

Courtesy of Heal The Bay
(healthebay.org)

THE ANNUAL MONTEREY CLEAN-UP DIVE! - BBQ!! - PRIZES!!!

When: September 18, 2004
Where: Wharf II in Monterey (next to Del Monte Beach)
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Parking: Free until 3 p.m.
Land check in: 8:00 a.m.
Divers check in: 8:30 a.m. Dive at 9:30 a.m.

BBQ: 1:00 p.m. on beach
Prize Awards: 1:30 p.m.

What's needed: DIVERS to help clean up the Monterey Harbor & underwater environment
NON-DIVERS to help with shore activities, check-in, BBQ etc.
BOATERS & KAYAKERS to transport divers and/or trash

Contact: Debra Gilmore at divecleanup@yahoo.com / (510) 523-8401

Pre-Registration: Not necessary, but helpful for the planning, especially if you want to be fed

*Sponsors: the Harbor Master of Monterey, the City of Monterey and
the Northern Californian Diving Community*

Organizers: San Francisco Reef Divers and the Central California Council of Diving Clubs Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR AUGUST

WE ARE ON OUR OWN

FEATURING: YOUR DIVE STORIES

See you at Sinbad's

Der Stammtisch



I knew that July's meeting was going to be interesting when our entertainment, Alan Studley, showed up on a Harley, a big one, needless to say with that unmistakable exhaust rumble. Alan shared some of his stunning video from around the world, Baja, Komodo, the Solomon's. We had schooling hammerheads circling only scant feet away from the camera, ghost pipefish, almost ephemerally beautiful, saltwater crocs, mantas soaring through the water column, even a whale nursing her calf. I have to say that some of the most interesting video was shot right here in our own backyard, at the Breakwater.

We had an interesting guest visiting us as well. Ed Flynn, an abalone diver for the past 62 years and still going "rock bucking" at 80. Ed's one of those characters who likes to spin tales and he's good at it. Who can resist stories of the days when you could roll up your pant legs and pick abalone of the rocks of the San Mateo coast at low tide? He's an optimistic sort of guy as well, when not regaling me with tales of watching women pounding freshly caught abalone along Cannery Row, he was talking about the day in the future when we would once again be bringing abalone from south of the Golden Gate bridge, armed with nothing more exotic than a pair of Converse sneakers and a bucket to carry home our bounty.

July's Cypress Sea dive found a full house on the boat. A total of 18 divers including two new club members, Erez and Sonia, were waiting on the dock, reasonably bright eyed at 7:00 o'clock, Saturday morning. The ocean was as smooth as I have seen it in quite some time, the proverbial "flat as a pancake." On the way south to our first dive site, we were escorted by a pod of dolphins.

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2004 SFRD OFFICERS

President	Gene Kramer	(650) 359-2785 genekramer@pacbell.net
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Membership Chairperson	Armin Luggen	(415) 479-3240 armin@luggens.com



**Payments for membership and activities
should be mailed to:
Pierre Hurter
515 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94114**

REEFER RAP 2004

<p>JANUARY</p> <p>01 - New Year's Day - Point Lobos 07 - Officer's Meeting 10 - Cypress Sea 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's 24- Monterey Beach Dive</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>04 - Officer's Meeting 07 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) 18 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>03 - Officer's Meeting 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's 20 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives)</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>03 - Abalone Opener - Fort Ross 07 - Officer's Meeting 17 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>05 - Officer's Meeting 19 - Meeting - Sinbad's 22 - 23 SCUBA SHOW 2004 22 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives)</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>02 - Officer's Meeting 12 - Cypress Sea 16 - Meeting - Sinbad's 27 - Abalone Closer at Ocean Cove</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>07 - Officer's Meeting 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's 24 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat.</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Opener - Salt Point 04 - Officer's Meeting 15-17 - Channel Islands 18 - Kayaking the Caves of Santa Cruz Island 18 - Meeting - Sinbad's 28 - Divers Day with Oakland A's</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>01 - Officer's Meeting 04 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 10 - 12 - Lake Tahoe Dive - Norm Knutson 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's 18 - Monterey Underwater Clean-up - Debra Gilmore</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>01 -02 - San Diego, Lois Ann - Armin Luggen 415 479-3240 06 - Officer's Meeting 09 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat. - Pierre - 415.285.6293 TBD - Alcatraz swim/paddle - Pierre Hurter - 415.285.6293 20 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Nominations !!!</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>03 - Officer's Meeting 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Elections 20 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sun. - Pierre - 415.285.6293 TBD - Abalone Closer</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>01 - Officer's Meeting 11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.285.6293 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Christmas Party</p>

