

# SOCDOC

Monthly News, Events, Diving Trips and Information from the most active club in Southern California

A Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2011

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### President's Message

*Konrad Fry*

**Hello Divers!** We had an exceptional month in March. Russ and Jeff and the beach diving gang actually went in the water. That is amazing since all the storms in the Pacific descended on Southern California along with a Tsunami and God knows what kind of radiation from the worst Earthquake disaster in history. Have you ever noticed that when bad happens in Japan, it REALLY happens bad. Just watch the first Godzilla movie and you will know what I mean. I cannot imagine having a giant wave hit Orange County, wipe out Dana Point and Newport Harbors, ruin San Onofre reactor and cause all of us to be evacuated due to radiation. That is what is happening right now to the poor people over there. **You can help by donating to the Red Cross and specify Japan right here.**



At the end of the month we all chartered the Magician out of San Pedro to dive the Isthmus area of Catalina. What an exceptionally pleasant trip! Ferhat and I drove up early in the morning and arrived in San Pedro within 43 minutes. The freeway was empty Sunday morning at 5:30 AM. We got to the parking lot and Cathy Soloman and Wendy were unloading their gear as others arrived. It was nice not to sleep over on the boat. My girlfriend thinks dive boats are big parties overnight. The reality is everyone goes to bed early and people arrive all night long so it becomes noisy. Then the snoring and other bodily sounds go off like a chorus of a very bad orchestra. This day we drove early. Yeah!

For those who thought we would have big swells and rain and did not go, you would have been very wrong. The ride over was pleasant with 2 foot swells. Breakfast was waffles, scrambled eggs

and sausages. Nice. We saw sea gulls crashing the ocean surface near Palos Verdes. This meant a bait ball of anchovy, sardines or mackerel. Sure enough a big pod of dolphins appeared and zoomed right to the boat. Everyone was very happy. We looked to shore and saw all the rain clouds were hovering over Orange County as predicted. Magician Captain Jerry gave us a choice of dive sites and we chose the most difficult entry site, with the best visibility of the day.

### **President's Dive Log #694 Blue Caverns**

This was tricky because Magician could not anchor. We had to jump off Cozumel style in several passes. Everyone was to go to shore and then descend in a group to find the caverns. We did and even the newbie's found their way. The caverns are very large and stunning. The largest is about 30 feet wide and goes back quiet a way into the cliff face. We went to 78 feet and had 50 foot visibility. There were several more caves to explore. Ferhat saw a white sea bass, I saw a big school of mackerel.

### **President's Dive Log #695 Isthmus Reef SW End**

As we all got back on Magician, we saw dolphin. Just as I suspected they were zooming over to us to munch-a-bunch of mackerel. We anchored at the SW end of Isthmus Reef. Isthmus reef is out from Catalina's Isthmus about 1/2 mile. It is like a big Mesa, flat on top with cliffs all the way around. I have never had a bad dive there and this was no exception. Ferhat and I went off the cliff face and down to 70 feet. He found another large cave that had a crack above filled with White Rock Fish clinging to the sides or swimming in the crack or swimming straight up! Very strange. Oh yeah, the walls of



**The Saturday "Beach Divers" getting ready to get wet!**

the cave were coated in lobster. I guess they figured the season just ended.

### **President's Dive Log #696 Rock Quarry**

This was a surprise. I did not know that south of the Isthmus LA/San Pedro Harbor breakwater rocks were quarried from Catalina rock. You may also not know that Dana Point Harbor breakwater rocks also were quarried from the south part of Catalina. Each quarry is directly across from the harbor were the rocks were deposited. So you stand on the Dana Point breakwater and look at the south end of the island and the light colored area is the spot the rock you are standing on came from .... Cool.

The beginning of the dive was perfect. I swooped down on an 6 foot angel shark. I will put it in the video. Ferhat was gunning for some tasty calico bass but they were all in the rocks. We also were looking for the Mexican tropical scythe fish that live there year round but were not to be found.

**Après Plongée (thank you Gary ;-)**

That means *after the dive* in French. We had an international group of people, wine and spirits for the return. What a warm wonderful SOCDC Wine Tasting Return™ This was the first time single malt scotch made the journey in bottle form. Johannes brought a huge chunk of Costco gouda cheese and the ride back went so fast our head were spinning. Hmmm , maybe from something else. ;-)

We truly wish you all could have been there but there will be another boat soon. I hope I have inspired you to get aboard next trip. April is going to be a big dive month with two raftups and four shore dives. Our speaker is Grady from the Aquarium of the Pacific and one of the most engaging and fun speaker we have. So come out to the meeting, come out to the shore dives and come out to the raftups... you are invited!

