



October

2017



SharkBait Dive Club

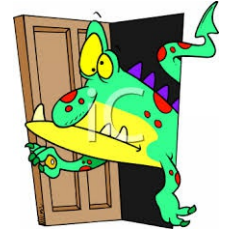
Guest Speaker

Dave Stewart

Our speaker for the October meeting will be none other than that well traveled diver, our own Dave Stewart.

Dave has dived all over the Caribbean, the Galapagos, South Pacific, Southeastern Asia and of course the California coast and Baja California coast (both sides).

Dave has assembled a wealth of information, memorabilia and pictures during his travels and plans to challenge us to identify facts concerning the ocean environment, diver do's and don'ts, diving physics, critter identification, dive equipment (new and old), correct dive techniques and so on. We will be separated into teams to compete getting the correct answers with the winning team getting a prize of 10 raffle tickets each. It will be an informative, challenging and fun evening where our knowledge of our sport/activity will be tested. Think you know a lot? come and find out.



Oct 10 Club Meeting

Graziano's Yorba Linda

October 22 Boat Dive

Catalina on the Cee Ray

October 28 Cabrillo Sea Scare

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

November 18 Boat Dive

Oil Rigs on the Asante

Nov 4 Warm Water Trip

Cozumel

November 14 Club Meeting

Graziano's Italian Yorba Linda

December 9 Boat Dive

Catalina on the Asante

December 9 Dive Club Winter Party



Black Sea Bass Tagging

Passing along an E-mail from ken Kurtis about GSB Tagging.

Researchers at Cal State Long Beach have tagged 34 Black Sea Bass over the summer and it's certainly possible that your divers may come across them and mistake the tag for a float or something that shouldn't be there. I'm hoping you'll pass this e-mail along to your followers so they'll know not to try to remove the tags and can pass any sightings or info along to the researchers. The research is being done by Alyssa Clevenstine (aclevenstine@gmail.com) under the supervision of Dr. Chris Lowe (Chris.Lowe@csulb.edu).

One of my divers saw a tagged BSB in the Underwater Park this weekend (didn't try to remove the tag but didn't know what it was) which is what got this conversation started. Here's the note from Alyssa along with photos from Mike Couffer (mikecouffer@gmail.com) as to what the tags look like. (Please give a photo credit to Mike if you use the image.)

"I'm glad to hear no one attempted to remove the tag - it is darted into the animal so trying to take it out would have done far more harm than good. This is the method our lab uses for to tag a variety of large-bodied fish. The transmitters are quite small, about the size of an A23 battery with a small cap at one end to attach the transmitter to the rest of the tag. I completed tagging for my project in August, so I will have to hope any divers and anglers that encounter the 34 tagged animals will leave them be. If you or any members of the dive community have any questions or information, feel free to pass along my email - I'd love to hear from them!"



Upcoming Dives

Change in Beach Procedure

Participation in our beach dives has been pretty spotty of late and to save Martin the hassle of getting to the dive site and having to abort because no one is there we have initiated a RSVP protocol. If you are participating in our beach dive, E-mail Martin at n1diver@aol.com or call at 714-833-9167.



www.clipartof.com · 441036

October 29 Crescent Bay Pumpkin Carving Dive

7:00 AM Bring a Pumpkin and a carving tool. (a little extra weight helps, pumpkins float)

On the north end of Laguna Beach, where the Pacific Coast Highway meets Cliff Drive, lies ¼-mile of coastline known as Crescent Bay. Its beautiful scenery and easy beach access make Crescent a popular location for divers and beachgoers alike. This location, unlike many others in the area, offers restrooms and outdoor showers.

The diving at Crescent Bay is on the east side or on the west side. In the center there's LOTS of sand! On the East side, Crescent Bay borders Shaw's Cove and if you follow the reef around you will find yourself at Shaws. On the West side of Crescent Bay there is a reef that runs north and south. The reef abruptly ends and if you head west you arrive at Seal rock which is visible from the shore.

Towering above the surface is the small island known as Seal Rock, which is home to many playful sea lions. Seal Rock offers divers the opportunity to interact with these beautiful and extremely curious animals. It's a bit of a long swim to get to the rock, but well worth the calories once you arrive. Stay mindful that these are wild animals and that you are a guest in their home there is no need to approach them, they will come to you should the mood strike. Stay calm, keep your hands to yourself and enjoy the show.

