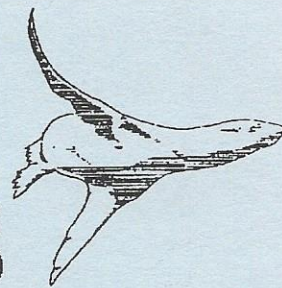


THE SEA DIVERS



IN AFFILIATION WITH AMERICAN DIVING

FROM THE EXECUTIVE FUTURES....

As a now fairly longtime member and Executive of the club I am significantly encouraged to see quite a few relatively new members actively supporting our activities, especially the dive boat charters. New blood is always good for any organization and typically bodes well for the future. Our challenge is to fully embody the new members with the long time members and to encourage those willing to become future club executives. The club is much stronger today than just two or three years ago when we almost foundered but some of us could use some "fresh" help!! So, if there's a willing relatively recent new member ready to help mold the club into the next millennium please contact myself or any other Exec. and we can talk!! Also we still need help for the 6th King Harbor Underwater CleanUp scheduled for 19 October this year.

A.P



SEPTEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

GUS VARGAS - DIVING REVILLAGIGEDOS ISLANDS

For our September entertainment, Gus Vargas, long time Sea Diver and avid diver will do a presentation on his experiences in diving the Revillagigedos Islands off Baja Mexico. His presentation will include a short discussion on techniques he has used to interact with the Giant Manta Rays which are indigenous to the area. These methods may amuse and/or entertain the audience but Gus is living proof that they work!! In addition, he will be showing a 25 minute video taken during his trip to the islands in January 1997.

The next General Meeting is at Round Table Pizza on Tuesday 2 September 1997 starting at 7:00 PM.



**6th Annual
Redondo Beach
King Harbor
Underwater
CleanUp
Oct. 19, 1997**

Volunteers are needed to support this year's King Harbor Underwater CleanUp. For just a few hours of your time you'll receive a free commemorative Wyland T-shirt of the event, a BBQ lunch, chance at door prizes and the personal satisfaction of helping your club and community. Call Allen Parker at (310) 813-2955 if you're interested

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DAY PHONE</u>	<u>EVENING PHONE</u>	<u>FAX</u>
PRESIDENT	ALLEN PARKER	813-2955	N/A	814-5067
VICE PRESIDENT	KATHY DACEY	814-6131	540-1044	812-9976
SECRETARY	MICHAEL BORDEN	814-4055	984-9145	814-5067
TREASURER	(OPEN)			
DIVING OFFICER	JOHN MOWREY	809-4411, X2453	370-1724	809-3568
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	CAROLYN ROUTLEDGE	813-5047	372-8376	813-8596
BOAT DIVE CHAIR	JOHN TADLOCK	N/A	714-645-1195	N/A
BEACH DIVE CHAIR	BILL GARRETT	813-2862	530-2944	N/A
BOAT DIVE RESERVATIONIST	KATHY KALOHI	N/A	719-1816	N/A
PROGRAM CHAIR	(OPEN)			
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	KATHY DACEY	814-6131	540-1044	812-9976
HOSPITALITY CHAIR	KATHLEEN BENNETT	648-7036	714-645-1195	N/A
GLACD REPRESENTATIVE	PHIL BERGERON	813-0511	379-0972	N/A

WRITING FOR THE SEA DIVERS NEWSLETTER

If you would like to write an article for the newsletter or you have an idea to improve it, please write to Editor Kathy Dacey, c/o The Sea Divers, P.O. Box 2415, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, or call me at the above numbers. I am always in need of Lessons Learned articles and new graphics or cartoons. Inputs should be typed, but can be handwritten (not responsible for errors caused by illegible handwriting). Inputs may also be given to me via floppy media in any of the major word processing program formats or e-mailed to me at kathy.dacey@trw.com. Permission is given to reproduce in whole or in part. Please credit the author and/or The Sea Divers Newsletter.

