



Barbary Coast Bulletin

The Monthly Newsletter of the Barbary Coast Divers

February 2000

Next Meeting: February 16th

All meetings are held the third **Wednesday** of every month at
ROUND TABLE PIZZA ON GEARY AT 16TH AVE.
upstairs in the party room

Upcoming Dive Club Events:

Diving in Monterey on Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 February--see [page 2](#) for details

At Our **Next** Meeting:

Pizza, beer, fish stories...Come one and all and join the fun!

At Our **Last** Meeting:

Pete, Naoko, and Siodin showed a video of their trip to Hawaii

Read this newsletter on the web at www.idiom.com/~catzan/bcd

If you are getting a paper copy of this newsletter and wish to switch to an all electronic format (ie, you receive an e-mail each month telling you to go to the web page to read the newsletter), let me know at catzan@idiom.com.

Announcements

Time to pay dues!

The cost is \$35 per person or couple, which includes a subscription to CenCal diver club

<http://www.cencal.org>.

CenCal represents all divers in California and lobbies for rights of divers.

Send check payable to Carol Reed, 150 Sadowa, San Francisco, CA 94112

If you have questions, call Carol at 415-668-6662 (work) or 415-333-8820 (home).



Upcoming Dive Club Events:

Here is our calendar for the year 2000

February 26-27 - Monterey Diving (see below)

March 11-12 - Monterey Diving

April 1-2 Mendocino - Abalone opener. Buy those stamps and licenses now!

May 27-29 - Memorial Day at Caspar Cove

June 24-25 - Salt Point

July - Mylandia -- Camping and sitting by the stream at Pete's land in the Sierra foothills.

Aug. 12-13 Mendocino

Sept 2-3 - Labor Day at Manchester State Beach

Oct 7-9 - Big Sur

Nov. 18-19 Mendocino

Monterey Dive February 26-27

Dan and Roy have reserved a room at the Laguna Lodge in Marina just north of Monterey. The room has one king bed and two doubles plus a kitchen and dive gear rinse area. This place caters to divers and was advertised in the last CENCAL Oddesy. The room is \$82.00 for the night which will be split as many ways as possible. The management said we could put as many people in the room as we wanted, floor space, etc. Call Dan anytime if your interested at (415) 564-6082

New Officers:

President: Curt Haney

Vice President: Rick Fanta

Treasurer: Carol Reed

Newsletter/Web Editor: Catherine Zandonella

Recent BCD Adventures:**In search of paradise on the last day of the millennium**

New Year's Eve 1999--I found myself with 34 other Sunday-afternoon Golden Gate Park volleyball players on a retreat in Cambria. I was going to dive with Airdam, a competent diver with whom I freedove once before in Searanch.

This time, we didn't do any homework on where to dive. I figured we would look out at the ocean, find some kelp, and head out there. The ocean looked flat, but the kelp bed off Cambria was a pretty long kick. We figured we should find something closer. We headed North toward San Simeon.



Hearst Castle

We checked out the ocean the whole way to Hearst Castle, but saw no kelp beds close to shore. We'd stop, look for pinnacles, figure maybe there...no, that would be too shallow...maybe there.. no, can't get down the cliffs, etc.

After an hour of searching we were really wishing we had done some homework. Finally we spotted a State Trooper in a parking lot. He was on his cellphone with his girlfriend and embarrassingly told us of a beach about a mile up the road. "That's where people start out," he said. "They head out to those rocks," he said, pointing to some giant white boulders.

We headed for the next dirt lot. The cop was right. The beach looked like an easy launch. There were tourist billboards that told folks this was one of the best beaches in Central California at which to wind surf, dive, and kayak.

There was only one problem. Actually many problems. Some of these problems weighed up to two tons. Other problems were babies that were born in the spring, while many others were yearlings and pregnant females. These problems began colonizing this beach about ten years ago when Ano Nuevo became too crowded. I'm talking elephant seals. You could get way closer to them than Ano Nuevo, and there were no reservations required.

As usual, the colony put on quite a show. They don't flee when confronted with the unusual (humans or the smell of dogs) like sea lions do.

