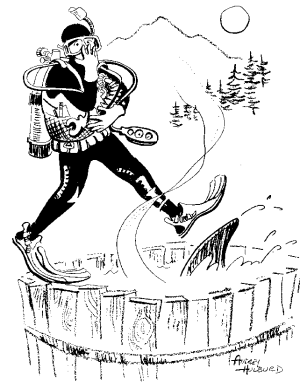


MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Number 1 January, 2009



Upcoming Dive Trips: Mendocino and Catalina

The Spring Dive & Dine is set for June 11-14 at Mendocino's beautiful Van Damme State Park. Two campsite have been reserved for Thursday the 11th, with four more for the rest of the weekend. There will be low tides at mid-morning each day of the weekend. This is the major campout of the year, with the club supplying drinks and breakfast each morning, and our traditional abalone potluck Saturday night. So put it on your calendar now and look for a signup sheet in a future issue of this newsletter.

On October 18-21, we'll be staying at the Banning House, at the Isthmus of Catalina in the Southern Channel Islands.



Divers will enjoy three days of 2-tank diving on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Extra diving in the afternoon will be arranged for those interested. There are plenty of activities, excursions and amenities for non-divers, as well.

The Banning House Lodge is a Craftsman -style bed and breakfast with sweeping views of the Isthmus of Catalina and Catalina Harbor from its hilltop perch above Two Harbors.

Each of the eleven rooms is individually decorated and has a private bath. Some rooms accommodate up to four people, and we have reserved the entire facility.

We'll fly down Sunday morning and take a ferry to Catalina (26 miles across the sea – remember?). Or, you can drive down and meet the ferry. Price is projected at \$700-\$800 per

Bush Pardons Coral Reefs

In his eleventh hour as a lame duck president, George W. Bush "pardoned" parts of three remote and uninhabited Pacific island chains. The three areas — totaling some 195,274 square miles — include the Mariana Trench and the waters and corals surrounding three uninhabited islands in the Northern Mariana Islands, Rose Atoll in American Samoa and seven islands strung along the equator in the central Pacific Ocean. They're being set aside as national monuments to protect them from oil and gas extraction and commercial fishing in what will be the largest marine conservation effort in history.

Recreational fishing, tourism and scientific research with a federal permit could still occur inside the three areas. The designations will also not conflict with U.S. military activities or freedom of navigation, White House officials said. At the same time, however, Bush also lifted a moratorium on oil and gas drilling off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

This Big Spin is No Lottery

A giant eddy off Cape Mendocino evolved near the end of 2008. Using a radar station at Point Arena and a newly built station at Shelter Cove, scientists were able to determine the direction and speed of the massive swirl of water.

The eddy currently appears to be seasonal. It's about 110 miles in diameter and swirls at up to 1.5 miles per hour. Greg Crawford, chairman of Humboldt State University's Oceanography Department, told the *Eureka Times-Standard* that the eddy may interfere with how nutrients and marine species are moved to more southern waters. That could affect how marine protected areas are set up along the coast, as called for in 1999 legislation.

The radar system now installed up and down the West Coast could be used to route ships around -- or take advantage of -- an eddy, making ocean travel more efficient, Crawford said. It may also help determine how oil spills or pollutants travel along the coast, improving response to disasters, and may also help the Coast Guard find boats in trouble, or survivors (like really unlucky ab divers?) drifting on the open ocean.

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The Climate Crisis and the Oceans

Peter G. Joseph, M.D. is an emergency physician trained by Vice President Al Gore to help educate the public about global warming. He is also an active scuba diver. On January 21, he will review the latest scientific data on the impacts of global warming on the atmosphere, oceans and living systems and what we need to do immediately to avoid calamity. His talk will be illustrated with recent images from Sulawesi and Lembah Strait in Indonesia.

