



Laguna Sea Dwellers

The Orange County Dive Club

February 2008

February Photo Winner



Details on pg. 2

Upcoming Events

Feb 1st

Club mixer at the Yards house in Fashion Island. 5:30pm.

Feb 10th

Bottomscratcher open boat to Catalina. 7:00am. Call 714-963-4378.

Feb 16th

Whale watching. 8:30am.

Feb 20th

Club Meeting at Newport Beach Tennis Club. 7:00pm.

Feb 24th

Night dive. 5:30pm.

Jan 26th

Club Dive and BBQ. 9:00am.

Feb 28th

Night Dive—Meet at Shop. 5:30pm.

Mar 7th

Club Mixer at Lucille's on El Toro in Lake Forest. 5:30pm.

**Thank you Gordon and Tammy
for Eight Wonderful Years!
Good Luck in "Retirement"!**

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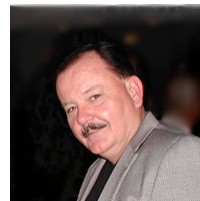
President's Message

Dear Members,

Well it has been a wet January and February looks to start that way! As I write this article, Gord is getting ready to take a small trip to Hawaii, on a 138 ft boat! And, Tammy is helping getting his gear packed. The store is supposed to close escrow on February 1st and the shop will be under the guiding hands of Hosam Elshenawi, owner of the other four Beach Cities Scuba stores.

Talking with Hosam, he said he was happy to have the Club and is excited about the coming year. Initially the first changes we will see will be more stock moving into the store and an automated system installed. That will take a few days or so, so be patient with Grady and I as we try to master the system. This will offer the store a better inventory control and help us help you. I am sure a facelift to the store will be in the cards! While around the store, remember that classes may be going on, so stay out of the pool area, unless it is Ok with the staff or instructor. I will be asking Hosam to stop by one of our meetings so that most can meet him and he personally can let you know his plans.

Cont'd on pg. 3



February 2008 Photo Contest—Couples/Pairs

And the winner is ... *Tom Gorman*

Nineteen pictures were submitted for the February 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.

Tom's photo garnered 4 first place votes and one third place vote for a total of thirteen points. Steve's second place entry garnered 10 points and Julianne's third place entry garnered 9 points. Tom 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 March! Remember, you can't win if you don't enter!

About the Photo

What: Mastiga Jellyfish
Where: Jellyfish Lake, Palau
When: February 2007
Who: Tom Gorman
Depth: 10'
Camera: Sea & Sea G8000 w YS-90

2nd Place—Steve Craig



3rd Place—Julianne Steers



Looking Forward to March...

Congratulations to Tom for having a great gelatinous subject in this month's winner. For the next month, we will focus on the opposite end of the spectrum and explore the fanciful marine mammals.

I am sure that somewhere in your home, you have a photo that evokes memories of being close to greatness in the aquatic realm. Many have had at least one moment underwater with sea lion or above water feet away from a giant whale; hopefully, you snapped a shot. Now, you probably didn't think about how you framed that shot, but merely held the trigger down and hoped for the best. Good thing your job doesn't depend on it.

Unlike your trigger-happy finger, researchers focus on getting the right shot of these animals. A clear view of a fluke, fin, or flipper can be just right for tracking individuals in each population of mammals. A photo-identification system can provide valuable information about where the whales can be found in different seasons, when and where they have calves, how long they can live, and the best strategies for conservation. In some cases, the most important aspect to photograph is the barnacles living on the whale itself. The placement of barnacles and/or pattern on a whale fluke is like our fingerprints...unique to each individual and scientists use these markings to identify one whale from the next.

You may not be a whale researcher, but having a decently composed photo of a marine mammal can certainly come in handy. How else would Talbot and Wyland make money? Here's your chance. You now have the wonderful opportunity at winning 25 dollars and bragging rights for the month, so fish out that photo and submit it by the 20th.

