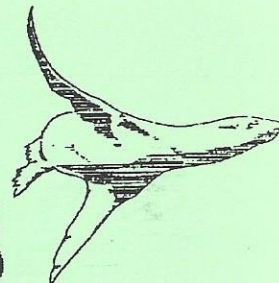




THE SEA DIVERS



IN AFFILIATION WITH AMERICAN DIVING

FROM THE EXECUTIVE PLANNER...

There are several items on our planning agenda for the future, both for the remainder of 1998 and into 1999. As mentioned in the last Executive write-up we are still struggling with a decision on the 7th Annual Redondo Beach King Harbor Underwater CleanUp. AES (I think that's correct), the company that bought the Edison plant has committed to fully supporting us this year. Several people have volunteered to help again and we could just work with our primary sponsors from last year to minimize the work. However, by the time we get kicked off, say in the next two weeks, we'll be at least two months behind our normal planning schedule. Tentatively, I plan a final Go-No Go/Executive meeting 16 July at 6:30 PM. I will call those appropriate and those expressing support to confirm.

The next item is that it's time to begin planning our 1999 Boat Dive Schedule. Starting at the General Meeting, Tuesday 7 July, we'll take inputs for suggested destinations, boat commitments (e.g. 1/2, 1/3, full) and any other thoughts members may have. We target to have a tentative list in place for inclusion in the August newsletter. Final dates will obviously require boat confirmation although we basically anticipate dates being rolled over on both boats.

The final planning item is one we struggle with every year - Executives for 1999! The Program Chair has been open now for 18 months as has the Treasurer. Except for any IRS-type issues, the Treasurer spot is not really a problem, but programs are. WE NEED SOMEONE!! Also if anyone would like to try this position for the rest of 1998 it would really help us out. In lieu of a program in July we plan to air out the above items and begin making some decisions for the next 18 months.

A.P

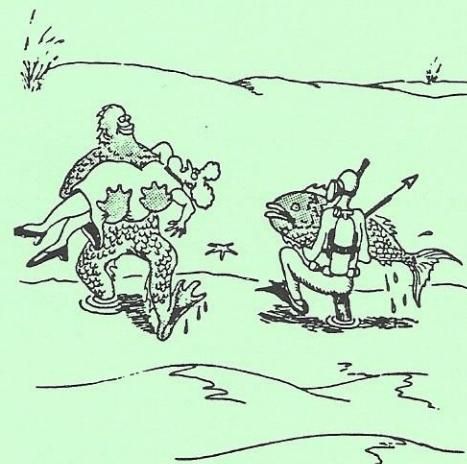


JULY GENERAL MEETING VARIOUS AND SUNDRY DIVE STUFF

We do not have a formal program set up for the July General Meeting as a result of the lack of a Program Chair person, no one volunteering, and the remaining Exec's not having time to 'beat the bushes' for a speaker.

Consequently, we plan on an open forum discussion of future club dives, volunteers and other activities. The topics to be covered are outlined in the Executive write up above.

The next Sea Diver General Meeting will be held on Tuesday July 7th starting at 7:00 PM at Round Table Pizza in Hawthorne



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DAY PHONE</u>	<u>EVENING PHONE</u>	<u>FAX</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
PRESIDENT	ALLEN PARKER	813-2955	540-1044	814-5067	allen.parker@trw.com
VICE PRESIDENT	KATHY DACEY	814-6131	540-1044	812-9976	kathy.dacey@trw.com
SECRETARY	MICHAEL BORDEN	814-4055	562-984-9145	814-5067	mike.borden@trw.com
TREASURER	(OPEN)				
DIVING OFFICER	JOHN MOWREY	370-1724	370-1724	N/A	john0809@earthlink.net
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	CAROLYN ROUTLEDGE	813-5047	372-8376	813-8596	carolyn.routledge@trw.com
BOAT DIVE CHAIR	JOHN TADLOCK	N/A	714-645-1195	N/A	tadlock@earthlink.net
BEACH DIVE CHAIR	BILLY GARRETT	813-2862	530-2944	814-5067	billy.garrett@trw.com
BOAT DIVE RESERVATIONIST	CURT BILLINGS	N/A	909-945-3461	909-477-2849	curt@diver.net
PROGRAM CHAIR	(OPEN)				
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	KATHY DACEY	814-6131	540-1044	812-9976	kathy.dacey@trw.com
HOSPITALITY CHAIR	KATHY KALOHI	N/A	719-1816	N/A	jkalohi@aol.com
LEGISLATIVE INFO CHAIR	PHIL BERGERON	813-0511	379-0972	N/A	phil.bergeron@trw.com

