



SCUBACAN AND ME, MY SUMMER DIVE ADVENTURE

by Diver X



I have wanted to go to Cuba for years. Castro's declining health and the efforts in Congress to eliminate travel restriction convinced me that this should be the year. I wanted to see what the country is like under the present regime and before the island becomes flooded with gringos. My youngest graduated from College in June, leaving me with no fall tuition bill to look forward to. With time and money on my hands I contacted SCUBACAN, a Canadian travel agency that specializes in tours for US citizens. From the options available I chose two days at the Hotel National in the middle of Havana and five days at the Hotel Colony on the Isla de la Juventud. The cost of the tour was about \$1800, which included airfare from Toronto, meals, dives, etc. In May I sent SCUBACAN a check, no credit cards accepted. Time went by and I heard nothing from them.

A week and a half before my July 14 departure date I still had no ticket, no itinerary, nada. I called SCUBACAN but got a taped message and no one returned my calls. I had long ago purchased a ticket from Vancouver to Toronto and was in a quandary as to what to do. Looking further into SCUBACAN on the Internet I discovered that since 9/11 it had

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AUGUST ENTERTAINMENT

The speakers for this month's meeting will be Pat Lovejoy (volunteer @ Pt. Lobos), Marc Shargel (photographer), and Doug Obegi (Ocean Conservancy). The general topic will be the establishment of preserves, reserves, and the overall bureaucracies of state and federal regulations, the plans of our DFG, etc., that manage and, hopefully, maintain our ocean resources.

Ken Gwin

PRESIDENTS CORNER



We are back from vacation and once again firmly in the traces at work. Here's the first chapter of our saga, including a few photos. By way of explanation, the guy in the red suit sliding off of the iceberg is me, there's one showing the skiff we dove from heading back for the mother ship, the Nautilus Explorer, a typical sunset and a shot of a couple of pairs of Xtra Tuff neopren work boots.

I'll start with the boots. Phil Sammet, who put this trip together along with Mike Lever, master of the Nautilus Explorer, had worked in Alaska some years back. He told me that everyone in Alaska wore Xtra Tuff boots, rolled down for formal affairs or pulled up while wading through the muck, cleaning fish and generally wandering about. I thought he was pulling my leg until we got to the airport in Juneau. Whole families right down to munchkins in strollers where decked out in the same lined neoprene boots. Gerda and I both have a pair and they are not only the most comfortable rubber boots I have ever worn, but also about the most practical footwear for boat and shore. So if you want to look like a local, be practical and comfortable ... (see page 9)

Our adventure started in Juneau. We flew up the day the boat was scheduled to depart. From the airport we wandered around downtown killing time until we could board the ship, around eight o'clock that night. Juneau is a small place,

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REEFERS RAP

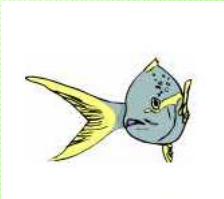


JANUARY 02	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>01 - <i>New Year's Day Dive</i> Point Lobos</p> <p>13 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i></p>	<p>16 - <i>President's Day Dive</i></p> <p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>12 - 14 <i>Abalone Opener at Russian Gulch</i></p> <p>17 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>18 - <i>Point Lobos Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>15 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>18 - <i>Beach Dive - North Coast</i></p> <p>25 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>08 - <i>Monterey Clean Up Dive</i> moved to August</p> <p>19 - <i>General Meeting & Swap Meet</i></p> <p>22 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p> <p>28 - <i>Great Annual Fish Count</i></p> <p>30 - <i>Abalone Closer/Picnic - North Coast</i></p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>06 - <i>Great Annual Fish Count</i> www.fishcount.org</p> <p>17 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>27 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>03 - <i>Monterey Clean Up Dive</i> drc@astound.net</p> <p>18 - 20 <i>Channel Island Trip</i> Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>21 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>TBD - <i>Beach Dive</i> Coordinator: Pam Radkey (510) 527-5282</p> <p> Beach Dives - for details check: Yahoo Internet site postings or call Pierre Hurter (415-285-6293) or Curt Degler (707-570-0457)</p>	<p>14 - <i>Alcatraz swim/paddle</i> Coordinator: Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p> <p>18 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>22 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Valario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>TBD - <i>Beach Dives</i> - for details check: Yahoo Website postings or call Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>13 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday - 2 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>TBD - <i>Beach Dives</i> - for details check: Yahoo Website postings or call Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p>	<p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i> 2003 OFFICERS ELECTIONS BOATHOUSE</p> <p>24 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday. - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>TBD - <i>Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</i></p> <p>TBD - <i>Abalone Closer</i> Coordinator: Robert Miché (415) 661-5540</p> <p>TBD - <i>Salmon Swim</i> Coordinator: Frank King</p>	<p>18 - <i>Christmas Party</i> <i>at the BOATHOUSE !!!</i></p> <p>TBD - <i>Beach Dives</i> - for details check: Yahoo Website postings or call Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p>

