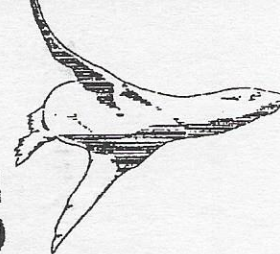


# THE SEA DIVERS



IN AFFILIATION WITH AMERICAN DIVING

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE ROSTER...

If you've paid your '97/'98 dues your newsletter does not contain a reminder. If you didn't it does! Note that for several years now dues are paid in July, so if you thought you were good for until January you are already six months in arrears. There are some surprising names on the delinquent list. Club membership has been between 100 and 130 for the past several years and we would like at least to maintain if not grow. As I mentioned in a previous Exec write-up we do have more ACTIVE members, which is good. At \$24 a year, what a deal!!!

A.P

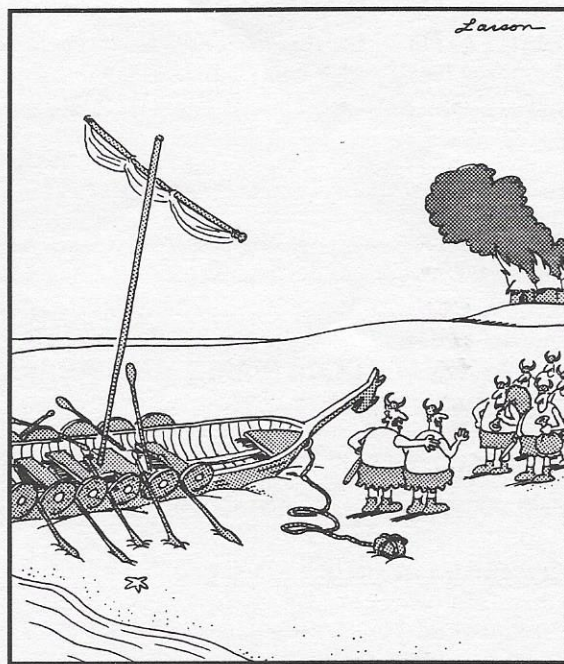


## MARCH ENTERTAINMENT LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Our guest speaker for March 3, 1998 meeting will be Stephen Denham and his recent trip to Japan. Stephen is an avid underwater photographer and has shared his experiences of diving all over Southern California as well as various International destinations. In 1980 he began teaching SCUBA diving and formed his own diving club DIVERS ON THE GO. As many old timers recall THE SEA DIVERS, HUGHES AIRCRAFT DIVING CLUB, and NORTHROP DIVE CLUB all enjoyed sharing many diving experiences with DIVERS ON THE GO.

The multimedia slide show will start with a tour of Tokyo and then head to Okinawa for a few days of diving. After Okinawa we will finish our trip in Osaka and then Kyoto, one of the most scenic cities in Japan. These beautiful slides are narrated by Stephen and accented with a musical background of Japanese Jazz. Hope to see you at the March Meeting.

The next Sea Diver General Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 7:00 PM at Round Table Pizza in Hawthorne.



"Everyone can just put down their loot and plunder, and Sven here—yes, old Sven, who was in charge of reading the tide chart—has something to say to us all."

SINCE 1965  
**MARCH 1998 ISSUE**  
Volume 98, Issue 03



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DAY PHONE</u>	<u>EVENING PHONE</u>	<u>FAX</u>
PRESIDENT	ALLEN PARKER	813-2955	540-1044	814-5067
VICE PRESIDENT	KATHY DACEY	814-6131	540-1044	812-9976
SECRETARY	MICHAEL BORDEN	814-4055	562-984-9145	814-5067
TREASURER	(OPEN)			
DIVING OFFICER	JOHN MOWREY	562-809-4411, 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	814-5067
BOAT DIVE RESERVATIONIST	CURT BILLINGS	N/A	909-945-3431	N/A
PROGRAM CHAIR	(OPEN)			
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	KATHY DACEY	814-6131	540-1044	812-9976
HOSPITALITY CHAIR	KATHY KALOHI	N/A	719-1816	N/A
LEGISLATIVE INFO CHAIR	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 every other month on the week following the General Meeting at Roberto Al Mare at King Harbor (at the corner of Harbor and Beryl), across from the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza. (See calendar on back page).

