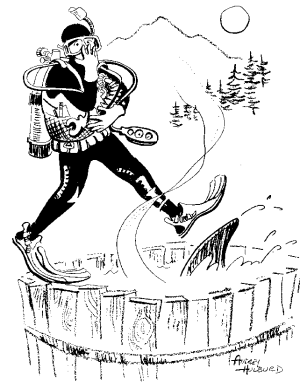


MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Number 2 February, 2009



What's Going on With Coral Reefs?

At our February 18 meeting, we'll be getting an update on the state of the world's coral reefs from one of the experts in the field, Brian Huse, Executive Director of the Coral Reef Alliance. CORAL, as it's generally known, is the only international organization working exclusively to save coral reefs. CORAL provides education, tools, and inspiration to help local communities become passionate environmental stewards for the reefs. Together they develop managed marine protected areas and sustainable businesses to benefit coral reefs and people.

Now in his seventh year at CORAL, Brian has worked in the environmental conservation and advocacy fields for twenty-five years. His career includes work for the California League of Conservation Voters, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Ocean Wilderness Network, San Francisco Baykeeper and the Waterkeeper Alliance.



Photo by Jeff Massetti, courtesy of CORAL

If you care about saving coral reefs, don't miss this timely discussion.

MLPA: Coming Soon to a Coast Near You

California's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative continues its public process to complete recommendations for a statewide network of marine protected areas.

The MLPA requires the California Fish and Game Commission to adopt a master plan, based on the best readily available science, that will guide the adoption and implementation of a Marine Life Protection Program within the California Department of Fish and Game. Study region planning processes for the north coast and San Francisco Bay will take place between 2009 and 2011.

The Central California Council of Diving Clubs warns that current proposals could close parts of Salt Point State Park to abalone take, and other diver access may be affected. To learn more and get involved, go to www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa.

First Dues Increase

Last year, the Club operated at a \$400 deficit, primarily due to meeting and newsletter expenses. So, for the first time in recent memory, we're forced to raise dues and meeting fees. From now on we'll be collecting a \$3 door charge at each meeting. Dues will be \$42 per year for individuals, and \$66 for couples at the same address (see enclosed membership application). We will no longer pro-rate dues throughout the year, but new members joining in October or later will have their memberships extended through the following year.

There will be no increase in costs for the annual Dive & Dine, and the club will continue to host free potlucks each May and December, as well as free campsites for abalone divers each fall. We value your continued support.

Time to Re-Up

Your membership in the Marin Scuba Club expires March 1. To renew, please fill out the enclosed membership application and liability waiver, and return them with your check at the new dues level (\$42 for individuals, \$66 for couples at the same address). Even for renewals we still need a fresh signed, dated and witnessed application and waiver. Couples should photocopy the 2-page liability waiver and fill it out individually -- non-divers, too!

Bring everything to the February meeting, or mail it to the address on page 4. You must have a current completed waiver on file to participate in Club activities.

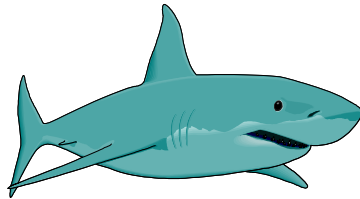
Pacific Coast Shark Attacks Increase

The total number of authenticated shark attacks along the West Coast during the first 8 years of the 21st Century reached 42, more than five times the annual average in the previous century. The 42 unprovoked shark attacks in the past 8 years is nearly 40% of the total number of attacks reported for the preceding 100 years, according to the Shark Research Committee. .

The book "Shark Attacks of the Twentieth Century" by Ralph S. Collier authenticated 108 unprovoked shark attacks from the Pacific Coast between 1900 and 1999. Great whites were implicated in 94 (87%) of the attacks with an annual average of slightly more than one attack per year.

There were 36 shark attacks confirmed in California, including 3 fatalities, and 6 unprovoked attacks reported from Oregon during the past eight years. Surfers accounted for 32 (76%) of the shark attacks documented since 2000 with 4 (10%) swimmers, 3 (7%) kayakers, 2 (5%) divers and 1 (2%) paddle boarder.

For additional information regarding the Shark Research Committee's programs and how you can participate, go to www.sharkresearchcommittee.com.



Diet Poses Health Risks for Otters

Sea otters along the central California coast risk higher exposure to disease-causing parasites as a consequence of the food they eat and where they feed.

Otters that eat small marine snails, clams or innkeeper worms are at a higher risk of exposure to deadly protozoal pathogens, than animals that feed exclusively on other prey. On the other hand, otters whose diet includes significant amounts of abalone have a very low risk of infection with either pathogen.

