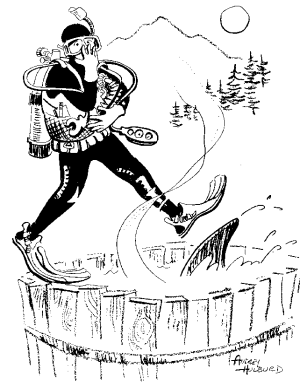


MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Number 4

April, 2009



Ab-Surdities

by Larry Clinton

Following up on last month's Abalone Oddities, here are some more examples of mollusk madness.

The Department of Fish & Game has issued revised abalone report cards for 2009 that come with a detailed instruction sheet. Only one report card may be purchased a year, so the Department recommends that you make a photocopy of your card, to submit along with proof of purchase to obtain a duplicate in case your original is lost or stolen. And the tab for all this bureaucratic BS? It's now \$60.90 for an ocean fishing license and ab card – the cost of three farm-raised abs in the shell. Abalone report cards must be returned to DFG within 60 days of the close of the season (due Jan. 31, 2010). You can view a short video that demonstrates the required tagging procedures at www.dfg.ca.gov/education/video/AbaloneRegulations.html.

DF&G has also shed more light on replacing legal size abalone in order to take larger ones ("high-grading"). According to DF&G regs, any legal-sized abalone must be retained by the person who detaches it. In addition, says DFG Lt. Dennis McKiver, if the diver takes three legal-sized abalone and puts them back, they still count toward both the diver's daily and yearly limit. This means that divers must

Fishy Flicks

by Jeffrey Zankel

We are so fortunate to be living where so much marine life abounds and so many institutions make it readily available to us all. Everything from Farallone tours to the new Academy of Sciences helps us celebrate our Ocean.

One of the best of these many institutions is the Ocean Film Festival, and this year's version, February 19-22, was Killer. I mean that literally since one of the causes of the festival was the alarming rate at which fishermen are killing off the shark population.

In fact the star of the show was Ms. Great White herself. Saturday

afternoon was dedicated to shark films starting with local Marin boys Scot Anderson and Ron Eliot who showed their astounding footage. First were extreme close-ups of Scot's camera surfboard getting hit repeatedly by Whitey while Scot held it on a line from his rowboat. Then Ron Eliot showed his nerves of steel by diving next to the giants right there at the Farallones. Other foreign entries like "Great White Shark" showed Mark Rutzen happily diving with the Whites. Afterwards an international panel of scientists held a discussion of the issues surrounding the Great one and her lesser relatives.

A special treat for divers was presented at the Aquarium of

Final Notice: Renew Now!

If there's a blue membership application and a white liability waiver included with this newsletter, we still haven't received your 2009 dues (\$42 for individuals, \$66 for couples at the same address). Until they're paid, you can't participate in club activities, such as the May 16 Spring Potluck and the June 11-14 Dive & Dine. Also, this will be your last newsletter. Be sure and fill out the ap and waiver fully and return them with your check, by mail or at the April 15 meeting.

Don't delay ... we'd hate to lose you.

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still record those abalone on their report cards so as to not exceed their yearly limit. Several citations have been written for this offense. Wardens recommend measuring abs before removing them from rocks.

A complete list of abalone regulations is available in the 2009 Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet, available wherever fishing licenses are sold or at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/sportfishing_regs2009.asp.

Occasionally, even the Ab Police are taken by surprise. After an eastbound truck spun a U-turn to avoid a DF&G abalone checkpoint in Boonville last October, a warden finally pulled the vehicle over, and was “overwhelmed by the smell of marijuana” as he approached the driver, according to the SF Chronicle’s Tom Steinstra. At first, the driver claimed that the bags in the back seat contained dirty clothes, but a search revealed 40 pounds of processed pot and 50 more pounds of seeds and stems. The driver and two passengers were booked on felonies. Bet they wish they’d been poaching abalone, instead.

Fewer Shark Attacks Worldwide

by Larry Clinton

In February, I reported that the number of authenticated shark attacks along the West Coast during the first 8 years of the 21st Century was more than five times the annual average in the previous century.

Elsewhere, however, shark attacks dropped last year. There were 59 attacks around the world last year, compared to 71 in 2007, said George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File at the University of Florida’s Museum of Natural History.

Does that mean it’s safer to go in the water? Maybe not. “I can’t help but think that contributing to the reduction may have been the reticence of some people to take holidays and go to the beach for economic reasons,” Burgess said. So maybe the West Coast increase was due to more people using local waters rather than traveling overseas.

Clark and Virginia Light Up the Reefs

The digital presentation put on by Clark Miller and Virginia Bria last month showed beautiful Indonesian reefs in a new and fascinating light, and also provided a close-up look at the humpback whales of Tonga. We’re grateful to have these photo wizards in our club.



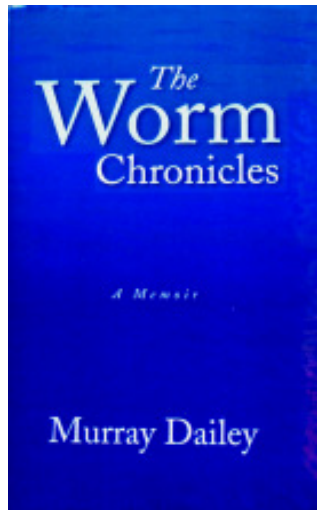
the Bay as part of a program of flicks on our local marine sanctuaries. “Blue Water Oasis” is about Cordell Bank. The film had impressive footage of the amazing marine life at this spot right off the Marin coast. Although Cordell is in our back yard it is known to only a handful of divers. The real treat was the group of original Cordell Expedition divers who first dove the 180+ foot pinnacle on air back in the 70’s, including founder Dr Robert Schmieder. They regaled us with the details of those first dives, and we’ll be hearing more about the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary at our May 20 meeting.