GENERAL MEETING

Held at 7:00 PM the first Tuesday of every month. A no-host social half-hour precedes the meeting from 6:30 to 7:00 PM and a feature presentation follows the business portion of the meeting. The meetings are held at Round Table Pizza, 4330 Redondo Beach Blvd., (one block east of Hawthorne Blvd. in Ralphs/Savon Center) Torrance, California (310) 371-8009.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Held at 7:00 PM on Thursday the week following the General Meeting at Roberto Al Mare (formerly Nelson's Landing) at King Harbor (at the corner of Harbor and Beryl), across from the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____
HOME PHONE (____) _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____
ADDITIONAL NAME (FAMILY MEMBERSHIP) _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE (____) _____
EMPLOYER _____
CERT NUMBER _____ TYPE [PADI, NAUI, ETC.] _____
CERT DATE _____ LACC ADP _____ DATE _____
(or equivalent)
NUMBER OF DIVES LOGGED _____ DATE OF LAST DIVE _____

Do you want your name on a dive buddy list? [] YES [] NO

Type of diving preferred: beach/boat/skin _____

[] SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$24.00 (to 6/30/98)

[] FAMILY MEMBERSHIP* \$36.00 (to 6/30/98)

*(single household)

(Annual dues 1 July - 30 June are \$24 single/\$36 family and are prorated quarterly for new members)

Please make your checks payable to THE SEA DIVERS and mail to:

THE SEA DIVERS, P.O. BOX 2415, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278

SAN MIGUEL PINNACLES AND PEACE

12/13 SEPT 1997 (FRI/SAT)

RICHARDSON'S/WILSON ROCKS

PEACE

Members \$180

(Includes everything!)

Boarding: 7:00 PM (9/11)

Non-Members \$195

Departure: 1:00 AM (9/12)

The planned itinerary for this September two-day will take us out to San Miguel Island -- as always, weather permitting. Our first dive spot will be on the east side of Santa Rosa Island in a good scallop area.. We will loop around either the north or south side of Santa Rosa depending on ocean conditions picking off one dives either on the northwest tip (fish and scallops) or the southwest tip (fish).

We then plan to cross the San Miguel Passage onto the south side of San Miguel diving Crook Point, Wychoff Ledge, and Tyler Bight. We will then circle back around the east side of the island for one or more dives before overnighiting.

Weather permitting we would hope to tackle Richardson's and/or Wilson Rock, failing that, we will probably dive the lee side of Prince Island. Then we'll begin the run back to the mainland stopping for dives along the north side of Santa Rosa, possibly at Talcott Shoal.

This two-day will provide excellent opportunities for game (fish, scallops) and all kinds of photogenic sea life. Overall there will be dives for all skill levels -- although, the major pinnacles are considered to be for strong intermediate to advanced divers in all but near perfect conditions.

The *Peace* is a great boat just to be on -- diving or not!! We have a minimum of half the boat and this has filled very early. Call Kathy (Kalohe) at (310) 719-1816 for bunk assignment as you pay in full and to get on the wait list!! Other spots may be available depending on the other half boat sign-ups. DON'T WAIT!! Don't forget the hot tub -- nice!!

JUST FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...

Our President was Bonnie Chettle, Vice President Bob Revius, Treasurer Cathy Mueller and Secretary David Serena. The boat dives were to Santa Barbara Island and Farnsworth Banks, both on the infamous *Wild Wave*, at \$39 and \$32 respectively (non-inclusive). The beach dives were at Plaskett Creek - a campout four day affair 60 miles past San Simeon - and a night dive at Malaga Cove. General Meetings were at Lococo's and the Exec at Bonnie's house. The transfer of a Sea Otter colony to San Nicolas was the hot topic of the month. A second topic was "divers failing to return to the boat in a timely fashion", something we may have to address once more! Gabby Gastropod, the club snitch was in full force, catching several members in embarrassing situations both personally and diving!!