Julianne Steers





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

We have several things planned for February, a trip over to Catalina on the Bottom Scratcher on the 10th, it is an open boat so that you have to call ahead to claim your spot. Our Whale Watching trip has been moved to February 16th, and it will work out to be a sunset cruise. Adult libations are welcome. Departure is at 3PM, so be there early! Our Club meeting is on the 20th and we have a great speaker, Dr. Santora, a heart surgeon who did our own Brent Fairbanks surgery. Dr. Santora is a diver and will be talking about diving and your heart, don't miss this meeting! In the coming months we have several more speakers who will be just as interesting.

The Club's photo contest is in full swing and we are getting some fantastic photos! If you have a chance, send in your latest photo to Eric, and maybe it too can win. See January's Newsletter for all the categories that are coming up in the next few months. We will have a new Grand Prize for the yearend winner for this contest!

One word about our weekend BBQ's, "You don't have to dive to stop on by!" The idea of the BBQ's and weekend dives is to get members diving, but, if you are not up for a

dive that day, stop by anyway and say hi to some of your friends! Most members meet early to get air fills and take advantage of the conditions in the morning, but then many go for an afternoon dive. So, if getting up too early on the weekend is not for you, stop by anyway and you can catch a dive in the afternoon and have fun at the BBQ!

Hope to see you all around the shop and out there diving...Remember, dive safe out there!

Tom Gorman

Laguna Sea Dwellers
welcomes our newest members...



Greg Yorga
Laura Sheridan-Long
Angela & Jeff Metz

2008 Boat Dives

By popular demand, we have arranged several trips this year, so get out your calendar to make your plans!

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

Saturday, August 9th - Santa Cruz & Anacapa Islands on the Spectre (4 dives) \$115

Saturday, September 20th - Farnsworth on the Bottom Scratcher (3-tank dive) \$120.

Thursday, October 2nd to 5th —Cortez Bank on the Horizon out of San Diego (3 nights) \$499—\$550

Saturday, October 25th - San Clemente Island on the Bottom Scratcher (3-tank dive) \$120

November - Catalina Weekend - Dates, and other details 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.

Your Heart and Diving

Dr. Santora

February 20, 2008

Calendar of Events

February Birthdays

Debbie Basura 5
 Russ Johnson 9
 Michael Madden 14
 Paul Brogoitti 15
 Brian Kunst 16
 Bonnie Pelnar 17
 Janice Downing 20
 Nancy Tyrone 24
 Manu Larson 26
 Yvonne Angel 27



Diving Milestones

Instructor
 Russ Johnson
 Jerry Mestas
 Grady Scallon

Divemaster
 James Dodge
 Cathy Solomon

Rescue
 Annette Lohman
 Sharon DePriester

Advanced
 Eric Aubort

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.

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 Dr. Santora Your Heart & Diving		15	16 Whale Watching
17	18	19			22	23
24 Club Dive & BBQ	25	26	27	28 Night Dive	29	

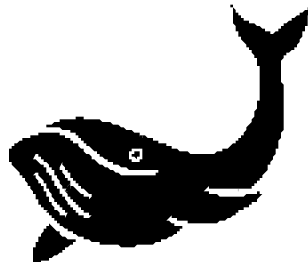
March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Club Mixer Lucille's L.F.	8
9	10	11	19 Dive Club Meeting NB Tennis Club 7:00pm Scott Brooks BU-88 Project		14	15 Open Boat Dive Catalina
16	17	18			21	22 Club Dive & BBQ
23	24	25	26	27 Night Dive	28	29

Whale Watching Trip

February 16, 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: 2:30pm (boat leaves at 3pm) to 5:30pm
 Cost: \$20
 Book: Julianne Steers [www.juliannesteers@earthlink.net](mailto:juliannesteers@earthlink.net)

27th Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup



27th ANNUAL AVALON HARBOR UNDERWATER CLEANUP February 23, 2008



December 4, 2007

Dear Avalon Underwater Cleanup Diver Organization:

The purpose of this letter is to give you information regarding the 27th Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup which will be held on:

Saturday, February 23, 2008

The 27th Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup is a milestone event that you will not want to miss. This event has grown into one of the major dive events in Southern California. We expect approximately 550 divers from across California and neighboring states join in this annual endeavor to clean Avalon's spectacular harbor of accumulated junk and lost overboard "treasures". Divers submit items/artifacts for the prestigious Trash Award competition.