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 as required 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, President calls meetings as needed).

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 6/30/99)
[] FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$36.00 (to 6/30/99)

(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

GREATER ESCAPE!!

24/25 JULY 1998 (Fri/Sat)

**BEGG ROCK / SAN NIC / SANTA
BARBARA / FARNSWORTH**

GREAT ESCAPE

Members \$190

(INCLUDES EVERYTHING!!)

Boarding: 8:00 PM (7/23)

Non-Members \$205

PROMPT!! →

Departure: 11:00 PM (7/23)

Our second two-day dive of 1998 is a great southern outer island cruise and dive to the very best spots. This Friday/Saturday affair has been the making of really outstanding trips in past years, especially in 1996 and 1997 where we made Begg Rock on both days.

Begg Rock is a group of pinnacles which rise about 15 feet above the water and then plunge in the most spectacular fashion to over 100 feet with rolling ledges from 30 feet to 60 feet. The rock is located about 7 miles north of San Nicolas Island, and is noted for its huge plate-sized scallops on the deeper ledges (easy to limit out at the one-day limit of 10). Photophiles and video buffs will be well served. Relative beginners should note that Begg Rock is fully exposed to the ocean, but on good days may be dived by all skill levels after appropriate pre-dive consultation with the divemaster and a properly planned dive, with your buddy.

San Nicolas, the outer most of the southern four islands, is noted for its relative remoteness and typically large size game. Ocean temperatures will be up above 60°F, making diving pleasant. Large fish, such as Calico Bass, Sheephead, etc., can be found in the kelp beds and reefs. Depending on weather, diver desires etc. we will stay at San Nicolas or make a run to Santa Barbara Island, which is the smallest prettiest island and has a little of everything. The spectacular underwater arches, walls, reefs, sea lions, and other sea life are great for photography and video and visibility is usually exceptional. Again large fish surround the area, including the occasional black sea bass (these are for viewing only!!!).

If we overnight at San Nicolas we will either head back to Begg Rock or head to Santa Barbara Island. If we overnight at Santa Barbara Island we'll make a run to Farnsworth Banks. In all cases weather permitting!

Farnsworth Banks is on the backside of Catalina about 1.3 miles off Ben Western Point. The Banks are about 100 yards by 600 yards, with the shallowest pinnacles at 55 to 75 feet. The spectacular walls descend to well over 100 feet. Farnsworth is famous for its protected unique coral which is the deep purple color contrasting with other colonies of coral, such as at Santa Barbara which tend to be pink, red, and orange. Some of the colonies of coral are over 15 inches in diameter, and the whole visual effect adds immeasurably to the beauty of Farnsworth, both to the eye and the lens of your camera, still photo and/or video. Large fish, which are not protected, inhabit the area so you spear folks may collect a nice bounty.

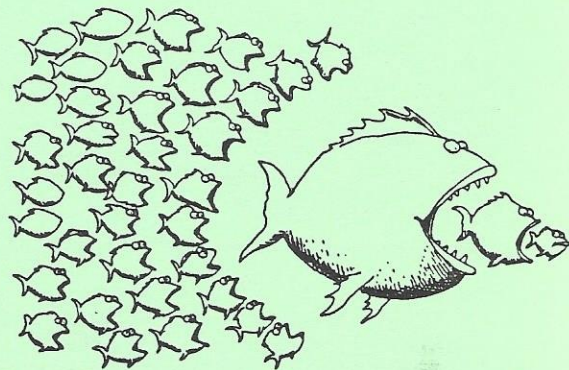
Sign-up early to make sure you have a spot on this charter. Bunks will be preassigned on a FIRST PAID basis. Call Curt (Billings) at (909) 945-3461 or see the Executive page for Curt's Fax and/or e-mail address to sign-up. Boarding begins at 8:00 PM on Thursday, 23 July and everyone should be on board by 10:00 PM for an 11:00 PM prompt departure. Join us and relax --- GREAT TRIP!!

