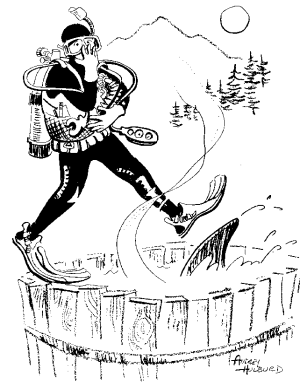


# MARIN SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 Number 6

June, 2010



## **Best Boat Ride Yet**

by Jeffrey Zankel

Revillagigedos, try saying that three times fast. That's why folks just call it Socorro, the name of one of the four islands. Not that it matters. Once you've motored out 24 hours from Cabo San Lucas into the Pacific swell you might as well be on any of the little volcanic land spits that, like the Galapagos and Cocos, occasionally stick their heads up in the middle of the ocean. However, for the sake of naming it, you've arrived at the island of San Benedicto.

You've had the privilege of getting there on one of the best liveabords a diver could ever want, the Solmar V. The Solmar is 120 feet of natively maintained ship. Her 8 man crew keeps her green exterior paint shiny and her hardwood interior polished. They also go out of their way to keep the divers happy and especially well fed. She was originally a luxury offshore gambling ship and one can still imagine high stakes poker being played on her polished tables where the crew's 10 card rummy now holds the day.

A quick plunge off the big stern platform and you're in for a taste of the next five dives. You can already see the shapes of the mantas in the distance. Next day it's giant mantas for breakfast lunch and dinner. Apparently they are big on divers and are not shy about flying right through a team of divers who await them, then after a graceful turn coming back for two or three more flybys. These critters must be eating well here in San Benedicto as they range from 16 to 20 foot wingspans. Throw in the occasional shark or turtle and you're about ready for gourmet dinner. No night diving here, so eat, drink and enjoy.

The boat travels at night, about 7 hours to Roca Partida. I would say it is the smallest island and hardly worthy of that title, but really just a rock for bird poop to land on. Diving is from pangas so there is always a chase boat ready if you drift away. What it lacks on land it more than makes up for in the water with white tip sharks and schools of jacks. The occasional silky shark ambles by and if you buck the current you will find hammerheads. It was the first time I have ever been in the water with a bottlenose dolphin and to top it off a humpback mom showed up and hung out with her calf for the

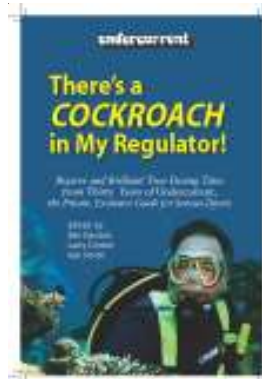
**continued on page 2**

## **There's a Cockroach in My Regulator!**

By Ben Davison

[Ed. Note: As a long time contributor to Undercurrent, it's been my pleasure to collaborate with publisher Ben Davison on a new book, the best of the true and unusual stories published over Undercurrent's 35-year history. Here's the title story.]

Over the years, I've reported on a couple of unusual problems with a scourge of dive resorts: the cockroach. In reviewing



a manifest of injuries to PADI instructors, I was taken by one that occurred in Jakarta, Indonesia, in March 1993. Seems that an instructor was lecturing his students about the importance of purging their second stages before taking a breath. So he purged his own regulator's second stage. But for some unexplained reason he then breathed from his Air 2 alternate air source . . . and sucked in a cockroach.

He couldn't exhale it, no matter how hard he tried. It took a physician at the local hospital to surgically remove it. Gross, is about all I can say.

The book will be available in dive shops shortly. Or, you can order an autographed copy directly at [www.undercurrent.org/secure/UCnow/BestUCBookOrder1.php](http://www.undercurrent.org/secure/UCnow/BestUCBookOrder1.php).

## **Above and Below the Sea**

Art Haseltine's June 16 presentation will be in two parts: black-and-white underwater photography, and kite aerial photography. As an underwater photographer, Art's subject matter (the marine-life portrait) is from the eye of a marine biologist; but his final product (the fine-art, b&w print) is from the imagination of an artist.

For aerial photography, Art suspends a digital camera below a kite which flies at an altitude of about 250 feet. The photographer is on the ground (or dive boat), and operates the camera by radio control for a birds-eye view.

afternoon. We were scheduled for one day there but by popular demand spent two. Nighttime we motored on to Socorro and bribed in with the Navy. Although these islands are a marine reserve, I noticed a fishing trawler waiting its turn to pay off the Commandante.

Hammerheads are available for viewing here as are leopard sharks which refused to reveal themselves to me. Then on to San Benedicto to bid goodbye to the mantas. The seas were big for the 26 hour return, but the Solmar handled them well.

Cabo San Lucas is the consummate party animal town so I skipped it. When I got to my friend's hotel in Todos Santos, her amiga told me she had been out on the Solmar seven times. I can understand why.

### **Top 10 Things You Tell Your Buddy**

Courtesy of the Bay Area Divers SCUBA club of Clear Lake, Houston, Texas, we present the top 10 things you should be sure to say to your dive buddy:

10. Yes ... I want you to tell me when I say the wrong thing in front of everyone and no one else catches it.
9. To avoid shark attacks: Dive with a briefcase. Shark may mistake you for an attorney and leave you alone out of professional courtesy.
8. Hiccups underwater? Hold your breath.
7. A dive computer will do all those calculations for you.
6. Don't worry what those gauges say...you'll KNOW when you're out of air!
5. Wear gloves on every dive. That way, when you're going hand-over-hand on the coral, you won't cut yourself.
4. Spit in your suit to get warm and pee in your mask to defog.
3. If you take Viagra it will increase your lift.
2. Always remember to empty your tank before surfacing. Waste not, want not.
1. If you have good eyes, you don't really need a mask.