For the prurient interest there was a long documentary on the mating habits of the colorful cuttlefish.

I cannot think of a better way to dive in on a cold windy February day than to support our local Ocean film Festival.

The Worm Chronicles

Murray Dailey, who was a Club member for several years, recently published a memoir recapturing his pioneering work as a marine parasitologist. The Worm Chronicles takes the reader around the globe looking for answers to such questions as why animals as intelligent as dolphins appear to commit suicide.



The book follows the challenges and discoveries Murray encountered over his 40-year career, as he and coworkers unlock the secrets of these unique animals. The reader is given a window into the approach used in solving the problems of some of the ocean’s deadliest creatures.

It’s available at Amazon.com for \$19.95.

New/Old Meeting Location Next Month: The Flatiron

Due to a prohibitive rise in the nightly rent for the Seafood Peddler’s Palm Room, and the intrusiveness of the music in their upstairs meeting room, we’ll be moving back to the Flatiron in San Rafael starting with our May meeting.

For those who don’t recall our meetings at the Flatiron years ago, it’s a sports bar located at 724 B St (corner of 2nd) in downtown San Rafael. The new owners have remodeled their cozy upstairs meeting room since we were last there, and they’ll set it up to suit our group. There’s a big screen TV for showing videos and Power Point presentations, and we’ll be able to order food and drinks delivered upstairs. Mark your calendars now: on May 20 we’ll be at the new location. As always, we’ll gather for socializing about 7 PM, and the meeting will run from 7:30-9:15.

BOTTOM TIMES

Apr. 15 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. James Moskito, Great White Shark Adventures, shark diving in the Farallons, Guadalupe, Cocos and Galapagos. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

April 17-18 (Fri.-Sat.): *First Annual Bay Area Dive Show*, San Jose Convention Center. For information, check www.divechronicles.com/Bay.

May 6 (Wed.): *Newsletter deadline*. E-mail submissions to click@dipsymusic.com.

May 9: (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

May 16 (Wed.): Spring Potluck at Garry and Barbara Sebring's home, San Rafael. Call Barbara (415-499-0799).

May 20 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30 at the Flatiron, 724 B St, San Rafael. Jennifer Stock, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

May 30-31 (Sat.-Sun.): *SCUBA Show and film festival*, Long Beach Convention Center. Check 310-792-2333 or www.scubashow.com for details.

June 11-14 (Thurs.-Sun.): *Spring Dive & Dine*, Van Damme State Park, Mendocino. Call Jane (415-332-6196).

June 13: (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

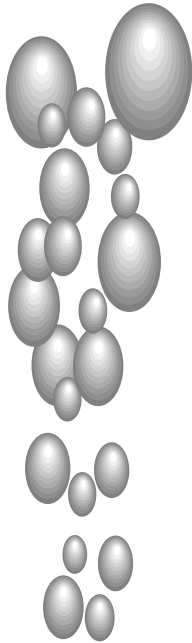
June 17 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Ken Howard, From Manatees to Mantas and More. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

July 11 (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

August 9-11 (Sun.-Tues.): *Peace Liveaboard* to Southern Channel Islands. Individual berths available. Contact Pierre at sfreesdiver@comcast.net

Sept. 10-13 (Thurs.-Sun.): *Abalone campout*, Van Damme State Park, Mendocino. Call Jane (415-332-6196).

Oct. 18-21 (Sun.-Wed.): *Dive Trip to Catalina Isthmus*, Banning House, Two Harbors. Call Nathan (415) 479-1777.



Marin Scuba Club
PO Box 3408
San Rafael, CA 94912



Next Meeting

Wed., April 15

Program:

**James Moskito,
Great White Shark Adventures**

Happy Hour 6:00-7:00
Socializing: 7:00
Meeting: 7:30-9:15

**Seafood Peddler,
100 Yacht Club Dr.
San Rafael**
**(New location starting May
20: The Flatiron, 724 B St,
San Rafael)**

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

The Club meets the
3rd Wednesday of each month
(except December)

Marin Scuba Club

Board of Directors

www.marinscuba.org

President

Nathan Cobert *ncobert@earthlink.net* (415) 479-1777

Vice President

Patrick Ritter *patrickritter@comcast.net* (415) 381-3345

Treasurer

Barbara Sebring *gandbsebring@msn.com* (415) 499-0799

Secretary

Arlene Rudy *arudy24@aol.com* (415) 927-2672

Membership Coordinator

Alberta Chaison *albertachaison@yahoo.com* (415) 453-9556

Newsletter Editor

Larry Clinton *click@dipsymusic.com* (415) 332-6196

Activities Coordinator

Jane Clinton *jkclinton@comcast.net* (415) 332-6196

Program Coordinator

Jeffrey Zankel *divedog@verizon.net* (415) 898-7752

Webmaster

John Brenneis *webmeister@marinscuba.org* (415) 407-3161

Immediate Past President

Elliott Zalta *driftinez@comcast.net* (415) 461-6644