NOTES ON BEGG ROCK

Begg Rock is:

- A sea-mount, spectacular, a must trip
- 60 miles offshore, 6 miles NW of San Nicolas Island
- Named after a schooner, which hit the rock in 1824
- Last "land" West until Hawaii
- A World Class advanced dive
- Depths to over 130 feet, ridges, plateaus, and walls
- Covered in a variety of sea life
- Plate sized scallops, especially below 90 feet
- Large fish of many varieties
- Accessible about 50% of the time in summer
- Our next dive charter!

Be there!



WRECK DIVING

16 AUGUST 1998 (Sun)

**OLYMPIC & AVALON WRECKS
and PALOS VERDES**

GREAT ESCAPE

Members \$70*

(All Inclusive!!)

Non-Members \$80*

Boarding: 6:00 AM (8/16)

New Members \$47*

PROMPT!! → Departure: 7:00 AM (8/16)

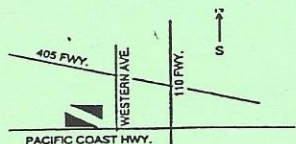
This will be the club's first wreck dive since 1991. For this single day charter, we plan to dive the *Olympic*, which is a relatively deep dive, then proceed to the *Avalon* for a somewhat shallower dive. Subsequent to the *Avalon* we will dive a couple of spots off Palos Verdes in yet shallower water.

We will leave the dock at 7:00 AM sharp and head out to the *Olympic* some 3-1/2 miles out from the San Pedro Light at L.A. Harbor. The *Olympic* was built in Belfast, Ireland, and launched in 1877 as the *Star of France*. She was an iron hulled, square-rigged bark of 1,644 tons, 258 feet long and 38 feet wide. Some 63 years later she was rammed amid ships by the *Sakito Maru* about 7:00 AM on 4 September 1940, and sank within minutes with 17 of 24 on board surviving. The *Olympic* lies essentially on the starboard side in about 100 feet of water. The highest part of the bow is about 70 feet below the surface with the bowsprit extending out over the sandy bottom. The midship section is approximately parallel to the sand and is in relatively poor shape, however, mast stubs are visible, as is the deck pump and its large spoked wheels. Also, if you spend a little time on the port side, you can still see the remains of the huge "V", cut by the *Sakito Maru*. The top of the stern is about 80 feet below the surface and this section is between 40 and 50 feet long. The whole wreck is covered with strawberry anemones. It is a fascinating dive.

We will then head off towards Palos Verdes Point and the wreck of the *Avalon* some 15 miles from the *Olympic*. The *Avalon* was built in Cleveland, Ohio, and launched in 1891 as the *S.S. Virginia*. She was a steel hulled, triple deck, twin screw passenger steam ship of 1,985 tons, 265 feet long, and 38 feet wide. Some 69 years later, while being used in salvage attempts of the *S.S. Dominator*, she sank during the night of 18 July 1960, after breaking away from her moorings in a violent storm. There was no loss of life. The *Avalon* rests in about 70 feet of water, between and parallel to the rocky ridges, with the major wreck sections partially on their port side. The relatively intact bow section is some 90 feet from the rest of the wreck, which begins with a debris field that includes steel deck plates and hull ribs. The debris field slowly rises and is connected to the very recognizable stern section. Some sections of the wreck are covered with a variety of sea life.