Reefer Rap ... need to know more ...



BEACH DIVE – September

Pam is planning to coordinate a Beach Dive early in September. Please call her for details: 510.527.5282

ALCATRAZ Paddle

Have you ever herded sheep or cows? Does not matter, HERE is your opportunity to learn how it is done. Aid the Southend Rowing Clubs swimmers to safely return to the SF shore. Lunch and T-Shirts provided.

*Coordinator: Pierre Hurter
415.285.6293*

PIERRE & JIM'S & GERDA'S & TIM'S & JOHN'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE
by Jim Vallario

On Saturday, August 3rd five Reef Divers (Pierre & Gerda Hurter, Jim Vallario, John Amato, Tim Howe) participated in the Monterey Harbor Cleanup Dive. Great idea and a lot of fun. Some went in from the beach and others hitched a ride on available boats to the end of the pier. Some filled their goody bags with assorted "stuff", while the divers at the end of the pier were hauling up industrial sized junk (long pipes, marine ladders, a mangled jungle gym (?), tires, a portion of a whale's skull (!), etc.) and never used their goody bags.



After the dive there was a cookout and prizes (most unusual items brought up, oldest and youngest diver, person who traveled the farthest). Tim scored with his whale skull, Jim with his jungle gym and oldest diver (although someone indicated that there was a 63 year old present, but he/she wouldn't admit it.) After all the prize categories were announced, the remaining gear was up for grabs. Gerda had her eye on a snorkel, but got in a tug of war with someone else over it. Pierre (being Pierre) didn't help his bride, but instead offered a running commentary on the match, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the combatants and how the temperature dew point spread might affect the outcome. Gerda

(being Gerda) was trying to fight fair but was having some difficulty. At the last moment, however, she managed to gain control of the snorkel and claim victory. This once again proves that truth, justice and fair play always prevail in the end.

Note: Some portions of this report were slightly embellished (as in totally fabricated) to enhance reader enjoyment. Will let the reader decide which section has been "enhanced".

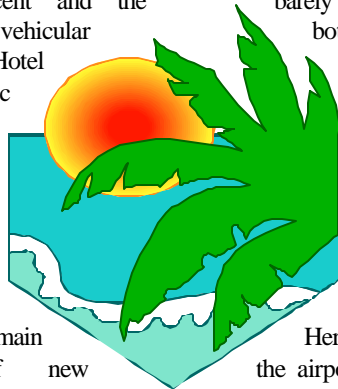


SCUBACAN – from page 1

failed to make good on its commitments on several occasions and was being sued by two groups of people who were left stranded in Havana. Finally, however, on the last possible day, my travel vouchers arrived by UPS. After this shaky start my trip went pretty much without a hitch.

