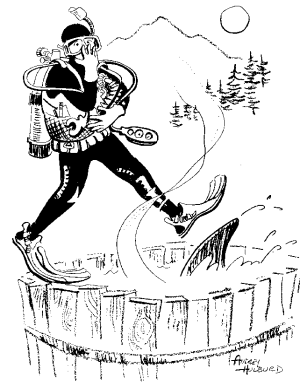


MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 Number 7

July, 2009



Carbon Dioxide May Soon Make Coral Reefs Extinct

Scientists are warning that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is already above the level which condemns coral reefs to extinction, with catastrophic effects for the oceans and the people who depend upon them. Reporting on a meeting organized by the Zoological Society of London and International Programme on the State of the Ocean, the Guardian stated that coral reefs support a quarter of all marine life, including more than 4,000 species of fish. They also provide spawning, nursery, refuge and feeding areas for creatures such as lobsters, crabs, starfish and sea turtles.



Ken Howard logged some face time with this whale shark.

Global warming means warmer seas, which causes the corals to bleach and lose the symbiotic algae they need to survive. Carbon dioxide also makes seas more acidic, which means the corals find it difficult to prevent their exoskeletons from dissolving.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen from 280ppm before the industrial revolution to around 387ppm today. Some pessimistic scientists say that the world is heading for 550ppm or even 650ppm. "We've already passed a safe threshold for coral reef ecosystems in terms of climate change; we believe that a safe level for CO₂ is below 350 parts per million," said one scientist. "When we get up to and above 450ppm, that really means we're into the realms of catastrophic destruction of coral reefs and we'll be moving into a planetary-wide global extinction. The only way to get to 350ppm or below is not only to have major cuts in CO₂ emissions but also to draw CO₂ out of the atmosphere through measures such as geo-engineering."

Top Photographers Back to Back

From the "dive bombing" Steller sea lions of British Columbia to the laid-back whale sharks of Mexico's Holbox Island, photographer Ken Howard had quite a year since he last presented to the club. Happily, he shared that year's worth of adventures with us at the June meeting. You can see the photos and read Ken's comments about these and other great photo ops at <http://seaimages.org/log/>.

In the audience for Ken's presentation was world-renowned photographer Amos Nachoum, who promised us a presentation on his latest big animal adventures at the August 19 meeting.

In the meantime, our own Gordon Robinson will be showing images of the sharks and deep reefs of the Bahamas on July 15. We hope you'll join us for both of these incredible shows.

Van Damme Fine Time

Two dozen members and guests enjoyed great weather and flat seas for June Dive & Dine at Van Damme State Park in Mendocino. Several people got away Thursday and enjoyed blue skies and warm temperatures. The rest of the weekend was overcast, but warm with light breezes and no overnight dew.

Abs were scarce for shore divers, but just about everyone got their limits and we had another amazing feast under the stars around the blazing campfire. In fact, the campfire blazed a bit too high, and we were warned by the camp host to knock it down. A lesson well learned for future campouts.

Thanks to Elliott Zalta and Karla Jacobs for putting together a short presentation of Elliott's photos of the weekend, which was shown at the June meeting.

The Club has reserved four campsites on the sunny Van Damme meadow for an informal abalone campout on September 10-13. Since that weekend is not an official club event, everyone will have to provide their own food, drinks and equipment.

More Amazing Videos

Here are links to four more amazing aquatic videos. Readers who receive this newsletter by e-mail can just copy and paste these links into their internet browsers. Another good reason to switch to e-mail, if you haven't already.

Check out a killer whale playing with a dog on a boat at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiF24fdvYDs&NR=1.

Then, enjoy a four-and-half minute clip showing Pacific humpback whales playing with divers, even attempting to make contact with them, in Tonga. It's at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ra1gUVZs6zM>.

Watch an unusual Marine Mammal Center rescue of a sea lion spotted by Oakland Police along the 880 Freeway. The animal climbed into the squad car, then did its best to avoid capture. Check www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/06/23/BAOV18BGCH.DTL

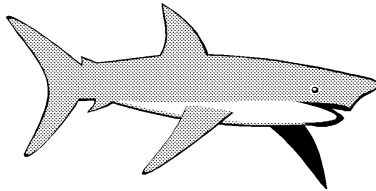
And, finally, Dyane Mohr sent along the link to a video of British freediver Sara Campbell in an undersea ballet promoting an ocean cleanup project in the Red Sea: www.theunderwaterchannel.tv/face/sara-campbell.