## 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 \$12.00 (to 6/30/98)  
[ ] FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$18.00 (to 6/30/98)  
(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



## LOBSTER LAST CHANCE

14 March 1998 (Sat)

SAN NICOLAS

*GREAT ESCAPE*

Members \$95

(Includes Everything!)

Boarding: 8:00 PM (3/13)

Non-Members \$105

Departure: 11:00 PM (3/13)

New Members \$62

The 1997/98 lobster season is drawing to a close. The trip is on our 22nd Street boat *Great Escape*. We'll be searching once more for the elusive and wily bugs. We hope to get to the island in the early (still dark) timeframe to get in one night and three or four daylight dives. Those interested should bring fresh chem lights and at least one dive light. Abalone remain off limits so these are not for the taking this year and perhaps for years to come. Although the Big Bugs are not as plentiful, check out the front page picture and the inside letters in the January issue of CDN. There are some still there and we are due!!

For those of us that are not so lucky or skilled at the lobster stakes, fish provide a nice alternative with many different species to spear. Although not the prettiest underwater environment, San Nicolas can provide excellent opportunities for video or photography. The boat will depart at 11:00 p.m. on Friday.

Diving around San Nicolas is suitable for all skill levels with ocean cooperation. Relative beginners should check with the divemaster on duty before making a deep or potentially difficult dive. Call Curt (Billings) at (909) 945-3431 for sign-ups and additional information. Bunks and staterooms will be preassigned on a first pay/space available basis. SAN NICOLAS IT IS...DON'T WAIT!

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## CATALINA VARIETY

11 APRIL 1998 (Saturday)

SHIP ROCK / BLUE CAVERN /  
BIRD ROCK

*GREAT ESCAPE*

Members \$70\*

(All inclusive!)

Boarding: 5:00 AM\* (4/11)

Non-Members \$80\*

PROMPT !! →→ Departure: 6:00 AM\* (4/11)

New Members \$47\*

The *Great Escape* will take us from 22nd Street to Ship Rock and other pinnacles and reefs in the Isthmus area of Catalina. Ship Rock guards the approach to Isthmus Cove and aside from two shallow ledges astride the spine drops steeply to the sand close to 120 feet. Current can be a factor diving the pinnacle and is responsible for the typically high visibility in the area. The rock attracts a tremendous variety of sea life from the gorgonia fans and the deeper octorals to yellowtail and the predator fish to large angel sharks in the sand. One of the best dives around for video, photography, or just looking.

Our next dive will be in the Blue Cavern area just to the east of the entry to Isthmus Cove. The vertical wall is quite spectacular and includes several caverns. Depth is a factor and as this is the second dive divers should use caution for their depth and bottom dive profiles. Current can also be a factor, which also accounts for the usually high visibility. Fish are the primary target for the game takers, but there are excellent opportunities for video and photography. The next dive will be on the underwater extensions to Bird Rock just to the south-south east of Ship Rock provide an opportunity to dive the north flat face which contains a vertical 60 foot wall and adjacent up to 90 foot deep kelp forests - another excellent dive. These are all spectacular dives and choice of depth must be planned into your dives. They can typically be dived by all skill levels. High current, a feature typical of this time of year, obviously increases the skill level requirements.

Following the planned dives we will scope out the bottom time scenario and pick off a dive or two in shallower water, probably in the Middle Quarry area. Call Curt (Billings) at (909) 945-3431 for sign-up. Overnighting on the boat is available for an additional \$5, let Curt know what your desires are. NICE DAY TRIP!!

\*Overnights on-board available for \$5.00/person. There will be no preassigned bunks.



## THE GALAPAGOS TRIP

### PART III – WHALE SHARKS OR NOT, BACK TO THE SOUTH ISLANDS

The first dive at Darwin Island began just south and east of Darwin's Arch. The surface was choppy and the sky overcast with rain in the distance. Underwater visibility was in the hazy 40 - 50 feet range with little or no current. In search of Whale Shark we hung off on a plateau at 60 feet on the edge of the drop off, staring into the middle of the channel through the water, apparently a favorite spot for Whale Shark. After 25 or 30 minutes we began to slowly work west with rocks-on-the-left sighting, Scalloped Hammerheads, Sea Turtles and a myriad of small to medium sized brightly colored fish. Too many varieties to list! We surfaced at close to 1 hour of bottom time. The chop was worse and the rain more threatening.