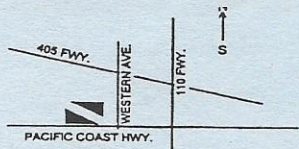
SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE ON SEPTEMBER PEACE TRIP...

As of this writing, we were still able to add Sea Divers on the *Peace* 12/13 September two-day due to the lower than anticipated bookings on the "other" side.

DIVE BOAT NEWS

Same Boats, modified destinations...

We have rolled over our dates with both the *Great Escape* and the *Peace* for 1998. The 1998 schedule will be published in the November (pre-King Harbor CleanUp) newsletter which will be distributed about October 15th. Destinations have been modified to fold in some of our members desires. We've had a great year so far and hope 1998 is just as good - of better!



AMERICAN DIVING is a full service scuba diving facility. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff has been committed to excellence in customer service for more than 30 years. Our education department offers quality diving courses sponsored by NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors), an internationally recognized diver training organization. Our instructors offer courses at all levels from Openwater I through Assistant Instructor, plus a variety of Specialty Courses are available either at a group rate or by private instruction. We also offer local and international dive travel and can assist you in planning your adventures from day trips to the local islands to your wildest diving fantasy

TWO IN A ROW TO BEGG ROCK

As we did in 1996 we made Begg Rock on both days of our July two-day, same boat different name, *Great Escape* was *Charisma*!

We arrived on calm water about 6:30 AM on Friday. Skies were overcast with the June Gloom in July. Once anchored on the shoulder, it was apparent that a noticeable current was with us. The crew rigged a current line from the gate to the anchor line - a great help in reducing surface effort and resultant fatigue. Most of The Sea Diver contingent made the dive onto the always spectacular pinnacle. By the end of the dive the current was dropping somewhat, allowing a less experienced family contingent from Arizona to make the second dive at the same spot. Visibility was 40 or so feet, water temperature a surprising 63° - 64°F and of course depths to 200 feet!! Scallops galore with huge ones at 100 feet give or take, but a surprisingly large number of medium to large scallops at 50-70 feet. One never ceases to be amazed at the amount of growth on this particular pinnacle. World Class Period!!

We moved into San Nicolas Island and onto The Boilers. Again it was calm with only a slight surge, untypical for this spot. Depths to 50 feet with the reef structure starting 30 feet from the surface. Fish take was fairly good, in 64°F water and 30-40 feet visibility. The next three dives moved successively east including a wreck on dive five. Conditions were much the same as dive three at the Boilers. Dive six was in Dutch Harbor our overnight spot. Diving the early evening one of our two skin divers, Joe K. speared a 33 lb. white sea bass - nice take, just big enough (or small enough) for Joe to handle.

At 5:20 AM on Saturday, engines rumbled and back to Begg we went. The ocean was glassy even calmer than the first day. The current was still with us although manageable for most divers. A second day limit of scallops for most. We left Begg after a single dive and headed for the North end of San Nicolas, picking off two dive spots in 40 to 60 feet of water. Temperature was 64°F and visibility not bad at 30-40 feet. Basic nice, but not spectacular diving.

On both days the overcast hung in until early afternoon, on the second day most cleared as we passed Santa Barbara Island. Still calm!! Other than great diving, especially at Begg several shark sightings were made including a 10 - 12 foot thresher - CLOSE!!! Dave G. also spied a 4 - 5 foot sea turtle and if I remember correctly John D. saw a large Pacific Grouper. One other strange sighting was hundreds of small birds (Comerents) congregated and floating in one spot near The Boilers. We made the 22nd Landing dock at close to 7:30 PM after another Great Escape to Begg Rock et al. The crew did it's usual outstanding job, as did owners Tim B. and Roy K. - this is a great boat, if you haven't tried it, you should!!

A FEW ESCAPE QUOTES...

"You should pamper him 'cuz she won't..."

"...he prefers Depends."

"Great. My primary computer's dead."

"Styling, just styling."

