



Blue Water Divers News



February Meeting Minutes

By Jacob Kisner

Ric brought the meeting to order on February 14, 2007.

Ric talked about changing the way the newsletter will be delivered in the future. Those that have email may opt for an electronic version of the email. Those that do not have email will still get a copy mailed to them.

Frank from Franko Maps was the guest speaker for the night. Frank talked about the history of his maps. He told us that it all started when he moved to Southern California and realized that there were no biking maps for the trails in the area. He created his first maps for the bike trails of Chino Hills State Park and Santa Ana mountains.

He created these huge maps and had no idea what to do with them. He got help from his brother in law in printing them and selling them to bike stores in the area for a dollar a piece.

In 1995, he went diving at Catalina and noticed that there were no dive maps for the area. So he started producing maps for scuba diving.

Franks said that it takes about an year to make a map.

Frank also made a map of Pearl Harbor like it was in 1941. On the reverse side of the map, it shows what Pearl Harbor looks like today.

Franks latest project was a map of the Cayman Islands. He started the map in 2000 and he finally finished it in January 2007.

Frank said that there has been major advances over the past year which has made it easier to create the maps.

At the end of the night, Frank sold his maps to the dive club and donated half the sales back to the club. His donation to the club... \$120! Thank you club member for purchasing the maps. And a very, very special thanks to Frank for the kind donation to the club!

Raffle Winners

Bari Harris	4 lb. lead weight
John Krieger	Slate
Mike Greedy	4 lb. lead weight
Cris Lokuan	Micro Fiber Towel
Jerry Dow	Dive Pak
Richard Castner	OC Dive Map and reef cards
Mark LaRowe	Sack

Congratulations you lucky Winners!! Thank you everyone for your contributions to the Raffle. Special thank you to Frank from Franko Maps for the donation to the raffle.

Birthdays

March

Zona Forsyth, Ric Ruhlman, Jim Hoffmann, John Ryan, Raul Escobedo, Karen Oden

Chamber Night

Blue Water Divers had a table for Chamber Night on Wednesday May 2. The cost is \$90 per person.

At the time of the printing of this newsletter, there were only 5 spots left!

Please see the insert in the newsletter for more information.

Upcoming Meeting March 14th

Ric will show a DVD of his last trip to Curacao in November of 2006.

Upcoming Events

March 14th
BWD Meeting

March 18th
Catalina Island
Magician

April 11th
BWD Meeting

April 14th
Santa Barbara Island
Pacific Star

Who's Been Diving...

Jerry, Jacob and Janice dove the Yukon in San Diego. Jacob got a tooth squeeze. Visibility was not too bad.

Frank dove Cozumel for the first time since the hurricane. He reported that all the piers have been undermined and all the reefs are moon shaped. Diving is still good in the south and where it is deep.

Divers Weekend at the Aquarium

Divers get in free at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach on Saturday, March 17 and Sunday, March 18. Must bring your C card with valid photo I.D. See insert for more details.

Be sure to pick up your FREE copy of California Diving News at the meeting. Compliments of California Diving News.

Gone with the Current
By Michael Knitter

Her name was Curacao. From the first moment I glimpsed the sun's reflection across her deep blue skin, I realized my love affair with warm water was rekindled. Just how the sheer blue skies, enhanced her beauty, has always remained a mystery to me. I hoped to gather another clue this morning, when I descended the cliffs from my cozy room, for the morning dive.

My heart raced, as I slipped into her warm embrace. Ah, 84 degrees, just the way I liked her. She denied me nothing. She unveiled the beauty of her reefs with gentle grace, barely a whisper of a current. I tickled her I am sure; with the excited exhale of my bubbles. I frolicked along the reef, day after day an hour at a time. Lobster, soft corals, arrow crabs, many more creatures were there. All these hidden beauties added to the mystique of my affair.

As is the case with any great affair, (well sometimes) one must learn to share. Lovers came from far and wide (Canada, Illinois, Utah, Colorado) all swam side by side. Some treated her rather rudely, but she's strong and will replenish herself over time.

I would chat with fellow divers who also enjoyed her warm embrace. I discovered others perceived what I didn't see and made a note on that. People shared their pictures; some captured an image or two of her beauty I never knew. It was helpful and I more observant the next time I descended into her depths.