Dives two and three, one before lunch and one after, essentially repeated dive one. Unfortunately, Whale Shark were not co-operating with us and for all our efforts we were skunked. By the end of the third dive it was pouring down and although warm it was a miserable day. Huge waterfalls appeared on the island in many cases dropping several hundred feet before hitting rocks or ocean. Quite spectacular and at least a bonus from the heavy rain. We overnighted tucked in close to Darwin Island leaving about 4:00 AM for the return trip to Wolf. We arrived back at Wolf around 8:00 AM on what was our seventh day since leaving LA. It was Monday the 24<sup>th</sup>. The weather had improved somewhat and there looked like a chance of sun later. Pete K.'s eye was no better and attempts to contact DAN had failed, due to distance and other problems.

From my perspective this day at Wolf was the least interesting of the trip. We were back at the same spot as we dived twice on day 5. We saw the same sea life as we had seen two days earlier. Somewhat oh-hum!! We left Wolf in calmer water with the sun breaking through for our run to Cousin's Rock on the east side of Santiago Island. We anticipated arrival about 7 to 7:30 AM, Tuesday morning.

Sure enough, we dropped anchor at Cousin's Rock at about 7:00 AM. The water was calm, the sky mixed and little or no wind. The rock looked like an upside down iron. The dive was planned to start on one side of the "iron" work around the point and end on the other side, with rocks-on-the-right throughout. A current against us was anticipated on the first side. We dropped in the water and descended into huge clouds of millions of Black Salemas. This species of fish swim in perfect formation making "tunnels" perfectly round for divers to swim through. All other formations were almost exactly formed. Weird!! The first side of the rock was a vertical wall to deep. On rounding the point there was a gradually sloping plateau. The current was exactly the reverse of plan, and was quite strong on the second side. We were fortunate to see and swim with a pair of Sea Turtles and one Manta Ray. Check that one off!! Finally the boat was able to contact DAN regarding Pete K.'s eye. Although DAN was not sure of the actual problem they recommended no further diving and an eye patch. The eye patch fabricated was pretty ugly but at least it did the trick. The second dive we reversed the plan and began on the first dive finish side, with rocks-on-the-left. Much of this dive involved the Black Salemas, trying to see how many perfect shapes they could make!! Lots!

Following the two dives at Cousin's we cruised to Bartholomew Island to snorkel with the Galapagos Penguins. Unfortunately there were very few penguins around that day, so most of us quit early to get a little sun on the sun deck. Others went for a shore hike to the top of a local hill. We were nearing the end of our eighth day total and our fifth day on the *Aggressor*. The trip was nearing conclusion.

A.P.

PART IV – THE LAST FEW DAYS AND LONESOME GEORGE next month.



## **BUG FEVER EPIDEMIC:** **CALIFORNIA DIVERS MOST PRONE**

by Victoria Johnson

In the scuba diving community, it's known as "bug" fever. Typically striking from the months of October through mid-March, it incapacitates divers of all ages and experience levels suddenly rendering them as less than fully functioning. Symptoms include a constant preoccupation with planning and obtaining time off from work for the next diving trip; an obsession for maximizing the number of day and night dives that can be performed within a two-day weekend (sleep is not an important factor); and uncanny detail to selection of an optimal dive site and the best boat to get you there. It is not uncommon for divers on boats to suffer bouts of anxiety caused by not being the "first." "First" to be at the boat's diving gate hours before it opens so that one can be the "first" diver to jump into the water.

The source of this symptomatic obsession is the California spiny lobster (*Panulirus Interruptus*). California's lobster hunting season commences in early October. With the opening of the season thousands of divers begin their frenzied hunting in pursuit of bagging a handful of these elusive creatures. These lobsters can range in length up to and over two feet, weigh up to 15 pounds, and reach a ripe old age of twenty years.

Lobsters (Phylum Arthropoda, Class Crustacea) live abundantly on the reef much as their relatives, the insects, dominate terrestrial habitats. They are considered scavengers and will eat anything on the bottom of the ocean. Growth for a lobster is a difficult task, as the shell must be cast aside periodically to allow the body to increase in size. This is regulated by a complex hormone interaction. After a period of feeding and fat accumulation, hormones from the eyestalk region cause the edges of the carapace (shell) to split. It is during this time (usually during the summer) that they are the most vulnerable to attack and the animal hides by burying itself in the soft, sandy bottom. Lobsters cycle through the molting process about 25 times in the first 5-7 years of life. After seven years, their growth rate slows and

they will molt about once a year. Older lobster will molt less frequently over time as their growth rate slows down.

