



Whalers News

MARCH 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- BEACH CLEAN-UP NEWS
- WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT
- DIVE SCHEDULE
- DIVE BOAT OF THE MONTH
- MARCH GUEST SPEAKER
- WHALER'S MONTHLY DIVE
- SPECIAL INTEREST STORY
- MEMBERSHIP
- LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS



Meeting Location

Sierra's Mexican Restaurant

6819 Canoga Avenue

Canoga Park, CA 91303

818-365-9196

(at the corner of Vanowen, Parking in front & rear)

The Whalers Dive Club, Inc., a California non-profit

When: 1st Tuesday of the Month

6:30-7:30 Food & Friendship

7:30—9:00 General Meeting

Website: www.whalersdiveclub.com

Address: P.O. Box 4283, West Hills, CA 91308-4283

March 1 Guest Speaker...Bert Blanchette

DCI Outreach Coordinator

U.S. Coast Guard

Special Announcements

Special Announcements

Hi Whalers,

It's time to send in your deposit to hold a spot on our upcoming trip to the Cayman Islands. We depart Friday evening July 22, and return Saturday, July 30.



This will be a great trip:

- 3 dives daily (2 on Friday the 29th for safety)
- All meals included
- Three drinks per/day to cut down on your bar tab
- Free Wi-Fi for those of us that just have to stay in touch with friends, family or work
- And of course, spending a great week of diving and camaraderie with fellow Whalers-priceless!
- \$1,735 double occupancy—airfare not included. Airfare as of today is around \$685 through Miami; changing constantly

Clear, warm water, great reef and wall diving; how can you go wrong?



More information can be found on our web site and the resort web site: <http://www.bracreef.com/index.html>

I've already sent in my deposit and booked my flight! Hope you will join me.

Contact me with any questions or special requests.

Rick Dalven

2011 Travel Coordinator

Whalers Dive Club. Inc.

travel@whalersdiveclub.com

Upcoming Events...



Tuesday, March 1

Whalers Meeting

Guest Speaker...Bert Blanchette
U.S. Coast Guard

Saturday, March 19

Open Boat on The Peace

Tuesday, April 5

Whalers Meeting

Guest Speaker...Greg Tash
Shark Diving in the Guadalupe Islands

Anacapa...

Pictures and Information source:
www.peaceboat.com
www.islandpackers.com



March 19 THE PEACE BOAT DIVE

out of Ventura to Anacapa

7:00AM

3-4 Dives, Air, Food

\$135.00

Book online at
www.peaceboat.com



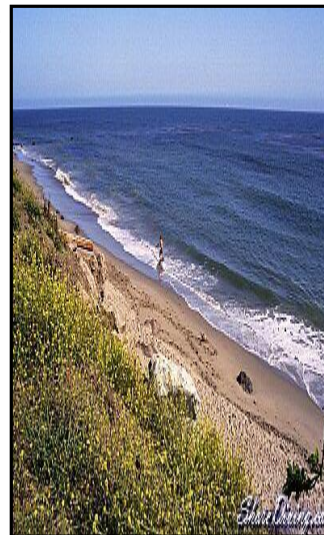
Deer Creek

The Club adopted this beach on September 23, 1989.

Our goal has been to clean-up the beach 3 times a year. The Board has selected: **May 28, July 16, & September 17**, the official state Adopt-A-Beach Coastal Clean-Up day. Come one & all; bring family, friends, and potential club members. **Trash pick-up and Dive start at 9AM.**

We have official Adoption Papers for this beach to
Preserve, Protect, & Enhance the coast.

There are no facilities, but bags and a Porta-Potty will be provided. Bring food, drink, gloves, sturdy shoes, and your **beach dive gear**. Any questions? Call Norm at 818-348-6444.



We had 72 participants in 2010. Visit the Website for pictures!

Chili Cook-Off in July 2011!

SIGN UP AT THE MEETINGS!

Directions: Deer Creek Beach is approximately 2 miles north of the L.A./Ventura Co. line on Pacific Coast Highway (HWY 1). From the Ventura Freeway north, take Kanan Road west (left) to PCH, turn right. Deer Creek is **signed** (where the highway is only two lanes).

Words From The President...

Mark your Calendars...Save the Date....

The Annual Whaler's Banquet is set for Sunday October 23, 2011 at the 94th Aero Squadron.