Havana is amazing, especially the old part of the city, the architecture magnificent and the streets closed to vehicular traffic. The Hotel Colony is a relic from the '50s that has fallen into some disrepair although the "bungalows", actually duplexes and fourplexes, on either end of main building are of new construction and very nice. Each morning at 9 AM the shuttle bus would pick us up in front of the hotel for the short ride to the marina. The divers were mostly Brazilians with a few Germans; a couple of Brits and occasional Americano. It was an hour boat ride to get around Punta Frances to the dive sites. After the first dive the boat would pull up to a cabana on the end of a pier on Cape Frances and lunch was served. This was the "Ranchon Arco Iris", after lunch the crew played dominos for a couple of hours while we passengers were free to explore Cape Francis, a stunningly beautiful national park. The dives were spectacular and the 86 degree water way too warm for the 3mm suit I had brought along, swimsuit only worked just fine. The most memorable dives were the shallowest, the wreck of the Sparta at 20 feet, which was alive with fish, and the Blue Cave, the deepest. On the latter, we

followed Ramone, our dive mater, single file through a narrow cleft in the reef, much of it overgrown and forming a cave. The trail ended at 146' at the edge of a wall that dropped straight down 1000', nothing, but indigo below. Ramone hung a right here and swam along the face of the wall for forty feet where he disappeared into a hole. The hole, narrow at first, turned into a chimney in the rock, which led back to the top of the reef. I barely had enough bottom time on my computer for that one but what a dive.



On my return to Havana my guide, an affable afro-cubano by the name of Publio Hernandez, met me at the airport. Publio was to show me around town and he asked if it would be ok if we took his car instead of a taxi as this would save him some money. I said sure and we were off on our tour in his beautiful 1957 Chevrolet. There aren't just a few of these old cars, there are thousands of them. Havana rather reminded me of Florence with tail fins.

SCUBACAN claims that their tours are legal for US citizens because they are prepaid but I wouldn't bet on it. Cuba remains the only country that we are not allowed to visit. Any American caught returning is in for a big hassle, one that they will have to hire a lawyer to get out of. On the other side, ironically, the welcome mat is definitely out. I heard more than one Cuban lament the drop off in US tourism: "The Europeans still come but the Americans spend more money than all of them!" Those contemplating a trip to the forbidden isle should get a copy

of Lonely Planet's "Snorkeling and Diving in Cuba", the Mexican travel agencies listed in the back got good reviews from the Hotel Colony staff. As for me, having now embarked on a life of crime, there is this freediving school in Havana I heard about. . .

I came out about \$300 short in services and refunds not received which is much better than many of SCUBACAN's customers did, I consider myself lucky. While preparing this article I noticed that their website had been taken off the internet, apparently they have gone down for the last time.



**MY SUMMER FIELD TRIP
AT POINT LOBOS**

by Luke Teyssier



As you may already know, Point Lobos is a state Reserve that requires reservations if you want to Scuba Dive there. It's very popular, and you need to make reservations two months in advance to go out on a weekend. Now I know why. This is some of the best SCUBA diving I have ever done in California. It turns out that August is some of the best time to dive at Pt. Lobos.

I went on the trip with a group of about 30 people. We started by meeting outside the gate on Highway 1 around 8:30. By 9:00 the gate was open and one by one

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Pt. Lobos – from page 5

we showed our C-Cards and paid the \$3.00 parking fee. Down at Whaler's Cove, parking is limited, so you want to show up early. There's a small ramp that is used for launching small boats and for Scuba Enter/Exits. There is also a fresh water hose right by the ramp. Very nice. My dive buddy and I were fortunate enough to be in one of the 18 ft inflatables, so we were able to go out a little further towards the open ocean. The other teams got ferried out on small boats and dropped off to swim back. A few people took C-2 canoes (Plastic Sit On Top Kayaks) and dove off them. For our first dive, we swam out to the boat and heaved ourselves up over the large pontoons. The boat owner (Ian) drove us out through a narrow passage in the heavy kelp and anchored at Cannery Point Pinnacles (There is a great dive guide at http://pt-lobos.parks.state.ca.us/scuba/dive_spots.html)

We anchored right on top of a pinnacle at 40ft and dove down along the anchor line. The pinnacle drops off straight down to 140 ft in almost a sheer wall. Visibility was excellent: at 70 ft down it opened up to 40ft. We had set a limit at 80ft (I was breathing 36% Nitrox which limits my depth to 92ft) It was odd being already at 75 ft and so far above the bottom at 140ft. The pinnacle is roughly square and about twice the size of a school bus in diameter. There was an abundance of sponges, pink anemones, senoritas. I also saw Black and Yellow Rockfish, Painted Greenling, Male and Female Kelp Greenling, Lingcod, Terminal Phase California

Sheephead (I think), and five or six bright yellow critters that look like oversized (4"dia, 12"long) sea cucumbers. Ascent and then back to the harbor for lunch.