Tired of looking like a newbie? Here's your chance to look like a grizzled veteran ... editor's note

**FOR SALE
BARE TRI-LAM DRYSUIT**

The suit is 5 years old. Latex wrist and neck seals are approx. one year old (Otter Bay Wetsuits). Size medium with size 9 hardboots. Includes Bare thinsulate underwear, also size medium, inflator hose and carry bag. \$250. Suit requires some small leak repairs and new zipper, which Ocean Vendors (Brentwood, CA) will do for \$200. Contact Jim Vallario @415-566-0784.

LAKE TAHOE DIVE TRIP – SEPTEMBER 10TH THRU THE 12TH



Dive Event: Saturday, Sept. 11
Time: 11a.m.
Where: Divers Cove, 50 yds to the right of the Sand Harbor parking lot.

Just like last year, we are doing a joint dive with the Sacramento Sea Horses. They are a fun bunch, and you can't find a prettier dive site in the country!!

This is high altitude diving. We will have instructions on this topic as the date comes closer.

Where to stay for the Weekend



NEW Venue: Sand Harbor, Nevada
Accommodations: Zephyr Cove Campground (*)
Online reservation:
<http://www.tahoedixie2.com/Campground/index.html>
Phone: 775-589-4907

You need to make your own reservations if you want to camp there. If you are not into camping, you have all the motels and casinos in South Lake Tahoe nearby.

(*) Tent sites are \$30 a night at this private campground. RV sites are \$48 a night but they will take off 10% for AAA membership. There are cheaper campgrounds on the California side.

For more info and pictures of Sand Harbor, check out these two web sites;
<http://www.saintbrendan.com/cdnjune04/Tahoe.html> or
<http://www.sierradive.com/dive.htm#Sand%20Harbor%20State%20Park>

Coordinator: Norm Knutson, 510-381-1670...mobile

From page 2 – Stammtisch

They seemed to spend more time leaping through the air than in the water. It was probably too cold for them or maybe they were just showing off for the tourists.

We made our first two dives at Flintstones. When I watched Clinton and his dive buddy strap on doubles, 80 cubic foot stage

bottles and for good measure, a pony bottle, I knew we would have plenty of surface interval. When Clinton returned he brought with him detailed instructions on where to find the giant pacific octopus he had spotted. Gerda and I made a long slow sweep of the area in question, but I think our octo had grown tired of the bright lights and attention and had retired to his lair. Both of the

dives here were tremendous all the same, good visibility, flat seas and best of all, good company.

After Flintstones, we motored north to Aumentos Reef. I like this spot, not too deep, with plenty of interesting topography to keep us occupied, a good choice after our first two dives.

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Stammtisch - from page 4

There are all of these long, narrow, sandy-bottomed fingers of reef to explore. Gerda and I laid out a line and practiced some basic skills while enjoying the underwater equivalent of a leisurely stroll. On our way to Aumentos we had slowed long enough to watch a group of Blue Whales make their majestic passage through the cluster of circling whale watching boats. They seemed oblivious of our presence, the largest creatures on earth, I suppose they can afford to ignore us.

It's already August and I'm getting antsy looking forward to our Channel Islands trip. This will be my fourth time aboard the Peace and Gerda's second. This time out, we are sharing the boat with the Marin Skin Divers, it should make for a good group and I'm looking forward to a great trip. This outing is always a highlight for me. The 2000 trip was my first, first time on a live aboard, first vacation without Gerda, first encounter with the legend of 'Skip'.