Your President,
Chris Hartswick



Dive Schedule 2011



Saturday, March 19

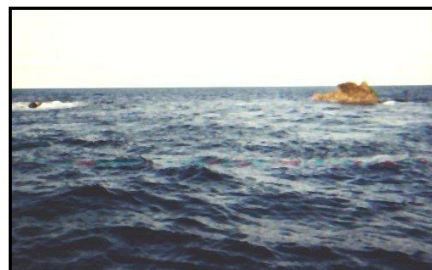
Peace, Ventura Harbor to Anacapa, 7:00AM departure; \$135.00. Reserve at www.peaceboat.com

Saturday, April 9

Peace: Outer Islands with Seadivers. Depart 12:00AM. Friday night. Reserve at 714-968-9814

Saturday, April 30

Peace with Channel Islands Dive Adventures to Begg Rock/St Nicolas Island; Departure 12:00AM Friday night. \$150.00 reserve at 805-469-7288 Ken



Saturday, May 21

Pacific Star from San Pedro to Catalina West End. 7:00AM, \$125.00 reserve with CIDA 805-459-7288 Ken.

Saturday, June 11

Pacific Star out of San Pedro to LA area wrecks. 6:00AM, \$125.00 reserve with CIDA 805-459-7288 Ken

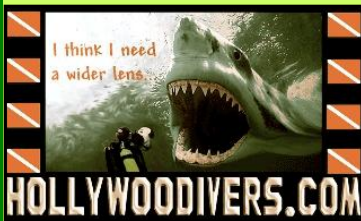
Sunday, July 24

Raptor, Ventura Harbor to Deep Hole-Ventura County Line. 7:00AM. \$130.00 reserve with CIDA 805-459-7288 Ken

Friday and Saturday, August 26-27

Peace 2-Days. Ventura Harbor to San Miguel Pinnacles, departure 12:00AM Friday night. \$330.00 reserve with CIDA 805-459-7288 Ken

A Very Special
Thanks to:



*The Whalers
thank you for
your generous
support!*

Dive Boat of the Month...Pacific Star



The Boat...

Built in 1977 as a sport fishing boat named The Bold Contender, this all aluminum vessel served San Diego and San Pedro for years till she was renamed The Pacific Star and refitted for diving.

Dive Deck: By removing the bait, leaving the dive deck wide open for easy access. With bench seating, gear storage, donning and removal is quick and easy.



Swim Step: With a submerged swim step and large platform, exiting the water is easily done by removing your fins in the water, handing them to the deckhand. Three steps up to a large platform where you'll find two hot freshwater rinse downs. Perfect for a quick warm up.

Bunkroom: All bunks have privacy curtains and reading lights. A high speed blower provides ventilation and they provide blankets and pillows for your snoozing comfort.



Meals on The Star start in the morning with a continental breakfast of bread, fruits, cereals, juices, and of course, some of Sonja's home-baked goodies. Once the eyes are opened, you might want to order a hot breakfast of eggs, hot cakes, or just a fresh breakfast burrito. It's there for you so enjoy!

Picture and information source: www.pacificstardiving.com

March Guest Speaker...Bert Blanchette



What does the Coast Guard have to do with diving?



What happens when there is a scuba accident?

What causes most scuba accidents?

The Coast Guard has the responsibility for safety on the seas. That includes the task of investigating scuba fatalities aboard a commercial passenger vessel. For Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach and San



Diego, the DCI (Dive Casualty Investigation Team) is assigned the job of gathering information from such incidents, evaluating it and submitting a sequential analysis to the Sector Investigations Bureau. The DCI Team also projects patterns of risk and, through its Outreach Program, informs the public with the mission of enhancing dive knowledge and safety.



On March 1, members of the Coast Guard DCI Team from Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach will discuss their team, their missions and case conclusions with the Whalers Dive Club.

Picture Source: Wikipedia.org

Whaler's Monthly Dive...

Hello Whalers,

Many Whalers have expressed interest in an underwater Navigation class. The cost of materials is \$85.00 including a specialty certification.



There is no classroom session, but in a true Padi tradition, there is a manual to be read and knowledge reviews to be filled in.

I will be ordering materials from Padi to distribute at the March 1st general meeting. Anyone who is interested, please contact me ASAP so I can order materials and you can bring a check to the next meeting.

After this is accomplished, we meet in a park and do some dry navigation runs for which you will need a baseball cap, compass, and a slate and pencil to write on. The last phase of the class calls for two ocean dives. Since that will involve finding a weight belt on the bottom, we can incorporate the use of a lift bag for divers who are not familiar with its function. Just look upon it as an additional task under your belt!