"Dropped my limit of scallops, read 109 feet but was at 40 feet!"

"He must have 4,000 cubic feet of air with that rig."

"Is your watch wrapped around your beer because it's almost out of date?"

"It's oozing on you."

"The ice supply is perilously low."

"Standard process. If you can't find big ones, shoot small ones."

"Peter you should wear the purple on the outside and come out of the closet."

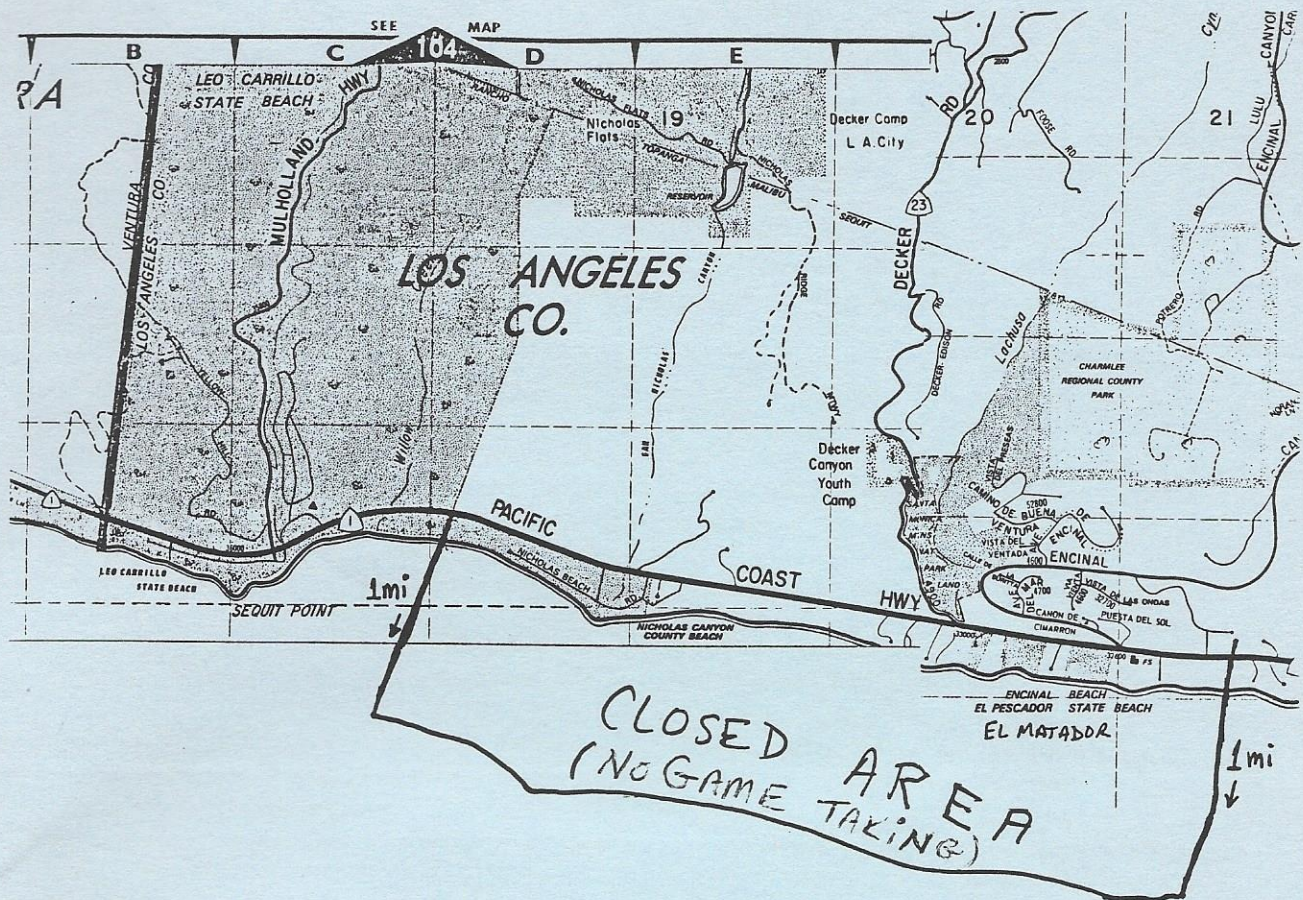
"A belly shot."