If you discover other websites you'd like to share, please send them along.

Stop Shark Finning in Palau

(Excerpted from *Undercurrent*)

Diving the famed Blue Corner won't be the same if Palau's politicians approve Senate Bill SB8-44 to permit commercial fishing for sharks and shark finning. A follow-up punch is SB8-50, which would encourage commercial fisheries in Palau's waters by granting them a five-year tax exemption. This would gut the 2004 legislation that banned shark fishing by foreign fisheries, one of the most ironclad laws in the Asia-Pacific area.



To stop this nonsense, sign the petition sponsored by SharkSavers.org to keep the bills from becoming law: www.sharksavers.org/get-involved/sign-these-petitions/542-petition-to-palau-stop-senate-bill-8-44-on-shark-fishing.html.

Catalina Calling

We have 16 club members, spouses and guests signed up for our October 18-21 trip to the Isthmus of Catalina. With four more signups, we'll have the Banning House Resort to ourselves; otherwise, we'll open the reservations to local dive shops and scuba clubs, which will help us keep the cost down for everyone.



As detailed in the accompanying flyer, the full package price for this trip is projected at \$700-\$800 per person including air fare, ferry, accommodations, breakfasts and three days of two-tank diving. Non-divers will pay less. Also, you can save the cost of airfare by driving down to meet the ferry or making your own

flight arrangements using frequent flyer miles. Room rates vary, too, so you can pick a room to fit your budget.

To make a reservation, bring a check for \$150 to the July 15 meeting, or mail it to the address on the flyer. Once we get 20 reservations, we'll begin arranging for a flight to meet the morning ferry, room reservations, and other details. Final payment will be due by the September 16 meeting.

Watermen's Alliance Stages Santa Barbara Social

Our Santa Barbara "stringer," John Kushwara, sends along word of an evening event at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum on Thursday, July 16. The event features educational programs, a film festival, and guest speakers (including John himself and other luminaries such as world renowned freediver Dr. Terry Maas). Admission is free, and there'll also be a silent auction for dive gear, excursions, books and more.

Membership Roster Updated

by Larry Clinton

Thanks to everyone who forwarded corrections and updates to the membership roster that was included in last month's newsletter. Please replace that version with the new roster herewith.

I hope you find this membership perk as helpful as I do for networking, lining up dive buddies, and making social connections. The roster will be available to any prospects joining the club within the next couple of months, and updated as needed.

BOTTOM TIMES

July 15 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Gordon Robinson: Sharks and Deep Reefs of the Bahamas. Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

July 16 (Thurs.): *Watermen's Alliance Santa Barbara Social*, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 7 PM - 10 PM. For information e-mail jmkush@mindspring.com.

Aug. 5 (Wed.): *Newsletter deadline*. See below.

August 8 (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

August 19 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Amos Nachoum, Big Animal Adventures. Call Jeffrey (415-898-7752).

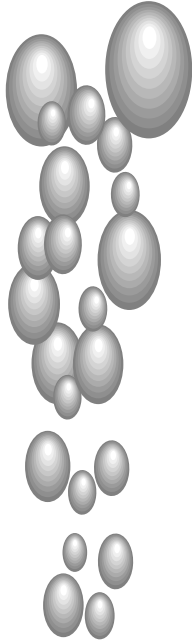
Sept. 10-13 (Thurs.-Sun.): *Abalone campout*, Van Damme State Park, Mendocino. Call Jane (415-332-6196).

Sept. 16 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. . Call Jeffrey (415- 898-7752).

October 10 (Sat.): *Cypress Sea boat dive* (3 Dives), Monterey. Call Pierre at SF Reef Divers (415-285-6293).

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

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



We Need Your Help!

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
78 Edward Ave.
San Rafael, CA 94903



Next Meeting

Wed., July 15

Program:

**Gordon Robinson
Sharks and Deep Reefs
of the Bahamas**

Happy Hour 6:00-7:00

Socializing: 7:00

Meeting: 7:30-9:15

New location:

**The Flatiron, 724 B St,
San Rafael**

**MARIN SCUBA
CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

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

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