The proceeds from the event are for the benefit of Catalina Island Conservancy's Bob Given Ocean Conservation Fund and the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, a life support recompression chamber on Catalina that serves the thousands of divers who frequent the nearby waters.

We have put together a website so you can register online by going to www.catalinaconservancy.org and clicking on the Underwater Cleanup icon. A group leader can also take the responsibility of registering a group. If you want to register as a group (6 diver minimum), please contact Tom Turney at: turney@newcap.com.

All registered clubs will receive a confirmation package of information regarding the dive prior to the event.

We hope you will be able to join us for the dive!! If you would like more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Cleanup Hotline at 310-510-2595 x 123, or e-mail at: avalonharborcleanup@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Danny Piper
President, Catalina Conservancy Divers

Karl Huggins
Director, Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber

P O BOX 2739 ♦ AVALON, CA 90704
Tel: 310-510-2595 x 114 ♦ fax: 310-510-2591 ♦ WWW.CCD.ORG

In case you missed it...

Highlights from the January 2008 Meeting

For those of you who missed it (and by the turnout, there must be only a few of you!) here are the highlight of the first Laguna Sea Dwellers monthly meeting.

With a attendance of over 60 members, it was a full house at the Newport Beach Tennis Club Wednesday January 16. After introducing the new 2008 Board and Members at Large, it was time for a big announcement from Gordon Boivin: he is retiring and selling the shop as of February 1st. After several years in the business, Gordon decided it was time to enjoy some time off. He reassured us that he would not disappear and would still be seen around, above and under water and even maybe teach from time to time.

Our guest speaker for that night was marine biologist Nancy Caruso. Nancy leads dive volunteers in a unique project: reforesting the kelp that has been disappearing from the California coast over the past 50 years. Since 90% of California's kelp forests are gone, bringing at least some of them back is vital for the health of the coastal ecosystem. Caruso also talks to Orange County school kids about the project and teaches them to grow tiny kelp plants that divers can later transplant to the ocean.

Hence, Nancy told us a lot about kelp and how we can, as divers, help restore some of the disappeared forests. It's as simple as finding some free floating kelp, carrying a few rubber bands and finding a suitable anchor point.

Finally, the meeting dosed on the always popular raffle. See you all in February!

Michel Loignon



Dive Travel w/ Gorman Dive Adventures

Dive Shop Travel

March 20th - 27th 2008

April 4th - 10th, 2008

[Cozumel, Mexico](#)

8 day - 7 night trip to Cozumel. Staying at Scuba Club Cozumel. 2 Spots open

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

October 8th—13th

[La Paz, Mexico](#)

6 Day—5 night trip. 4 Days of 3 tank diving. Stay at Club Cantamar. 13 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!

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

Dominica

June 19 - 28, 2008

\$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

Fort Young Resort

Dive the Sea of Cortez out of La Paz

October 8- Oct. 13, 2008

***** 6Days / 5nights *****

4 Days of Diving (3 tanks ea. day)

Price includes: R/T Airfare,

Hotel, Dives, Breakfast, Lunch on dive days, and Dinner, Unlimited beach diving, R/T ground transportation

Club Cantamar Resort

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!

Dive Safety – It's Not All Wet!

Recently my wife and I had just started a dive vacation on a Caribbean Island when, after a morning shore dive, we drove to a different site and decided to have lunch at a beachside open-air restaurant before the second dive. Unfortunately, our car was broken into and our dive gear was stolen. We rented gear and continued diving the rest of the week, so for a die-hard diver, it was not a wasted trip. On the other hand, the financial loss, time consumed and aggravation is not something that I would wish upon anyone.

