

SOCDC



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

A Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2011

In this issue:

Special Article

Check out the fun that we've had at our most recent events

Page 4



Raffle Prizes

Check out this month's great prizes.

Once again, Paul found some great prizes.

Page 9

This month's Speaker...

David Forsythe will tell us and show us a "behind-the-scenes" look at how IMAX underwater movies are made.

Page 7



President's Message

Konrad Fry

SUMMER TROPICAL STORMS

This may be the wrong topic for our upcoming Cozumel trip but what the heck, it is topical. It has been a while since I reviewed the structural nature of summer tropical storms and how they affect diving in Southern California and the Caribbean. We have a trip to Cozumel in one week. There is a tropical storm in the Caribbean called Emily. Some have expressed anxiety that it may affect our trip. No way!

Let us understand how tropical storms form every summer off the west coast of Africa and Mexico and see how they move in relation to the jet stream and statistics.

Tropical cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons are formed in late summer. In the Atlantic ocean, the season starts in June and ends

in November. In the Eastern Pacific the season starts in May and ends in November. Apparently, November is cyclone season all over the world. On the entire Planet Earth, the two worst places to live with the highest likely hood of being hit by a cyclone are: Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Philippines and Cabo San Lucas. Cabo San Lucas? Yes, we almost flew into La Paz Mexico two years ago into a Category 5 (Katrina Size) hurricane. It hit land and dissipated into a tropical storm by the time we arrived. Puerto Rico/Haiti/Santo Domingo are the point where hurricanes decide whether to go West, Northwest, or North. Hopefully the decision process does not take too long ;-)

How cyclones form. The water temperature needs to be about 80 degrees down to about 16 feet deep. This "ocean oven" causes

the air above it to become unstable and thunderstorms to form. The heat rises from the water into the atmosphere in high humidity. A large circulation of self-fulfilling heat + rain + humidity start huge storm engine. If this occurs 5° above or below the equator the Coriolis effect caused by the spinning of the planet causes the thunderstorms to circulate. It is also effective in Modern Warfare 1 when you have to account for it sniping with your Barrett .50 cal with Lieutenant Price shooting at Imran Zkhaev. Wow is that tough. But I digress. So a low pressure system is formed with the thunderstorms and the Coriolis effect starts the oscillation or circulation of the weather system and bada bing bada boom, you have a hurricane. The natural path is west unless you live in India, then the path is east. That is how the trade winds travel. The whole storm system is dependent on the 80 degree water to sustain the condensation/ evaporation cycle that propels it.

So why do hurricanes go West to Mexico, Northwest to Texas, Louisiana, North to Florida and the East Coast? The Jet stream, high and low pressure systems act like bumpers in a slot machine to the moving energy system. The reason tropical storm Emily will not affect the upcoming trip is 1) There is a high pressure system in the Caribbean causing the heat to dissipate and acting like a bumper forcing the storm northwards 2) The Jet stream is very high and arched over Chicago. That is why it is so darned hot in the Midwest right now. That also means that the storm will go North to follow the low pressures formed by the jet stream. So the predicted path, (and it only lasts 5 days) is along the east coast of the US. If this system stays this way, our trip to Cozumel will be awesome.

Now the same thing happens with fierce regularity off Acapulco Mexico. While we are concerned about tropical storm Emily, folks in Hawaii better be ready for Hurricane Eugene. It is a category FOUR Hurricane with 140 mph winds and heading Northwest

toward Hilo Hawaii. The good news is when it hits colder water above the 20th parallel (latitude) it loses that 80 degree water and goes away. We shall see what happens with this one. Local diving and tuna fishing are directly affected by the Acapulco Hurricanes. We get that big southern swell in addition to the Alaska NW swell and all the winter storms off Antarctica. Now you know why the summer dive boat trips are so rolly-pitchy-and yaw-y or in sailor terms: nuts! These hurricanes from Baja and South also make Lobster season opener the chore that it always becomes.

