



WHALERS DIVE CLUB

JANUARY 2012

MEETING DAY & LOCATION
COCO'S BAKERY RESTAURANT
22200 SHERMAN WAY
CANOGA PARK, CA 91303
818-710-8081

THE WHALERS DIVE CLUB, INC.,
A CALIFORNIA NON-PROFIT

WHEN: **1ST WEDNESDAY** OF THE MONTH
 6:30-7:30 SOCIAL HOUR

7:30—9:00 GENERAL MEETING & ENTERTAINMENT

WEBSITE: WWW.WHALERSDIVECLUB.COM

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4283, WEST HILLS, CA
 91308-4283

JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER...

RICK DALVEN

CATALONIA RIVIERA MAYA RESORT

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 2012 Board of Directors & Officers
- 2012 Calendar of Events
- Mexico Trip
- Beach Clean Up Schedule
- Avalon Clean Up
- Fish of the Month ID Contest
- Disabled Veterans Scuba Project
- Featured Dive Boat
- Whalers Surveys

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Bruce Amberger	Marilyn Deatherage
Greg Arsenault	Norm Deatherage
Eva-Maria Barthel	Chris Hartswick
Patty Chan	Dahlia Luria
Rick Dalven	

2012 OFFICERS!

President	Bruce Amberger
Secretary	Marilyn Deatherage
Treasurer	Greg Arsenault



JANUARY 2012 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow Whalers,
Happy 2012 to you all.

In my first "President's Message", I would like to recognize Chris Hartswick for his past two years as President of the Whalers. Chris, on behalf of The Club, I wish to thank you for your efforts and hard work, and I look forward to working with you on the 2012 Board.

For the coming year, there are a variety of plans being developed. Some you've seen in the past, and some are new. All are being planned for participation and fun by all. To that end, The Board would like to know what you, the Members, are interested in. In this newsletter, on the web-site, and at the Jan 4, 2012 General Meeting, there will be two surveys. The first contains a list of Activities. This will give you a voice to help the Board in its planning efforts. Also, if there are other Activities you would like the Board to consider, there is additional room to list them. There is also an area for other suggestions or ideas you might have for The Club. If you are interested in heading a committee, or otherwise helping, there is an area to let us know that as well. Please, only one survey per Member.

The second survey is an opportunity for you to let us know which Dive Shops you patronize. In this period of economic hard times, anything we can do, individually and collectively, to support our local Dive Shops will help them as well as us. But, we need to know who they are. Your information will greatly help this endeavor.

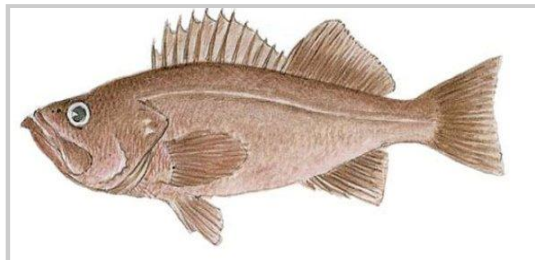
My goal for the coming year is to help direct The Whalers towards more Membership voice, participation, and fun. In the coming months, continue to read this Newsletter and attend the General Meetings so you are aware of all that is going on. With your help and support, your 2012 Board will do all it can to make The Whalers Dive Club all you want it to be.

A very Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all,
Bruce

FISH OF THE MONTH ID CONTEST

Can you ID this fish? If so, come to the January meeting and fill out a Fish of the Month ID contest form. The first card pulled with the correct ID will win a prize.

Hint: This is a local fish and it grows up to 3 feet.



2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

January 4 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

January 28 (Sat)

Dive the Pacific Star to the LA Wrecks with Ken and the Channel Islands Dive Adventures

February

February 1 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

February 25 (Sat)

Avalon Clean Up

March

March 7 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

March 25 (Sun)

Divers Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific

April

April 4 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's



May

May 2 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

May 5-6 (Sat-Sun)

SCUBA SHOW: Whaler's Day will be Saturday, May 5 so wear your Whaler Wear!

May 26 (Sat)

Deer Creek Beach Clean-up

June

June 6 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

June 23—30

Catalonia Riviera Maya



July

July 11 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

Note—Date Change due to July 4th!

July 14 (Sat)

Deer Creek Beach Clean up and Annual Chili Cook-off

August

August 1 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

September

September 5 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

September 15 (Sat)

Deer Creek Beach Clean-up

Official California State Beach Clean Up Day!

October

October 3 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's



November

November 7 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's

December

December 5 (Wed)

General Meeting at Coco's



Check each month for calendar up-dates!

Whalers Dive Trip – Summer 2012



Where:	Catalonia Riviera Maya – south of Cancun
When:	June 23 – 30 (Saturday – Saturday)
What:	8 days, 7 nights, of fun in the sun of diving, lounging around, playing tourist, eating and drinking.

