

# August 2016 Newsletter



## Whalers Dive Club

BJ's Restaurant & Brewery

6424 Canoga Ave

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

(818) 340-1748

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

When: 1st Wednesday of the Month 6:00-7:00 Food & Fellowship

7:00-9:00 Meeting

Website: [www.whalersdiveclub.com](http://www.whalersdiveclub.com)

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

East side of Canoga, just south of Victory You can only enter the parking lot from Canoga northbound. Both self-parking and valet available.

Private Room, Extensive Menu, and Full Bar

# August Entertainment

Pictures and Videos of our Last Fiji Trip

## President's Message

Hi everyone hope you are having a great summer and doing a lot of diving...see you at the General meeting this Wednesday where you see video from our Fiji vacation including a shark dive

# UP-COMING EVENTS

## AUGUST

General Meeting: August 3, 2016 Wednesday @ Bj's 6:00 pm

Dive: August 7, 2016 - Spectre - Anacapa (contact Dahlia)

Dive: Aug 20, 2016 - Asante (contact Dahlia)

Board Meeting: August 18, 2016 Thursday @ Lamplighter 6:00 pm

## SEPTEMBER

General Meeting: September 7, 2016 Wednesday @ Bj's 6:00 pm

Board Meeting: September 15, 2016 Thursday @ Lamplighter 6:00

Dive: September 17, 2016 - Beach Clean-up at Deer Creek

Dive: September 24,, 2016 - Peace to Anacapa (contact the Peace)

## OCTOBER

General Meeting: October 5, 2016 Wednesday @ Bj's 6:00 pm

Board Meeting: October 20, 2016 Thursday @ Lamplighter 6:00

Dive: TBD

## More Upcoming dives:

Nov 5-12, 2016. Anthony's Key Resort, Roatan, Honduras -Please see Dahlia for more info

Oct 14-29<sup>th</sup> 2017 - Red Sea and Israel tour - more details coming



Petra, Jordan - Red Sea - Underwater Park

From Dahlia

This trip will go into the Whalers history book as one of the best trips we ever had.

It wasn't just the group, or the diving, or the resort or the resort and dive shop staff, it was all of these combined which made our trip memorable.

We have traveled as a group before, we know we can depend on each other, look after each other and enjoy our time with each other. That's mostly a given when people who share the same interest or hobby travel together and have known each other for a significant amount of time.

Diving was absolutely phenomenal, nothing like I remembered from 2010 trip to Fiji. There was some damage left from the Cyclone but mostly on the shallow parts of the reef. Anything deeper than 30 feet and in many instances shallower was vibrant, healthy and gorgeous. The colors are bright and the infusion of light created a postcard picture rarely seen with such intensity.

We fell in love with a few sites and went back to visit them again. The abundance of colorful fish is incredible. Hard and soft corals are prevalent. That's Fiji diving. Wananavu Beach Resort is built on a cliff and quite spread out. There are numerous levels of room locations, with the heart of it, the main office and the dining area located on the mid-level.

Rooms were large, clean and well appointed. Any issue was quickly addressed by the resort staff. Always with a smile. We had our own table overlooking the ocean. There was plenty of quality food and always nicely presented. In the evenings there always was a group playing Fijian music with a back ground of lit live torches creating a authentic Fijian atmosphere. The last night before our departure they came to our table and sang the Fijian farewell song. I am sure I saw a tear even in the guy's eyes.....you know who you are. \*) happy

I think that the people of Fiji added an additional dimension to our trip. The happy faces, the readiness to assist, the warm response and the natural beauty of Fiji made this a trip we will most likely never forget. Especially that they came to us when we were boarding the bus to the airport to say a musical good bye again.

## Florida Whole Foods adds lionfish to its seafood case

Hopes to help control invasive species

In June, all 26 Whole Foods Markets in Florida started carrying lionfish, making the supermarket chain the first national retailer to carry the menacing-looking invasive species.

The poisonous spines along the lionfish's back ward off potential marine predators and generally keep them off of the average dinner plate. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has been trying to warm people up to the idea of snacking on the venomous fish with a series of how-to videos that show how to cook the species safely. Once the spine is removed, lionfish is fair game.

Lionfish populations have grown out of control because they have virtually no natural enemies out of their natural range and eat almost anything.

"By reducing the number of lionfish



The lionfish's poisonous spines will be removed by Whole Foods employees.

in the wild, Whole Foods Market will help reduce the serious environmental threat they cause," reads a Whole Foods Market press release.