If you want to know what is happening with the tropical storms before you go on any trip, just visit the club website: www.socdc.com and then click Ocean Conditions. In the middle of the bottom section is the Hurricane and Cyclone advisory from NOAA. Sit back and enjoy the fact that even the biggest hurricanes are 1/3 less power than a tornado.

**Our club website
www.SOCDC.com
has the most
complete up-to-date
weather information
of any dive site on the
web.
Best of all you can get
the most vital info
with just a single
click!
Check it out!**

The screenshot shows the website for the South Orange County Dive Club. At the top left is the club's logo, a red triangle with a white diagonal line and the text "South Orange County Dive Club" and "Dive | Bait | Repair". To the right is a photograph of a diver on a beach. Below the logo and photo is a navigation menu with links: Home, Ocean Conditions, Jobs, Newsletter, Boat, Posts, Shark Dives, Meetings, Contact, Girls Gone Diving. A red banner below the menu reads "Idruckers Lake Forest California Start Time is 6:30 PM Friends | Food | Fun :-) Laguna Beach Sc". Below the banner is a "NEWSLETTER" sign-up section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Underneath is a section titled "Southern California Weather / Surf / Ocean Conditions" which contains four interactive tools: "Goes 9 Whole Disk" (a satellite image of Earth), "NOAA Western Pacific" (a weather map of the Pacific), "LA/ Orange County Radar" (a radar map of the Los Angeles area), and "Scripps Swell Model" (a swell model map of the Pacific coast).

GIRLS GONE DIVING

Month after month of cancellations due to surf and storms have made girls gone diving a tough go. Would you like to dive with fellow women from the club and those new to Orange County? Please send an email to Dr. Debbie and she will re-build the list of GGD-ers. She meets the fourth Sunday of every month at the Montage Resort in Laguna Beach. To get on the list for your personal Evite invitation send Dr. Debbie an email at: dr.debrahill@gmail.com and we will get this going again!

SOCDC CALENDAR

SOCDC August Meeting
Wednesday August 10th
Topic: IMAX SCUBA Filming!

Raffle: Big stuff from Sport Chalet Tent Sale!

Raft Up dates through October

Saturdays:

8-20

9-10

9-24

10-8

10-22

Regards...*Dale*

SOCDC Raft Up Director
562-522-5843

August SOCDC Shore Dives;

*Note Summer Early Meeting Hours 8 AM

August 6, August 13, August 20, August 27

Sunday dives by email only. Sign up at socdcdiving@gmail.com to get on the list.

The 2nd Annual LSD/SOCDC Luau @ Corsair Cove Catalina

The second time is always a charm. After numerous committee meetings with the gang at Laguna Sea Dwellers (LSD), we came up with a Hawaiian Paneole them and a Giligan's Island Costume contest for this years Luau. At the food committee meetings I suggested "Cloud Cooking" since Mark Angel and I spent three days cooking last years Luau. Cloud cooking is distributing all the various dishes to the different committee members homes and then putting it all together on the dive boat instead of in one of the homes. This made things very easy. We did not have the volume and variety of last year but we did have a great feast.

I drove to San Pedro to the new 22nd street harbor area to find the Bottom Scratcher. This was not an easy thing to do! It was Naval week and the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln was moored at the end of the landing and there were seal teams and security personnel everywhere. After driving down near the aircraft carrier, then south to the fish packing plants, then north to the private slip area, I finally realized that the Bottom Scratcher was in the middle of the harbor, BEHIND the seafood restaurant. You park across the street. See the map.



