



DECEMBER 2006

## ANOTHER YEAR OF GREAT DIVING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**I**T'S CHRISTMAS TIME and all that that entails. This is the time of year when you spend the most money and unforeseen expenses rear their ugly heads. I was amazed at all the things that broke in the last month that I had taken for granted. So let's look at our dive gear and come up with some things Santa would be all to welcome delivering.

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY  
*Konrad Fry*



It all started on my trip to Fiji. My octopus that I won in the raffle 3 years before started to free flow. This was after I sent it in to Sport Chalet for a re-build. Fortunately, I was working at the time and went to Sport Chalet and purchased a matching octopus for my Mares Abyss.

Opening night of lobster season was a bust due to the high surf. The next night 6 of us went into the surf zone and I, as leader entered last so I could help anyone with their gear. As I reached for my fin strap it pulled out from the holder. I had to go up the stairs at Mountain Street and get my leather man tool and painstakingly thread the rubber tip through a double cam system that did not want to give in easily. Fortunately, it was accomplished in 20 minutes and I was able to join the other divers in the no get lobster dive.

We dove again for the crusty little critters three nights later. After getting my fins on I adjusted my mask and bada bing bada boom, the strap breaks! John Doyle had a spare and I spent the next half hour getting it out of a broken zipper pocket in his dive bag and threading it through the cams similar to my fins. This time everyone was way down from Brooks street so I wound up meeting them at Cress Street. Lobsters 1 Divers 0.

So I am at the Catalina Isthmus at Catalina Harbor diving the mooring area near the left wall. For some reason my BC is not holding air well and I am sort of, just above the surface while snorkeling. As I feel uncomfortable and my snorkel fill repeatedly with water, I was witnessing some amazing bat rays and a HUGE angle shark 20 feet below. Upon submerging I did not get my BC to hold much air so I stayed shallow and watched a bat ray munch snails and worms in the sand. The next day, I took off the inflator hose / dump valve and reseated it for our boat dive. Things stayed the same at ship rock reef and isthmus reef. That was not good since one has a 130' bottom and the other is 100'.

Before last week's 11 AM dive, I discovered the problem with the BC. The inflator / dump hose had a smile hole at the bottom of the flexible hose way up by the connector to the BC. Since I am such a technical genius, I decided to fill the smile with aqua seal and then cover it with electrical tape. It looked great ☺

When we entered the ocean at Cleo Street I was a bit winded due to my bronchial infection and was sinking a bit at the surface. Apparently, the glue and tape method was not a good one! The best thing for me to do was dive and then worry about everything on my surf exit. Holy hyperventilation! Suddenly it dawned on me that it is not too smart to dive with questionable gear. And it would not hurt to do a gear inventory.

## **So here we go Santa:**

<b>Regulator:</b>	<b>Mares Abyss</b>	<b>100% Fine</b>
<b>Octopus:</b>	<b>Mares</b>	<b>Free flowing after a 24 hours in the upstairs toilet.</b>
<b>BC:</b>	<b>Seaquest QD</b>	<b>100% thanks to Dale Davis' replacement hose</b>
<b>Mask:</b>	<b>Super Low Volume</b>	<b>100% New Black Thick Rubber Strap</b>
<b>Fins:</b>	<b>Tusa Plantina</b>	<b>100% after furious threading of Strap</b>
<b>Computer:</b>	<b>Oceanic Matrix</b>	<b>So Old It can't be broken.</b>
<b>Gloves:</b>	<b>Deep Sea</b>	<b>Biblical: they are holy.</b>
<b>Booties:</b>	<b>Deep Sea</b>	<b>Biblical and smelly!</b>

So the gloves and the Octopus are the main issues. I will get the Octo fixed either at Sport Chalet or Laguna Sea Sports and I will be 100% again. I recommend you check out your gear while you are dry to be sure you do not have a problem when you have committed to the sea. 90% of all dive related accidents are because of gear problems.

We have had an amazing 17<sup>th</sup> year at the South Orange County Dive Club in 2006.

The 11 AM Dive went to: Shaw's Cove, Seal Rock, Boat Canyon, Moss Point, Cress Street, Seal Rock, Avalon Harbor, Catalina Dive Park, The Wreck of the Valient, Shaw's Cove, Montage, Shaw's Cove, Deadman's, La Jolla Cove, Diver's Cove, Mountain Street, Reef Point, Moss Street, Shaw's Cove, Montage, Montage, Morro Bay, Catalina Harbor, & Cleo Street Barge!