Ciao,

*Konrad*

# Upcoming Events for the Club...

## COZUMEL 2011

Hotel Cozumel August 13-  
August 21 6 days of 3 tank  
dives

**ALL INCLUSIVE \$912 divers /  
\$505 Non-Divers (WOW!!!)**

\*airfare extra (+/- \$600 as of  
March)

email: Tom Dunbar

[fourwins88@dslextreme.com](mailto:fourwins88@dslextreme.com)

## Club Meetings

(Fuddruckers El Toro Road, 2n  
Wednesday 6:30 PM)

**April 13th Grady Scallon  
Aquarium Of The Pacific**

**May 11th** Dick Long CEO  
DUI Drysuits THE LEGEND!

**June 8th** Tom Dunbar's  
COZUMEL 10 Years of Travel

**July 13th** Cindy Rhodes RIPS,  
ROCKS & REEFS LA County

**August 10th**

**September 14th** Joe Varencic  
The PALM ISLANDS in Dubai

## Saturday Beach Dives

Meet @ Pavilions Laguna  
Beach Every Saturday 9 AM.  
Hosted by Russ Follmer and  
Jeff Reitz

## Kelp Fest

April 16th Laguna Beach Main  
Beach Giant Snorkel Event 11  
AM

## Club Raftups

You must be a member with  
DAN insurance to participate.  
Please bring a picnic lunch  
and drinks to share.

Saturday's 9 AM @ Dana Point  
Harbor. Great way to dive!  
email: [Dale Laube](mailto:Dale.Laube)

April 09

April 23

May 07

May 14 (back up date)

May 21

June 11

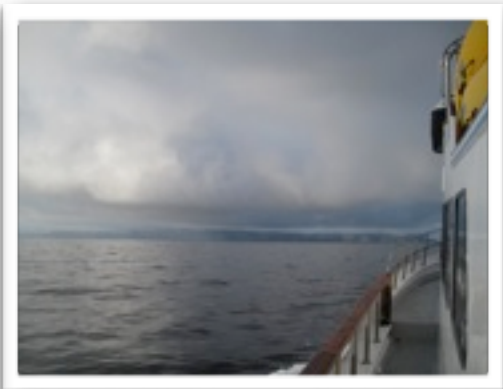
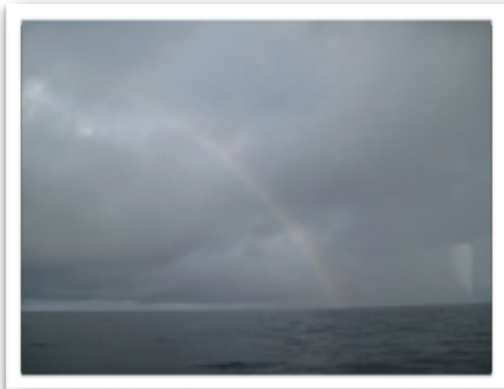
June 18 (back up date)

June 25

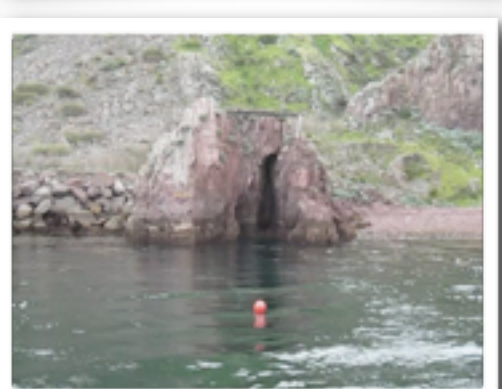
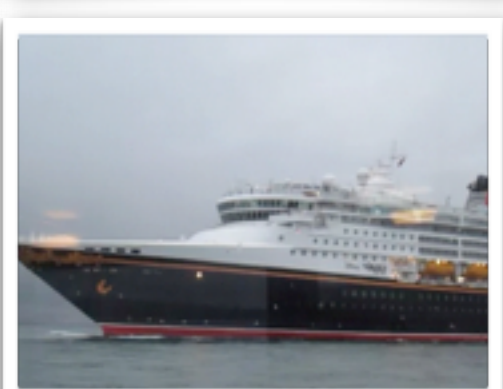
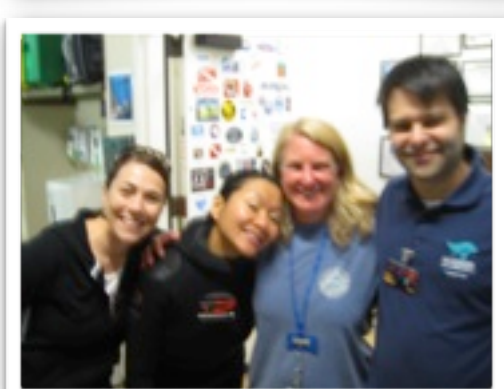
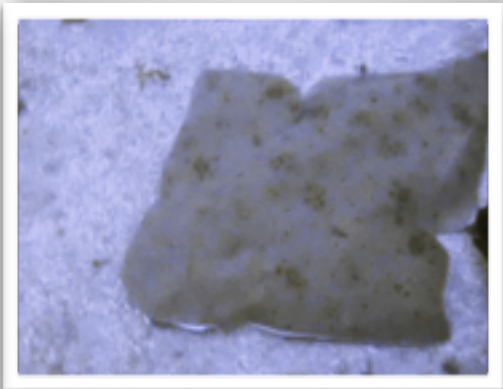
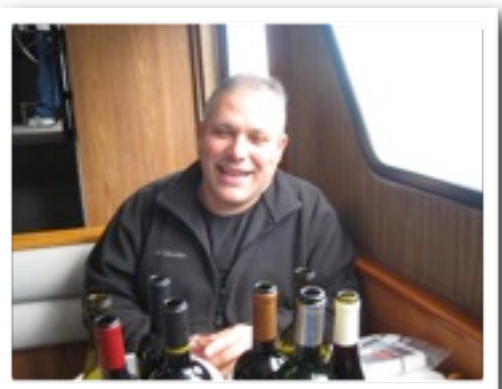
## Girls Gone Diving