We got going at 6:30 AM and were treated to Eggs Benedict! The Bottom Scratcher is known for its great galley. The ride over was pretty rough as the South and Northwest swells combined. There were dolphin and swells most of the way. When we got to Catalina the entire boat unloaded our food and the Boy Scouts helped haul everything the city block away to Corsair Cove. Corsair Cove is a private picnic area with two drop down rectangular grills like you have in the Santa Maria area. That was fitting since we were going to grill tri-tips. Mmmmmmm. The cove has complete buffet serving tables and plenty of picnic tables for large groups. Private boaters use it to spend the weekend on their boats and go to shore for a quick shower and BBQ. Dianne, Kirk, Bill and myself set up the food stations and then I went for a quick snorkel. I saw a big bat ray and the usual suspects. Bill suggested I take the path back to the cove instead of snorkeling all the way back. I did. I went bare foot up the 2 foot wide rocky path 150 feet up to the main road which had ouchy-oochy rocks. Then I met a jogging couple and they said the path down was the rocky one with all the dry weeds along it next to the cliff. So, ouchy-oochy all the way down the steep embankment with my fins and mask. I finally made it and it was time to cook.

The dive boats stayed local. The vis I had snorkeling was 12 feet at best. And I understand they all had similar vis at Indian Rock and other close sites. But what the divers had that I did not was Giant Black Sea Bass. Several have photos of these "Pacific Black Grouper". Wow. We were starting to cook at 11 AM in anticipation of the boats arriving

at 1 PM and this year they did! Last year we had to wait until 2:30 PM to serve. When everyone arrived, they went to the



snack and beverage bar where all the soft drinks and mixers were stored. Then in line for the sumptuous buffet:

Apple and Orange Fruit Salad
 Peach and Balsamic Fruit Salad
 Frise Salad with dried cranberry's
 and pine nuts Cole slaw with
 dried fruits Dianne's Baked Beans
 with special maple brown sugar
 Baked Potatoes with butter and
 sour cream Konrad's KC
 Masterpiece Pulled Pork Bill's
 Awesome teriyaki chicken Kirk's
 Montreal Seasoned Grilled Tri-tip
 sliced to order

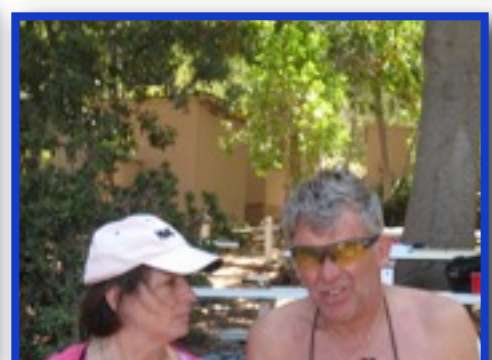
And for dessert: Blueberry,
 Banana, Strawberry Parfait with
 Real Whipped Cream

Cooking in the cloud worked
 great J

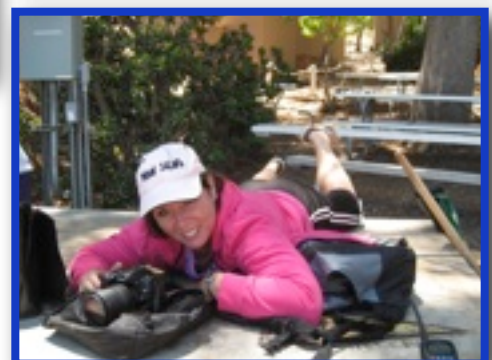
The rest of the afternoon was
 spent cocktailing, relaxing or hula
 hooping with the multitude of
 games Cathy and Martha brought.
 The finale was the Gilligan's Island
 costume contest won by "Mary-

Ann" otherwise known as the
 president of OCUPS. The ride
 back was rocky but the wine and
 cocktails flowed and a great time
 was had by all. Wish you were
 there.

-Konrad



As you can clearly see here - we all had a wonderful time...hope to see you at this special event next year. Great time, great food and best of all, great friends!



