



# Laguna Sea Dwellers

The Orange County Dive Club

December 2008

## December Photo Winner



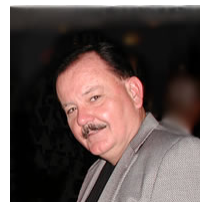
Details on pg. 2

**Holiday Party  
December 6, 2008  
6:00pm**

## President's Holiday Message

Dear Members, the year is coming to a close and we have had many changes in 2008. The shop was sold in February and Gordy, Tammy and Konner bid us farewell. The store was bought by Beach Cities Scuba and many changes followed after that. There ended up being fewer classes being held at Laguna Sea Sports so we got fewer new club members from the shop, but our Members continued to meet new divers and introduce them to our organization and we grew by close to 30 new Members.

We started having our Club BBQ's at Heisler Park and it seems that has worked out just fine. The last BBQ in November had a great turn out and almost 20 divers went diving that day! We started meeting at Von's shopping lot every other weekend and planned where we would dive that Saturday. The meeting place was later moved to Heisler Park where members could meet and select a cove to dive at, but now that the meter price has gone up, some have suggested going back to Von's since you can grab a cup of coffee while waiting to select the morning dive site.



Cont'd on pg. 3

## Upcoming Events

### December 6th

Holiday Party at Newport Beach Tennis Club. 6:00pm.

### December 20th

Club Beach Dive and Picnic. Heisler Park—North End. 7:45am.

### December 27th

Izors Reef and Catalina on the Bottomscratcher. Call Bottomscratcher for reservations. \$115. 7:00am.

### January 2nd

Club Mixer at Mozambique in Laguna Beach. 5:30pm.

### January 21st

Club meeting at Newport Beach Tennis Club. 6:30pm.

### January 24th

Gray whale watching on the R/V Sea Explorer. 9:00am.

See calendar on page 4 for more events!

## Inside this issue...

2008 Photo Contest	2
LSD Goes Bowling Again!	3
Birthdays	4
New Members	4
Diving Milestones	4
Holiday Party	4
Calendar of Events	4
Winning Big at Farnsworth	5
In case you missed it...	6
Dive Travel	6
2009 Photo Contest	7
Scuba World Specials	8
Board Member Info	8

## December 2008 Photo Contest—Diving Lifestyle

And the winner is ... **Margi Friedman**

Seventeen pictures were submitted for December's contest. Nine of fifteen eligible board members cast votes by assigning a numerical score of 3 to their first choice, a 2 to their second choice and an 1 to their third choice.

Margi's photo garnered three first place votes and one third place vote for a total of 10 points. Jean Yves took second place with 8 points and we had a three way tie for third with 5 points. Margi is now the recipient of \$25 and a chance at winning a special grand prize at year-end. Congratulations!

Now is the time to submit entries for January

**Remember, you can't win if you don't enter!**

### About the Photo

**What:** Indonesian Sunset  
**Where:** Manado, Indonesia  
**When:** September 2008  
**Who:** Margi Friedman  
**Depth:** Topside  
**Camera:** Sony CyberShot

### 2nd Place: Ed Mickus

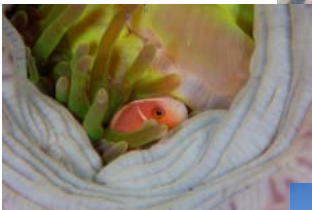


### 3 way tie for third!

Jean Yves Couleaud



Glen Weierbach



Julianne Steers



## Looking Forward to January...

This month it's all about the shells! We all are tempted and many of us grew up collecting shells along our travels.

Calcium carbonates constitute the shells of mollusks and some worms. Many varieties of snails have shells (kelle's whelks, wavy-top turban snails, triton's trumpet's, etc), some may not be visible. Then there are some of our favorite shellfish...clams, scallops, and mussels (Though a photo of *Coppino* will not suffice). Since popular usage refers to exoskeletons as "shells", lobsters and shrimp alike will also be allowed.

These days, culture no longer encourages shell collecting due to the important part of the ecosystem shells represent. Shells are reused as habitats for a variety of animals or worn down into sand, so these trinkets are better left in the environment they reside in. Instead of pocketing that beautiful wonder, snap a photo and send it in before the 20<sup>th</sup>. You may be the next to win \$25 and bragging rights for the month!