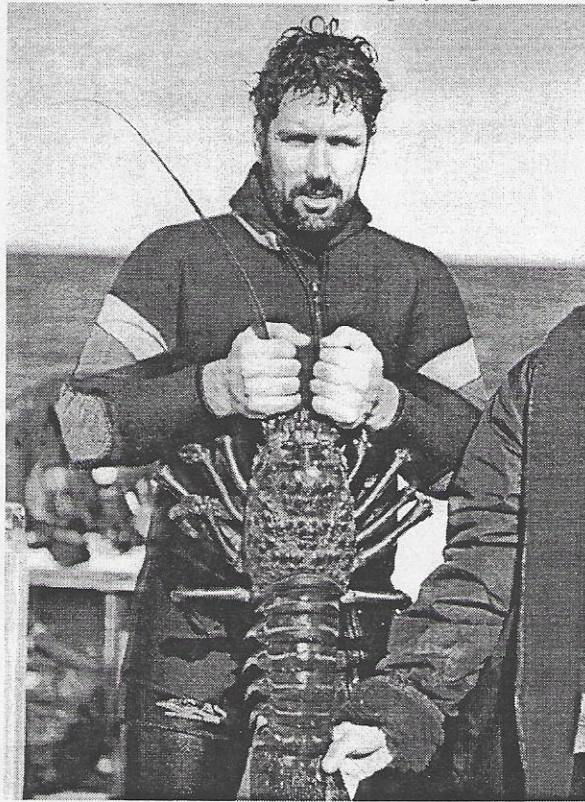
Bagging a bug is not an easy task as lobsters are Houdini-like masters of escape. When they are cornered and sense that a diver is after their fine-tasting flesh, they will vigorously flip their tails and swim backwards in an effort to get away in a hurry often leaving the diver holding its snapped-off antenna and peering into an empty, black hole. Becoming a successful lobster hunter requires a great deal of determination and inordinate skill. One must display extreme patience waiting for just the right moment to engage the attack at the risk of having one's hands torn to shreds by spiny thorns along the lobster's head. Successful hunters are those that display a great deal of dexterity and upper-body

strength. The diver must be able to pin the lobster against a rock surface while often getting pounded by the surge and surf. Doris and Curt Billings are husband-and-wife divers who are typical of the breed of successful lobster hunters. With over 55 catches to their credit in this season alone, they exhibit phenomenal strength and determination.

"Opportunity, luck, and determination are the keys to success," states Curt. "You have to take the opportunity to dive, and then if you are lucky enough to find a legal lobster, to be determined to get it in any situation, if it means shredding your wetsuit against a rock, reaching your hand into a hole that might have an eel in it, or getting pounded by the surge," adds Curt. A legal lobster is one that measures at least three and-a-

quarter inches across its carapace. Lobsters seem to possess psychic abilities in knowing exactly when they are legal and illegal. Illegals can be found everywhere flaunting their antennae at divers as if to say, "use up all your energy in trying to catch me, you'll just have to throw me back." Legals often go into hiding at the first sign of a diver's oxygen bubbles.

"For the longest time we were both unsuccessful lobster nabbers, but we finally got the knack of it," states Doris Billings who looks like she supports more muscle mass



**Curt Billings with a 10.1 pound bug which he caught off of the island of San Nicolas.**



on her small frame than did Linda Hamilton in Terminator Two. "We generally hunt by three rules: cover lots of distance, don't waste time on holes you can't reach into; wear neoprene gloves-it will feel like the uniroyal man's hands, but you can reach into anything with fear of damage to your fingers; and forget about bugs going deep, that's what divers say when they can't catch them," explains Doris. Sometimes shallow can mean diving in the whitewater. You can count on the fact that where most divers won't go is where the big monster bugs are usually found.

Curt and Doris, who don't sell their catch commercially but rather share it with friends, note that they use different techniques for nearly every situation. One technique appears to be a sure thing, however. Often working as a team, when Curt finds a lobster he looks at it cross-eyed. It is usually so terrified of him, that it bolts in the opposite direction, right into Doris's jaw-like hands.