Photos from the last Raft-Up

Want to know what a club raft-up “looks” like? Take a look at the photos below. The divers do either one or two dives (usually depends on vis and the “chill-factor”). The raft-ups usually go out of Dana Point harbor and the boats gather in Dana Point, San Clemente or Laguna Beach - depends on the weather, the conditions and the place where the divers want to go - yes, it just that simple. After the dive(s) the everyone meets up in the back basin at Dana Point - over by the Ocean Institute and the food is prepared. Everyone brings something and we pass the dishes around...after the repast...we go back to the dock, get the boats out of the water and help the captains clean them up. It's a great time, and it's pretty stress-free. Call Dale (the Raft-Up Coordinator) at 562-522-5843 to get on the list. Check out the club schedule for the dates.

Rick Valasek



David Forsythe: Diver, Researcher, and all-around “MacGyver” type...

...will be speaking on his experience working on a number of IMAX film projects over the years with Howard Hall. These projects include: **The Coral Reef Adventure**, **Under the Sea 3D**, the **BBC Life Series** and several others. He says, “I’m not a photographer myself, but have been fortunate to have worked on a number of film projects...”

David’s enthusiasm for diving began at age 14 in the early 1970’s. He describes diving then as using “a standard set-up which did NOT include an air gauge. It just consisted of a horseshoe collar that was mouth-inflated.” He says, “the

dive was **done** when it got hard to breath--our basic approach was...you can’t get bent on one tank, if you don’t rise faster than your bubbles.”

His educational background is in physics, electronics, and business which lead him in the 1990’s into work as a Designer and Manager in a wide variety of electronics industry companies including Western Digital. He began diving Nitrox and Tri-mix in the early 90’s, and rebreathers in the mid 90’s. By the late 90’s he started working on rebreather

Dr. Debbie Hill MD



Hanging out in British Columbia

controller design in connection with some problems the Howard Hall team was having with the **Island of the Sharks** production. Ever since, he has been working on films; and designing rebreather controllers. He holds a number of patents, patent applications, and patents-in-progress related to rebreathers, gas sensors, underwater navigation and communication technologies. Currently he dives with his own company, **Laguna Research Electronics** using a variety of rebreathers, and occasionally dives open circuit scuba. He’s been working for himself for many years now doing diving related

technology development and working on underwater films.

Favorite local dive sites for David are Diver's Cove and La Jolla Canyon. He says:

"Sometimes I go to Diver's Cove several times a week--cannot beat the ease of car-to-water and did you know there are LOTS of Mantis Shrimp in 5 to 7 feet of water out there? The canyon is my favorite for several, easy hour-long dives getting down to around 200 fsw. On a fairly regular basis, I do dives in the 250-300 fsw range usually with a group of San Diego tech divers who have been discovering many destroyers, submarines, planes and other "treasures" off the coast; particularly off of San Clemente Island.

The film projects have kept me traveling a great deal, usually for about a month at a time to places such as Papua, New Guinea, South Australia, Great Barrier Reef, Indonesia, Western Canada, Alaska, Cocos Island, Mexico, and the Bahamas.

I have recently spent most of my time in the lab working on, and patenting a number of projects dealing with new gas sensor technologies that will be able to be applied to rebreathers as well as mining and petrochemical applications."

David's presentation will lead us in to the behind the scenes world of underwater IMAX Productions.

A must-see presentation!



Indonesia



Swimming the IMAX Camera in the Bahamas



Launching in British Columbia

This Month's Raffle...

1. Aqua Lung Blades II Flex Fins \$140.00
2. Innovative Scuba Concepts Spring Fin Straps \$27.00
3. Akona Weight Bag \$24.00
4. Last Great Act T Shirt \$20.00
5. Barska 10X50 Binoculars \$50.00
6. Smith & Wesson BG Rescue Knife \$70.00
7. Trident Mesh fold away bag \$25.00
8. Trident Deluxe Diver's Tool Kit \$27.00
9. Basket of Goodies \$40.00

**Join us
Wednesday
Aug 10th
At Fudd's**



Take a look at the club website at www.SOCDC.com to get the latest news on the weather, the dive conditions and the upcoming events. Do you know a fellow diver who is NOT a member of the club, ask them to attend the next meeting...the more the more fun!