1 Sunday of the Month |  
Montage Resort Laguna Beach  
| 9 AM email Dr. Debra Titus  
to get the go  
code ;-)  
[debra@divein.tv](mailto:debra@divein.tv)

**Send all checks to: SOCDC  
PO Box 3687, Mission Viejo,  
CA 92690**



Here's a few photos of the recent Club activities - if you have any photos of your activities with the club, please email them to [rickvalasek@gmail.com](mailto:rickvalasek@gmail.com), we'd be pleased to include them in the newsletter.



Want to get in on the fun? Check out the Event section (page 3) to "jump-in."

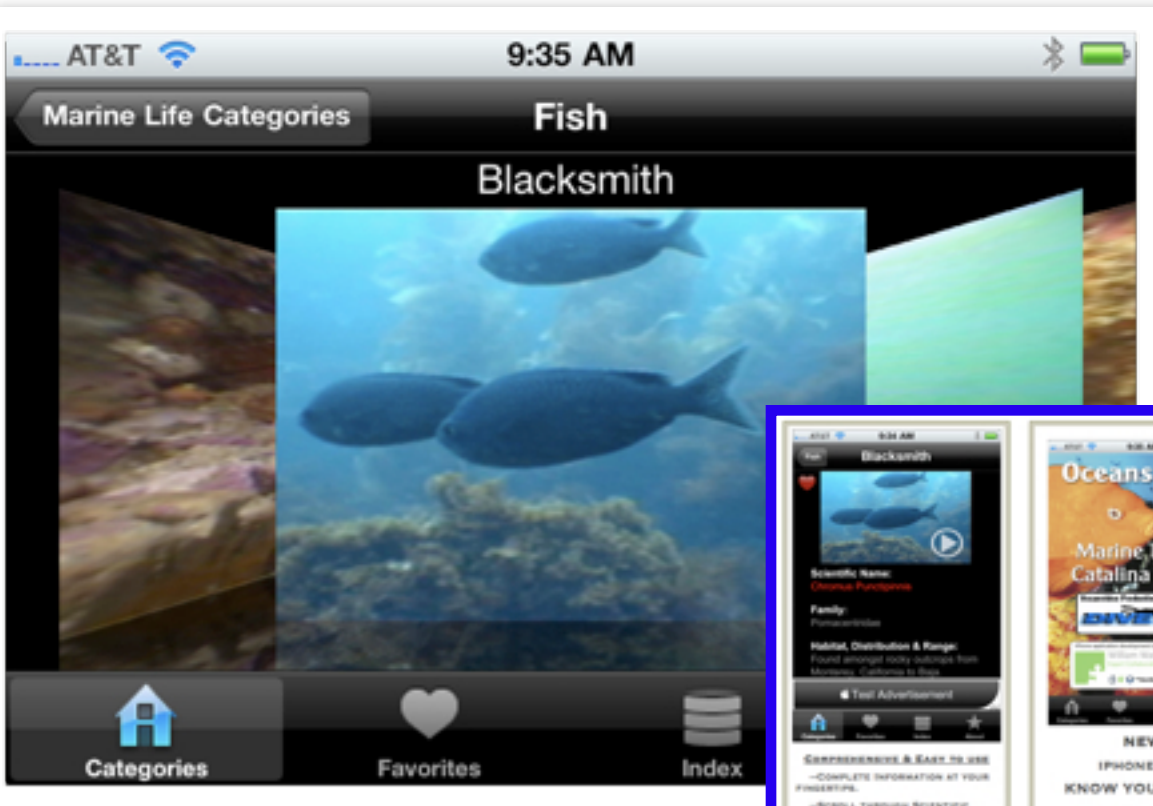
# Oceans Alive Comes to the iPhone.

