

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 5

MAY, 2017

May Program: Images of Bonaire

In February, 26 Marin Scuba Club members and friends journeyed to tropical Bonaire in the Netherland Antilles, part of the "ABC" islands.

They hung out at Captain Don's Habitat as their base, enjoyed good food, easy Caribbean diving aboard their dedicated dive boat, the *Ocean Freedom*, and a wide variety of topside activities.



Join us on Wednesday, May 17th, when a group of club members will share their photos and video footage that portray their dives, snorkeling trips, kayaking, and exploring the island.

Bryan Eckert and Virginia Bria will be reaching out to the Bonaire travelers to participate in the sharing of images. If you're interested in showing stills, videos or both, please let Bryan know ASAP. You can put your stuff on a thumb drive or share them via Dropbox.

About Captain Don.

Captain Don's Habitat was founded in 1976 by Capt. Don Stewart, a renowned underwater enthusiast, with the least possible impact on the environment.

Bonaire offers diving 365 days a year in a pristine underwater environment with access to shore and board diving for every skill level.

Come see for yourself on May 17th.

Member Spotlight: Charlie Hunter

We interviewed Charlie, a 12-year member of MSC. He was also a member of the San Francisco Flipper Dippers for many years.

I am NAUI-certified Open Water One since April 1984. My first dive was off of the *Conception* out of Santa Barbara. I was certified with my instructor, Andy Bodgan.



He couldn't believe when he found out on the way down there that I had purchased *all my equipment* before having ever done a dive. He asked what happens if you don't like it. My response was "I know I will." And I was right.

Warm & Cold Water Dives.

I expect I have done about an equal number of warm and cold water dives. My favorite diving is the kelp beds of the Channel Islands. I find there is far more life there to experience than in the warm water diving.

I have also dived many areas of the Florida Keys and in Mexico, such as Isla Mujeres, Cabo San Lucas, Guaymas and Puerto Vallarta. In Guaymas, I had the opportunity to snorkel with the whales and a trip to a seal sanctuary to play with the pups.

See more on Page 2.

May Program (Continued from Page 1)

Bonaire's 60+ dive sites have some usual and unusual names: Ol' Blue, Tori's Reef, Munk's Haven, No Name, Forest, Monte's Divi Tree, Red Slave, Oil Slick Leap and Salt Pier are just a few.

A Recap of Mischa Hedges' April Presentation "Of The Sea"

Northern California native and filmmaker Mischa Hedges presented portions of his award-winning documentary "Of The Sea: Fishermen, Seafood and Sustainability" at our April meeting.

Mischa explained, "Has your seafood traveled 10,000 miles before you eat it? About 90% of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported."

He spent time with five different fishermen — and the challenges they face — to capture their stories of catching black cod, salmon, crab, squid, and sea urchins. Mischa said he "was shocked by how much they cared." See more:

<http://oftheseamovie.com/>
and <http://trimtabmedia.tv/>

Freediving With Orcas

Jacques de Vos is a South African who loves to freedive with orcas. Watch this video of one of his incredible expeditions in Norway on Dedicate, devoted to people like him who focus their life on achieving extraordinary goals:

<http://tinyurl.com/mpgo7zf>

Member Spotlight (Continued from P. 1)

My favorite diving and snorkeling trips.

I've been to the Hawaiian Islands a number of times, one of which was a drift dive over a group of hammerhead sharks was one of my most memorable dives recently.

I have dove off of many Caribbean Islands, although I don't remember where. I dove in Lake Tahoe. I was on the scuba trip this year with the club to Bonaire, which was an amazing week.

One of my favorite dive trips ever was a week in the Cayman Islands. Perhaps because it was a trip early in my diving experience, I always remember it as one of the greatest, but nothing beats the abundance of life of the kelp beds in the Channel Islands. I probably made over 18 boat trips out of Santa Barbara over the years.

Dolphins Are Getting High on Blowfish

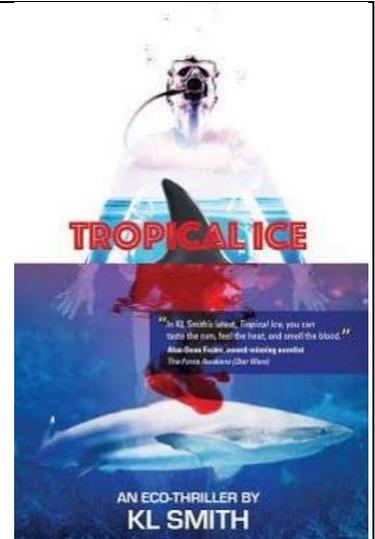
They even pass them to their friends for a hit. Blowfish contain the toxin tetrodotoxin in their skin, flesh and internal organs, lethal to most predators, including humans, but not to dolphins. In small doses, it can have a narcotic effect and is used as a recreational drug.

