



JULY 2006

FINALLY, GREAT WEATHER, AND GREAT LOCAL DIVING

A **N** **O** **D** **E** **T** **O** **S** **H** **A** **W**'**S** **C** **O** **V** **E** or wow! This dive site has become cool! Many people responded to my OCdiving.com dive report regarding the new cracks, passages and swim-throughs at Shaw's Cove in Laguna Beach. If you have not been there in awhile, you really should.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY
Konrad Fry



I started diving in 1987 and my 3rd beach dive was Shaw's Cove. The crack was excellent and different from all the typical dives with reef rock structure. The absolute thrill of heavy surge and surf in the crack and the subsequent sailing through like an unguided missile has always held a special charm for me. But once out of the crack, it was back to the sentinel rocks in Crescent and the long uninhabited south end at 45 feet swim with the bad vis until you hit the crack again and then back to the shore...dive.

Something wonderful happened this winter. We discovered this on the 11 AM dive with Hanns, Mike and Mike. There has always been a mini-cave in the middle of the crack on the left side just past the first mound of muscle shells. You used to be able to go in and then back out. On this dive, I went in and kept going all the way to Shaw's Cove, parallel to the main crack. If you read the President's Corner two months ago you would know I tried to swim back through too shallow, had my regulator ripped out of my mouth and was too close to the wall to reach around to get it or my octopus. I had a holy - poop moment until I could surface. Then I went down and hand communicated that the way was open. We then went through the crack and turned into the center of the reef in a new channel and wound up in Shaw's from another undiscovered, high surf and swell passage. I believe this particular dive made my wet suit into a sainted article because my bottom

WOW, AFTER 19 YEARS SHAW'S HAS BECOME A NEW REEF!

area was holy (as in full of holes).

Sunday's Shaw's dive was exceptional because we found new swim throughs and channels, never experienced before! It started with a good group of old timers and one newbie. Rick Colman, the King of Shaw's Cove & knower of every nudibranch and sea slug, led the way to Colman's Crack. This is another 30 yards past the main crack. It leads into the central area of the reef and lets you out just before the dull south end. We went out to the main sand area and started looping into each channel we encountered. The first channel led to a swim-through ledge / cave. Too cool.

After making sure everyone

was following we tried the next channel. I thought this led to the main crack but it was different. It became a tunnel with a tight squeeze through that went into a 12 foot deep squared off channel. Only Rick Valasek made it through and he went back to the deeper areas because the water was grey with those delicious champagne bubbles! I saw it open up and went for the end of the new channel. It became VERY shallow and suddenly I was in 2 feet of water way up into the beach with fishermen standing over me. This turned out to be the drain that goes in from the crack into shore. Talk about high tide! I flopped around, found the main crack, saw no one and decided to do the regulator grabbing mid-crack channel. I surfaced and

waited until I saw Rick V. on shore. Wow, after 19 years Shaw's has become a new reef!

Ready to experience some of this "new experience" in and around Laguna Beach? Check out the SOCDC for the updates on the great diving in our own backyard. We meet at 11:00 am (so you can get things together for the dive) and then get together at one of the local places to toast King Neptune and "debrief" the dive experience. Great diving, great friends and great conversation...what more can you ask for?

-Konrad

Upcoming Events

SOCDC July Meeting: Gordon Boivin of Laguna Sea Sports: Vancouver Canada diving. Gordie will be selling 1/2 price air cards: \$22. He is the best speaker ever!

We have a ton of activity in July, Fiji in August and our August meeting will be the **third Wednesday so we can all be there.**

SOCDC Raftup: Saturday July 15th email Dale_Laube@Instron.com

SOCDC Picnic: Saturday July 22nd. Location TBA

SOCDC Outrigger Canoe & BBQ: Saturday July 29th Newport Beach.

Get the latest buzz on SOCDC divers and others at www.OCDiving.com



Winners...Diving Tips, and Request for Articles and Photos

By Debbie Karimoto

June Raffle Winners!

John Squicciarini	Poker Chips
Wayne Phillips	Towel, sandals, sweatshirt & beanie
Carol Martin	Dive Watch
Susan Wright	Mares mask
Wayne Phillips	DVD player
Rick Valasek	Reel line
Payden Evans	Kitchen knives
Cathy Kligman	Copper firepit
Joe Packi, Dan Eisenbeisz, Peter Sterimon, John Squicciarini, Rich Parker & Tim Turnbaugh all won Sport Knives	

It is Time to Dive!!

Hey gang! Now that the major diving events of the year are over - you know, the Avalon Cleanup, Diver Day at the Aquarium, Chamber Day/Evening and the Scuba Show - it is time to DIVE!! The water has warmed, the sun has been shining, and there is a lot to see underwater. Bat rays and giant sea bass have arrived. Female garibaldi have laid their eggs and the males are guarding their nests ferociously. Various nudibranchs, Kellett's whelks and sea hares have been laying eggs, as well. And this is all happening right here off our coast! The islands are enjoying similar conditions and critters. Your local diving choices are immense right now. Just make sure you don't miss out! Dive boats are filling up fast so plan ahead!