Trained employees will receive the lionfish in-store and prepare it for sale in-house, including spine removal. The company offered a promotional price of \$8.99 per pound and handed out samples during the soft launch of the product in May. They say the new fish option had plenty of customers excited.

There is no limit, recreational or commercial, on how many lionfish can be caught in the state. There isn't a prominent supply chain for the species, so availability in stores can be limited. Florida industry leaders are hoping the

move will help remove the destructive species from the state's coastline.

"If we can't beat them, why not eat them?" says a NOAA employee in a PSA video. "Why wait? Get them on your plate." — Samuel Hill

## La. fishermen want to be in the loop on oil spills

Another breach brings questions

A week before their shrimping season was to open, Louisiana fishermen awoke to a disconcerting déjà vu. An oil spill about 100 miles south of Terrebonne Parish had been reported May 14. With the news came rumors.

"I thought, 'Oh no, not again,'" said Montegut, La., fishermen Lance Nacio. Some fishermen, a number of whom were shrimping in federal waters prior to the state season opening, heard on VHF's and cell phones that chemical dispersants were being considered as a means of containing the spill, and fears over effects of dispersant on the Gulf of Mexico echoed. Fishermen and scientists have demonstrated the disastrous results of the dispersant Corexit used to clean up the Deepwater Horizon spill. If dispersant was to be used in this spill, some fishermen prepared to block its use.

The 88,200 gallons of oil was mostly picked up with skimmers and other



Fishermen say protocol for information sharing will reduce rumors and fear.

more traditional equipment.

The scare renewed talk that fishermen need to be kept in the loop of fact much more quickly when an oil spill occurs.

"We are in the process of putting together a committee for information exchange," said Louisiana SeaGrant commercial fishing coordinator Julie Falgout. "The discussions are still going on, but it needs to be done. Fishermen need to be part of the conversation."

The rumors of oil dispersant use had started, officials said, when the amount of dispersant on hand at a BP facility in Gray, La., was checked for availability as part of a routine that kicks in when a spill is reported. The cause was determined to be a break in a flow line segment, officials said, but it was quickly stemmed.

— John DeSantis



"The Gulf of Maine used to be dominated by groundfish, and now it's dominated by spiny dogfish sharks."

— Barry Costa-Pierce, University of New England

## atlantic

## Northeast researchers push for foreign dogfish markets

A viable Gulf of Maine fishery could ship to Iceland and China as Arctic opens

It seems that spiny dogfish are on the tip of everybody's tongue, but not literally. That's why some fishermen, scientists, policy makers and consumers are hoping the dogs become a more commercially fished species in New England.

"They are everywhere, they are eating everything — it's changing everything. The Gulf of Maine used to be dominated by groundfish, and now it's dominated by spiny dogfish sharks," says Barry Costa-Pierce, director of the Marine Science Center at the University of New Eng-

land in Biddeford, Maine.

Costa-Pierce gave a lecture this spring during which he spoke about new opportunities for Maine's ocean economy as a result of global climate change, including the potential for a viable dogfish fishery in the Gulf of Maine. He says Maine is becoming "the front door to the Arctic," and new shipping lines could make it feasible to transport spiny dogfish into new markets like Iceland, and possibly beyond.

New Bedford, Mass., is currently the

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This article on Lionfish was provided by Norm Deatherage



# Other Members of the Dive Community



- o receive 5% off scheduled local boat charters
- o if active or retired military, make that 10%
- receive 10% off scuba equipment

## **GLYNN PALMER:** Scuba Repair

For more information please contact Glynn @ 310-266-2955



Peace Dive Boat



Divers Alert Network



## Disabled Veterans Scuba Project

# Photo Gallery

Photos by David Guth



## Latest Training Class



Photos by Rusty Geller



Photos by David Guth



A Monkey Faced Prickle



Spanish Shawl Nudibranch



Hilton's Aeolid Nudibranch



Kelp fish in front of the anchor chain of the Gosford



Infant Sheep head







Photos by Dan Tobias TURKS & CAICOS VACATION



Photos by David Guth





# LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS

## 2016 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Contact the board: [info@whalersdiveclub.com](mailto:info@whalersdiveclub.com)

Trish Kolbeck	President
Greg Arsenault	Treasurer
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Norman Deatherage	Beach Clean-up
Betty Pringle	Newsletter
Greg Arsenault & Dahlia Luria	Dive Coordinators
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Shelly Bern & Steve DeVore	Members at Large