Researchers at Murdoch University, Perth, have caught dolphins using the toxins. The poison causes them to enter a trance-like state at the surface, but they could just be using the fish to play. See more: <http://tinyurl.com/jgcae3d>

"Tropical Ice" by Ken Smith – Reviewed by Larry Clinton

Ken Smith's first novel, "Tropical Ice," is quite a thriller. In Chapter 1, during a shark feeding dive in Belize, a severed human arm emerges from an icy "chumsicle." Dive operator Jack Africa tries to solve that mystery while the authorities shut down his Rum Caye Resort as a crime scene. Meanwhile Jack's old buddy, Matt Oliver, arrives on assignment to write an article on "beautiful Belize." Oliver is an ex-environmental activist turned travel writer (that might sound familiar to Ken's friends) – but as he tries to help his friend, Oliver uncovers a tangled web of corruption, exploitation, and traffic in local endangered species.

Ken's evocative writing style puts the reader right in the moment – from a Belize City fleabag to a fundraising banquet in a luxury Washington D.C. hotel. Pages turn fast as Matt encounters one villain after another. Waterstreet Press is the publisher. Buy it at <http://tropicalicethriller.com/> with links to Amazon or to Undercurrent for an autographed copy.



BOTTOM TIMES

May 6 (Sat.): Join us for a day trip to Monterey for some shore diving. kc@marinscuba.org

May 6-7 (Sat.-Sun.): Scuba Show 2017. Long Beach Convention Center. <http://scubashow.com>.

May 17 (Wed.): Club presentation: *Images of Bonaire*. Club Meeting, 7:30. Saylor 's Restaurant, Sausalito. \$5 for non-members.

May 20 (Sat.): Spring BBQ potluck at Ralph Daniel's home in San Rafael. Evites will be sent soon with details. For info, contact Barbara Wambach at activities@marinscuba.org.

May (Date TBD): Family Snorkel Event and Picnic in Monterey – great family fun. kc@marinscuba.org

May 31 (Wed.): June newsletter deadline. Submissions to click@dipsymusic.com & gil@zeimer.com.

June 9-11 (Fri.-Sun.): Spring Dive & Dine, group campsite at Russian Gulch State Park, Mendocino. Contact Barbara Wambach for details: activities@marinscuba.org.

June 21 (Wed): Patrick Webster: Monterey Diving History. Club Meeting, 7:30. Saylor's Restaurant, Sausalito. \$5 for non-members. An award-winning NCUPS photographer, he'll share stories and images of Monterey Bay, including how Ed "Doc" Ricketts and John Steinbeck worked together.

August 16 (Wed): Jim Van Gogh on Antarctica. Club Meeting, 7:30. Saylor 's Restaurant, Sausalito.

August (Date TBD): Camping and scuba dive weekend in Lake Tahoe. A great opportunity to get altitude certified, plus hiking, biking, etc.

August Sep. 8-10 (Fri.-Sun.): Fall Dive & Dine: Save The Date! Van Damme State Park. FREE PARKING! \$25 Campers: blwambach@comcast.net

Sep. 16 (Sat.): Coastal Cleanup Day + Picnic. Tentative Club Proposed Activity. Details TBD.

Oct. 18 – 28th: Banco Chinchorro Dive Trip, Mexican Mayan Riviera near the Belize border. This trip is now sold out. blwambach@comcast.net

Dec. 8 (Fri.): Save The Date: Holiday Party at Barbara's. Pot Luck & BYOB. blwambach@comcast.net

Jan. 16 – 24, 2018: Socorro Islands Dive Trip Aboard the Solmar V. Depth diving with current, open oceans and blue water.

Marin Scuba Club promotes safe diving. Remember to plan your dive based on the conditions, be aware of your skills and equipment and stay with your buddy.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW: Mail your application and checks to Marc Paris, 93 Graceland Dr., San Rafael, CA 94901.

**Marin Scuba Club
24 Ayala Court
San Rafael, CA 94903**



***Next Meeting:
May 17 (Wed.):
“Images of Bonaire”***

**LOCATION:
Saylor’s Restaurant
2009 Bridgeway
(between Olive &
Spring Sts.), Sausalito**

MARIN SCUBA CLUB

**The Club meets the
3rd Wednesday
of each month
(except December)**

**Annual Renewals
Are Now Past Due!!!
Send Your Apps and
Checks to Marc Paris.**

Marin Scuba Club

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