### Julianne Steers



## President's Message (Cont'd from pg. 1)

We have had some great boat dives this year, thanks to Cathy Solomon's energy. Margi has kept our books up as Treasurer and we look fine going into 2009! Nancy Kluve managed our Membership drives and we are on a positive swing. Michel Loignon as Secretary has kept us up to date with who's winning raffles and what's been going on at the monthly Club Meetings. Also, Eric Eckes has produced some of the best Club Newsletters that we have had in years; remember to tell him thanks! Our Members at Large, Aaron Brown, Bruce McKeon, Ed Mickus, JR Rafoth, Jane Martorana, John Lee, Julianne Steers, Terese Caraccio. Tim Baskin and Tim Williams have all been a great help to the Board and to the Club.

The last big event of the year will be the Club's Holiday Party at the Newport Beach Tennis Club on December 6th a Saturday evening. If you did not buy a ticket, you will miss a great party! There will be dancing, dining and a heck of a lot of prizes being given away. We will have over **\$2,600** worth of prizes, more than we have had in any year!

I want to thank everyone for their support this year and look forward to getting back to my travel business full swing and hope that many of you can join me on a warm water dive dream vacation somewhere in the world! Some of the Members will be joining me in Indonesia, Dominica, Solomon Islands and Fiji next year. I am looking at some other exotic destinations like The Red Sea, Socorro Islands and going back to Malaysia and the Philippines. Many of the Club Members have gone with me to those destinations and say they want to go back.

Have a safe Holiday Season and remember, dive safe out there...

*Tom Gorman*

## LSD Goes Bowling.....Again!

We had our 2nd bowl-a-rama on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, and what a crazy night! We filled 5 lanes for an hour and a half! Then the Boivins arrived and added a 6<sup>th</sup> lane! Cameras were flashing and everyone was cheering and laughing...there was plenty to entertain everyone! Bill Manrow's ballerina moves surfaced, Steve Craig took a fall (no bodily injuries), Jerry Mestas' style was priceless, Rick Alpert sandbagged the event, and even Glen and Eileen Weierbach joined in and surprised us all with their finesse! Prize winners were:

- Most Unique Form – Jerry Mestas (a picture says a 1000 words) →
- Lowest Score – Amy Mosley (but really, most improved!)
- Most Gutter Balls – Jon, friend of Laura Bazeman and Karl Swanson
- Most Strikes – Fireman, Rick Alpert
- Highest Score—Rick Alpert again!

We had 30 people including a few observers that joined us for the fun and laughs, and after, several of us went for sushi, saki, and beer. And, we celebrated Laura's birthday with a cake for dessert. I don't know about a league, but there was some talk about getting the bowling "geeks" together again soon for more laughs and retro merry-making! Stay tuned!



Rick Alpert showing Bill Manrow his XXX's!



Laura Bazerman in her birthday bowling attire.



*Cathy Solomon*

**November Birthdays**

Kevin Lee 5  
 Sherry KingRockman 6  
 Mark Angel 7  
 Allie Farinacci 7  
 Vivian Bust 9  
 Monda Dodge 14  
 Vincent Skirius 14  
 Jane Collier 28  
 Bill Manrow 28



**Calendar of Events**

**December 2008**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	6 Holiday Party Newport Beach Tennis Club 6:00pm	
7	8	9	10	11		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Club Dive Heisler Park
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Izors Reef & Catalina
28	29	30	31			

**January 2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Club Mixer	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	21 Dive Club Meeting NB Tennis Club 7:00pm Andy Salmon Sharks		16	17
18	19	20			23	24 Whale Watching
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Laguna Sea Dwellers**

Welcomes our newest members...



Robin Begley

Yvette Patko

Anthony Vittorio

**Diving Milestones**

We have no diving milestones. How about bowling milestones?

Laguna Sea Dwellers was formed to promote the sport of diving in our community. Congratulations to those reaching these important milestones! Have you reached an important milestone? If so, let us know @ lsd-news@cox.net.

**Laguna Sea Dwellers 8th Annual Holiday Party**

**Saturday, December 6th, 6:00p-11:00p**

**Newport Beach Tennis Club**



⇒ Dressy Attire Please. Leave your Jeans and Wetsuits at home.