Once you've tasted this crustacean's tasty meat, you are hooked for life. Steve Delorge, works at the Maine Lobster Company, a family-run business located on the rocky coast of Maine. He boasts that Maine lobster (*Homarus Americanus*) are the finest tasting in the world. Unlike their Westcoast cousins, Maine lobsters have two large claws. One, which is extremely sharp, is used for cutting and the other which is bony and looks like human molar teeth is used for crushing. Maine lobsters are usually caught in traps by commercial lobstermen who have passed the business down for generations.

Mr. Delorge states that once you've bagged your catch, it is best to keep live lobster cool (33-40°) and moist. An airtight container (Styrofoam or Igloo cooler) packed with wet newspapers or seaweed with a cold gel-pack on top of the lobster is ideal. Do not expose lobster to fresh water, as they will soon die. Uncooked lobster can be safely stored in the refrigerator for up to two days. However for freshness, Mr. Delorge recommends that lobsters be cooked within twenty-four hours. Frozen lobster can be stored in the freezer for up to a month.

For those divers who become attached to their catch and develop meaningful relationships by talking to them, Mr. Delorge recommends humane alternatives to throwing them into a boiling pot. Because lobsters have very small brains and a primitive central nervous system, they are affected by sudden temperature changes. Putting them on their backs (belly facing up) puts them into a beta sleep state. Subjecting them to sudden changes in temperatures puts them into an even deeper sleep mode, the theta state. There are two humane cooking methods. One involves placing the lobster on a sink or counter with its back (belly facing



**Doris Billings with a 4.5 pound bug which she secured off the island of Santa Rosa. Doris and Curt are typical of a breed of successful husband and wife lobster divers.**

up) so that it will fall into the beta state. After ten minutes place the lobster in a pot of cold water (instead of hot) and set the heat on high. As the water heats up, the lobster will gradually cook while continuing to sleep. The second method involves placing the lobster in a paper bag in the freezer for about 10 minutes. Take the lobster out of the freezer after ten minutes and cook as you normally would cook live lobster. This action puts the lobster in the deeper theta state. These methods are highly recommended by Mr. Delorge because the lobster will not produce the usual release of bitter chemicals from the shock of being put in hot water making the meat more tender and sweet. Mr. Delorge guarantees that if you follow these directions, the lobsters will be completely in a relaxed sleep state and will feel no pain.

Lobster season in California ends on March 18. With the end of one season begins another in which *Panulirus interruptus* can take a sigh of relief and continue to fatten up by scavenging the bottoms of the ocean depths without worrying about its biggest enemy-*Homo sapiens*. Until next October, that is.



## THE FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA'S MARINE MANAGEMENT?

BY: Rocky Daniels, Sonoma County, California

*(Reprinted from the February/March 1998 edition of the GLACD Newsletter)*

For many decades now, management of California's ocean resources has been split between regulatory control of recreational activities through the Fish and Game Commission and management of commercial fishing by the state legislature. This has turned public-trust resources into political footballs while steadily diminishing the role (and funding) of marine science and field resource management agencies. Few of those with first-hand experience with what this system has wrought would argue against the need for major changes.

In December of 1997, an intriguing development occurred in the state legislature that perked the interest of those who caught wind of it. That development has since appeared as the January 5, 1998 amended version of AB1241 (Assemblyman Keeley/Santa Cruz).

These amendments effectively overhaul AB1241 to create the California Marine Life Management Act of 1998, a piece of legislation that demands the attention and consideration of any individual or organization with an interest in California's marine resources.

The fundamental goals of AB1241 are to transfer management responsibility for California's marine resources out of the state legislature and to put management on solid, scientific footing.

AB1241 moves overall marine resource management responsibility to the Fish and Game Commission. The Fish and Game Commission is a five (seven?) member committee of political appointees that is an adjunct to the California Department of Fish and Game in regulating California's wildlife resources. Because the only commercial use of California's wildlife resources has long been limited to marine resources, the Fish and Game Commission has traditionally focused on recreational utilization issues including recreation marine fishing regulations. AB1241 will add commercial utilization of marine resources to their regulatory responsibilities.