When my rendezvous with my warm, warm love had come to an end; I couldn't bare to say good bye. I silently vowed to return and try to unveil more of her endless beauty. Some day, somehow, cause there always-another day!

Dive the Sea of Cortez with Humbolt Squid—Update!!!

Landbased: Club Cantamar

Date: Tuesday August 21 to Sunday August 26

Cost: \$714, plus \$100 for an optional squid nightdive, includes chain mail suit, lights etc.

Deposit: \$200

Dive sites: The usual, El Bajo, La Renia, Los Islotes, etc.

I'd like to get a small group together, so we can hire our own smaller boat, and chose our own itinerary.

Let me know ASAP

Walter Marti

909-709-0959

<http://diver.net/waltermarti/homepage.htm>

And Then it Rained
By Leah Shermis

As many of you know I am at the beach diving at least three times a week and the last four weeks in January have been some of the best diving conditions for this time of year that we have had in a very long time at the beach.

My husband John and I were out at the end of the reef in 50 feet of water at Shaw's Cove in Laguna Beach on Saturday 01-24-2007 and there was literally 30 feet of visibility. It was less in the shallows (20 feet give or take) but once you passed that, it almost looked like the Sea of Cortez. Notice I did not say "felt like" the Sea of Cortez, because the water temperature was down to 56-58 degrees. Which brings me to what we were doing down there, looking for Dorids.

In the late winter/early spring when the water gets colder (mid to low 50's) I have found both San Diego and Nobel dorids on the reefs at depths of forty plus feet. I have a great passion for nudibranchs and though I found Hopkin's Rose, Tyrodina, Spanish Shawl, Cockrell's dorid and sea hares all on the same dive, I found no sign of the Nobel dorid and all I found of the San Diego dorid was one rose shaped egg casing. I could barely contain my excitement at seeing the flowering yellow shape before me because it was a sure sign that they were somewhere to be found and it was more than I had come across on Tuesday or Friday.

Sunday I was on a dive charter to Catalina Island all day (another story) so was unable to continue my search the next day and then it rained.



Get Your Free Raffle Tickets!

There are two ways you can get a free raffle ticket at the next meeting!

- 1) ***Wear your Official Blue Water Diver's Polo Shirt***
(get one ticket every month you wear it)
- 2) ***Let us know it's your Birthday that Month.***
(sorry...only one Birthday per year!)

CHAMBER DAY AND EVENING 2007

Registration is now underway for the 19th annual Chamber Day events (to be held on Wednesday, May 2 this year). In case you're not aware of it, Chamber Day is a fund-raiser for our Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, and is the largest single-day scuba charity event in the United States.

As you may or may not know, the Catalina Chamber is dedicated strictly to the treatment of diving accidents on a 24/7/365 basis. Although we hope you'll never need it, having the Chamber available gives divers a vital safety net in the event something should go wrong with your dive. Although there is a grant from LA County, and the Chamber gets income from some outside activities, Chamber Day provides a significant portion (close to 50%) of the Chamber's annual budget.

The great thing about this event is that ALL the monies raised goes to the Chamber. No administrative fees are deducted from the proceeds, the local SoCal boats donate their time and services, the manufacturers donate gear for raffle prizes (roughly \$30,000 worth), the Aquarium of the Pacific donates their facility for the evening event, hundreds of volunteers donate their time, and you (hopefully) donate your money. Last year we raised over \$105,000 and this year we're hoping to do even better. The event has many facets and there are multiple ways for you to get involved.

The main event is Chamber Day, a full day of diving (two dives) at Catalina plus a walking tour of the Chamber at the Isthmus. Cost for this is \$90 (plus \$30 for food & airfills) which gets you the diving, the tour, a t-shirt, and five raffle tickets.

For those who can't take a day off but would still like to participate we have the Flying Dutchman, a mythical boat but a big part of Chamber Day as it's the perfect place for those who can't do the event. Those who choose to "dive" the Dutchman get a special limited-edition t-shirt (available ONLY to those who sign up for the Dutchman) as well as raffle tickets.

There's also the Chamber Challenge, where the diving community is "challenged" to raise extra funds for our Chamber, through specific donations (usually \$100, but also \$500 and \$1000), which then hopefully challenge your friends to match your generosity.

