we indulge in celebrating couples. The contest will focus attention on pairs of animals in the underwater world. The subject is duos, couples, pairs, and, just simply, two.

Often while you are diving you may see signs of mating: Garibaldi nesting, nudibranchs intertwined, and octopuses meeting for a fleeting moment. Then again, taking photos of pairs doesn't just mean those aquatic animals that are mating: two fish together just swimming about the reef is definitely a duo.

Now, go out, get wet, and catch those pairs in action.

Julianne Steers

Dive Information

Water & Surf Conditions:

Laguna Beach (949) 494-6965

Emergency:

Medical Alert (213) 221-4114

Catalina Chamber (310) 510-1053

DAN (919) 684-4326

Travel:

Gorman Dive Adventures (949) 494-6965

President's Message (Cont'd from pg. 1)

We hopefully have found a new home for a while at the Newport Tennis Club. They seem to love us and we them. The Holiday Party was a great success. The Holiday Party committee did a great job!

Now we are going into the New Year with great joy and anticipation and sadness. We have been told the shop is in the process of being sold and the escrow should close at the end of January. Gord and Tammy are retiring. The store is being bought by Beach Cities Scuba and wants to add Laguna Sea Sports to its other four stores. We all have grown fond as to how Gord and Tammy have run their business, as a family business, but they have to move on. Gord wants to get his citizenship papers which allows him to play with BIGGER boats, and Tammy need to rest and relax after her long illness. Gord say that he plans to still teach around the shop and have him and Tammy involved with the Club. Gord says this is all for the good, Hosam will be able to bring in more stock, plans to keep the store as friendly as Tammy and Gord have done, meaning the Club. And try to make the transition as smooth as possible. Rumors are that Grady and I will be asked to stay on, will have to pass our physicals; "Can you work the register?"

All in all, 2008 looks to be fantastic! The store will be

able to offer us more; we should ask how we could help Hosam and his staff. It will take a few months for everything to settle down, but by summer I am sure the shop and the Club will be in full swing! All classes will continue. The shop will stay SDI, offering PADI and NAUI cards. And, once Hosam has talked with me, we will know more as to what his plans are for the future. Just wait, more to come...

I and the New Board; Cathy Solomon, Margi Friedman, Michel Loignon, and Nancy Kluge, Eric Eckes as Newsletter and Photo Editor, with the help of our Members at Large; Aaron Brown, Tim Baskin, Terese Caraccio, John Lee, Jane Martorana, Bruce McKeon, J.R. Rafter, Julianne Steer and Tim Williams look forward to helping the Club have a great 2008 diving and seeking all our salt water dreams!

Remember, dive safe out there,

Tom Gorman

2008 Boat Dives

By popular demand, we have arranged several trips in the next few months, so get out your calendar to make your plans!

- Saturday, January 12th** - Open Boat to Catalina on the Bottom Scratcher (3-tank dive) \$100
- Sunday, February 10th** - Open Boat to Catalina on the Bottom Scratcher (3-tank dive) \$100
- Saturday, March 15th** - Open Boat to Catalina on the Bottom Scratcher (3-tank dive) \$100
- Saturday, May 10th** - Wreck Alley on the Dn'DII, West Mission Bay Marina (2-tank dive) \$80
- Saturday, June 14th** - Santa Barbara Island on the Bottom Scratcher (3-tank dive) \$120
- Saturday, July 26th** - Oil Rig/Catalina on the Bottom Scratcher (1 Oil Rig, 2 Catalina) \$100
- August** - Channel Islands – Date and boat to be determined
- Saturday, September 20th (tentative)** - Farnsworth on the Bottom Scratcher (3-tank dive) \$120.
- Saturday, October 25th** - San Clemente Island on the Bottom Scratcher (3-tank dive) \$120
- November** - Catalina Weekend – Dates, and other details to be determined
- November** - Cortez Bank – Dates and boat to be determined

Details regarding reservations, departure times, and what the trips include will be published shortly. Prices are subject to change. Watch your email for announcements. If you have any questions, please contact me at cathysolomon@sbcglobal.net or 714-612-5321.



**2007 Grand Prize
Photo Contest Winner
Eric Eckes**



Diving Milestones

100

Margi Friedman

Laguna Sea Dwellers was formed to promote the sport of diving in our community. Congratulations to those reaching these important milestones! Have you reached an important milestone? If so, let us know @ lsd-news@cox.net.