⇒ Cost: \$35 per person

**See you Saturday!**

**DJ Dancing**

**\$15-\$25 Gift Exchange**

**\$2,600 in Prizes!**

## Winning Big at Farnsworth

Diving has its moments. The Magician's anchor dearly sitting on the pinnade at Farnsworth 58 feet below us through clear blue water was one of those moments. Looking down from the gate at the reef below, the purple hydrocoral was brighter than I thought it would be. It almost flouresced on this gray morning. Even better was the moment sliding down the anchor line to a buoyant stop in this field of mauve.

This was a good gamble. We won this time. This trip was a gamble, like all trips to Farnsworth. The Laguna Sea Dwellers had attempted Farnsworth September 20th. Cathy has described it in "LSD Dives Farnsworth (almost)" in the October Newsletter. Conditions that day put Farnsworth out of reach of the Bottomscratcher, or any sane dive boat. The next day a few of us saw a chance to try again on the Magician on November 1. Dan Spear, Tim Williams and I (Gary Sanders) booked places for another try. That was the gamble that paid off. The three of us had a memorable day.

In Dan's words to other LSD members: *"It was absolutely fantastic. The seas were as calm as going to San Clemente the week before, just like a harbor cruise. The water was so incredibly blue, with vis easily 100 ft. With the clouds and predicted rain, I kept expecting a call cancelling the trip, but it never came. The boat was very clean, the crew great, and the food pretty dam good. I say we do more dives on the Magician. It was obvious the captain knows*

*Farnsworth: He hit the West Reef spot on at 50 fsw.*

*We could see the bottom from the boat and were able to do about 50 minutes. There were huge schools of what looked like Top Smelt, at depth, moving around the reef. There had to be thousands of them. Tim spotted a large bat ray with about a 3 foot wing span. He was able to get within a couple feet before it moved. The water was 64 degrees! Unbelievable!*



Photo Courtesy of Tim Williams



Photo Courtesy of Tim Williams

*For the second dive the Captain moved to the East Reef, which is the one with the old fishing nets we dove two years ago.*

*More purple hydrocoral and nudibranchs; San Diego Dorid, tons of Spanish Shawls, Porter's Chromodorid, and two Yellow-edged Cadinas (Cadiina luteomarginata). I took some very good pics of all but the Yellow-edged guys.*

*The surface intervals were warm, but cloudy, and we saw a huge rainbow at the west end of the island. Shortly after that we saw a very large Mola Mola off the bow of the boat. It got within about 50 feet of the boat and went under. And crowd's of dolphin performing acrobatics as we rounded the tip of the island!*

*The third dive was at Whale Rock, Catalina near side. Of course the vis was diminished, but still good, and what a beautiful reef. Tons of Corianactus, purple sea fans, kelp, etc. I could have stayed there all day. The seas were still very calm on the way back in, even with rain squalls."*



Photo Courtesy of Dan Spear

Dan only left out the blue whale sighted by Captain Jerry. Not as good a sighting as the one we all enjoyed on the trip home from San Clemente but on this stop we got a powerful whiff of whale bad breath when the giant spouted. Wheewww! Farnsworth at its best is the best of Southern California diving and among the better dives anywhere. The club needs to keep gambling on Farnsworth.

*Gary Sanders, Dan Spear, Tim Williams*

### Congratulations to our 2009 Board!

**Cathy Solomon, President**

**Laura Bazerman, Vice President**

**John Lee, Secretary**

**Sherri Cubillos, Treasurer**

**Membership, JR Rafoth**

## In case you missed it...

### Highlights from the November 2008 Meeting

The last dive club meeting before the Holiday season always attracts large crowds. This year was no exception as the Newport Beach Tennis Club patio was completely filled by over 80 of our members and a few visitors. This was the perfect opportunity to introduce the new Board which will be taking over the Club administrative functions in January 2009.

Jerome "JR" Rafoth will be taking over the Membership Chair; John Lee will be our new Secretary; Sherri Cubillos is the new Treasurer; Laura Bazerman is the new Vice-President and Cathy Solomon has the office of President for 2009. Congratulations and all the best to the Board elect members.

This meeting also saw a few of our members present pictures and stories about their last diving trip. Here is a summary of those adventures...