Wreck diving over, we will begin to work our way around the Palos Verdes Peninsula towards San Pedro, picking two of the best reefs for some relatively shallow diving. Surprisingly to some, marine life flourishes in the area with excellent prospects for spearing several popular and good size varieties of fish, including calico bass. Video and photo enthusiasts will not be at all disappointed with the underwater opportunities in the coves, on the reefs and in the kelp forests. We anticipate a very interesting day out with an unusual selection of dives, that should provide for more than the average charter. For reservations call Curt (Billings) at (909) 945-3461, Fax at (909) 477-2849, or e-mail at curt@diver.net.

***Overnight on board is available for an extra \$5**



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.

END OF MR. NIÑO?

To put it bluntly diving so far this year has sucked!! Our February dive was canceled due to damage to the Great Escape, in March we fell back to San Clemente in lieu of San Nicolas, April at Catalina was horrible, the May two day on the Peace, despite Eric's boat heroics was a bust and the recent June dive to San Clemente fell well short of great diving - all courtesy of Mr. Niño!!

Early June was not bad weather wise, a little breezy at times but we expected good weather for the San Clemente dive. It was bumpy on the overnight run and early AM showed Great Escape pointed at the front side not Nine Fathom Reef. We eventually tucked in just south of the Navy restricted Area near the Blockhouse. It was reasonably calm with no current. Kathy D. and I dropped off the starboard side (away from the island) and drifted down to 90 feet or so in poor visibility before we realized we had missed the reef and wall. A 90 degree turn revealed the wall. Overall visibility on the reef was about 25-30 feet, 60°F temperature and no fish of any consequence. A 'Ho Hum' kind of dive. Some on board must have liked it as they were down for 50 minutes!!

We moved about 5 miles north and west, skirting the Restricted Area and anchored in about 50 feet of much clearer water. Nice spot with heavy kelp, leaning underwater from a medium current at the surface. The surface current was to be a factor the remainder of the day making it difficult for our two spear hungry skin divers. Below there were "millions" of small fish of all varieties typical at San Clemente. Good sign for the future, but little good for spearing. Water temperature was 59°F and visibility in the 50-60 feet range.

Next choice was the outer edge of Northwest Harbor. Ripping current with poor visibility say 10-15 feet. Larger fish were available but they were tough to see!! A short move south failed to provide a good spot as we immediately dragged anchor in the current.

Spot five was back real close to spot two with little change in conditions. Some divers soldiered on others, including us, had quit and were looking for sun, which was elusive for awhile.

Tim B. tried to find good spots but Niño leftovers prevailed. There was also little entertainment in the booby stakes. However, a day out diving, cruising, and sunning beats a LOT of other options. Let's hope Mr. Niño is DEAD!! On to the July two day to Begg Rock.

CLEMENTE QUOTES...

"Boat minutes or real minutes?"

"Where do you shop for your dive gear, at a land fill?"

"What on earth could you find to do on that dive for 60 minutes?"

"What's the name of this spot, 'Pillbox'?"...
..."No, 'Blockhouse'."

"There's some serious weaponry down there for such small fish."

"Not good. Ripping current."

"Straight in, straight out."

"I'll dive currents before I'll drive freeways."

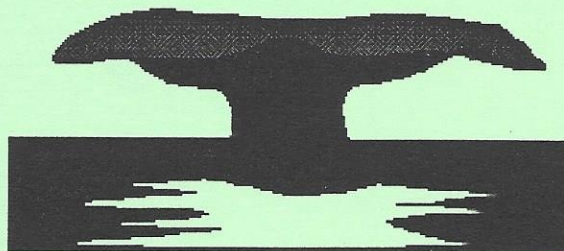
"This is the first trip this year we made the island we planned."...

..."Not exactly. We made Catalina in April - mostly."

"Another island?! They're all over the place!"

JUST ELEVEN YEARS AGO...

Greg Hindman was the President, Kathi McNally Treasurer and Sandi Anderson Secretary. General Meetings were held at the Pizza Hut (now Szechwan) in Manhattan Beach. The boat dive was two days to Begg Rock, San Nicolas and Santa Barbara on the *Wild Wave* at \$130. The beach dive was the annual Jade Cove Campout and Dive over 4th July weekend. The club was offering a Basic SCUBA class, looking for a club team for the LACC Advanced Diver Program, and offering a Divemaster course. We were just beginning to see the early erosion in SCUBA interest that has plagued the sport for the past ten or so years.



