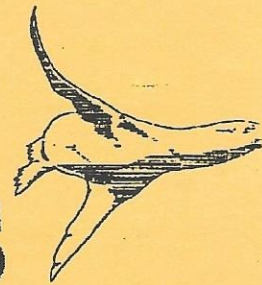


THE SEA DIVERS

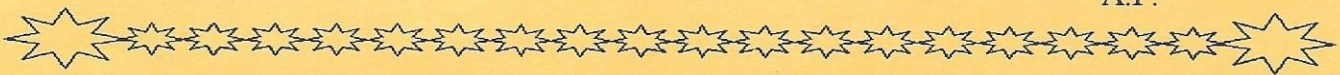


IN AFFILIATION WITH AMERICAN DIVING

FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMORIES...

The Sea Divers club is 35 years old on 10 February 2000. We were founded on 10 February 1965 as the Skin and Scuba Diving Club by a group of TRW employees led by John Vellis. The first President was Frank Kelly who was appointed by the founding members. Our first divemaster was Jim Lauffenburger. The first club dive was a beach dive at Laguna on 15 January 1966 and the first boat dive was on the *Maverick* to Catalina on 5 February 1966. The club name was changed in March of 1967 to TRW Sea Divers. By chance, S.E.A., TRW's Spacepark Employee's Association also spelled 'sea' and for a period of time we were TRW SEA Divers. On 1 January 1990 we separated from TRW and became The Sea Divers. There have been 18 Presidents and we have used 13 different locations for our General Meetings, the longest period being at Lococo's from 1970 to 1983. Over the years membership has varied from 100 to 250 members. Today we are essentially an advanced dive club.

A.P.



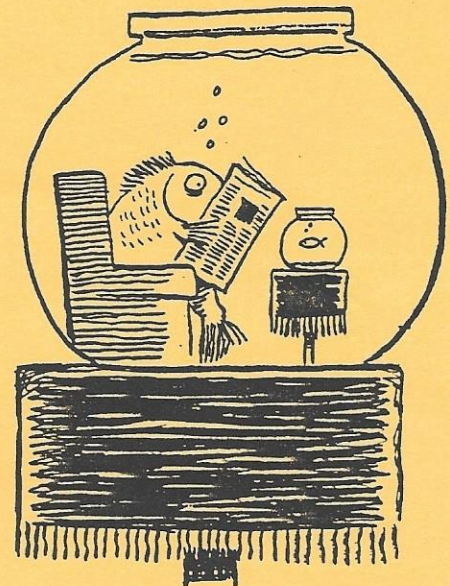
FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

MARGERY SPIELMAN – SWIMMING WITH WHALES AND DOLPHINS

Margery Spielman is an internationally recognized environmental and marine artist, lecturer, naturalist and professional diver. An oceanography and scuba instructor, she is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild, and has worked underwater on numerous television and film productions. Her freelance assignments for The Cousteau Society have included research, logistics, diving, speaking, and illustrating. Described as a visionary realist, she exhibits her watercolor paintings in major marine art expos, including those in Maui, Kauai, Santa Barbara and Paris.

In what promises to be an entertaining and informative slide presentation, Ms. Spielman will share some of her diving experiences with humpback whales in hawaii, pink river dolphins in the Amazon and the Atlantic spotted dolphins of the Caribbean. Her program emphasizes the interconnection of all life and encourages a deeper commitment to protecting the environment.

The next Sea Diver General Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 1st starting at 7:00 PM at Round Table Pizza in Hawthorne.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DAY PHONE</u>	<u>EVENING PHONE</u>	<u>FAX</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
PRESIDENT	ALLEN PARKER	813-2955	540-1044	814-6630	allen.parker@trw.com
VICE PRESIDENT	KATHY DACEY	814-6131	540-1044	812-9976	kathy.dacey@trw.com
SECRETARY	(OPEN)	-----	-----	-----	-----
TREASURER	ALLEN PARKER	813-2955	540-1044	814-6630	allen.parker@trw.com
DIVING OFFICER	JOHN MOWREY	370-1724	370-1724	N/A	john0809@earthlink.net
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	CAROLYN ROUTLEDGE	813-5047	372-8376	813-8596	carolyn.routledge@trw.com
BOAT DIVE CHAIR	JOHN TADLOCK	N/A	949-645-1195	N/A	tadlock@earthlink.net
BEACH DIVE CHAIR	BILLY GARRETT	530-2944	530-2944	N/A	billani@earthlink.net
BOAT DIVE RESERVATIONIST	CURT BILLINGS	909-477-2740 x4069	909-945-3461	909-477-2849	curt@diver.net
PROGRAM CHAIR	PETER LANDECKER	364-8725	374-0505	364-5027	peter@diver.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	KATHY DACEY	814-6131	540-1044	812-9976	kathy.dacey@trw.com
HOSPITALITY CHAIR	KATHY KALOHI	N/A	719-1816	N/A	jkalo@earthlink.net
LEGISLATIVE INFO CHAIR	PHIL BERGERON	813-0511	379-0972	N/A	phil.bergeron@trw.com
WEBMASTER	CURT BILLINGS	N/A	909-945-3461	909-477-2849	curt@diver.net

