

MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Best Dive & Dine Ever?

By Larry Clinton

The weekend of June 10-13 was blessed with perfect weather, calm seas, and early morning minus tides – all the conditions needed for a great Dive & Dine weekend.

Happy campers began arriving at the Russian Gulch group campsite on Friday, and the divers were ready to go early Saturday morning. Visibility in Russian Gulch cove was at least 20 feet, and we saw legal abs on almost every dive – frequently from the surface.

Saturday night's dinner included new abalone recipes from Barbara Wambach and Scott Sebring, plus old favorites from Nathan Cobert and myself, as well as a great variety of other dishes.

Sunday morning dawned windless and dry, and the divers who went out that day bagged their limits while enjoying THIRTY-foot vis.

There were only two clouds over the weekend. One was the temporary disappearance of Virginia Bria's dog Sage on Saturday afternoon in downtown Mendocino. After Virginia organized frantic search parties, posted flyers, and contacted authorities, Sage turned up Sunday afternoon in the care of a local family.

Malia Dailey spotted what appeared to be a group of poachers coming ashore at Russian Gulch, and Garry Sebring was able to alert the rangers in time for them to intervene. With the increased poaching pressure on the abalone population, as mentioned in the adjacent story, we need to remain even more



Scott mans the sauté pan as Mom and Dad stand by.

Photo by Gabrielle Moore-Gordon

Ab Poaching Enforcement Beefed Up

California game wardens are waging an abalone anti-poaching effort with the aid of prosecutors from Sonoma and Mendocino counties. Poaching, in combination with a significant increase of lawful abalone harvest in both counties, is placing more pressure on the resource than ever, according to the Dept. of Fish & Game.

The abalone report card has helped wardens crack down on “double tripping,” (harvesting a legal limit of abalone, off-loading them on land and then making another trip on the same day to harvest more). Report cards also helped biologists identify a sharp increase in the lawful harvest in the last two years. At Fort Ross and Fort Ross Reef, approximately 50,000 and 60,000 abs were taken in each of the last two years — double the amount harvested in those areas just a few years ago. Just under 16,000 were legally taken in Van Damme

State Park. These numbers are also approximately double the harvest of only a few years ago.

On May 16, at a Sonoma checkpoint, wardens checked 520 vehicles with occupants who had harvested abalone. Most had at least three abalone harvesters, and limits of abalone for everyone in the vehicle. Wardens issued 57 citations to violators and seized 84 abalone. The most common violations noted were possession of overlimits, retention of undersized abalone, failure to properly tag abs and altering a report card. A June abalone checkpoint in Mendocino County of 215 vehicles resulted in 41 citations, 56 warnings and 85 seized abalone due to similar violations.

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vigilant to protect our valuable resource.

Let's all cross our fingers for similar conditions on September 10-12, when we hold our fall abalone campout at Van Damme State Park.

Top 10 Ways Bill Gates Would Change Diving

Here's the last in our series of diving top 10 lists from the Bay Area Divers SCUBA club of Clear Lake Houston, Texas. This is how diving would be if Bill Gates were in charge:

- 10) You would have had to stop diving on January 1, 2000.
- 9) You could never remove that darn Internet Explorer icon from your dive computer.
- 8) This year's new equipment models would eventually be released two years from now.
- 7) None of your new gear would be compatible with any of your old stuff.
- 6) Bill would get all the good gear from other manufacturers, release it 10 years later under another name and call it "revolutionary."
- 5) When you called Microsoft to schedule a dive trip, you would be left on hold for a long time, and when you finally talked to someone you would be given a lot of information on diving that was absolutely correct but completely useless.
- 4) Every dive computer would be from Microsoft and any deaths from them would be explained as a "beta version" problem: Don't worry we'll fix that in the next release.
- 3) Every time you were really close to your destination, your boat would crash.
- 2) Your air supply would stop and have to be restarted every couple of minutes and you would accept this as normal.
- 1) Dealers would be required to bundle a parachute with every scuba package so Bill could eventually dominate the sky diving market (a natural tie-in).

Two for One

Retired marine biologist and fine-art photographer Art Haseltine gave a dramatic presentation at our June meeting. First he showed stunning black and white marine-life portraits, and then a series of aerial shots snapped remotely by a radio-controlled camera suspended from a kite as high as 250 feet up.

Check out his work at www.fotosea.com.

Abalone poaching fines regularly range into the thousands of dollars, with potential forfeiture of dive gear and, for the worst offenders, jail time. Despite this deterrence, the number of repeat offenders remains startling. On May 21, one miscreant was convicted of poaching for commercial sale while on probation for the same offense, and was sentenced to three years in state prison as well as a \$20,000 fine. An accomplice got 270 days in county jail, three years supervised probation and a \$20,000 fine. Another co-conspirator was sentenced to 180 days in jail, probation, plus a \$20,000 fine. All three are prohibited from fishing in California for the rest of their lives.

To best assist DFG, report poaching crimes to DFG's CalTIP line at 1-888-334-2258. And don't forget to turn in your report card on time. The current return rate is less than half. Failure to turn in the abalone report card can result in a citation. DF&G says data from the cards remains critical to properly manage the resource.



Holly at a Dive & Dine a few years ago.

Remembering Holly

Holly Callahan, a long time Marin Scuba Club member, passed away peacefully at her home in late May. Holly will be remembered for participating in early club trips, organizing a rafting expedition on the Tuolumne River, and bringing bodacious brownies to Club parties.

Fittingly, her memorial service was held on the weekend of last month's Dive & Dine.

Divers Swap Meet 7/25

On Sunday, July 25th, the Santa Rosa Pinnacles Dive Center will hold a Parking Lot Swap meet from noon-4 PM. A limited number of booth spaces are available for \$15-\$20, or the store will sell your gear for you on consignment.

If there's enough interest, perhaps the Club will be able to reserve a booth for participating members. Or, shoppers can go just for the savings. For more details and to reserve, call (707) 542-3100 or go to www.PinnaclesDive.com.

BOTTOM TIMES



July 21 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Leslie Moyer, Atlantic Garbage Patch. \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Call Jeffrey (707-861-9077).

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

Aug. 6-8 (Fri.-Sun.): *California Beach and Boat Dive Photo/Video Competition*, Monterey. Info at www.ncups.org/beach.html.

August 18 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Photojournalist Ethan Daniels, Diving Tulum and Holbox (whale sharks). \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Call Jeffrey (707-861-9077).

Sept. 10-12 (Fri.-Sun.): *Fall Ab Campout*, Van Damme St. Park. Call Jane (415-332-6196).

Sept. 15 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Larry Clinton reading from "There's a Cockroach in My Regulator." \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Call Jeffrey (707-861-9077).

Sept. 25 (Sat.): *Coastal Cleanup Day.* Go to <http://www.healthebay.org/volunteer/ccd/> for information or to volunteer.

Oct. 20 (Wed.): Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Jenny Collister, Reef & Rainforest, Divers Bucket List. \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Call Jeffrey (707-861-9077).

We Need Your Help!

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

Website: E-mail photos with a caption and/or article and photo credits to John Brenneis (webmeister@marinscuba.org).

Newsletter: Deadline is usually the first Wednesday of the month - two weeks before each 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 or typed manuscript to the address below. MS Word - PC format is preferred, otherwise include a note as to what the format is.

Pictures and Graphics - E-mail JPEG files to click@dipsymusic.com or mail CDs, photos 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 21

Program:
Leslie Moyer
Atlantic Garbage
Patch

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

The Flatiron (upstairs)
724 B St, San Rafael

MARIN SCUBA CLUB
NEWSLETTER

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

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