Los Angeles County

Department of Parks and Recreation

Underwater Unit
360 West El Segundo Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90061
310-217-8385



Los Angeles County

Underwater Instructors Association

Dedicated to diving safety and education, our history began in 1955. Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation was the first to recognize a need for a highly skilled and dedicated underwater program to effectively teach proper and safe recreational SCUBA diving. The influence of the program that was developed can be observed in the certification standards adopted throughout the industry today. The Advanced Diver Program and Underwater Instructor Certification Program are staffed by volunteer members of the UIA whose leading edge standards and curriculum continue to be considered among the best in the recreational diving industry.



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

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Yvonne Brathwaite Burke	Second District
Zev Yaroslavsky	Third District
Don Knabe	Fourth District
Michael Antonovich	Fifth District

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

Rodney E. Cooper, Director

South County Community Services Agency

George Idhiyama	Assistant Director
John Wicker	Regional Operations Manager
Ron Ogle	Regional Recreation Director

Aquatics

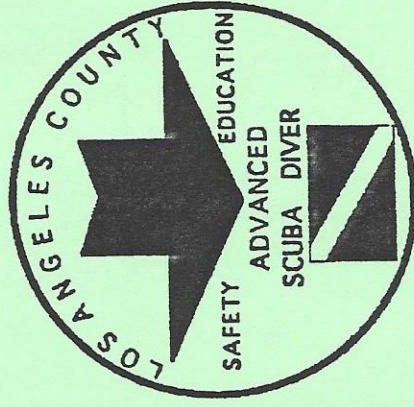
Alvin T. Smith	Recreation Services Manager
Anthony Myles	Recreation Services Supervisor
	Underwater Unit



Los Angeles County

Department of Parks and Recreation

Advanced Diver Program



ADP

Summer

1998

1998 ADP Schedule

Program term:
*July 10, 1998
through
September 26, 1997*

Classes meet on Friday night at
7:00 and ocean sessions meet on
Sunday morning

Program concludes with a
banquet on
September 26, 1998



Program Highlights

August 9	Lake dive
August 30	Boat trip
September 12 / 13	Catalina weekend

About ADP:

Recognizing the need to provide a comprehensive continuing education and training program for the recreational SCUBA diver in the Southern California area, the Los Angeles County Underwater Instructors Association, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, established the Advanced Diver Program.

The program objective is to provide participants with an opportunity to reinforce and expand their diving knowledge and skills, with an emphasis on the Southern California diving environment.

Combining lectures with pool and ocean labs, the candidates are provided with a comprehensive learning environment. The main objective of the training is to increase the students' safety and enjoyment in our local ocean surroundings.

The ADP program is conducted annually from mid - July to mid - September with participants receiving over 100 hours of training including a minimum of 14 open water dives.

*For more
information call or
write to:*

Los Angeles County Advanced Diver Program

530 Gwynwood Ave.
La Habra, CA 90631

805-577-9416

Course Dates	
Lecture	Ocean
July 10	July 12
July 17	July 19
July 24	July 26
July 31	August 2
August 7	August 9
August 14	August 16
August 21	August 23
August 28	August 30
Labor Day Weekend	
September 12	Catalina Weekend
September 18	Final Exam
September 26	Banquet
Course cost	
\$385.00	

BAJA QUEST:

World Class Diving in La Paz, Mexico

by Victoria B. Johnson
iadvbx@asu.edu

the La Paz locals who will go out of their way to help a lost, information-seeking tourist who attempts to speak a little bit of Spanish?"