WRITING FOR THE SEA DIVERS NEWSLETTER

If you would like to write an article for the newsletter or you have an idea to improve it, please write to Editor Kathy Dacey, c/o The Sea Divers, P.O. Box 2415, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, or call me at the above numbers. I am always in need of Lessons Learned articles and new graphics or cartoons. Inputs should be typed, but can be handwritten (not responsible for errors caused by illegible handwriting). Inputs may also be given to me via floppy media in any of the major word processing program formats or e-mailed to me at kathy.dacey@trw.com. Permission is given to reproduce in whole or in part. Please credit the author and/or The Sea Divers Newsletter.

GENERAL MEETING

Held at 7:00 PM the first Tuesday of every month. A no-host social half-hour precedes the meeting from 6:30 to 7:00 PM and a feature presentation follows the business portion of the meeting. The meetings are held at Round Table Pizza, 4330 Redondo Beach Blvd., (one block east of Hawthorne Blvd. in Ralphs/Savon Center) Torrance, California (310) 371-8009.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Held at 7:00 PM on Thursday as required on the week following the General Meeting at Charley Brown's Restaurant at King Harbor (665 N. Harbor Drive, at the corner of Harbor and Marina Way, across from the Whaling Wall). (See calendar on back page, President calls meetings as needed).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME	SIGNATURE		
ADDRESS			
CITY	ZIP CODE		
HOME PHONE ()	WORK PHONE ()		
ADDITIONAL NAME (FAMILY MEMBERSHIP)			
EMERGENCY CONTACT	PHONE ()		
EMPLOYER			
CERT NUMBER	TYPE [PADI, NAUI, ETC.]		
CERT DATE	LACC ADP	DATE	
	(or equivalent)		
NUMBER OF DIVES LOGGED	DATE OF LAST DIVE		
Do you want your name on a dive buddy list? [] YES [] NO			
Type of diving preferred: beach/boat/skin			
[] SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$12.00 (to 6/30/00)	(Annual dues 1 July - 30 June are \$24 single/ \$36 family and are prorated quarterly for NEW members)	
[] FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$18.00 (to 6/30/00)		

Please make your checks payable to THE SEA DIVERS and mail to:

THE SEA DIVERS, P.O. BOX 2415, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278

BUGS ARE US

6 February 2000 (Sun)

SANTA BARBARA / SUTIL

GREAT ESCAPE

Members \$90

(All inclusive and limited load!)

Boarding: 8:00 PM (2/5)

Non-Members \$100

Departure: 2:00 AM (2/6)

New Members \$60

The first dive of our 2000 program is to Santa Barbara Island and Sutil Island. This lobster season Santa Barbara has proven to be one of the best spots in Southern California waters for legal size bugs. We continue our excellent relationship with the *Great Escape* and hope to have a better trip than last year when Mr. Weather stepped in.

As most of you experienced divers know, Santa Barbara diving provides the very best in underwater topography, marine life, and generally high visibility. Sea lions abound and are always ready to "play". Black sea bass have been sighted on numerous occasions as have relatively large rays sometimes in "flying formations". The reefs are ideal for photography, video, or just looking. We will circumnavigate this relatively small island to pick off four or five choice spots, including one or two in the environs of Sutil Island.