In addition to the Sea Lions, you'll still find plenty to see down below. The beautiful garibaldi and sheepshead live in abundance in this area, and are not afraid to come close to give you a good once over. If you stay patient and look closely between the kelp and grass, you're likely to encounter leopard sharks as well._

Access is off Circle Way from Cliff Drive. From PCH turn onto Cliff Dr. and turn Right at Circle Way. Look for the sign, or look for Martin. Park where available.

November 12 Beach Dive Heisler Park

7:00 AM

Located in Laguna Beach at Myrtle and Cliff Drive. Located Southeast of Divers Cove. There is a paved path that takes you down to the beach. The protected cove usually makes for an uneventful entry and exit. There is plenty of critter life on the various reefs and more than enough variety to keep your interest til you are ready to go back to the beach. Bring quarters or your credit card for the parking meter.

Sun Oct 22 Boat Dive - Catalina on the Cee Ray

3 dives

Bring your own tank and gear (air fills on boat)

Boarding - 6am

Cost - \$140, includes food and air fills.

Please call or visit the Seas The Day Store in Brea as soon as possible to make your reservation. Spots for this trip normally fill quickly. Scuba gear also available for rent.

November 18 Boat Dive: Oil Rigs (Eureka, Elly, Ellen) on the Asante

Join us for three dives on the Asante Dive Boat at the Oil Rigs. The Asante docks close to Ports O' Call Restaurant in San Pedro. We board at 6:30am, and leave at 7am...

Please call or visit the Seas The Day Store in Brea as soon as possible to make your reservation. Spots for this trip normally fill quickly. Scuba gear also available for rent.

Underwater Navigation

Saw this article on the SCUBA Diving site and thought it might be interesting and helpful for us all. I think all of us at some time or another has had that dreadful long surface swim when our navigation skills failed us. A good way to learn these skills is to take a course at **Seas the Day SCUBA**. Advanced Diver or a Navigation course will make you a more confident diver.

Tips for Better Underwater Navigation

By Eric Douglas September 30, 2017



There are many reasons for bettering your underwater navigation skills, but put simply, it makes it possible for you to find your way home. Natural navigation requires you to use the physical contours and characteristics of the dive site to guide your way out and then find your way back, and learning to combine natural navigation with basic compass skills practically ensures you'll never get lost underwater. Here are eight steps for getting to the reef or wreck and back again.

Get briefed

Good navigation starts before you even get in the water. If you and your buddy are diving independently, get a thorough site description — and a map, if possible — from a local dive shop or other divers at the site. If you're on a chartered dive boat, pay close attention to the divemaster's briefing. He or she can impart valuable information about the site's features, depth range and currents so you and your buddy can create a dive plan. Discuss your profile and the time or air pressure at which you'll turn around, and decide on a basic route.

Follow the leader

One diver should take the lead before you even get in the water. It isn't practical for both divers in a buddy pair to attempt to navigate on a dive. If you're leading, concentrate on the planned path. Your buddy should monitor time, depth and distance.

Start at the beginning

If diving from a boat, enter the water and either surface swim to the mooring or anchor line and descend there, or drop down behind the boat and swim underwater to the mooring or anchor. Always start your dive at the point where the boat connects to the bottom. When diving from the beach, surface swim past the waves to where you plan to make your descent. Whether diving from the beach or the boat, natural navigation starts as soon as your head goes under the water. "Upon descent make a good note of natural references like sand patches, rock formations, pillar corals, brain corals or whatever," advises Andy Phillips, director of professional training for Utila Dive Centre in Honduras. If you make mental notes of features you can remember, you can use those physical markers to find your way back.

Watch the clock

Swim away from your starting point for a predetermined length of time, and then turn around and swim roughly the same length of time back the opposite direction. If there's current, head into it on the way out — in this case, the return trip won't take quite as long. Watch your air consumption as well. It's a good idea to follow the rule of thirds: Use one-third of your air on the way out, one-third on the way back and leave one-third for exploring near the boat and making a safety stop.

Pay attention

Make note of the unique features or characteristics of the dive site that can make navigating as simple as a walk in the park. For example:

Pick a Path.