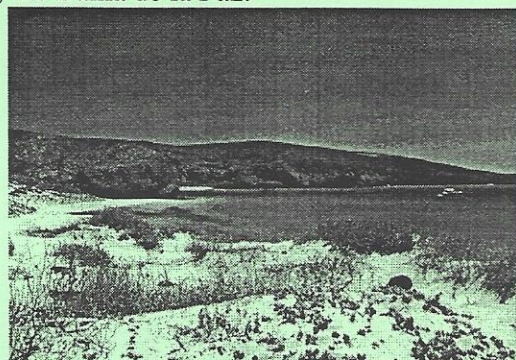
La Paz is the commercial and the governmental capital of the state of Baja California Sur. Its name means "peace," and a large contemporary sculpture, known as the Dove of Peace Monument, acts as the gateway to the city. The white sculpture, which is a combination of a dove's wing and a whale's tail, bears the translated inscription: "And if you want peace, I offer it to you in the sunny peace of my bay." The city spreads out from the curving shore of the largest bay along Baja's eastern coastline, the Bahía de la Paz. *

Despite its commercial bustle, La Paz is a laid-back city of approximately 186,000 residents who carry themselves with pride and respect. While tourism is willingly accommodated, a thoroughly Mexican atmosphere prevails. On Sunday evenings throngs of couples and families can be seen taking a leisurely stroll along the palm-fringed malecón, (the waterside Paseo Alvaro Obregón) against the backdrop of a spectacular sunset.*

For the serious diver on a vacation destination, the friendly, casual, and helpful atmosphere also prevails at Baja Quest, a dive operation located by La Paz's waterfront.

"I book many of my clients through Baja Quest," explains Ernie Arellano, owner of Scuba Travel Ventures, a travel service he owns based in San Diego, California. "The backgrounds of the individuals are so professionally diverse, that divers get an experience that is unique," explains Arellano.

Owner Adria Rocio Lozano, a native of La Paz, has a master's degree in Oceanography in Marine Resource Development and Protection. Her Japanese partner, and husband, Jen Ito, both formed Baja Quest in April of 1996. They both met in La Paz in 1991, got married in Tokyo, and lived there for three years working as divemasters until they returned to La Paz in 1994. Mr. Ito's international connections are the main reason you will run into many Japanese divers on one of Baja Quest's five boats, which are used for camping, sea kayaking, live-aboard cruises, and whale watching in addition to scuba diving. Since 1996 Baja Quest has been heavily involved in ecotourism, a theory of economics used in developing countries and the source of Ms. Lozano's master's thesis.



Lunch spot at a deserted beach near La Paz.



Divemaster Juan Oard (left) next to diver Terry Johnson.

Divemaster Juan Aviles Oard, another native of La Paz, has approximately seven years of diving experience. His familiarity with the region goes back to his childhood when his parents took him fishing and camping on the islands (islas) of Cerralvo, Espiritu Santo, and Reina. Juan can navigate around these dive sites blindfolded. He also has a tendency to dive for clams (almejas) between his dive master duties with gear and game bag in hand. Ask him to treat you to a tasty uncooked morsel and he will gladly oblige.

Boat captain Jose Cervantes is a proud man in his early sixties. With eyes as sharp as a hawk, he can spot a manta jumping out of the water approximately 700 yards away and tell the difference between a fin whale, a California grey whale, and a blue whale when they are miles

away. Make an effort to speak to him in your broken Spanish and he will proudly tell you about his eight years of experience as an abalone diver off Isla Natividad (on the pacific side next to Isla Cedros) during the 1960's. Continue with your questions and he will tell you that his son serves in the military in Chiapas and that recent uprisings, which have gained national attention, are the result of troubles with the Guatemalan chiefs and not the

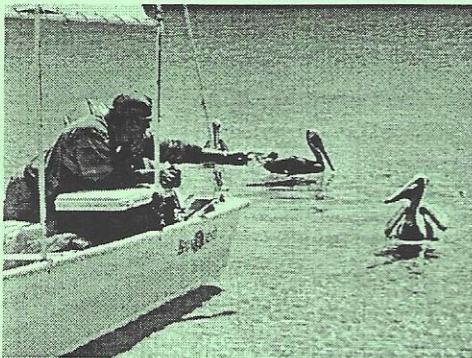
BAJA QUEST: (continued)

Mexicans. Cook Juan Abiles not only catches but also makes a very tasty pescado Veracruz with vegetable and tomato sauce.