For the game takers there are a variety of fish, scallops, and lobster as mentioned above. Diving conditions in February are usually pleasant and typically the ocean is cooperative although that was not the case last year! This dive is suitable for all skill levels. Beginners should check with the divemaster to ascertain the specifics of each dive. *Great Escape* is one of the largest dive boats in the L.A. area and provides an extremely comfortable diving platform. The "verandah" (a.k.a. sun deck) also provides for sun and relaxation on the ride home. Call Curt (Billings) at (909) 945-3461, Fax at (909) 477-2849, or e-mail at curt@diver.net to sign up for this all inclusive limited load trip on a great boat to one of the best islands. You may pre-select your stateroom / bunk on receipt of full payment. **CALL NOW, AS OF THIS WRITING THERE ARE 5 SPOTS LEFT!!**

LAST CHANCE LOBSTER

11 March 2000 (Sat)

SAN NICOLAS

GREAT ESCAPE

Members \$95

(Includes everything
with limited load!)

Boarding: 8:00 PM (3/10)

Non-Members \$105

PROMPT!→

Departure: 11:00 PM (3/10)

New Members \$64

The lobster season, once more, is drawing to a close. This limited load charter is on *Great Escape* out of 22nd Street, San Pedro. We will arrive at San Nicolas just after first light and although not early enough for a full night dive it will be dark down there so be sure to bring a good light and a backup.

Our primary targets on this trip are bugs and there still are a few biggies out there. Perseverance is the key, as all great bug warriors will tell you. Abalone remain off limits and are not for the taking and probably not so for years to come.

For those of us that are not so lucky, fast enough, or skilled at the lobster stakes, scallops are an alternative and fish provide another alternative with many different species to spear. Although not the prettiest underwater environment, San Nicolas can provide excellent opportunities for video or photography.

Diving around San Nicolas is suitable for all skill levels with ocean cooperation. If not sure of dive conditions, check with the divemaster before making a deep or potentially difficult dive. Call Curt (Billings) at (909) 945-3461, Fax at (909) 477-2849 or e-mail curt@diver.net for sign-ups and additional information. Bunks and staterooms will be pre-assigned on a first pay/space available basis. **SAN NICOLAS IT IS...DON'T WAIT, LIMITED LOAD!** Please note the boat departs at 11:00 PM prompt on Friday evening.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL AVALON UNDERWATER CLEANUP

25-27 FEBRUARY 2000

The Sea Divers will again be participating in the Avalon Harbor Cleanup. The Schedule is as follows (all times are approximate):

Friday – 25 February

PM Travel to Catalina & Hotel Check In

Saturday – 26 February

9:15 AM – 12:00 PM Harbor Cleanup activities
2:30 – 4:15 PM Awards (Wrigley Plaza)
4:30 – 5:30 PM Sea Divers Happy Hour
Hotel Metropole

Sunday – 27 February

AM / PM On your own to dive or play
tourist & travel to mainland

Monday – 28 February (OPTIONAL)

AM / PM On your own to dive or play
tourist & travel to mainland

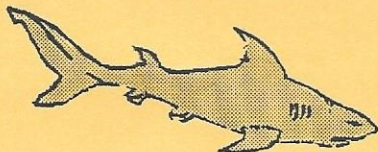
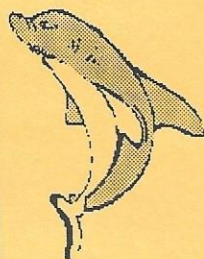
Hotel accommodations are at the Hotel Metropole cost per person per night occupancy will be \$135. Everyone is responsible to make their own travel arrangements to/from the island and to mail in their Clean-up registration form and fee in advance. If you are interested, or need additional information or assistance please contact Kathleen Tadlock as soon as possible so that appropriate reservations can be made.

RESERVE EARLY!! We anticipate between 10 and 20 people will attend this annual event. Please call Kathleen Tadlock at (949) 645-1195 (home) or (310) 648-7036 (work) to express your interest or provide any input on event arrangements. Final cutoff is 31 January 2000.

***** IMPORTANT NOTE!!! *****

EMPTY TANK SURCHARGE

Due to an excessive number of divers (not our club!) arriving on boats with empty tanks, the *Great Escape* has begun charging \$4 for the first fill of an empty tank. All other fills are included in our charter price. It is appropriate boat etiquette to fill your tank before boarding and to bring only one tank.



NOTE ON DIVE BOAT PRICES

We have priced our dive boats very aggressively to keep increases to an absolute minimum. As the year progresses we will review how well we are filling our boats and how our price structure is holding up. Depending on the outcome we may find it necessary to make small upward adjustments. However, should there be a price increase and you've already paid, then the original price will stand for those who have already paid. Pay early!!