Assuming we put ashore at Avalon this year, I'm debating whether to continue my investigation of the mysterious "Skip". Those of you who have been in the club for awhile will know what I mean, others can only wonder what dark, twisted secret makes long time members stop all conversation at the mere mention of his name. I have seen seasoned members, veterans of countless

encounters with the sea, shudder when they hear someone say "Skip." I still remember the hard looks I received from the patrons of the Chi Chi club when I pointed to a faded photo pinned to the wall with a rusty fillet knife and asked, "Is that Skip?" They eased off their stools, stopped leaning against the walls, all moving my way, some of them smacking their palms with pool cues, the bartender reaching under the bar for a Louisville Slugger, sharp shiny blades glinting under the neon beer signs ... Yea, maybe I'll explore some of Avalon's other mysteries this time. There is a reason, they call some tales legends.

There are eight islands comprising the Channel Islands chain, five of which are part of the Channel Islands National Park. The park consists of 249,353 acres, approximately half of which are under water and includes the islands of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara. San Nicolas, Santa Catalina and San Clemente are the remaining islands in the chain.

Santa Catalina, home to Avalon, whose name comes from the poem *Idylls of the King* by Tennyson, is an interesting little town to visit. The Cubs had their spring training camp here between 1921 and 1951. Chuck Connors, before he became *The Rifleman*, played here with the 51 Cubs. Than there was that brash young radio

announcer, Dutch Reagan, who like Chuck went on to television, and then politics, first as governor and then just kept going, all the way to the top. Today, 88% of the island is part of the Catalina Island Conservancy, a lasting legacy from the Wrigley family to the people of California.

Serendipity, a great word, according to the dictionary, the faculty or phenomenon of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought after. The word owes its origin to a Persian fairy tale *The Three Princes of Serendip*, but that's another tale, really neither here, nor there. The other day, a Friday, I was making a lunchtime wander, debating if I should duck into the local bagel shop or hold out for some Thai noodles, down towards Chinatown. That's when I saw this car in the turn lane, hood up in the classic distress signal mode. Standing beside it was an attractive blonde, the sort of woman who can get a guy in trouble, if he's lucky. But the real story was the car, a Borgward Isabella Coupe.



I haven't seen one in a long time. For those of you who might have missed it, I come from a long line of car nuts.

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Stammtisch - from page 5

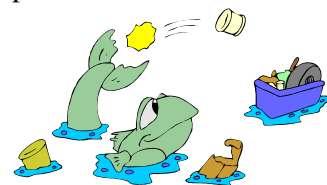
Borgward was a German company that made some interesting cars, starting in the 1920's and lasting until 1961. That year, they went belly-up, some say because BMW lobbied against government intervention and connived to come up with a flawed plan for reorganization. The same sort of intervention that had saved BMW a few years earlier when it looked as if they would surely tank. In any case, the car stalled in the intersection was one of some 202,862 Isabella's built and this one looked to be in original shape. Beautiful red leather upholstery, the signature, large diameter white steering wheel, two toned red and crème paint scheme, the single downdraft Solex carburetor hanging on the side of the engine. I stopped and chatted awhile, the car had belonged to the current owner's grandfather and looked as if it had just rolled off the dealer's lot. I

wandered back to the office, thinking how times change, the cars of my youth, my dad and the still unresolved question of the day, what to have for lunch, bagels or Thai.

August is a busy month, for those who missed signing up for the Channel Islands trip, you have your choice of diving Salt Point with Alicia or Diver's Day with the Oakland A's. Tough choices, but wet or dry, there's something for all. For those of you who have done some diving lately, it's time to put pen to paper and let the rest of us know about it.

On a different topic, the San Francisco Reef Divers, that's us, along with CenCal, will be organizing this year's California Coastal Cleanup in Monterey. This year will mark the 20th annual event in California. I've done several of these cleanup dives and they are lots of fun. My first cleanup was on September 15, 2001. It was a

somber day in many ways, but for those who showed up, it was a way to do something normal in an abnormal time, to honor those who were no longer with us, and most importantly, to show that life would go on, tomorrow would be another day. If you would like to have some fun, meet some fellow divers and maybe pluck a few treasures form beneath the ocean's surface, join us Saturday, September 18th. There will be a



BBQ, prizes for the most unique finds and of course the chance to do some diving.