### **Cool by the Pool**

Despite unseasonably chilly breezes, the Club's Spring Potluck Picnic on May 22 at Ken Smith and Lucia Christopher's home in San Rafael was a smash success. Elliott BBQ'd two turkeys and boneless ribs, and the buffet table was groaning with side dishes and desserts to share.

Over 40 members and guests turned out for this annual free event. Everyone pitched in to clean up as we went, and Ken and Lucia offered to host us again next year.

### **North Coast Dive Conditions Site**

Although ex-Club president John Kushwara has moved to Santa Barbara, he hasn't forgotten us NoCal divers, and has forwarded a website which provides lots of useful information: [www.tempbreak.com](http://www.tempbreak.com).

On the home page, there's a pull-down menu to select a region. Northern California encompasses the Mendocino coast, and Central California shows the Sonoma coast. Under that pull-down, there's another window which allows you to select satellite readings (SST) or chlorophyll levels by date and time. Color-coded chlorophyll levels relate to visibility, on a scale from blue (clearest) to green (7-12 feet) to orange/red (forget about it).



*Manta photo by Jeffrey Zankel*

Also, on the right of each page are fish icons which you can double click for links to more information on weather, tides, marine forecasts or phases of the moon.

John's Paradise Dive Club is looking for speakers. If any of you photographers are looking for a good excuse to visit Santa Barbara, contact John at [jmkush@mindspring.com](mailto:jmkush@mindspring.com) to make arrangements.

### **Protecting Sea Turtles**

Dr. Chris Pincetich of Marin's Sea Turtle Restoration Project told us in May that all 7 species of sea turtle are endangered, and outlined some of the efforts being made to protect these gentle creatures. One success story is the Kemp's ridley turtles which nest only off the Texas coast and in Mexico. In 2009, the Texas sea turtle nesting season broke all records with 197 documented nests. This was the sixth consecutive new record for nests in that area since record keeping efforts began on the Texas coast in the early 1980s.

Find out more, including how you can help, at [www.seaturtles.org](http://www.seaturtles.org).

### **2010 Membership Roster**

by Larry Clinton

Current member households will each find an updated membership roster included with this newsletter. This membership perk is an invaluable tool for networking, lining up dive buddies, and making social connections. The rosters will be available to any prospects who join the club within the next couple of months.

If you have any corrections, please e-mail them to me at [click@dipsymusic.com](mailto:click@dipsymusic.com).

# BOTTOM TIMES

**June 16 (Wed.):** Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Art Haseltine, underwater b&w and kite aerial photography. The cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Call Jeffrey (707-861-9077).

**July 7 (Wed.):** *Newsletter deadline*. See below.

**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).

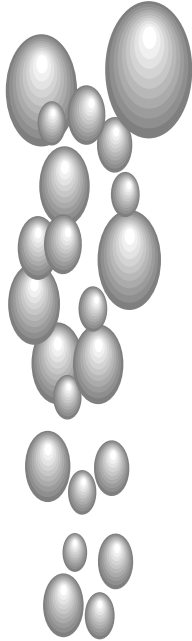
**Aug. 6-8 (Fri.-Sun.):** *California Beach and Boat Dive Photo/Video Competition*, Monterey. Info at [www.ncups.org/beach.html](http://www.ncups.org/beach.html).

**August 8-10 (Sun.-Tues.):** *Peace Liveaboard* to Southern Channel Islands. Individual berths available. Contact Pierre at [sfreefdiver@comcast.net](mailto:sfreefdiver@comcast.net).

**August 18 (Wed.):** Board Meeting, 6:00, *Club Meeting*, 7:30. Photojournalist Ethan Daniels, "Under Cape Cod Waters." \$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. 25 (Sat.):** *Coastal Cleanup Day*. Go to <http://www.healthebay.org/volunteer/ccd/> for information or to volunteer.



***We Need Your Help!***

**We need articles, recipes, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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., June 16**  
**Program:**  
**Art Haseltine**  
**Underwater b&w**  
**and kite aerial photography**

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

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

MARIN SCUBA  
CLUB

Newsletter

The Club meets the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
(except December)

---

**Marin Scuba Club**  
**Board of Directors**  
**[www.marinscuba.org](http://www.marinscuba.org)**

---

**President**

Nathan Cobert [ncobert@earthlink.net](mailto:ncobert@earthlink.net) (415) 479-1777

**Vice President**

Patrick Ritter [patrickritter@comcast.net](mailto:patrickritter@comcast.net) (415) 457-9921

**Treasurer**

Barbara Sebring [gandbsebring@msn.com](mailto:gandbsebring@msn.com) (415) 499-0799

**Secretary**

Arlene Rudy [arudy24@aol.com](mailto:arudy24@aol.com) (415) 927-1450

**Membership Coordinator**

Vacant

**Newsletter Editor/Publicity Coordinator**

Larry Clinton [click@dipsymusic.com](mailto:click@dipsymusic.com) (415) 332-6196

**Activities Coordinator**

Jane Clinton [jkclinton@comcast.net](mailto:jkclinton@comcast.net) (415) 332-6196

**Program Coordinator**

Jeffrey Zankel [divedog@verizon.net](mailto:divedog@verizon.net) (707) 861-9077

**Webmaster**

John Brenneis [webmeister@marinscuba.org](mailto:webmeister@marinscuba.org) (415) 407-3161

**Immediate Past President**

Elliott Zalta [driftinez@comcast.net](mailto:driftinez@comcast.net) (415) 461-6644

---