INCLUDES:

All inclusive Lodging Food and drinks Local transportation from/to Cancun Non-stop airfare, LAX-Cancun Full facility resort 5 restaurants – 5 pools Spa & Gym Daily Activities, Night Club, 9-hole Golf	Diving provided by Dive Aventuras 18 daytime dives included Add-in options available Nitrox -- @ \$100 weekly rate Cenote and night dives Can apply unused dive credits towards Cenote and night diving Room upgrades, extra days
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COSTS:

Double Occupancy	\$2,065
Single Occupancy	\$2,415
Non-Diver Credit	\$699

* Current Whalers membership required

- We will assist in pairing up travelers for double occupancy; however it is the ultimate responsibility of the traveler to insure they have a roommate, in order to qualify for double occupancy rates.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE*

Payment	When Due	Amount **	Comments
Deposit	Now	\$250.	Deposit locks in your spot. Non-refundable
1 st Payment	Jan 20	\$500.	
2 nd Payment	Feb 17	\$500.	
3 rd Payment	March 16	\$500.	Last day to sign up with guaranteed airfare rates
Final Payment	April 20	Balance	100% of payments are non-refundable after this date

*Payments accepted at general meetings, PayPal or snail mail to our PO Box. See our website at www.whalersdiveclub.com ** Amounts shown based on double occupancy diver room rate.

FLIGHT INFO*

Depart LAX on Saturday, June 23, on Delta # 453 @ 11:00 AM. Arrive Cancun 5:37 PM
Depart CUN on Saturday, June 30, on Delta # 454 @ 6:27 PM. Arrive LAX 10:02 PM

* **Baggage note:** for each flight: 1st checked bag free, 50 #'s; 2nd checked bag \$40, 50 #'s. The usual carry on restrictions.

* **Passport note:** you must have a valid passport expiring no earlier than January, 2013.

MORE INFO

Whaler Rick Dalven	travel@whalersdiveclub.com	1-818-521-7383
Catalonia Riviera Maya:	www.cataloniarivieramayaresorts.com	1-888-774-0040

DEER CREEK: BEACH CLEAN UP

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 26, July 14, & September 15**, 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.**

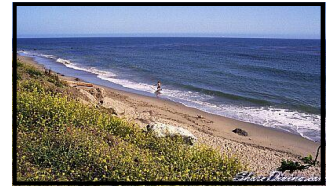
We have official Adoption Papers for this beach to

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.

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).



Picture Source:

www.shorediving.com

AVALON BAY CLEAN UP

Each year in February, as many as 500 divers attend the Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Clean up. This is the only day of the year scuba diving is permitted in Catalina Island's beautiful Avalon Bay!

The exception is made for a good cause, to clean up the bay. In the past, divers from all over California, the western states and as far as Europe have traveled to Catalina Island to participate.

The refuse found in the bay

will be collected over a two-hour period, sorted, and recycled by volunteers. An awards ceremony follows with awards given out for exemplary trash, most unusual trash, biggest piece of trash, and the annual "B.S." Award, where contestants are invited to display their "booty" and tell their "story" about the origin of a particular item.

The Underwater Clean-up is a fund-raiser benefiting the Santa Catalina Island Conservancy Divers and the USC Hyperberic Chamber

on Catalina Island. The USC Hyperberic Chamber is the closest life support recompression chamber to thousands of divers who scuba dive in the nearby waters.

For more information, call the

Catalina Conservancy Divers at (310) 348-4750.

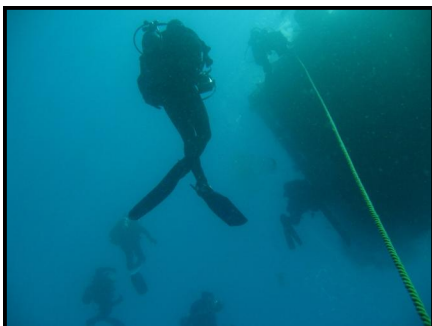


Article and picture source:

www.catalinaconservancy.org

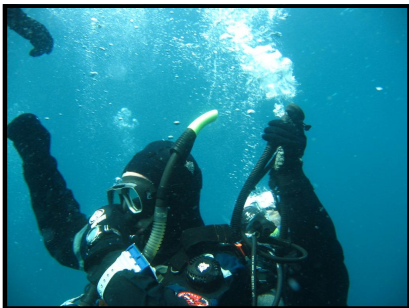


The Disabled Veterans SCUBA Project had its roots in the efforts of Nicolas Coster and organization he founded, Challenges Foundation. After several years of effort Challenges Foundation obtained permission from the Veterans Administration and started SCUBA classes in June of 2008 for Disabled Veterans at the West Los Angeles Veterans Hospital. Several classes were taught at the Greater Los Angeles (West LA) Veterans Hospital by the Challenges Foundation with Nicolas Coster as the lead instructor and other volunteers to veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam with outstanding results. In February of 2009, Challenges Foundation elected to end its SCUBA program at the Veterans Hospital in order to focus its efforts on providing sailing, snorkeling and swimming to veterans and to fund raising to support other adaptive aquatics programs such as the Disabled Veterans SCUBA Project. A volunteer with the previous classes named Melvin Pasley, a retired Lieutenant Colonel (USAR) and a veteran of Iraq (2006-2007) was strongly encouraged by Nicolas Coster and Challenges Foundations, and others, to start a new separate organization to carry on the efforts at the West Los Angeles Veterans Hospital and to start new efforts at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital Spinal



Cord center. On February 25th, 2009 the Disabled Veterans SCUBA Project (DVSP) held its first organizational meeting, voting to form a new and separate organization dedicated to providing SCUBA instruction to adaptive divers with our main effort being Veterans. The DVSP was incorporated in May 2009 by the State of California as a Non-Profit organization under IRS Code 501(C)(3).