Baja Quest lists ten dive sites on its web site at bajaquest.com.mx. The most well-known dive site is the El Bajo Seamount with its frequent sights of hammerhead sharks (pez martillos) and other pelagic species such as giant Pacific mantas, marlins, whalesharks, sailfish, and schools of jacks. Divemaster Juan can find these species before they are even aware that divers have sighted them. It takes about three and one-half hours by boat from downtown La Paz to reach this advanced dive site. It is often exposed to strong currents in the late fall and winter when rough seas can occur because of its exposed location.

Hundreds of friendly California sea lions can be found at Los Islotes, which is considered to be an easy-to-moderate dive spot located 27 miles north from Isla Espiritu Santo. Sea lions at Los Islotes have the distinction of seeing more tourists from every part of the globe than residents of Paris, France. One can only guess that because of this constant attention, sea lion pups have developed a flair for tugging at your fins and snorkel. For the truly brave diver, they will be bold enough to allow you to put your hand in their mouth chewing on your fingers like a playful puppy.

La Reinita (Little Queen) is an islet and reef located on the western central part of Isla Carralvo with crevices, boulders, and caves that provide food and shelter for snapper, groupers, green jacks, Mexican barracuda and an occasional marlin or dorado. Other dive sites include Salvatierra, (the site of a ferryboat that was sunk in 1975 lying on the bottom of the Sal Lorenzo Canal), Isla Ballena, Punta Lobos, and La Reina.



Boat Captain Jose Cervantes feeding the pelicans a lunch time snack.

Optimal visibility of 100-200 feet occurs during the summer months of July and August when water temperatures in the high 70's and 80's kill off plankton. Be sure to bring plenty of sunscreen, a hat, and cool clothing, as afternoon temperatures in this dry, desert climate can reach into the 100's. Locals claim that September, October, and early November are the best times to visit La Paz. Those months are at the end of the Mexican tourist season and water temperatures and visibility are still ideal.

On your decompression day off, Jack Velez Sportfishing Charters (located in the lobby of the Los Arcos Hotel) offers boats for the avid fisherman ranging from pangas to fully equipped large cabin cruisers. Sailfish, yellowfin tuna, dorado, roosterfish, yellowtail, wahoo, and marlin make La Paz a world-class sportsman's fishing destination.

A city tour of La Paz by English speaking guide, Kathryn Romero Garcia, is also available for \$15.00 for a day trip. The tour begins daily at 10:00 a.m. and runs through La Paz's main streets, the Cathedral of our Lady of La Paz, the public market in the center of town on Avenida Revolución de 1910 at Degollado, the anthropology museum, and the baseball stadium. Also included in this six hour tour is a visit to the pottery workshop (Centro de Arte Regional) south of the downtown area and to Artesanía Cuauhtémoc (The Weaver), who makes and sells hand-woven cotton and woolen items such as rugs, tablecloths, and placemats. The tour concludes with a two-hour stay at Playa Delocote, a beautiful deserted beach that boasts a world-class restaurant.

A popular eatery is La Paz-Lapa, on Paseo Alvaro Obregón at León, part of the Carlos Anderson chain. The noise level is deafening, but the fish and beef are tasty and the atmosphere convivial.

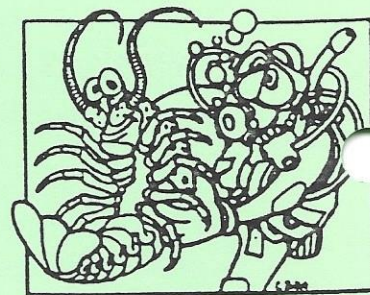
The airport is located 11 miles southwest of the city off Mex. 1. Aero California and Aeroméxico have daily flights from Los Angeles and Phoenix to La Paz. Cab fare from the Los Arcos hotel to the airport runs about \$12.00. Cab drivers charge more (\$20.00) for transportation from the airport to the city. The airport, however, is the last place you will want to visit on your La Paz vacation as it signifies that your vacation is over and that you will be leaving a city, which has some of the friendliest people in the world.