Thankfully, we are not (yet?) plagued by the red tides of last year. I recall my first dive back

into local water after a trip to Hawaii in spring '05 and the water was a thick and disgusting shade of greenish orange. That was April 02, '05 and it lasted an incredibly long time last year. Remember the squid and jellies that were washing up on the beaches through the summer? So far, so good this year! Yesterday, I took a Shaw's Cove water sample for DHS after noticing the green water had a funny tinge of orange but I am hopeful it is just a passing thing. And don't forget... even if a red tide does develop, it is NOT hazardous to divers. Just wash it off with fresh water because it can be smelly. No worries!

Summer traffic and parking in Laguna are challenging, but worth the effort. The art festivals have opened so watch carefully for pedestrians crossing on Laguna Canyon Road. Oh, and speaking of the art festivals, go see them!! Derek and I dropped some moola at the opening of the Art-a-Fair last week as well as the Pageant of the Masters. We were both really impressed with both events.

SOCDC member Lynn Wiederman has a booth near the entrance of the Art-a-Fair that displays her gorgeous plein-aire oil paintings. Many of her paintings feature Laguna Beach scenes but she also has traveled the world to feature other beautiful sites on her canvases. Wendy & Stacey Taylor were also at the Art-a-Fair opening and they told us about three young men who were invited to display their art at the Fair so we checked them out. They have some fantastic beach and surf art that is striking in its maturity and talent. Their booth is located between the

live music stage and the restrooms. Rumor has it that one of the young men is closely related to SOCDC member Dan Brick! Do we have any other divers represented at the Laguna Art Festivals?? Do tell!

REEF's Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC)

invites you to get involved in this fun and educational program while actively contributing to the conservation of the marine environment.

Just Add Water! We invite you to participate by simply conducting as many surveys in the coastal waters of Southern California as you like during July 2006. Dive with your favorite dive operator or your local dive club. This is a perfect opportunity to learn to be an important link to pertinent scientific research as a recreational diver or snorkeler.

GLACD will be sponsoring a Fish ID Dive for SCUBA Divers at Long Point/Old Marine Land (Thomas Guide p. 822, Grid H5), on Sunday, July 16th.

To Participate In This Event: Please register with GLACD by sending <mailto:FishID@glacd.org>. Let us know if you need a starter packet with a slate (\$20). Registration by email is preferred. You can also register by phone at 310-379-5681, but voice replies may take several days, and will be in the evening or on the weekend.

The GAFC Starter Kit— including an underwater slate, color ID card, survey forms, and a set of instructions — can be purchased on-line at www.reef.org/cgi-bin/shop.cgi , or if you request that a kit be available at the seminar when you register.

SEA Lab is located at 1021 N. Harbor Drive (next to the Chart House Restaurant), Redondo Beach (Thomas Guide p. 762, Grid G4). For more information please call SEA Lab at 310-318-7458, or visit the Greater Los Angeles Council of Divers web page at www.glacd.org

For More Information about the GAFC contact: gafc@fishcount.org or visit the website: WWW.FISHCOUNT.ORG

9th Annual Gold Star Dive 7/22

There is another upcoming diving fundraising event and you can join the fun! Skin and scuba divers search for gold stars in Casino Point Underwater Park. This event is a fundraiser for the Sheriff's Department S.T.A.R. (Success through Awareness and Resistance) Program and the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. For more info call the LA County Sheriff's Dept. (310) 510-0174 or email: klclevel@lasd.org

August Meeting Date CHANGE

Since many SOCDC members will be in Fiji on the day of our regular meeting date, the August SOCDC **Monthly meeting will be postponed to the following week, Wednesday, August 16.** Mark your calendars now!!

Writers and Pix WANTED!

Anyone who wants to contribute to the SOCDC monthly newsletter is encouraged to do so! Anytime you'd like to write an article, dive or trip report, post photos, or contribute in any other way, just let us know! You can talk to me, Konrad, or Rick Valasek about it. Don't be shy!

CCD's Catalina Species Archive (CSA)

Don't forget about the rare and uncommon species archive I am managing for CCD. If you see something unusual in Catalina waters, I want to know about it! We have some nice entries already but it is an ongoing, long-term project. If you see a rare marine species at Catalina, send an email to the CSA at rare@OCdiving.com. The list of data requested for entries is on the OCdiving.com website.

See you in the water!

Debbie

Meeting is July 12th 6:30

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



Don't forget...we're looking for YOUR photos. We'll send them through our "magic filter" to insure that they look great, and you'll get all the credit!



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