For our second dive, we went to the other side of the cove at the outer edge of Granite Point Wall. The visibility was still good, but clouded by some detritus. We anchored at the edge of a kelp mat so thick it seemed like you could walk on it. In fact, there are these birds that stand there on the kelp like it's solid ground. They are called "Jesus Birds" because it looks like they are walking on water. What kind they are, doesn't matter. It's the walking on water thing. Anyhow, we anchored the boat and it promptly drifted into the kelp mat. To dive from the boat, we



connected our BC's to a tag line, inflated, and threw them overboard. Then we jumped in and put them on in the water.

It's a bit eerie descending below an absolutely solid mat of kelp. The rocks in that area are huge and blocky. It gives one the feeling of a granite quarry with giant sized large angular cleavages. All together, it gives one the sense of walking among giants. I was reminded of walking in Muir Woods. As we got closer to the edge of the cove, the surge got noticeable and threw me around quite a bit. I wouldn't want to be there in rough weather. Just before we started back a school of about a hundred fish (Black Rockfish?) surrounded us. Wow. I came up just outside the kelp monster, so I set a course, and did some more decompression at 10 ft. The anchor stuck, so we tugged at it for a while and weren't able to drive it off. Ian and his buddy had to come back

afterwards to dig it out. Good lesson: Always bring another tank, and check the anchor before you ascend. All in all, a wonderful trip.



**THE EMERALD SEA -
ALASKA/BC ON THE
NAUTILUS EXPLORER**
by Gerda Hurter

The newsletter deadline is lurking over me like a term paper due the next morning and I still have not started to write about Pierre and my adventures in Alaska and British Columbia on board the Nautilus Explorer. What a magnificent trip that turned out to be, the after glow still bright enough to outshine the day to day business dealings of getting you to buy more jeans... "1:30 p.m., hmm, we would just get back from a dive, chattering away and drying off to sit down to one of the multitude of highlights of the day: LUNCH". Heidi, the master of the Galley, worked wonders in the fairly small but efficient kitchen, surprising us with culinary delights from creamy Borscht over juicy Roast Beef to fresh Salmon (- and we are talking FRESH, caught the very same day from the back of the boat) prepared any possible way you can think off. Even though we had three square meals a day and in between got tempted with scrumptious desserts that made your teeth hurt, we always looked forward what the next meal would bring. Even Humpback sightings and Orcas

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Emerald Sea – from page 6

riding the bow wave couldn't tear us from the table. I am terrible spoiled when it comes to food having grown up in a household with my Dad being a Chef, this was incredible.

Besides the food the rest of the boat, with its accommodations and crew, completely rounded out the experience of being pampered and well taken care off. They provided an environment in which one forgot time even though we had a tight fun-filled-time-sensitive-dive-kayaking-exploring-beachcombing-bonfire-sightseeing-hot pringing schedule at which Princess Cruise Lines et al pales in comparison.

The diving was superb, providing a glimpse into the mysterious waters of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, just as depicted at the May monthly club meeting when Clinton Bauder (who was part of this recent adventure as well) came to present his than latest video of this underwater wilderness also called the Emerald Sea. My favorite sightings were the nudibranches, especially the *Dirona albolineata* or Alabasta nudibranch and the basket stars. Now here, I mean up there, you can talk about MACRO live. I never understood that term until now since every thing down here is so MICROscopic.

Walls covered in metridiums, all kinds of anemones, gooseneck barnacles and encrusting sponges, nooks and crannies occupied by sculpines, greenlings, red Irish lords, rock fish, octopi and wolf eels. Not to forget the spiny dogfish of the shark family and the delicate ratfish. It really runs the gamut from schools of fish hovering over thousands of sea urchin (as big as soccer balls) strewn over the sandy floors or attached to rocky walls to (ancient) shipwrecks and marin

mammals curiously checking you out and telling you that you have no business there by nibbing your head and other extended extremities.