* Information provided courtesy of the 1997 American Automobile Club (Triple AAA) Travel Guide for Mexico.

Information regarding Baja Quest can be obtained through their web page at bajaquestquest.com.mx or by telephone at 011 52(112) 3-53-20.

Information about Scuba Travel Ventures can be obtained at 1-800-298-9009 or at the e-mail address of: stvdive.aol.com

Cabrillo Chocolate Lobster Dive



Saturday
September 26, 1998

SAVE THE DATE

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
3720 Stephen White Drive
San Pedro, California

On September 26, 1998, both certified Scuba divers and free divers will be able to descend into the waters off Cabrillo Beach in search of a new species of lobster (the 8-inch chocolate variety).

- limited to the first 500 entrants
- divers are allowed to recover and keep up to 2 chocolate lobsters
- win thousands of dollars in exciting prizes provided by dive equipment manufacturers and other sponsors
- pre-registration by September 12 is \$25 and includes parking
- after September 12 registration is \$28 and there is a \$6.50 parking charge
- lunch is included in the registration fee
- proceeds from the event go to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Spring Outdoor program which allows over 36,000 children to learn about the marine environment

Entry forms can be obtained by calling 310/548-7562 ext. 9039 or fax 310/548-2649

A facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks

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 ND STREET
98-2	SAT	14 MAR	SAN NICOLAS	\$95	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
98-3	SAT	11 APR	SHIP ROCK/BLUE CAVERN/BIRD ROCK	\$70	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
98-C10	WED	6 MAY	CHAMBER DAY 10 / CATALINA	\$65*	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND 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 ½ FATHOM SPOT	\$85	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
98-6	FRI/SAT	24/25 JULY	BEGG ROCK/SANTA BARBARA/FARNSWORTH BANKS	\$190	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
98-7	SUN	16 AUG	OLYMPIC & AVALON WRECKS & PALOS VERDES	\$70	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND 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 ND 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:

- 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 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) 945-3461, 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

CALENDAR

JULY						
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	

July 7
July 24 -25
July 16

General Meeting - 7 PM - Round Table Pizza
Boat Dive -Begg Rock - *GREAT ESCAPE*
Executive Meeting - 6:30 PM - Roberto Al Mare

AUGUST						
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					

August 4
August 16

General Meeting - 7 PM - Round Table Pizza
Boat Dive - Wrecks of Palos Verdes - *GREAT ESCAPE*

IN THIS ISSUE!!!!!!

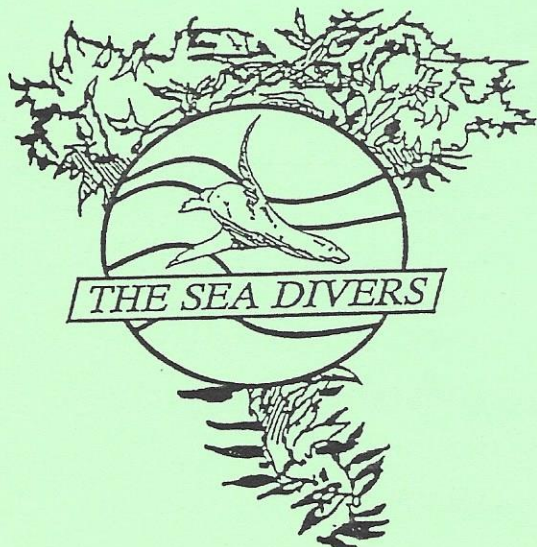
- El Niño Dead?!?
- Diving La Paz!!
- Wreck Diving...and MORE!!

Visit The Sea Diver web page at: <http://www.tstonramp.com/~cbilling>

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



NOTICE: 1998/1999 DUES ARE DUE AS OF JUNE 30, 1998!!