FOR SALE!!

NEW: Club T-shirts in royal blue with full color club logo on the back and the "golfball" logo on the front pocket.

Sizes M thru XXL available at \$15.00 each

(add \$3.00 per shirt if shipping within the US is required).

PAST: King Harbor Underwater CleanUp T-shirts

1999 (7th) – XXL, L, M, S (Grey)

1997 (6th) – XL, L (Purple)

1996 (5th) – L (Slate Blue)

1995 (4th) – XL (Black)

1993 (2nd) – XL (Cream)

One - \$7.00

Two - \$12.00

Three - \$15.00

Any combination!

For T-shirts contact Allen Parker or Kathy Dacey (see Executive Listing for contact info).

AVALON UNDERWATER CLEANUP REGISTRATION FORM

(Registration deadline: 31 January 2000)

Free Participant T Shirt (circle one size)

M L XL XXL

Additional T Shirt Order

M @ \$15/ea M @ \$25/ea

L @ \$15/ea L @ \$25/ea

XL @ \$15/ea XL @ \$25/ea

XXL @ \$15/ea XXL @ \$25/ea

Get additional opportunity tickets for a chance to win gifts donated by the leading dive equipment manufacturers and supporters of the Catalina Conservancy Divers and the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber.

- ☐ (1) ticket \$1
- ☐ (12) tickets \$10
- ☐ (30) tickets \$25
- ☐ (70) tickets \$50
- ☐ (150) tickets \$100

Opportunity Ticket Subtotal \$

T Shirt Subtotal \$

Sweatshirt Subtotal \$

Entry Fee : \$ 25.00

Grand Total \$

Payment Method (circle one method)

Visa - MasterCard - AMEX - Check

(make checks payable to Catalina Conservancy Divers)

Card # Exp. Date

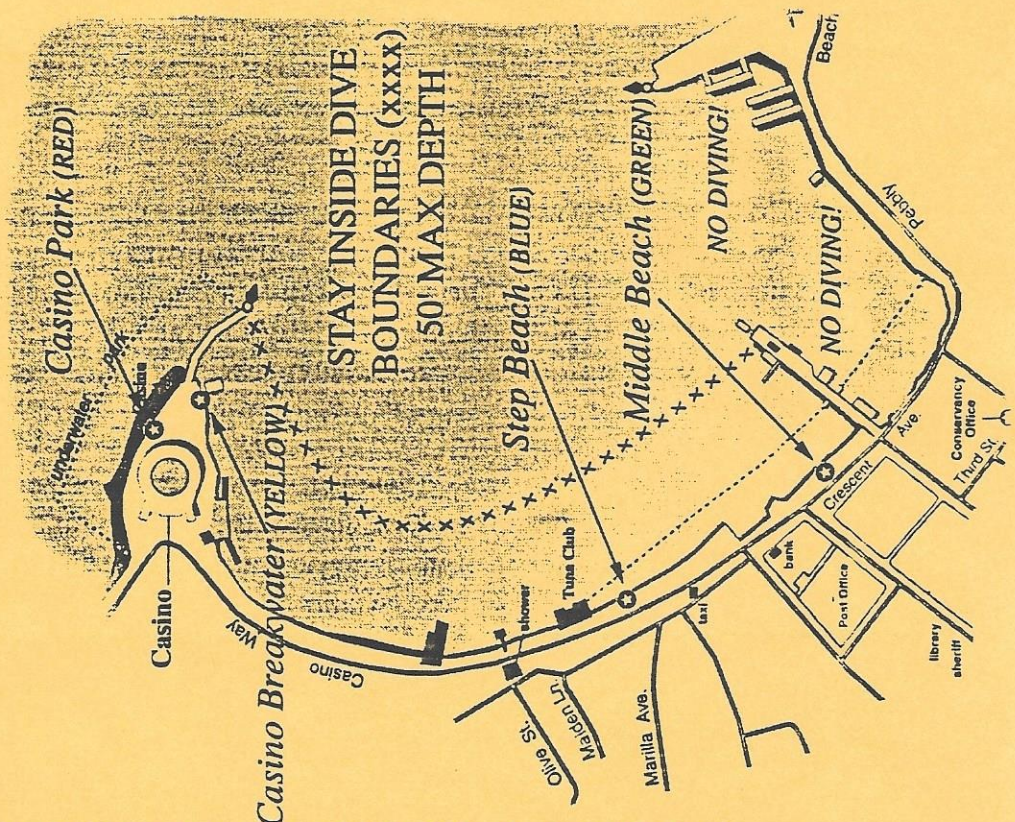
Signature of cardholder

Name & Address (if different from registrant)