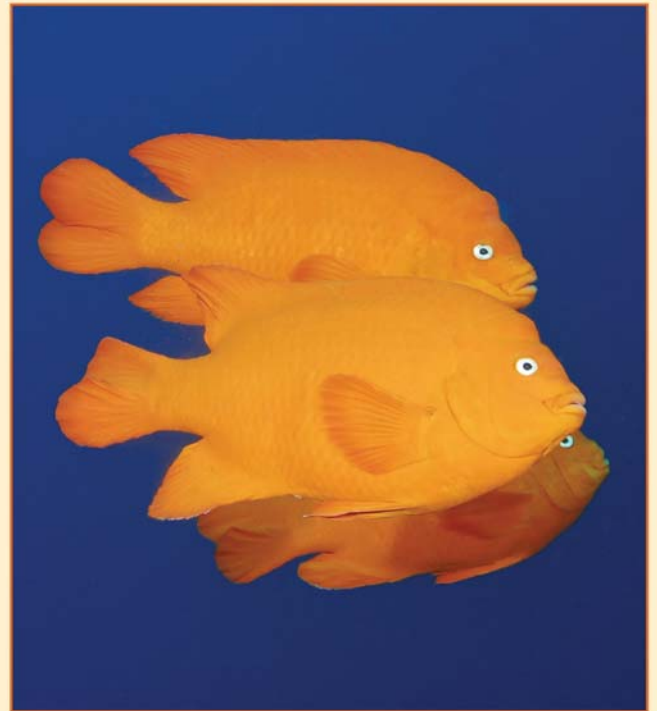
Raffle tickets can be purchased for the daytime raffle (you need not be present to win) whether you're going on a boat or just want a chance at winning some fabulous prizes.

Chamber Evening is the cap to everything and is co-sponsored by the Aquarium of the Pacific. It features full access to the Aquarium, a sit-down dinner in the Great Hall (underneath the life-sized model of a Blue Whale), some awards, a separate raffle, and the presentation of the final check to Karl Huggins, Director of the Chamber.

But no matter how you do it, we really hope you'll get involved with Chamber Day & Chamber Evening this year.

Ken Kurtis — Chairman

GRAB YOUR BUDDIES!



CHAMBER DAY 2007

BENEFITTING THE USC  WEDNESDAY
CATALINA HYPERBARIC CHAMBER MAY 2ND

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 310-652-4990 - www.chamberday.com

THE CHAMBER CHALLENGE 2007

Each year the diving community also raises extra funds for the Chamber through the Chamber Challenge. These are funds vital to the operation of our Chamber. Simply put, you make a donation of whatever level is good for you, and then "Challenge" your friends and associates to match you.

Although contributions of any size are welcome, we have a tiered level of donations as follows:

Diamond: \$10,000, Platinum: \$5,000, Gold: \$1,000, Silver: \$500, Bronze: \$100

All Diamond, Platinum, and Gold donors will receive special recognition from our Chamber for their donation. Contributions can come from individuals, clubs, stores, boats, publications, etc., etc. If the company you work for has a matching grant program, that will also be appreciated.

Donations can either be made through our secure server at www.chamberday.org or by calling 310/652-4990. Cash, check, or credit card will be just fine and dandy but please make a contribution.



Road Trip!

By Jim Hoffmann

On the weekend of January 27th and 28th a hearty band of Blue Water divers made an epic trip to Monterey.

Johnny Walker, Bryan and Sam Thompson, and I started out on Friday afternoon. We were on a mission. We were driving in Bryan's new super diesel F250 super Crew Cab. With four sets of Scuba, Scooters, Luggage, and camera gear there was almost no room in the bed or in the cab.

After a 6 hour drive we pulled into our Travelodge just outside Monterey. We dined at the fine restaurant that was right next door, the Buzzard's BBQ (this place had 7 different kinds of road kill, fine dining at it's best).

Saturday we awake to partly cloudy skies and rain. We met up with Andrew who was our guide in Monterey. We were suppose to be diving Point Lobos but couldn't get reservations. Plan B was a beach dive in Carmel. This location had a big dog leg bay that had no surf inside.