Tim Tinker, co-lead of a new study led by the University of California-Davis and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), points out: "Where food resources are limited, individual sea otters tend to become diet specialists, and the specific skills used to secure food are passed on from mother to pup." So, individual otters inhabiting the same area can have very different diets from one another, and it now appears that high levels of infection may be a consequence of this dietary diversification.

While invertebrates are not themselves affected by the parasites, they can act as intermediate or transport hosts, and otters that consume infected prey may eventually die from protozoal encephalitis. Since the otter population and geographical range are not growing, dietary problems are particularly threatening. A key challenge for scientists is to determine exactly how the parasites are getting to sea otters.

Try the E-Mail Option

You can enjoy many advantages of receiving this newsletter by e-mail:

Save the Club some money. Each issue currently costs over \$50 to print and mail

Save the world some trees. The online version is paperless, unless you choose to print it out.

Get it quicker. No printing or mailing delays.

Get it slicker. Crisper illustrations. Color, too.

Get it anywhere. Keep in touch while you're traveling and your mail is on hold.

Share it. Forward a copy to interested friends or neighbors.

If you'd like to take advantage of the online newsletter option, notify Larry Clinton at click@dipsymusic.com. Try it for a few issues – we can always switch you back to snail mail if you prefer.

Congratulations, Alberta and Dave

Alberta Chaisson and Dave Buller announced their engagement at our January meeting. Best wishes to a great couple!

Keeping It Clean

"Clean technology has got to be the next Intel or Microsoft." That was one of the messages delivered by Peter G. Joseph, M.D. in his discussion of global warming at our January meeting. He also advised the receptive audience to "take the issue personally," and recommended the site <http://marincommunityenergy.org> as a resource.

Peter also showed some extraordinary images he had taken in Sulawesi and Lembah Strait in Indonesia.

Entries Sought for Underwater Film Festival

The organizers of SCUBA Show 2009 are accepting video and digital still presentations for its underwater film festival May 30-31 at the Long Beach Convention Center. Deadline for DVD submission is March 17, and entries from non-professionals as well as pros are welcome.

Both film and digital still presentations set to music or narration can be submitted. Presentations of 3 to 30 minutes in length are preferred, but shorter is usually better. Images can be from anywhere in the world, but should contain at least 50 percent underwater footage. Photographers and videographers whose entries are accepted for screening will be paid an honorarium. For a complete guideline sheet on submissions, call (310) 792-2333 or e-mail mail@scubashow.com. More information on the show itself is at www.scubashow.com.

BOTTOM TIMES

Feb. 18 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Brian Huse, Executive Director of CORAL: State of the World's Coral Reefs. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

Feb. 19-22 (Thurs.-Sun.): *San Francisco Ocean Film Festival*, Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center. Website: www.oceanfilmfest.org.

Mar. 4 (Wed.): *Newsletter deadline*. See below.

Mar. 14 (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

Mar. 18 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Clark Miller and Virginia Bria, "Reefs in a Different Light" with a special tribute to the Humpback Whales of Tonga. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

Apr. 15 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. New Images from Gordon Robinson. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

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. Jennifer Stock, Cordell Bank National Marin Sanctuary. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

May 30-31 (Sat.-Sun.): *SCUBA Show and film festival*, Long Beach Convention Center. See article on page 2.

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

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

We need articles, recipes, short notes, pictures, SCUBA funnies or whatever for future newsletters and for our website.

Website: E-mail photos with a caption and/or article and photo credits to John Brenneis (webmeister@marinscuba.org). If you do not have access to a scanner, mail photos along with captions and photo credits with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photos back. Ric's address is 1 Issaquah Dock, Sausalito, CA 94965.

Newsletter: Deadline is usually the first Wednesday of the month - two weeks before the meeting.

Send materials for future articles in one of the following ways. Note that these are listed in priority order.

1. E-mail text to Larry at click@dipsymusic.com. It's best to just send the material in the body of the e-mail and not as an attachment.
2. Send a CD to the address below. MS Word - PC format is preferred, otherwise include a note as to what the format is.
3. Fax typed manuscripts to 415-339-1361.

Pictures and Graphics - E-mail JPEG files to click@dipsymusic.com or mail CDs or hard copy to Larry Clinton, 29 Gate 6-1/2, Sausalito, CA 94965.

Marin Scuba Club
PO Box 3408
San Rafael, CA 94912



Next Meeting

Wed., Feb. 18

Program:

Brian Huse,
Executive Director of CORAL
State of the World's Coral Reefs

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

Seafood Peddler,
100 Yacht Club Dr.
San Rafael
(Look for tall boat sign
off East Francisco)

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

Marin Scuba Club

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