Steller Sea lions can be very convincing that it is better to move out of their territory the murky green water of their rookery.

To sum up the dives, one just cannot get enough, starting to long to go done again the minute one breaks the surface after 40 minutes plus with teeth chattering. Pierre and I will be able to share Clinton's latest video at some point this year, but until then I recommend to check out the Nautilus Explorer website www.nautilusexplorer.com

A big **THANK YOU** to Phil Sammet, one of our Cypress Sea skippers, for organizing, and Mike Leever the captain of the Nautilus to make this an exceptional trip. Mike, I volunteer to wash the dishes and scrub the deck any time – I am only a phone call away!!!



**THE MARINE LIFE
PROTECTION ACT:
BIGGEST SEA CHANGE IN
100 YEARS**

by Curt Degler

In 1999 The California Legislature passed AB 993, The Marine Life protection Act ("MLPA"), providing for the reorganization of existing State marine reserves and the creation of additional marine protected areas into a network with specific purposes and goals. The MLPA received strong bipartisan support and was passed by the State Senate with a 2/3s super majority. The law pointedly noted that despite the demonstrated value of marine life reserves, out of 220,000 square miles of combined State and Federal waters only 14 were genuine no-take areas, or only .006 of 1 %!!!

The goals of the MLPA are to:

1. Protect natural diversity and abundance of marine life and the function of marine ecosystems.
2. Sustain, conserve, and protect marine populations and rebuild those depleted.
3. Improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities.
4. Protect marine natural heritage and unique habitats for their intrinsic value.
5. Ensure that Marine Protected Areas ("MPA's") have clearly defined objectives, effective management, and adequate enforcement and are based on scientific guidelines and are managed as a network.

MPA's can come in three primary flavors:

1. Marine Reserves- no marine life can be taken either commercially or recreationally.
2. Marine Parks - only recreational take permitted.

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Marine Life Protection Act – from page 7

3. Marine Conservation Areas - special take restrictions to enhance or protect specific marine species or environmental features.

Originally the Master Plan for MPAs was to have been prepared by a team from the Dept. of Fish and Game ("DFG") and submitted by 1/1/2002 to the Fish and Game Commission. This Governor-appointed body, subject to Legislative review, was to have the final say on the siting, structure and management of the selected MPAs.

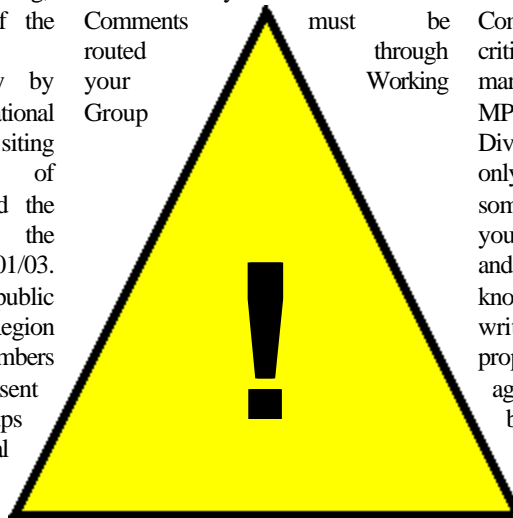
However a public outcry by commercial and recreational fishermen over the DFG's siting selections and methods of obtaining public comment led the legislature to change the submission date to 01/01/03. They also established public "Working Groups" by Region consisting of volunteer members of the public who represent various stakeholder groups including commercial fishermen, recreational anglers and divers, environmentalists, and others. These Working Groups are required to propose to the Dept. of Fish and Game where they want the MPAs to be sited.

I was selected to represent recreational diving interests in the San Francisco Region Working Group after receiving nominations from SCAN, the Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CENCAL), The San Francisco Reef Divers Dive Club, and others. The San Francisco Region runs from Pt Arena in Mendocino County to Ano Nuevo Island in San Mateo County.