Based on the information that I found on various web-sites, the majority of scuba gear that is stolen is in airports. There are certain airports, like Miami and San Juan, that have terrible reputations for the number of thefts that have occurred. I've met some people who use a travel B.C. and take their mask, fins, regulator and computer as carry-on luggage. If you are checking your bags, maybe you should consider packing your gear in grandma's old trunk. There is a lot of debate on whether the rolling gear bags with all the logos are making a nice target for thieves. Does it matter anymore if you lock your bags? On this trip, my TSA approved locks were missing when I arrived at my destination, so that may not be a deterrent either. If your bags are stolen after they have been checked, the reimbursement from the airline will not cover your loss. It will help with your deductible if you are claiming the loss on your homeowners or another insurance (DAN, etc.) policy. You do have the option of declaring the value and insuring your checked luggage.

While more thefts may occur traveling to and from your destination, they are a growing problem at the places we all love to visit. Research on Caribbean crime by McElroy and Roccanti draws a statistical correlation between tourism and crime. There has been a staggering increase in robbery and larceny against non-residents over the last generation. In their theory, McElroy and Roccanti state "...visitors present easy and lucrative targets because they carry much portable wealth, lack caution and are in unfamiliar surroundings. The risk of detection and punishment, the costs of criminality, is perceived to be lower because tourists are less likely than residents to report if victimized, to identify their assailants, or return for trial." While their research is limited to 36 Caribbean countries, there is evidence that crime against tourists is rising around the world in many tourist destinations. Most likely there are similar socio-economic conditions that influence the crime rate.

It was interesting listening to many of the locals who stopped to chat with us while we waited 3 ½ hours for the police to show up. After all, the police station was 10 miles from the beach we were on. Some said the police would not come at all. (They finally did after the local dive shop owner called for us). Some told us that because everyone on the island is either related to or is a good friend of someone on the police force, that they would not prosecute even if they did catch the person and they had possession of the property. The biggest "aha" involved the stolen goods market. Evidently in the "old days" there was a road on the way to the rain forest where people would sell merchandise to passing cars. They would have to wait until the following week until the tourists were off the island and usually sell far below the market price. We were told that with the advent of on-line exchanges such as E-bay and Craig's List, these criminals now have a world-wide market for your expensive diving gear. If crime is becoming much more lucrative for islanders, you can be sure there will be a sharp increase. As of today, 5-weeks after the incident, we have been unable to get a copy of the police report.

What are your options? If you're like me, you have an investment in gear that is safe, well maintained and you enjoy diving with. So for me, renting gear for each dive is my last choice. If you have your gear in your car while dining or shopping, make sure that you are parked where you can keep an eye on your car at all times. If that's not possible, there are some great mesh backpacks to keep your valuables with you. I've never heard of anyone being held up at gun point and stripped of their gear, so the odds are it's going to be safe if it is kept in sight or with you.

An important lesson that I learned from this is to keep the receipts and service records for your gear. I'll also be keeping photo records of everything that I own. My Homeowner's Insurance Company has been excellent to work with, but it would have saved considerable time if I had the documentation readily available. If you don't own a home, check into DAN, renter's insurance or other options. It was a surprise to me when I started adding up the cost of everything that we had in those gear bags.

See you soon in my new gear!

Jim Williams



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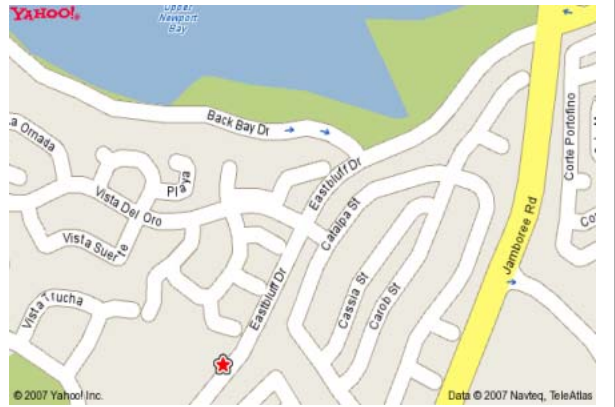
**Newport Beach
Tennis Club**

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: February 20, 2008