"The shark in this story get's bigger every minute."

"If I did that, I'd be fried."

"What the hell do people do with all that Sheephead?"

"The filet boards great but you need more - too many scallops!"



CONSERVATION & LEGISLATION

Lucky Brown

The California legislature is going to adjourn by month's end with many bills in final stages of committee review. Such is the case with the proposed Malibu Refuge legislation. Both versions of the bill are in their opposing branch Appropriations Committees. These committees look to see if proposed legislation has any fiscal impact upon the state, and if so, how much. The refuge bill will most likely have little effect on the state's coffers,

but will probably draw from grants and other monies made available from foundations.

According to informed reports, little opposition has been received from any quarter, with the commercial sector being unusually quiet. The only major force opposed is the Department of Fish & Game. They don't feel a reserve in this area is warranted and if approved, funds are not available for studies or enforcement. Senator Hayden inserted an amendment stating that until the City of Malibu comes up with funds, the refuge won't go into effect. After leaving Appropriations both bills, AB374 and SB1006, will go to the floor for passage then to the Governor's desk for signature. It is expected they will complete this process and be out by month's end.

In Pursuit of the Big Game

by Victoria B. Johnson

They come in various size and shapes. They can be anyone, your dive buddy, your instructor, the captain, the deckhand. They are the divers who will search the far-reaching places of the globe - Bonaire, Palau, Belize, the Red Sea, the Galapagos, places you and I only dream about. These are the divers who have all the latest high-tech gear. They typically have backgrounds in engineering - electronics, civil, nuclear - so that they can support their diving habit on weekends and on vacations. Though they run in tight knit, elite circles, they are friendly divers who can be counted on to offer assistance when you break a fin strap, lose your mask, or blow an O-ring on your tank. They are the divers who can turn a dive-from-hell into the most exciting experience of your life. They tout spear gun and knives like I carry hair spray and lipstick. You've met them at one time or another. They are fisherman without poles: they are the recreational game hunters of the deep.

I first met Curt and Chris on a two-day boat dive to the northern channel islands of San Miguel and Santa Rosa, California, which my husband and I took on board the Peace, a live-aboard dive boat based in Ventura Harbor. Upon boarding the boat, I had the sinking feeling that my husband and I were going to be the "oddballs" among these divers. We were diving with individuals who had much more experience (the ink from my certification card was just starting to dry) and we were the only individuals from Arizona, a state which has a reputation for its 'zonie' divers who wouldn't be caught dead in waters below 80 degrees.

The first morning I knew I was in trouble when I awoke at 6:00 a.m. to be greeted by everyone on the deck already suited up and ready to go in winds of the 20-plus knot class, skies that were heavily overcast, and a noticeable current at the surface.

"Why would anybody dive in such deplorable conditions?" I asked the deckhand, Bob. "They're after the big game - halibut, sea bass, sheephead, abalone," he explained.

"I watched in awe as they dove off the boat into 49 degree water temperatures wielding spear guns and odd-shaped, custom-designed knives (for prying stubborn abalone and scallops off their rocky homes). When they resurfaced, I watched in horror at the consummate skill they displayed in the business of cleaning and gutting a sheephead in less than two minutes flat with anxiously awaiting seagulls hovering above to feed on the discarded carcasses.

"Who are these barbarians who hunt unsuspecting creatures of the sea?" I shuddered to my husband.

"You don't hunt abalone." Curt later corrected me. As an experienced recreational scuba hunter, Curt fit the mold. He is a civil engineer for the city of Rancho Cucamonga and along with his love for diving his other major interest is architecture; in his younger days Curt and his friends helped build the famous Rubelia Castle in Glendora, California, along with some assistance from the Castle's owner, Mike Rubel.