AB1241 attempts to put fisheries management on a more scientific footing by requiring that ALL fisheries be regulated by a Fishery Management Plan. The Fishery Management Plans would be developed by the California Department of Fish and Game. The plans would then undergo a scientific peer review process before submission to the Fish and Game Commission. A ten year period is provided for developing the FMPs at a rate of 4 per year until all existing fisheries are covered by an FMP.

AB1241 seeks to limit the politicizing of the Fish and Game Commission rulings by requiring that rejection or modification of an FMP would require overriding both the CDFG and an independent scientific panel. Further, the commission must document the scientific and policy justifications for such an override.

The goals of AB1241 described above make it an exciting piece of legislation. That endorsement, however, must include some dire warnings.

First, the bill's current language is less than 2 months old and requires substantial refinement. That process is already in progress and you're encouraged to join in. Toward that end, the two "champions" of AB1241 include Assemblyman Keeley's legislative director, David Bunn, and Burr Heneman of the Center for Marine Conservation. Please review AB1241 and provide your feedback to both these individuals: David Bunn, Burr Heneman (*see the end of this article for contact information*).

Second, the legislative process is a fast and treacherous path where positive developments today can take abysmal twists tomorrow. What AB1241 is today is entirely different from what it was less than 2 months ago. The same might hold true another month or two from now. Staying on top of legislative developments is necessary and, for those of us with e-mail and web capabilities, California has made it about as quick and easy as we could reasonably ask for. At <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html> you can access the history, status, revisions to, and analysis for each and every bill being considered by the 1997/98 session of the legislature. Once you've pulled up the "Bill Documents" index page for a specific bill, you will find a "SUBSCRIBE" button. If you subscribe to the bill, you'll receive an e-mail message every time ANY legislative action is taken on that bill: amendments, hearings, votes, or changes in the schedule applicable to the bill.

At the time of this writing, AB1241 is scheduled for a hearing before the Assembly Appropriations Committee. If it does not pass out of this committee by the end of January, AB1241 will die. The bill, however, has an impressive list of organizational endorsements (below) and recently picked up additional legislative sponsors that should help it survive.

AB1241 promises an exciting 1998 in the California legislature. Welcome to the fray.

Please review AB1241 and provide your feedback to both of these individuals:

---

### AB1241 SPONSORS:

Senator McPherson and Assembly Members Bowen, Cardoza, Honda, Strom-Martin, and Torlakson

### ENDORSEMENTS:

Audubon Society, California Federation for Animal Legislation, , California Public Interest Research, Greater Los Angeles Council of Divers, Group Center for Marine Conservation (sponsor), Channel Island Council of Divers, Dolphin Charters, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pacific Marine Conservation Council, Save our Shores Sierra Club, United Anglers of California, United Anglers of Southern California, and 250 Individuals

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David Bunn  
State Capitol Building  
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916-445-8496  
916-445-1826 fax  
bunnda@assembly.ca.gov



## JUST FIVE YEARS AGO

The President was Allen Parker, Vice President Michael Borden, Treasurer Kathi McNally and Secretary Cathy Gale. The General Meetings were at Round Table Piza (first time around!). Exec meetings were at Shibaraku Restaurant (now Roberto Al Mare). The boat dive was to Santa Barbara Island on the infamous and fun *Wild Wave*, at \$68 inclusive. There was no beach dives planned in March 1992. We had just held our 25<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Banquet (2 years late!!!) and had just supported the 12<sup>th</sup> Avalon Underwater Cleanup. As usual a lot of members had not paid their dues on time!!!

### DOCK BREAKS AT 22<sup>nd</sup> STREET LANDING

On Tuesday 3 February in the early morning high winds that preceded the first major downpour the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Landing dock broke setting the *Great Escape*, *Encore*, *Reliant*, and *Maverick* either loose or banging into each other.

The event was precipitated after failure of one of the outer pilings. *Reliant* finished up on the rocks with bottom and side damage, *Great Escape* and *Maverick* banged together for some period of time causing sufficient damage to *Great Escape* to require dry docking for hull repairs. *Maverick* swim step and rear rails were destroyed. *Encore* somehow managed no significant damage.

As a result, our 8 February charter on *Great Escape* to Santa Barbara / Sutil Islalnds was cancelled. As of this writing, *Great Escape* is fully repaired and back in operation. Our 14 March dive to San Nicolas should be OK.