After an hour of watching them, we headed further north and found a spot we thought might be good. Scrambling down a cliff, we got into our gear. The cliff was more than I wanted to deal with my kayak, so I left it behind, but I brought my camera. After punching out of the surf line we dropped and began to kick.

We kicked and kicked and kicked but never managed to get to to an area with even 20 ft. of depth. By the end of the dive, we'd seen only algae, some kelp, nudibranchs and a crab. There were a few fish that were pan-frying-size but nothing worthy of a speargun.

Still, it was the last dive of the millennium and Airdam was cool, I'd dive with him again. The unexpected elephant seal colony totally made the excursion.

Recent BCD Adventures:

***Monterey Harbor Clean Up (January)...
by Jim McCormick***

The Harbor Clean Up was really fun! Tracey and I went down for the day with Doug Watts (a future BCD member). Roy Coto and Dan Schwartz met us there. We caught a free ride out on the harbor master's skiff while Roy and Dan put in their kayaks and paddled out to join us. (Dan brought his camera and pretended he was really there to snap some great macro shots of the nudibranchs that hang out under the wharf, but then we caught him bagging loads of trash with all the other divers).

We dove for a couple hours in the clear, dark, and scary waters under the wharf. It was only 20-25 feet deep so our bottom time was extended. We pulled up a bunch of fishing line, bottles and assorted junk (you would not believe the big stuff that people have just thrown off the pier -- we could not begin to lift the large rusty farming equipment and other weird metal stuff). I found a 1950's era dive mask... and I won a prize for it -- a trip for two aboard the Silver Prince dive boat!

***...followed by Sex in the Sea, just in time for
Valentine's Day.***

After the Harbor Clean Up, Tracey and I drove over to the Breakwater to take advantage of the free airfill (provided for participating in the dive). We heard the visibility had been great earlier, but by the time we got in at 3:00 p.m., it couldn't be measured in feet, it was more like "can't see my feet." (We heard later that the visibility was bad because bat rays were there to congregate and make love nests in the sand. But, we did get a long surface swim out to our intended site and lots of large beautiful jellyfish that were cruising by at 5-10 feet. We also saw tube anenomes spawning their spaghetti-like eggs... and then we happened upon a local decorator crab. Then we realized he was with a couple friends... no, make that a dozen friends... hmmm, no, more like a hundred of the little camouflaged buggers were hanging out, apparently with a "special" purpose in mind. After spotting only one loving couple, it appeared to us that the multitude of other decorators were there waiting for their chance with any other eligible ladies. None were evident, so we guessed that the other bachelorettes were still busy "decorating" for the occasion.

The vis was amazing at Monastery on Sunday... 60+ feet in every direction! It really was the best overall diving conditions I'd ever seen there... raining buckets up topside, but flat as a bathtub on the surface with 6-inch breakers and crystal conditions. We dove the north side and had constant company from several big grey harbor seals. We cruised through large groups of senioritas and other kelp forest denizens. We even spied on another couple of lovers: two big ling cods were "getting busy," spawning on a rock. I guess it's just that time of year...



Dan and Roy, suited for diving together



Tracey and Jim, on the watch for spawning sea critters. You go, tube anenomes!



Recent BCD Adventures:

Christmas Party Photos



Corina: Steve, why is Roy wearing that funny hat?
Steve: Because it's Christmas, dear.



Jim: Honey, what are we doing here with these nutty people?
Tracey: Don't worry dear. We'll go home soon.



Linda: Dan cooked this.
Corina: Oh that explains it.



Naoko: Why is someone holding two fingers over your head?
Pete: You know Americans. We are always doing strange things.

Treasures from the Monterey Dive Cleanup

A 1950's era dive mask, green with an amber lens.

A blue Pepto Bismol bottle with a 1906 patent date.

Two winches with one being operational.

A generator.

A marine toilet and a standard toilet.

Two bicycles, one in good condition.

A couple nautical brass items. We are still trying to figure out what one of them is.

A couple fishing poles and reels (they must have hooked the big one that got away).

Recovered items were immediately inspected for marine life. Quite a few octopi and fish were returned to the ocean.

List courtesy of David Clayton, Diver Representative MBNM Sanctuary Advisory Council