Sam and I were watching the 6 to 10 ft. surf breaking on the outside and the milky look of the water, and thought about the water temp of the low 50's (we were wet suit diving). We decided not go. John, Bryan and Andrew being manly men decided to go (they all had scooters, and dry suits).

Sam and I had a great time taking pics of ocean and this area of Carmel (very nice). John, Bryan, and Andrew came back in about an hour all looking a little beat up, they had to scooter out over a mile to get a little vis and spent most of the dive a 70 to 100 feet (Sam and I just smiled to ourselves).

After they recovered some we went to lunch (more fine dining, this time Mexican, this place only 4 kinds of road kill, but in burritos) then to downtown Monterey, (there's a dive site right down town, it's inside the bay and there is no surf, but Andrew said that it had a sandy bottom). We stopped at Backscatter (Backscatter is the largest underwater photo store I have ever seen, they had just about everything).

After the tour of downtown Monterey we went off on our mission (over a 200 mile drive). Once this was done, Andrew and some of his friends took us to Santa Clara (to see the freak show). The only problem was that the freaks didn't like rain and it was pouring. So we went to one of this groups favorite restaurants (one that Sam could go to) 99 Bottles of Beer (more fine dining, no road kill but lots of alcohol).

After dinner, we said good bye to our friends, they were trying for the record, (you drink 99 bottles and you get trophy and a free taxi ride home) and it was getting late. Back to Monterey and our friendly Travelodge. We were all ready for bed and we were not going to have any trouble sleeping (John had a little trouble but that's another story).

Day three, we headed home down route one. To me this was the best part of the trip. We made our way down through Big Sur. The coast was just beautiful, heavy surf coming in on the rocky coast line, whales off the coast, and Red Wood trees. Another treat were the Elephant Seals on the beach with their pups. And of coarse San Simeon in the clouds. To top it off we had lunch at Andersen's (better dinning then what we had a Monterey).

This was a great trip, the area was beautiful, Andrew and his friends were great host, and couldn't ask for better traveling companions. Can't wait to go and do it again.



Last months "What If?"

The question was... "you are finishing up a dive, you have had a good time and down to about 200lbs of air in your tank. You are not sure where the boat/shore is. So you come to the surface to scope out the boat/shore and end up pulling off the corrugated inflator hose from your B/C?

Responses: John Walker said that you should drop your weights, remove your scuba gear and sit on it.

Bryan said that if you are close to the boat, you could possibly muscle it over to the boat and that if you are diving in a dry suit, you should have enough buoyancy. He also stated the dropping your weights would also be idea.

John Walker also made a very good point. At 200 p.s.i., you should be balanced and neutral. Most divers dive over weighted to begin with.

Be sure to pick up your FREE copy of *California Diving News* at the meeting. Compliments of California Diving News.

Blue Water Divers
Boat Dive

**The Magician
Catalina Island
Sunday
March 18th, 2007**

\$117.00 Price includes food and air fills

**Boards: Sunday 6:00AM
Departs: Sunday 7:00 AM
Returns about 6:00PM**

**Contact: Call
Captain Jerry at 818-499-7101**

<http://magicianscuba.com/>

Think about this and
let's talk about it at
the next meeting.

What If...

you were diving and
during the middle of
your dive you found
yourself floating to
the surface pretty
fast, you reach to
dump air from your
B/C and check you
weight belt only to
find you no longer
had a weight belt.

What would you do?

NEW CLUB SHIRTS & HATS!!!



Order your polo shirt choose the color you want for \$25.00 at the meeting or order from Dianne, Bari, or Kitty. See their email addresses above.



Hats are \$12.00 and take it home today.

Continue your diving education!

Steve Guest and Leah Shermis are still teaching scuba. We are associated with a NAUI dive shop. If you wish to take another scuba class, or a refresher, or have friends and family that want to learn to scuba, please think about letting us be your instructor.

Steve (562) 434-1745 Leah (562) 866-8327

**Next Meeting is Wednesday
March 14th, 2007 @ 6:30PM
See you there!**



Jacob Kisner
BWD Editor
14460 Plantana Drive
La Mirada, CA 90638

562-325-0054

E-Mail:

jbdkisner@ca.rr.com

Web Site:

www.bluewaterdivers.org

Blue Water Divers Web

Page has been updated.

Check it out regularly!