Dave Cooley showed us amazing pictures of his trip to the Galapagos Islands in August 2008. The fish diversity is amazing with whale sharks, hammerheads, rays, turtles and other large schools of fish. Dave admitted that this is a difficult diving environment since it is open ocean, cold water and full of currents. Each diver is required to carry an emergency satellite tracking beacon as well as a surface signaling device. The tour also includes land tours to see the savage beauty of these remote islands and the unique species of birds, iguanas, turtles and other critters. Even given the high cost and difficulty in reaching those islands, Dave admitted that it was probably the most fascinating place he has ever visited in his diving career.

Leaving the cold waters of the equator, Pilar, Terese and Cathy took us to Hawaii where they spent a few days in April 2008. They had the opportunity to dive around Lana'i and the small island of Molokini. While visiting Lana'i they had a chance to enter the ever popular "cathedral I" dive site. Molokini provided a nice wall dive. Even though coral diversity is not that great in Hawaii they had the chance to see coral spawning, lots of turtles, whales and hear their songs.

Bringing us even further west, Eric Eckes presented a slideshow of some of the unique sealife he had a chance to photograph in Indonesia, near Manado and Lembeh Strait in September 2008.

We hope to see you December 6th at the Holiday Party!

*Michel Loignan*



## Dive Travel w/ Gorman Dive Adventures

### Raja Ampat, Indonesia

- **January 2nd—17th, 2009.**
- 7 nights aboard the Adventure II Live Aboard
- 5 nights at the Kasawari Lembah Resort
- \$5,424pp dbl occupancy.

### Dominica

- **June 18th—27, 2009.**
- 8 days / 7 nights hotel w/breakfast.
- 5 days/2 tank boat dives.
- 1 night stay in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- \$2,399pp dbl occupancy.

*Happy Holidays from...*

**R.E.G.DIVERS**



[www.regdivers.com](http://www.regdivers.com)

**For all your scuba training needs!**

### November Raffle Winners

BC and utility hangers	Karen Katz
Gift certificate for hydro test	Debbie Karimoto
Gift certificate for hydro test	Frank Murgolo
Starbuck gift card	Gretchen Lindelof
Starbuck gift card	Matt Rogers
Starbuck gift card	Ron Warren
Movie tickets	Alberto Matovani
Movie tickets	Gretchen Lindelof
Waterproof box	Howard Gordon
Digital luggage scale	Michel Loignon
Warm water gloves	Gretchen Lindelof
Snorkel	Cindy Wagner
Gear Mesh Bag	Frank Murgolo
Cabernet Sauvignon	Pilar Dean
Under water Camera	Frank Murgolo

### Website

[www.lagunaseadwellers.com](http://www.lagunaseadwellers.com)

Check out our upcoming events

**Hosted: by ECS**



## 2009 Photo Contest

The 2009 photo contest offers entries for photographers above and below the water.

### Basic Rules:

1. You must have taken the photo.
2. No time limit on photos taken.
3. Photos must be submitted by the 20th of each month for the next month's contest.
4. E-mail photos to Julianne (address TBD). Include name of subject, camera used, date taken (MM/YY), approx depth, and dive location.

**January 2009 [SHELLS]:** Anything with a shell...Clams, oysters, scallops, whelks, cowries, hermit crabs, lobsters, etc.

**February 2009 [EELS]:** Eels are a favorite of divers and are present in just about every dive location. Snap a pic of the "friendly" mug and send it in.

**March 2009 [CEPHALOPODS]:** Octopus, squid, cuttlefish and nautilus. Just as long as their not fried or in ceviche form, but alive and swimming they make wonderful subjects.

**April 2009 [DIVING HUMOR (Above and/or Below)]:** Don't take underwater photos? We all have seen some amusing things while participating in our favorite sport. Whether it is the animals themselves or during a surface interval, laughter is abounding in our world. Document the moments and win \$25!

**May 2009 [REEFS – WIDE-ANGLE]:** Rocky reefs and/or coral reefs.

**June 2009 [THE COLOR YELLOW]:** Summer brings to light bright sunshine, bar-b-qued cheeseburgers, and days at the beach. In celebration of summer, we focus on the color yellow.

**July 2009 [ECHINODERMS]:** Those animals with spines are where the shot is at this month! Seastars, sea cucumbers, urchins, and sand dollars.

**August 2009 [TEXTURES/PATTERNS]:** Take underwater pictures of the textures or patterns on animals underwater.

**September 2009 [COLD-WATER WONDERS]:** Send us photos of anything (animal, algae, or habitat) that exists in cold/temperate (18°C/65°F and below) water.