A preliminary orientation for the working groups from Morro Bay to Sonoma County

was held in Monterey on July 18, 2002. Topics covered included the historical and legal basis for the MLPA, group negotiating techniques, a review of the existing science on the effect of marine reserves and a discussion of how to analyze the economic ramifications of human use of the marine environment and its flora and fauna.

Regional discussions and negotiations on siting and management of MPA's should begin by the end of this September and are open to the Public only as observers. Comments must be routed through your Working Group



Representative. (Perhaps the meetings will be better controlled than before - I wouldn't bet on it - so attend and prepare yourself for a spectacle!)

The recommendations (and alternatives) of the Working Groups will be submitted to the DFG who will then digest these and submit by January 1, 2003 a Draft Master Plan to the Fish and Game Commission. Subsequent to several more public hearings, environmental reviews and an initial review by the Legislature, the Commission will formally adopt a Master Plan on or before December 1, 2003. Don't bet on it. There is already another State Senate bill pending to delay the process an additional two years.

The forces of reaction are hard at work.

In my opinion the MPAs we select have the potential of changing the nearshore marine environment more dramatically than anything since the arrival of the Spanish Colonialists. This may be the opportunity we have been waiting for to undue some of the harm that has been done to our Ocean waters by under regulated and sometimes out of control commercial interests.

The role of the public in this lengthy process, from the working groups through the final Commission Decision, will be critical in siting and adopting management processes for the MPAs. Therefore I urge all Reef Divers, whether you sightsee only, take abalone or fish, to give some serious thought to where you do and do not want MPAs and in what flavors and let me know! I will need your vocal and written support for these proposals if I am to forward the agenda of the diving community before the working group which also includes commercial anglers, and

environmentalists. If you are concerned about what can happen to Monterey or the Channel Islands there are Working Groups for these areas. More information can be obtained through me or by going to:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/index.html>

Yet more information about MPAs is available at

<http://www.californiafish.org/mpa.html>

So please communicate your ideas, advice and opinions in writing to me, Curt

Degler at POB 784, Santa Rosa CA 95402, via e-mail to cdegler@earthlink.net or at 707-570-0457

President – page 2



with a population of some 30,000. It's also the only capital in the US that you cannot drive to. There is a road going north and south for a couple of miles, but it ends. I know, you're probably thinking that Honolulu can't be driven to, but once you are on Oahu, you can drive around. Not so in Juneau, you can't drive from Fairbanks or Canada and get to Juneau. As if to make up for it's isolation, the harbor is full of huge cruise ships spilling a constant stream of tourists into the downtown's "T" shirt emporiums. Having seen the sites, which include an excellent museum, we headed north to Auk Bay and our rendezvous with the boat.

There were twenty of us plus the crew and amid leaping salmon and circling bald eagles we pulled anchor and headed north for our first dive. There are a lot of wrecks in Alaskan waters, partially due to the navigational hazards and partially due to the sheer number of ships that came here during the gold rush and later for the crab fishing. We started the trip off by diving the wreck of the Princess Sophia. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks we dropped to 100 feet and were confronted with a wreck covered in huge metridium. Saw several prowfish, a strange usually deepwater fish arrayed with luminescent spots for its



dark water excursions. The wreck struck me as a little eerie, the steamship ran aground in 1918, rescue efforts were postponed to avoid the costs of paying other vessels for their involvement. The owners hoped that their own ships would get there in time to affect a rescue. At 4:50 pm a desperate plea for help was heard on nearby ships radios, with no help alongside, the Sophia slid off the reef it had run aground on. All 343 aboard perished; there was one survivor, someone's pet dog.

Our second dive was also on a wreck, this time the Princess Kathleen.



When you look at an atlas of ships charts you can't help but notice that there are a lot of wrecks in Alaskan waters. Besides this wreck we also dove the Ohio and the Transpac, but we'll get to that some other time. The Kathleen was luckier than the Sophia; it ran into a reef and all 425 passengers and crew were able to step onto the nearby shore. On this dive I saw my first pair of wolf eels, both of them at least six feet long with huge puffy lips and a friendly disposition. When you watch

them devour whole sea urchins, you can't help but wonder if their diet is the cause of the pouting lips.