Whale of a Show

Back in November, Santa Cruz artist Bryant Austin shared his high resolution whale images and his passion to educate and inspire nations that continue to hunt or bring harm to these endangered creatures. Bryant, who has twice sold all his belongings to fund his the efforts of his non-profit organization Marine Mammal Conservation Through the Arts, offers limited edition prints of some of his incredible black and white images. Check them out at www.studiocosmos.com

Mussel Quarantine

It's a common misconception that we should avoid eating mussels in any month spelled without an "r." In fact, the annual quarantine in California typically goes into effect from May 1 through Oct. 31 every year, according to the Department of Fish and Game. For the most current information on this, call the Dept. of Public Health's Biotoxin Information Hotline at (800) 553-4133. A recording is available 24/7 with the most current updates on quarantines and health warnings regarding any California shellfish which may be of concern. This item comes from a question and answer column at www.dfg.ca.gov/QandA.

San Rafael Dive Shop Changes Hands Again

As of December 1st, Marin Dive Center officially became Marin Bamboo Reef. Bamboo Reef also has locations in San Francisco and Sonoma. According to the website (www.bambooreef.com), the SSI facilities offer guided boat dives in Monterey limited to just four divers, and Sonoma Coast fun dives nearly every weekend. The chain also has upcoming trips to Manado and Sulawesi in Indonesia this April, and Cebu, Philippines in July.

Join Us for Happy Hour

From 4:00 to 7:00, the Seafood Peddler offers live jazz plus special pricing on house wines and beers as well as well drinks and selected appetizers such as clams, oysters, jumbo prawns, chowder and bisque. So plan to come a little early to socialize before we move into our meeting room at 7:00.

Catalina Trip

person including air fare, accommodations and breakfasts, the ferry to Catalina and diving on the West End Dive Center boat. A \$150 deposit will be required to hold each spot.

For more information, come to the January 21 meeting or contact Nathan Cobert at ncobert@earthlink.net.

That's Gotta Hurt

According to Australian news sources, a neophyte spearfisherman speared his own groin in a freak accident on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Greg Robertson had been enjoying a day at the beach with his girlfriend when he got into surf near some rocks and was pushed onto the speargun, which had been washed out of his hands by a wave.



The two metre long spear pierced his inside upper thigh, just millimetres from his genitals and femoral artery, and several centimetres under the skin.

Friends and his finance unscrewed the spear from the gun, but it remained lodged in place and sticking out from his body as paramedics gave pain relief and packed around the wound.

Bystanders reported, "The girlfriend was holding him and we were all quite anxious because he was walking around the rocks and slipping and sliding with this spear hanging out and we're yelling out, 'Stop, don't move, the ambulance is coming'."

Robertson was evacuated by helicopter to a nearby hospital where the spear was surgically removed. He is expected to make a full recovery. But before you ask . . . no, he didn't bag any fish.

Seeing the Holidays In

There was magic in the air at the annual holiday potluck party December 13 at Sharon and Mike Royce's beautifully decorated home. We had a great turnout with lots of good fellowship and good cheer shared by one and all.

Next winter, the Royces will take a well-deserved break from hosting this annual event, so we're looking for another locale. If you're interested/willing/persuadable, please contact Jane Clinton at 415-332-6196.

Got E-Mail?

Have you been receiving e-mail notices from the Club? If not, and you'd like to get them, please forward your name and correct e-mail address to ncobert@earthlink.net.

And don't forget, this newsletter is available by e-mail as well. Let Nathan know if you'd like to get it sooner, greener, and with color illustrations by going digital.

BOTTOM TIMES

Jan. 21 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Peter Joseph: Sulawesi Images and Climate Crisis in the Marine World. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

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

Feb. 14 (Sat.): *Cypress Sea Valentine's Day dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

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. 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, Images from Fak-Fak (Western New Guinea) and other destinations. 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).

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., Jan. 21

Program:

**Peter Joseph: Sulawesi Images
and
Climate Crisis
in the Marine World**

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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