**October 2009 [DAMSELFISHES]:** This category of fishes includes, but is not limited to, Sergeant Majors, Blacksmiths, chromis', and garibaldi. Hint: Most common names of these fish actually include the word damselfish (golden damselfish, blue damselfish, etc).

**November 2009 [BOATS (Above and/or Below)]:** Here is the second opportunity for you topside photographers. Send us pics depicting dive boats, sunken ships (wrecks).

**December 2009 [BLACK & WHITE PHOTO]:** Anything underwater goes, but the photo submitted must be in black & white format.

**Tom Gorman, President**  
(714) 319-7577  
tom@diveadventures.net

**Cathy Solomon, Vice President**  
(714) 612-5321  
cathysolomon@sbcglobal.net

**Michel Loignan, Secretary**  
(949) 395-0990  
lordmichel@gmail.com

**Margi Friedman, Treasurer**  
(714) 749-1778  
mjmspr@yahoo.com

**Nancy Kluve, Membership Chair**  
(714) 914-4525  
asportnmom@aol.com

**Eric Eckes, Newsletter/Photo Editor**  
(949) 887-8285  
lsd-news@cox.net

**Tim Baskin**  
tmbaskin@yahoo.com

**Terese Caraccio**  
tc.underthesea@hotmail.com

**Bruce McKeon**  
bhmckeon@cox.net

**J.R. Rafoth**  
jeromeraforth@earthlink.net

**Tim Williams**  
rtwilliams15@sbcglobal.net

**Aaron Brown**  
brown\_aaron@hotmail.com

**John Lee**  
johnlee@pennairgroup.com

**Ed Mickus**  
edmickus1@aol.com

**Julianne Steers**  
juliannesteers@earthlink.net

**Jane Martorana**  
martorana01@adelphia.net

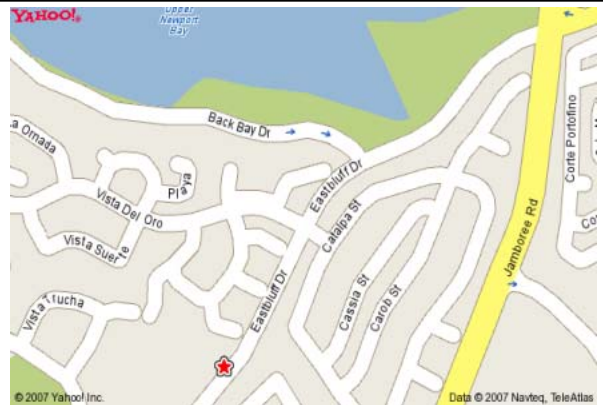
### Newport Beach Tennis Club

2601 Eastbluff Dr.  
Newport Beach, CA  
92660  
(949) 644-0050

(Location - Off 73 and  
Jamboree)

[www.nbtenniscub.com](http://www.nbtenniscub.com)

**Meeting starts at 6:30pm**



## Laguna Sea Dwellers

P.O. Box 511

Laguna Beach, Ca. 92652-0511

### Scuba Gear Specials

#### Special #1

Scuba Pro BC's W/ Air 2's or Regulators bought during September, divers will get a Uawtec Prime wrist computer free or a 2 Gauge Prime Computer for \$25 or a 3 gauge Prime Computer for just \$50. Also, Aqua Lung Aquaflex Wetsuits are on sale for \$249, normally \$400.

Engineered for recreational divers who appreciate detailed, yet easily accessible information, PRIME is one of the most complete dive computers in its segment. It offers great features, like full watch function and a basic choice of adjustments without the need of a PC. Aladin PRIME features an adjustable ppO2 setting between 1.0 and 1.6bar.

#### Available in the following configurations:

- Wrist model
- 2 gauge console incorporating analog 6000psi tank pressure gauge
- 3 gauge console (3 gauge, in-line console) which incorporates analog 6000psi tank pressure gauge and FS-1 compass.

Also available with Quick Connect feature for added convenience

#### Special #2

Dive/Surf Winter Coat, Regularly \$109, On Sale for \$98!

**Scuba World Dive Shop**  
1706 N. Tustin, Orange, CA  
92865

**(714)998-6382**