The Disabled Veterans SCUBA Project, started by veterans for veterans, is dedicated to providing SCUBA diving instruction and certification to our veterans with a disability. We recognize that a veteran has served their country and the sacrifice that comes with that service. Our first priority is to our combat wounded veterans including those suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI is the signature wound of Iraq and Afghanistan), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and poly-trauma (multiple injuries) in addition to the blind, paralyzed or amputees. As space allows we will also offer SCUBA instruction to disabled veterans injured with non-combat related or post service injuries. Currently classes are being conducted at Loma Linda, California, serving the Inland Empire VA Center, Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos serving West Los Angeles and Long Beach VA centers and soon at Camp Pendleton assisting the Wounded Warrior program. We have just completed several classes and it has been my honor to help these vets and looking forward to another



year. Anyone can help and you do not even need to be certified as there are many duties, all of which are very rewarding. The veterans that you will meet are very determined to cope with their disabilities and you will be amazed at their positive attitudes to return to society with their new bodies. Even one evening or dive with these veterans and you will have a friend for always as they

greatly appreciate the help, even though it should be us that greatly appreciate their service.

For more information you can contact Steve Roquemore at 818 388 9324 or visit the website at www.disabledveteransscubaproject.org. We also have more pictures of past classes at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/disabledveteransscubaproject/>.

Thank you for the support that you have given and hope to see you all diving soon.

Thank You

Steve Roquemore



FEATURED DIVE BOAT: 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!



Air Fill Station:

From the dive deck to the galley you pass the air fill station where Partial Pressure enriched fills are available for those certified divers who wish to use Nitrox. With camera rinse sink located at the fill station, you will always find your camera gear at the ready.

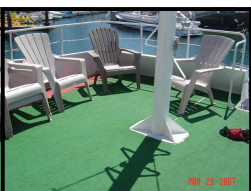
Bunkroom:



Our bunk room holds 6 single bunks and 6 double bunks in 5 private staterooms and 8 single bunks and 4 double bunks in a common sleeping area, all with privacy curtains and reading lights. A high speed blower provides ventilation and we provide blankets and pillows for your snoozing comfort. Bunks are first come first serve, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Galley:

The galley is where we serve our meals, enjoy a movie in surround sound or just socialize with old and new friends. Meals on The Star start in the morning with a continental breakfast of breads, 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. Snacks are throughout the day and always there from fruit platters and veggie trays to chips, dips and cookies. If you don't see it, ask, we just might have it. Lunch and dinner are sit down style. You sit down and we serve you. Meals range from soup and sandwich to roast pork fill all the trimmings and if Vegan, no worries, just let us know and it's Boca Burgers around.



Article and Picture Source: www.pacificstardiving.com

WHALERS ACTIVITY SURVEY

ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Boat Diving (1Day) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Travel Diving | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Boat Diving (Multi-Day) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Location Diving | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Beach Diving | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Wine & Cheese Tasting | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Clean-Up Dives | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Other (specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Kayaking | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. | |
| 6. Bike Riding | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. | |
| 7. Camping (Local Beach) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. | |
| 8. Camping (Island) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. | |
| 9. Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. | |
| 10. Beach Picnic | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. | |
| 11. Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. | |
| 12. Live Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25. | |
| 13. Dinning Out | <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. | |

Suggestions for the club:

What type of activities would you be willing to help with?

Name: _____

Current Contact Info:

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

WHALERS DIVE SHOP SURVEY

Primary Dive Shop: _____

Secondary Dive Shop: _____

Name: _____



MEMBERSHIP

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 : Whalers Dive Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 4283
West Hills, CA 91308-4283



Whalers -

We all receive enough junk mail. As a non-profit organization, we adhere to certain privacy rules, including protecting the email addresses of our membership. The use of the Whaler's mailing list is to distribute club related information to the membership. If you would like to send a general announcement to the full membership, please send it to any of the board members (<http://www.whalersdiveclub.com/contact/contact.htm>) and we will be happy to redistribute it if it's appropriate to club business. We make every attempt to "hide" the email addresses of our membership when sending mass mailings. Also, please do not share email addresses from our published Buddy List with any non-member. Although your political, religious, and social viewpoints are important, and jokes and YouTube videos can be funny, these certainly do not fall into the category of club business.

Thank You,

Whaler's Board