"Curt continued with a detailed explanation of the California Fish and Game regulations which forbids the taking of red abalone 7.25 inches or less; also, recreational divers are limited to two abalone per day provided they purchase the proper permits. But he became sad when he told me that a moratorium was in the works that would forbid the taking of **all** abalone (red, white, green, pink, black) by commercial and recreational sports fisherman south of San Francisco.

"It takes about seven years for abalone to reach 7.25 inches and may take another 7 years to grow only 3/8 inches more," explained Curt. "A 9.5 inch abalone is a very legal, old commodity considering the demand," he continued.

Curt explained that the moratorium which was to take effect on May 22 would allow the remaining stock to grow 9.5, 10, maybe 12 3/4 inches longer. "That would be a new record," Curt added. "What a sight that would be - abs the size of watermelons; just think if they all got together and stormed the beaches wearing their 13 inch-helmets," Curt gleamed in a boyish grin.

Curt introduced me to his diving buddy, Chris, who could have easily been mistaken for his brother.

"We just haven't found the documentation to prove it yet," Curt jokingly explained.

When not diving for fish, Chris is a construction engineer for the County Sanitation Districts of Orange County.

"My job is to supervise the construction of things that people like Curt design," Chris proudly smiles.

The one thing you quickly learn about Chris is that he loves to cook and eat fish. He knows all the major abalone recipes and could probably recite them backwards in his sleep. He became interested in cooking when his father had a heart attack and was told by his doctor to eat lean. Chris eats red meat only on very rare occasions.

During dinner I drooled over the smell of the red fish Chris had sautéed in lemon and garlic. As I ate my bland steak, I had to restrain myself from snatching a piece of Chris' fish from his plate when he wasn't looking. When Game & Fish regulations prevent them from deep-sea hunting, Chris and Curt trade their spear guns for cameras - they are also accomplished underwater photographers.

My next diving trip with Chris and Curt will be at Begg Rock. While they have failed to convince me on the virtues of using a spear gun (I'd rather shoot photography), I can't help but admire these two exceptional divers. It takes a great deal of diving skill to spear a fast-moving, darting fish in cool-current California waters. Chances are if you do any type of diving, you'll be running into more divers like Chris and Curt. The sales on spear guns and accessories is booming and last year CA Game and Fish issued 15% more licenses from the year before. One thing is for certain. I am counting the minutes until our next trip to Begg Rock so that I can watch my diving buddies in action and maybe get to sample a tasty morsel from their successful catch.

1997 BOAT DIVE SCHEDULE

<u>DIVE</u>	<u>DAY(S)</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>PRICE*</u>	<u>BOAT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
97-1	SUN	2 FEB	SANTA BARBARA	\$85	GREAT ESCAPE	22ND STREET
97-2	SAT	15 MAR	SAN NICOLAS	\$95	GREAT ESCAPE	22ND STREET
97-3	SAT	12 APR	FARNSWORTH BANKS / CATALINA	\$75	GREAT ESCAPE	22ND STREET
97-C9	WED	7 MAY	CHAMBER DAY 9 / CATALINA	\$65*	GREAT ESCAPE	22ND STREET
97-4	FRI/SAT	9/10 MAY	SAN MIGUEL	\$180	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA
97-5	SAT	31 MAY	SAN CLEMENTE EAST END	\$85	GREAT ESCAPE	22ND STREET
97-6	FRI/SAT	25/26 JULY	BEGG ROCK/SAN NICOLAS	\$190	GREAT ESCAPE	22ND STREET
97-SB	SUN	17 AUG	PALOS VERDES	\$10*	(Small Boats)	KING HARBOR
97-7	FRI/SAT	12/13 SEPT	RICHARDSON'S/WILSON ROCK	\$180	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA
97-8	SUN	TBD OCT	SAN NICOLAS	TBD	TBD	TBD
97-9	SAT/SUN	1/2 NOV	CORTES BANK	\$195	GREAT ESCAPE	22ND STREET
97-10	SAT/SUN	29/30 NOV	SAN MIGUEL PASSAGE	\$180	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA

*Prices are all inclusive (air, food, and beverages). Non-members add \$10 for single day and \$15 for two-day dives.
Dives 97-C9 and 97-SB do not include air, food, and beverages.