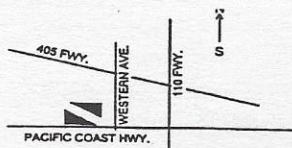
## JACQUES YVES COUSTEAU MEMORIAL

A Memorial Dedication took place at Casino Point, Avalon on 22 October 1997 to place a plaque, bearing the words shown below, in the Casino Point Dive Park. Several Sea Divers contributed to the plaque: Allen Parker, Kathy Dacey, Peter Landecker, Gus Vargas, Kahty Kalohi, Joe Kalohi, and Dave Nesheim. Steve DiNapoli from American Diving was a primary leader of the project.

IN MEMORY  
CAPT.  
JACQUES YVES COUSTEAU  
1910 - 1997  
  
A LEGEND THAT GAVE US A VISION  
AND THE KEY TO THE SILENT WORLD.  
  
AVEC NOS PLUS SINCÈRES  
REMERCIEMENTS  
  
FROM  
THE CALIFORNIA DIVING COMMUNITY  
  
DEDICATED OCTOBER 1997

### SEA DIVER WEB PAGE

Curt Billings, our new Boat Dive Reservationist has started a web page to list our upcoming dives and events with links to other dive related sites. The URL for the website is:  
<http://www.tstonramp.com/~cbilling/index.htm>  
Thanks Curt!! All you web surfers out there...check it out!!



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.



# 1998 BOAT DIVE SCHEDULE

DIVE	DAY(S)	DATE(S)	DESTINATION	PRICE*	BOAT	LOCATION
98-1	SUN	8 FEB	SANTA BARBARA / SUTIL	\$85	GREAT ESCAPE	22 <sup>ND</sup> STREET
98-2	SAT	14 MAR	SAN NICOLAS	\$95	GREAT ESCAPE	22 <sup>ND</sup> STREET
98-3	SAT	11 APR	SHIP ROCK/BLUE CAVERN/BIRD ROCK	\$70	GREAT ESCAPE	22 <sup>ND</sup> STREET
98-C10	WED	6 MAY	CHAMBER DAY 10 / CATALINA	\$65*	GREAT ESCAPE	22 <sup>ND</sup> STREET
98-4	FRI/SAT	8/9 MAY	SAN MIGUEL	\$180	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA
98-5	SAT	6 JUNE	SAN CLEMENTE - 9 FATHOM REEF & 4 1/2 FATHOM SPOT	\$85	GREAT ESCAPE	22 <sup>ND</sup> STREET
98-6	FRI/SAT	24/25 JULY	BEGG ROCK/SANTA BARBARA/FARNSWORTH BANKS	\$190	GREAT ESCAPE	22 <sup>ND</sup> STREET
98-7	SUN	16 AUG	OLYMPIC & AVALON WRECKS & PALOS VERDES	\$70	GREAT ESCAPE	22 <sup>ND</sup> STREET
98-8	FRI/SAT	11/12 SEPT	RICHARDSON'S/CASTLE/WILSON ROCKS	\$180	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA
98-9	FRI/SAT/	30/31 OCT	CORTES & TANNER BANKS	\$195	GREAT ESCAPE	22 <sup>ND</sup> STREET
98-10	SAT/SUN	28/29 NOV	SAN MIGUEL / SANTA ROSA	\$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. New members allowed one single day dive at approximately two-thirds of member price.  
Dive 98-C10 does 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:

- Unconfirmed reservations may be made for any boat dive at any time. To confirm a reservation, payment in full must be received.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 of the dive.

## 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 include date of last dive for each diver

## BOAT DIVE RESERVATIONIST:

Curt Billings  
Phone: (909) 945-3451, Fax: (909) 477-2849  
e-mail: curt@diver.net.

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

THE SEA DIVERS  
P.O. Box 2415  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278



MARCH						
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				

March 3  
March 12  
March 14

General Meeting - 7 PM - Round Table Pizza  
Executive Meeting - 7 PM - Roberto Al Mare  
Boat Dive: San Nicolas - *GREAT ESCAPE*

APRIL						
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		

April 7  
April 11

General Meeting - 7 PM - Round Table Pizza  
Boat Dive: Ship/Bird Rocks & Blue Cavern - *GREAT ESCAPE*

## IN THIS ISSUE!!!!

- Bug Fever!!
- Tales of the Galapagos - PART III!!
- El Nino Strikes at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street!!
- ...and MORE!!

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