We had less Raft-ups but they were great: Deadman's, Crystal Cove, Cress Street.

Our Boat Dives went to: Farnsworth /Eagle Nest/ Nipple Rock Easter Egg Hunt, Eureka Oil Platform, Elly Oil Platform, Italian Gardens, Santa Barbara Island: Arch Point Reef, Webster Outside and the Sea Lion Rookeries. We leave for Anacapa in one week.

We did the fabulous Avalon Harbor Cleanup weekend. Over 60 SOCDC members rented condos and met for the largest dinner party ever! The diving was spectacular. Bill Thonton has already started the wheels turning on next years.

2007 is going to be great. We have all of our board members back and ready to bring you the best diving opportunities available. Thanks to each board member for the tireless effort they put out to bring us the best club in Scuba-dom! See you at the December meeting and remember it is at Dragon Buffet in Lake Forest at Murilands and Ridge Route at 6 PM.

*-Konrad*

## **Upcoming Schedule**

SOCDC Holiday Party: December 13<sup>th</sup> Dragon Buffet Lake Forest 6PM

SOCDC December 17<sup>th</sup> Dive Boat: Anacapa Island on the Peace. Car Pool Saturday evening.

SOCDC 11 AM dives email: [konradfry@earthlink.net](mailto:konradfry@earthlink.net) to get on the mailing list.

SOCDC February Avalon Harbor Cleanup: [H2Othornton@yahoo.com](mailto:H2Othornton@yahoo.com)

Do you have any suggestions? We are going to survey everyone in January as to what boat trips you want and what local diving you want. If you have something you want to communicate before that just email: [konradfry@earthlink.net](mailto:konradfry@earthlink.net)

# PHOTOS FROM THE RECENT TRIPS TO MORRO BAY AND SANTA BARBARA ISLAND..





*Ask Dr. Debbie...*

**December and DEMA 2006**

*By Debra A. Hill, MD*

## *Happy Holidays and Happy Diving*

The December Holidays bring to mind kids and toys! Sharing the joys of the Holidays with those younger than ourselves brings out the youthful, fun loving nature in us all. It also reminds us of the value of sharing our passion for the underwater world with those younger than ourselves so as to inspire this passion in them too! And then there are the toys... Well, we who love scuba know how great the "toys" can be especially when they make our sport more accessible, safer, and more fun!

Those at DEMA 2006 were definitely in the Holiday spirit this year in Orlando, Florida. We discovered DEMA is giving more attention lately to inspiring the Youth of today about the underwater world, and making those "toys" we all love, better and better—with safer features, greater comfort, and just plain fun! DEMA members clearly want to make the underwater world more accessible to all! To see and hear more about DEMA 2006 and just a sampling of some of the gear innovations that we observed there, please visit [www.divein.tv](http://www.divein.tv) and click on DEMA on Location. You will see the option on that page to click on DEMA 2005 to view a short 6 minute video, and also the ability to click on DEMA 2006, a 7 minute video clip

Hope you enjoy the video clips of the last two years of DEMA. We certainly couldn't shoot interviews of every exhibitor at DEMA, but we tried to highlight some of the more interesting products and vendors.

If you are looking for a great Christmas gift to share your love of the underwater world with others, please visit the DIVE IN Shop at our website [www.divein.tv](http://www.divein.tv). We have a new DVD available, produced by TV Artscapes that consists nearly entirely of our underwater footage taken in Fiji, Belize, Truk, and Kwajalein. The video is accompanied by soothing music—and is great to play on your flat screen TV at a party, or even to have on while at home doing other tasks. We also have available the Oceans Alive: Marine Life of Catalina Islands DVD. This DVD is an interactive fish ID DVD with stills and short 30 second video clips. So if you would like to learn or to teach others about the sea life that we see this DVD is it!

***Happy Holidays!  
and  
Happy Diving!***

Yours Truly,

*Debbie Hill Titus, M.D.*

*Thanks to everyone for a great year!*

***Please give your support to all  
of the people who support us...  
the dive shops, Fuddruckers and  
all of our diving friends!***



**Come join us Wednesday Night  
for Good Food and Good Friends!**