We have designated March 19th on the Peace as the Whalers Club Dive Day and can use it for our ocean dives. For Whalers unable to complete the class on that day, we can choose another date from our 2011 schedule.

The park sessions will be held on Sunday, March 13th at Chatsworth Park South at 12 noon. We would also like, in true Whalers tradition, to have a BBQ after the class. We need a volunteer to bring a BBQ and we'll make it a pot luck event. All Whalers are welcome.

Please call with any questions and I'll see you all at the next general meeting.

Dahlia

818-715-9158



Special Interest Story...



The coconut crab, a type of hermit crab that can grow to gigantic proportions, is the largest terrestrial arthropod in the world. Most hermit crabs live their entire lives inside the shells of other sea creatures, to protect their soft bodies from predators. But unlike other hermit crabs, only very small coconut crabs use the shells of other crabs to protect their soft-skinned abdomens as they develop. One they reach juvenile status, they abandon those shells and their abdomen develops a hard exoskeleton over the rest of their bodies. This hard skin protects the crab. Coconut crabs can grow to as large as a meter in size.



Although most crabs live near and swim in water, the coconut crab cannot swim. Even small specimens will drown in water, but this gigantic crustacean is well adapted to living on land. It has long strong legs, and large muscular claws that are so powerful they can lift heavy objects such as coconuts and vegetation weighing several pounds. The large claws are used for husking coconuts and opening the shell to eat the flesh, which explains why the species is called the coconut crab.

The coconut crab's body color varies depending on the island where it lives, ranging from orange-red to purple or blue. Males are considerably larger than females. Its stalked eyes are red, and their antennae are quite different from those of other crabs, in that they look like the smelling organs of insects. Although insects and the coconut crab do not evolve in the same way, they both need to detect smells in the air and therefore have evolved with remarkably similar organs. Coconut crabs flick their antennae as insects do to enhance their reception, and they have an excellent sense of smell. They can detect odors over large distances, particularly the smell of rotting meat, bananas, coconuts, and other potential food sources.

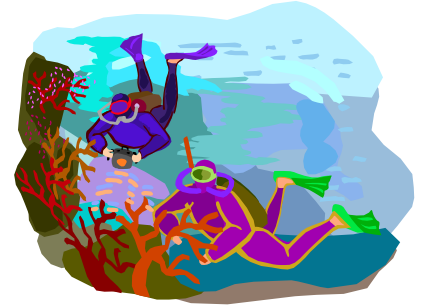
So, like many of nature's most interesting and lovely creatures, the coconut crab is in danger of vanishing because humans descend and exploit it. However, some groups have been formed specifically to work toward preventing the extinction of this unique animal.

Written by Linda Orlando

Membership

Renewals: Eva-Maria Barthel, Rick Dalven, Marilyn & Norm Deatherage, Hans Dukatz, Art Hill, Trish Kilbeck, and Simon Shapiro

Expired or Coming Due: Anthony Roldan, Mike Herrera, Sylvie Miller, Joe Phillips, Candy & Rusty Royden, Jan & Sandi Saltzman, Dawn Baca, Laurie Guglieimo, Brad Harley, and David Katz.



Membership rates: Initial—\$30; Renewal—\$25; Family (New) - Initial \$40; Renewal \$35. A Family Membership is for members living in the same household/address where a certified diver member lives. Be sure to join us for great programs, super diving, good food, and wonderful friends! We encourage you to attend the **General Meetings** and as many **Dives, Events,** and **Trips** as possible.

Please mail dues to : The Whalers

P.O. Box 4283

West Hills, CA 91308

THANK YOU...

Board of Directors and Committees

2011 Officers

Officers

President	Chris Hartswick	pres@whalersdiveclub.com
Vice-President	Norm Deatherage	vicepres@whalersdiveclub.com
Secretary	Marilyn Deatherage	secretary@whalersdiveclub.com
Treasurer	Rick Dalven	treas@whalersdiveclub.com

Board Members & Committee Chairs

Dive Coordinator	Dahlia Luria	divecoord@whalersdiveclub.com
Membership	Patty Chan	membership@whalersdiveclub.com
Programs	Eva Barthel	entertainment@whalersdiveclub.com
Website	Rick Dalven	webmaster@whalersdiveclub.com
Newsletter	Cheryl Amberger	newsletter@whalersdiveclub.com
Travel 2011	Rick Dalven	travel@whalersdiveclub.com
Deer Creek	Norm Deatherage	environment@whalersdiveclub.com