Santa Dives!

Our own Frank Murgolo gets in the holiday spirit by dressing as Santa at the Long Beach Aquarium in a benefit for homeless children.

Calendar of Events

January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Club Mixer Dive Shop	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Open Boat Dive Catalina
13	14	15	16 Dive Club Meeting NB Tennis Club 7:00pm Nancy Curuso Kelp Reforestation		18	19 Club Dive & BBQ
20	21	22		Night Dive	25	26 Whale Watching
27	28	29	30	31		

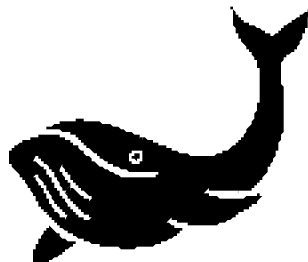
February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Club Mixer Yardhouse NB	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Open Boat Dive Catalina	11	12	20 Dive Club Meeting NB Tennis Club 7:00pm Bob Evans Reefs 2 W recks		15	16
17	18	19			22	23
24 Club Dive & BBQ	25	26	27	28 Night Dive	29	

Whale Watching Trip

January 26, 2008

Marine Mammal Cruise: Journey to sea to experience local marine wildlife above the waves. Encounter a pod of playful dolphin or witness the majesty of gray whales.



Location: Ocean Institute

24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive,
Dana Point, CA

Time: 9am to 12 noon

Cost: \$20

Book: Julianne Steers www.juliannesteers@earthlink.net



In case you missed it...

Highlights from the 2007 Holiday Party

This year's Laguna Sea Dweller Christmas Party sold out once again and our new Secretary was lucky enough to snatch a last minute ticket for this wonderful event. There were well over 85 guests at the Newport Beach Tennis Club that night, all merry and smiley. The evening started with the usual libations as well as our energetic DJ, playing the best of past and present hits while diving and non-diving related stories were exchanged. If you guessed the song right, the DJ would give you a t-shirt! I must say that there were not that many winners that night... It did not take long for the food to appear, buffet style. Plentiful and tasty, I think many guests had seconds...

Since it was a Christmas party, a gift exchange was in order, but this one had a twist. Each guest brought a gift. Of course everyone took great pains to conceal the exact nature of each gift under big boxes and lots of wrapping paper... As every guest took turn in choosing a gift, it was hard to guess what everybody would end up with. I think I ended up with a box of chocolates.

Santa was not done yet: there were more gifts to be had with the door prizes. Some pretty nice things, posters, movie tickets, fins, gloves, lights and an underwater digital camera.

Finally, after all the excitement, a few people danced until it was time to close the place down. Pretty nice party after all, wish you were all there!

Michel Loignon



2007 Holiday Party Memories...



Dive Travel w/ Gorman Dive Adventures

Dive Shop Travel

March 20th - 27th 2008

Back to the Caymans!

8 days - 7 nights at Cayman Brac Beach Resort. 17 dives, 3 free drinks per night and a free video!

12 spots available.

April 4th - 10th, 2008

Cozumel, Mexico

8 day - 7 night trip to Cozumel. Staying at Scuba Club Cozumel. **Sold Out!**

June 19th - 28th

Dominica Island - Caribbean Diving

7 Nights stay at Ft. Young Resort

Dive with the Whales has some of the best diving in the Caribbean - 14 spots open

Jan 2nd - 17th, 2009

Raja Ampat, Indonesia

7 Nights aboard the Adventure II Live Aboard & 5 Nights at the Kasawari Lembah Resort!

There are 8 spots available!

Laguna Sea Dwellers
welcomes our
newest members...

James Brown
Zoe Brown

Website

www.lagunaseasports.com

Club webpage: go to the diveshop's website,
select the link to the club and check
out upcoming events.

Hosted: by ECS

Brac Reef Resort,

We're Going Back!

Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands

March 20th to 27th, 2008

\$2249 full cost**

(Prices subject to change due to airline taxes)

R/T Air Fare from LAX to Cayman Brac, 7 Nights Beachfront rooms, 6 days of 2 boat dives in the morning & dive video 5 days of 1 tank dives in the afternoon. 3 free drinks per evening.

17 dives in all!