Great Escape - 22nd Street Landing

South on Harbor freeway, left on Gaffey, left on 22nd Street, down the hill and park in designated areas.

Peace - Ventura Marina

North on Ventura freeway to Victoria Ave. in Ventura. Turn left onto Victoria and continue to Olivas Park Drive. Turn right and continue all the way down toward the beach and across Harbor Drive, go to the left onto Spinnaker Drive. Look for Milano's Italian Restaurant and turn right into the parking area. If you get to the end of Spinnaker, turn around and take the second left. Park adjacent to the berth (Slip #20) to unload, then park overnight in the last row adjacent to Spinnaker Drive.

DIVE BOAT POLICY

A club member may, but is not required to, have a boat deposit on file with the club. A club member may make a reservation on an upcoming dive as follows:

- A) Unconfirmed reservations may be made for any boat dive at any time. To confirm a reservation, payment in full must be received.
- B) For single day dives, divers holding an unconfirmed reservation will be called 3 weeks prior to the dive and advised that payment in full is required no later than 15 days prior to the dive to be confirmed. Dive boat deposits will be considered as payment in full.
- C) For two day dives, divers holding unconfirmed reservations will be called 5 weeks prior to the dive and advised that payment in full is required no later than 30 days prior to the dive to be confirmed. Dive boat deposits may be used as part of the payment in full.
- D) If payment in full is not received by the deadline, the diver may be replaced by a wait listed diver who has paid in full.

Any reservation may be cancelled two weeks prior to a dive with a full refund. Cancellations will not be accepted within two weeks prior to the dive unless a diver holding a reservation can sell or transfer their reservation to another qualified diver. The dive reservationist will assist in this process, but is not responsible for providing paying alternates. When confirmation is received by the dive boat reservationist that a cancelling diver is being replaced by another qualified diver, the replacement diver is then fully responsible for the cost of the dive.

If a diver has a deposit on file with the club and uses that deposit to secure a reservation on a boat dive, he may not use that deposit to secure additional dives until he has paid the club for the first dive. Two years after a diver has ceased to be a member of the club, his unclaimed dive boat deposit will be forfeited to the club. Only club members of The Sea Divers and members of other selected clubs may make boat dive reservations prior to one month before a scheduled boat dive. Partial refunds from single day boats which do not make the advertised dive location will be passed on to members who request them within two weeks.

BOAT DIVE RESERVATION FORM

DIVE DATE: _____ DESTINATION: _____

NAME OF DIVER(S): _____

PHONE (DAY): [] _____ (EVE) [] _____ COST OF DIVE \$ _____

MEMBER [] YES [] NO DATE OF LAST DIVE* : _____

Please make checks payable to THE SEA DIVERS and mail to:

THE SEA DIVERS
P.O. Box 2415
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
(310) 719-1816

Please include date of last dive for each diver

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

September 2
September 12-13
September 27

General Meeting - 7 PM - Round Table Pizza
Boat Dive: San Miguel Pinnacles - *PEACE*
LOBSTER SEASON OPENS!!

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

October 7
October 16
October 19

General Meeting - 7 PM - Round Table Pizza
Executive Meeting - 7 PM - Roberto Al Mare
Beach Dive - 10:00 AM - 6th Redondo Beach King Harbor CleanUp

In this issue.....

- Two Days at Begg!!
- Tales of the Great White Hunters!!
- And more!!

THE SEA DIVERS
P.O. BOX 2415
REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278

FIRST CLASS MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