Following the two wrecks, we made our way south, once again past Juneau. We steamed into Tracy Arm, where we had the chance to snorkel in waters bobbing with icebergs, kayak among hundreds of harbor seals and watch a glacier "calve". It's an awesome experience, watching huge walls of ice crash towards the sea below. From Tracy Arm we headed east to Yasha Island and then north through the Peril Straight and then along the outside passage to Wooden Island. We spent some time exploring the Queen Charlotte Islands, including shore visits to several Haida villages.

In the course of our two week trip, I managed 23 dives, including diving under icebergs, wrecks and walls incrustated with so much life that you could hardly take it all in. The water was a bit nippy, averaging between 45 and 50 degrees, but not any colder than what we get in local waters. There was a little something for everyone, wrecks, Orcas, humpback whales and scenery that never seemed to become less spectacular. Did I mention the natural hot springs, swimming with salmon, tapes of every single episode of "Sea Hunt"? If you are looking for something a little different with truly spectacular diving, I'd consider Alaska and British Columbia and particularly the Nautilus Explorer.





Amos Nachoum, you'll remember him from last October presenting BIG ANIMALS, recently has fallen victim to burglary. Stolen were 2 RS bodies, full assortment of RS lenses, a 400mm 2.8 Silent Wave Nikon lens etc... Those of you who saw his presentation will realize how important this gear is to him. So, keep your ears and eyes open for that 'perfect deal' and any suspicious offerings – be o the watch out
There was a burglary report and the police case number is 021 042 465

NEWS BULLETIN: On July 16, 2002, the U.S. Navy was given a permit to deploy Low-Frequency Active sonar, a submarine-detection system, across as much as 80 percent of the world's oceans. The permit exempts the Navy from the Marine Mammal Protection Act, allowing it to harm whales, dolphins, and other species while flooding the oceans with intense sound. The permit is too broad to afford any meaningful protection for marine life. NRDC -- leading a coalition of environmental groups -- has sued the U.S. Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service to block deployment of the system.
add'l info at <http://www.nrdc.org/wildlife/marine/nlfa.asp>

Recall... Recall... Recall

ScubaPro is in the process of recalling approx. 1700 dive consoles, each of which contains a UWATECH dive computer. The problem is not with the computers, but with the analog pressure gauges. All affected Consoles were sold from Jauary to Nay of this year. For more info see <http://scubadiving.com/feature/news/71802scubaprorecall.shtml>





The San Francisco Reef Divers is a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. The San Francisco Reef Divers general meetings are open to the public and are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Boathouse Sports Bar and Grill, (415) 681-2727, located at 1 Harding Rd, San Francisco, CA 94132 (For driving directions and a map for this location, visit our club web site: [http://www.sfreefdivers.org/.](http://www.sfreefdivers.org/))

We highly encourage you to also support the other organizations listed below when you pay your annual dues. (Please indicate your membership options with the checkboxes below.)

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco Reef Divers (SFRD) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abalone Marine Resource Council (AMRC) | 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) | 10 |

Show your support for all four!\$60

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (_____) _____	Work Phone: (_____) _____
Email:	_____ Birthdate (year optional): ____/____/____
Diving Certification Agency:	_____ Level: _____ Number: _____
SFRD Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> New member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Are you a member of Divers Alert Network (DAN)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please select the method of delivery of your monthly club newsletter (Choose one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> I will download the newsletter via the Internet from the SFRD website (default)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I want the newsletter mailed to my home address	

Please make checks payable to “**San Francisco Reef Divers**” and mail to: Bill Donnelly, SFRD Treasurer, P.O. Box 151223, San Rafael, CA 94915



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 the Boathouse Sports Bar and Grill, (415) 681-2727, located at 1 Harding Rd, San Francisco, CA 94132 in Harding Park on the shore of Lake Merced. Meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks and food and 7:30 pm for club business and entertainment. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreedivers.org/>.

SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS
Reef Divers Times
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San Francisco, CA 94114