All Meals included at the resort, transfers and Hotel taxes

Year 2008

June 19th - 28th

\$2199.00

Package Includes: Air Fare on American -
8 Days / 7 Nights Hotel

Breakfast - 5 Days / 2 Tank Boat Dives - 1 Night stay
in San Juan,

Tanks, weights, & weight belts, all transfers -
14 spots open

*The Archipelago Fleet's
M/V Adventurer II*

*105 ft. long & 29 ft Wide
and*

Kasawari Lembah Resort

Jan 2nd to Jan 17th - 2009

7 Nights on the Live Aboard, meals & beverages included,
5 Days of 4 dives per day, 4 nights at the land resort with 12 dives,
meals, snacks, transfers are included. R/T Airfare from LAX to
Manado, taxes / services charges, less departure tax. NITROX -
available. Stay 5 Days / 4 Nights at Kasawari Resort with 4 days of
diving, meals and more!



2008 Photo Contest

The 2008 photo contest offers entries for photographers above and below the water. Basic Rules:

1. You must have taken the photo.
2. No time limit on photos taken.
3. Photos must be submitted by the 20th of each month for the next month's contest.
4. Email photos to lsd-news@cox.net. Include name of subject, camera used, date taken (MM/YY), approx depth, and dive location.

January 2008 [Channel Islands] Catalina, San Clemente, Santa Barbara, Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel make up the Channel Islands.

February 2008 [Couples/Pairs] In celebration of Valentine's Day, this month focuses on the number 2. Send us photos of couples, fish, anything in pairs.

March 2008 [Marine Mammals (Above and Below Water)] Don't take underwater photos? Sign up for the January 26th whale watching trip and send us pics of whales, dolphins, and sea lions taken topside.

April 2008 [Kelp/Algae] California is known for its spectacular kelp forests. Several dub trips are planned to Catalina. Snap up this lovely plant and win \$25!

May 2008 [Schooling Fish] A crowd is definitely "in" this month as we focus on fish schooling behavior.

June 2008 [Eyes and Lips] Can't fit the entire fish in the picture? Then send us the eyes and lips as we focus on the face of sealife.

July 2008 [Wrecks/Man-Made Structures] July is heavy metal month! Send us picks of sunken ships, planes, piers, and anything else made by man and sunk underwater.

August 2008 [Fish with Bars or Stripes] Take underwater pictures of fish with stripes or bars.

September 2008 [Fish with Animal Names] Send us pics with animal names: examples include Frogfish, Seahorses, Butterflyfish, Tiger Shark, Sea Hares. Sorry the word fish alone does not qualify.

October 2008 [The Color Orange] Halloween brings thoughts of trick or treaters and pumpkins. In celebration of the jack o' lantern, we focus on the color orange.

November 2008 [Nudibranchs] The sea slug was a popular topic in 2007's contest and is brought back by popular demand. Send us pics of sea hares,

December 2008 [Marine Environment—Diving Lifestyle (Above/Below)] Here is the second opportunity for you topside photographers. Send us pics depicting dive boats, island shots, sunrises, sunsets, reef structure, tidepools.

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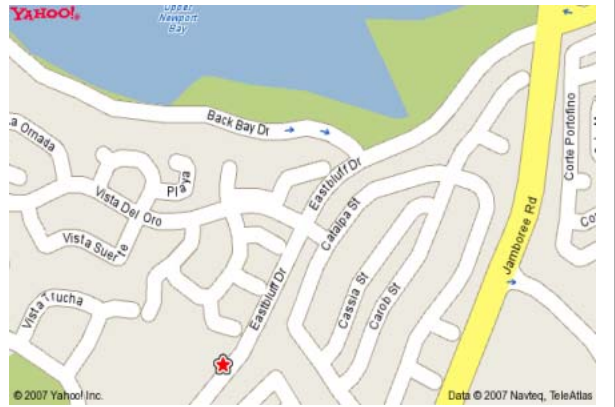
**Newport Beach
Tennis Club**

2601 Eastbluff Dr.
Newport Beach, CA
92660
(949) 644-0050

(Location - Off 73 and
Jamboree)

www.nbtenniscub.com

Meeting starts at 6:30pm



Laguna Sea Dwellers

P.O. Box 511

Laguna Beach, Ca. 92652-0511

Next Club Meeting: January 16, 2008