Yes, it's true now you can have instant access to information about more than 85 marine organisms that you see on your dives off of the Coast of California! That is if you have an iPhone... The cost of the app is \$5.99 and can be downloaded to your iPhone via a WiFi connection. Once it is on your phone it is there for you to access even when you are out at the beach or on a dive boat! You can easily locate what you'd like to know more about via the cover flow of pictures, or via the list of organisms by phylum or name. You have scientific name, diet, habitat, and fun facts right at your fingertips, and a short narrated 30-60 second video clip that plays instantly so that you can see the movement of the sealife in its natural habitat--not on a flat plastic card!

by Debra A. Hill, M.D.



Scott Watson developed the app from our Oceans Alive: Marine Life of Catalina Island DVD. He will be at the meeting this month to do a brief demonstration of the app. ***We will also be raffling off two free apps that you will be able to access with a special coupon code!***



*Sample screen above and the brochure for the app to the right.*

# This Month's Speaker...

## Grady Scallon

**Assistant Dive Safety Officer @ The Aquarium of the Pacific**

***Grady speaks on:***

***What Dive Volunteers at the Aquarium of the Pacific get from their Experience...***

Grady Scallon is one of the friendly faces that we rely on at the Aquarium of the Pacific as a Dive Volunteer. Grady, has been the Assistant Dive Safety Officer in charge of Exhibit Dive Operations at the Aquarium of the Pacific for about 3 years now. His responsibilities include screening new applicants for their dive skills, training of new divers, and managing 160 dive volunteers both topside and in the water.

He has been diving since 2000 and logged about 750 ocean dives, and 475 AOP dives. He is an Instructor for SDI, PADI, and HSA which is the Handicapped Scuba Association.

Prior to his employment at AOP, he worked at Laguna Sea Sports for about 8 years where he got the nickname of "Tankboy."

This month he will be speaking about what volunteer divers get from their experience at the Aquarium. Among the topics he will cover will be opportunities for extra training, and some extra special stories about the personal rewards and life long friendships. Grady is a fun guy and a great speaker!



Photo and article by  
Debra A. Hill Titus, M.D.

# Kelp Fest 2011

Celebrate Giant Kelp - and have a great day in Laguna Beach on Saturday, April 16th



Giant kelp forests are one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. With more than 800 species relying on them, kelp forests are referred to as the rainforests of the sea. More than 20 years ago the kelp forests of Orange County disappeared due primarily to overfishing and pollution. In 2002 marine biologist Nancy Caruso of *Get Inspired!* started a project which would eventually restore this once lush forests. In 2002 with what came to be 5000

volunteers, Caruso and her volunteers began restoring the kelp forests in Newport and Laguna Beach. By 2010, the kelp had reached historic densities and the animals were starting to return to the area. In celebration of this event, *KelpFest* was created to celebrate the return of the kelp forests and to honor the thousands of people who helped to restore them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual KelpFest, will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 this year on Main Beach in Laguna Beach from 9am-5pm. There will be many like minded environmental organizations with exhibits at the event to help educate the participants and help to nurture an appreciation for giant kelp forests. Other activities throughout the day include live painting and sculpting, an life size interactive kelp forest model, a live underwater broadcast from the kelp forest, a live performance from Birdsong and the Eco Wonders, guided tidepool tours, free stand up paddle board tours to the kelp forest, and a 100 snorkeler swim to the kelp forest, as well as lots of arts and crafts for kids. For more information about this spectacular event please visit our website [www.kelpfest.org](http://www.kelpfest.org) or call Nancy

Caruso 714-206-5147. **At noon on April 16th at Main Beach we are having a "Dive In" event of 100 snorkelers** to try and encourage more people to go out check out what's under the waves. Most people think they have to go to Catalina to go snorkeling but that's not true, we have beautiful kelp forests teeming with life now in Orange County! We want to encourage people to "put their faces in the water" and have a look for themselves.

**At noon on April 16th, I would like to see 100 snorkelers swim out to the kelp forests off Main Beach.** Take pictures, do a fish count and bring back images and tallies of what you saw, this will draw attention to the idea that there is stuff to see underwater. People will ask you questions about your swim when you get back, they will want to take photos with you. Many people on the beach will be from out of town ( spring break) they will want to know "What's out there?". You can tell them and educate them in that moment and it can help to change perceptions of our coastal ocean in California.

***Do your ocean a service and come out for the Dive In!***

***Meet on Main Beach in front of the life guard tower at 11:30am***

[www.kelpfest.org](http://www.kelpfest.org)



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# This Month's Raffle...

We will be publishing the list of raffle prizes a little later this week - don't worry - Paul Miller will be picking some great things for our raffle. Make sure that you open the update from Konrad later this week.

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## Join us Wednesday April 13th