The best navigational marker is a dedicated line you can follow like a hiking trail. At many sites, this may be a sand channel or the edge of the reef where it meets the sand. Another easy path to follow is a specific depth contour on a sloped reef or wall. For example, you and your buddy

can plan to descend along a sloped reef to 60 feet, then turn, swimming with the reef on your right and maintaining a constant 60-foot depth. To find your way back, turn 180 degrees so the reef is on your left and continue at the same depth.

Look for Landmarks.

On many dive sites, you'll find distinct coral formations, objects or differences in the bottom's contour. Keep an eye out for anything that stands out, and make note of the depth. You may pass a swim-through at 70 feet, an anchor on the seafloor at 90 feet or a sand channel at 40 feet that runs perpendicular to shore. Use these landmarks to guide you on the way back.

Follow the Light.

"Check the sunlight angle at the start of your dive and try to confirm this when you begin your descent," Phillips says. If you head into the sun at the beginning of the dive, you should have the sun at your back when you turn around. And if you're diving off a big boat, look for the boat's shadow on the seafloor when you think you're getting close.

Watch the Water.

How the water moves can tell you a lot about the general direction you should go. Close to shore, the constant back-and-forth motion you feel as waves pass overhead is called surge. The wave push headed toward the beach is always going to be stronger than the return surge. This will always give you the general direction of the beach. Constant wave action also creates ripples on the sand bottom that run parallel to the shoreline.

Check Your Compass

"In tropical waters, even though it's clear, the ease of seeing what's around can often lull you into a false sense of security," Phillips says. "You can lose reference easily and get distracted. I've known many low-vis divers who've had difficulty adapting to tropical-water navigation. They think they can drop the compass and autopilot back to the boat."

As you swim, line up the long line on your compass, called the lubber line, with your body and the direction you want to swim. Proper positioning is very important. Hold the compass with two hands in front of your body. Using one hand often allows the lubber line to drift off course, and so will you. You'll also need to keep the compass flat so the wheel inside can spin freely.

While swimming, periodically wiggle the compass to make sure it's level. Do not fixate on the compass, but instead look over and beyond the compass with frequent glances to make sure you don't drift off course. When taking a heading, rotate the bezel on top of the compass until the hatch marks meet the North arrow. As long as you keep the compass flat and the North arrow between those marks, you should swim straight. To reverse course, simply turn around until the North arrow points toward the marks on the other side of the bezel.

Go slow

Not only will you pay more attention to where you're going, you'll stay closer to the boat or shore, further reducing your chances of getting lost. Honestly, the reef is pretty much the same whether you're at the boat or 300 yards away, so there's little reason to go a long distance, and a relaxed attitude will not only help you conserve air, but you'll be surprised by how much more you see.

Take a peek

At a relatively shallow site, you can always make a normal ascent to the surface and find the boat. If you know you're lost, this is much better than swimming off in a random direction you think will lead you back. When you do come up away from the boat — and we all do it at some point — listen carefully for boat engines and avoid surfacing if you think a boat is passing nearby. Once on the surface, turn 360 degrees until you see your boat, then give the crew the OK signal, so they know you're not in trouble.



Don't Forget Our Sponsors

We are fortunate to have a great group of sponsors who contribute to the success of SharkBait Dive Club. Without their help and support, we wouldn't be able to provide the benefits that membership in SharkBait gives our members.

We need to do our part also by supporting our sponsor/friends with our continuing business support. When considering a purchase of equipment, a class or a trip, or when you have that irresistible taste for Italian food please remember our sponsors. They are great partners !!!!



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Mon Closed
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Club Information



Monthly club meetings with speakers and raffle prizes
Monthly Newsletter
Land-based Club activities and events for the whole family
Organized local dives
Resort warm-water trips
Good dives and good buddies
Membership costs are as follows .

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New Membership:
Single \$40 pp
Family \$50 (couple/family)
Renewal:
Single \$30
Family \$40

membership renewals are due in February for all current members. New members dues will be prorated depending on the month they join the club

Dive Club members will receive from Seas the Day SCUBA

*10 free air fills, or 5 free nitrox fills

*10% discount on all merchandise except cameras and camera equipment, weights and cylinders (very skimpy markup on these items)

*discounts on boat trips with the club.

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