Until next month, have some fun, get out and dive and be ready for those chance serendipitous encounters that make life in the Bay Area, so much fun.



OPEN WATER--THE MOVIE

A movie review by Kenneth Gwin



I got this phone call a while back.

Some guy from some promotional public relations firm

trying to give me something--
FOR FREE!

Wow!

What usually gets a nice hang-up from me, but somehow the word "diving" got in there and I paused long enough to listen to the rest of the pitch. This guy was offering the club a packet of free passes to a sneak preview of the new movie, "Open Water."

Maybe I'd heard some rumor about a movie coming out sometime soon about divers being left behind by a dive

boat. There have been a lot of stories in the real world about this "head count" problem. There have also been a lot of movies about divers. Few were memorable. But, somehow, I felt like taking a chance.

Feeling oh so optimistic, I said sure, I'd pass out the passes. What the heck, any movie about diving can't be all that bad. I'm thinking, maybe at least it would be a good outing

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with friends. And, no matter what the movie was like, I'm always a big fan of popcorn.

At the theater, Tree and I ran into Armin and some friends he'd brought along for the free ride. Getting in line, we joined the crowd of promo-happy revelers, found our seats and settled in for the "big show."

They didn't say which "true story" this was based on, but my bet was on the "not happy ending" scenario.

This turns out to be a movie about busy yuppie types who never got past their open water training and ended up through sheer bad luck left behind in "Open Water." They were portrayed living in a crabby relationship and only vaguely polite and affectionate with each other. The (not-wet-T-shirt-moment) no T-shirt moment was awkward and nearly embarrassing. It got even more awkward and embarrassing as the potential for actual intimacy reared its ugly head.

Like in old westerns where they knew better, movies about diving probably shouldn't try to probe the depths of human emotion and mix adventure metaphors with the romantic. Best, just stick to the diving.

But, they didn't ask me.

It's interesting also about the wild reviews I read before and

after seeing this movie. Over the next few days there were even more wild, rave reviews from several big name TV reviewers.

And, another in the paper...

I guess opinions differs...

Maybe divers see movies about diving differently than the rest of the crowd. Maybe I'm just picky. Still, I'm really into movies, directors, scriptwriters, actors, photographers -- the whole thing. I think I can see a movie for what it is.

But, what was that?

Reviewers liked all kinds of things about this film: Naturalistic photography. Good acting. Scary sharks portrayed in an unconventional way. Complex development of characters.

Sorry, missed most of that.

I'm a diver. And I'm looking for something equal to my feelings about this adventure sport.

I'm looking.

Looking.

Still, it was a movie about diving. There were characters and situations we're all familiar with from our many exploits. There were the carefree vacationers filling the bar at the resort making a lifestyle out of sampling all the umbrella

drinks. Then there was the Caribbean style fiberglass boat, the local crew giving the tired safety sermon and dive site briefing, the colorful tropical rental dive gear, the jerks on the boat, the nifty reef creatures, and finally, the inevitable realization of being left behind.

Let's hope we'd be better prepared.

There are some things to take back from this movie. A lot of people have left behind by careless dive crews. There was the couple in the South Pacific, the ones in Florida, and the guy left in the Channel off Orange County.

These were recent.

Even expedition divers on world famous dives have surfaced to an empty horizon. I especially remember the story I heard about the guy who was diving on the Andrea Doria--doubles, drysuit, experienced crew, everything--it can happen.

The world's a jungle out there.

Words to the wise: Don't forget your safety sausage, flares, signal mirror, strobe, whistle, Dive Alert, emergency inflatable, extra food and water, sunscreen, EPERB, handheld radio, satellite phone, and especially don't forget to bring a good attitude.

And remember, any time you get off the boat, you could be in over your head.



ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS (SFRD):

The *Reef Diver Times* is the official newsletter of the San Francisco Reef Divers, a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. Membership is \$25 annually, dues payable to "SFRD". The General Meeting is held 3rd Wednesday of the month at at Sinbad's, located at Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, SF, CA 94111. Meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks and food and 7:30 pm for club business and entertainment. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.

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