Name _____
 P _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Certification Agency _____
 C-Card Number _____
 Club Affiliation _____

Preferred Dive Site (circle one site)

Casino Park - Casino Breakwater - Step Beach - Middle Beach



return this side to: CCD/UCC P.O. BOX 91501 Los Angeles, CA 90009-1501

PRESIDENT'S 1999 ANNUAL AWARDS

- DIVER** **Peter Landecker.**
For supporting most of our dives and diving just about every dive.
- EXECUTIVE** **Peter Landecker.**
For arranging a series of excellent programs for the General Meetings
- QUOTES** **Pierre Novak.**
For doing a credible job verbally jousting with Kathy Dacey.
- BOOBY** **John Delaney.**
For a string of screw-ups that sets a recent club memory record.
- SKIPPER** **Tim Burke.**
For taking six hours from 22nd Street to Avalon, Catalina.
- ALL AROUND** **Curt Billings.**
For his highly energetic support of the club, especially our web page.



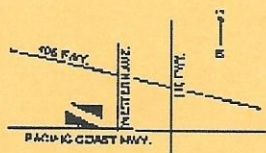
JUST SEVEN YEARS AGO...

The President was Allen Parker, Vice-President Kathy Dacey, Treasurer Kathi McNally, and Secretary Cathy Gale --"The Kathy Club"! Club General Meetings were at Petrelli's Bar and Grill and Executive Meetings at Shibaraku Restaurant. Our boat dive was to Santa Barbara Island on the *Wild Wave* at \$70 all inclusive. The Club was in the early stages of planning the ill-fated Truk and Palau trip scheduled for February of 1995 (a whole story in itself!). The Club was near bankruptcy and we were taking all kinds of efforts to avoid collapse. 'Dear Krabby' was very active and we had just made the 1992 President's Awards. The next year, 1993 was a tough one but we survived!

SEA DIVER ACTIVITIES

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Thurs	10 Feb '00	Sea Diver 35 th Anniversary
Sat	26 Feb '00	20 th Avalon Harbor Clean-up
Sun	21 May '00	Bouillabaisse/Pot Luck, Veteran's Park, Redondo Beach
Sat / Sun	3 / 4 June '00	SCUBA Show 2000, Long Beach Convention Center
Sun	11 June '00	8 th Redondo Beach King Harbor Underwater CleanUp
Sun	17 Sept '00	International Coastal Clean Up Day, various locations

AMERICAN DIVING is a full service scuba diving facility. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff has been committed to excellence in customer service for more than 30 years. Our education department offers quality diving courses sponsored by NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors), an internationally recognized diver training organization. Our instructors offer courses at all levels from Openwater I through Assistant Instructor, plus a variety of Specialty Courses are available either at a group rate or by private instruction. We also offer local and international dive travel and can assist you in planning your adventures from day trips to the local islands to your wildest diving fantasy



BORNEO
BY DALE LOPEZ

On June 28th, 1999 Tanya and I boarded a Malaysia Airlines 747 and winged our way 10,000 miles to two islands off the East Coast of Borneo. Why Borneo? We are celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary this year and I wanted to recognize this milestone by taking my main squeeze to a far off exotic location. For 3 years we have been setting money aside for that special trip. For the last 2 years I have been talking to people who have traveled the world and surfing the Internet in search of that special place. My personal preferences for this trip included land based diving (min. 3 dives a day), sea creatures we have never seen before, uncrowded diving, the more remote the better, good food, and wanted to stay in some kind of a tropical looking hut. We are adventuresome but if we could find an escorted group that would be even better. I checked all the major dive travel web sites for escorted tours and found one called Island Dreams Travel out of Houston, Texas that had a 15 day escorted trip to a place called Sangalaki Island. In fact this would be the 10th trip to Borneo by Island Dreams owner Ken Knezick. Sangalaki is known for its sea turtles, mantas and cuddle fish. I knew 'Turtle Girl' would love this and I wanted to see mantas and cuddle fish. About two months before our trips departure we received a note in the mail that said because of a scheduling problem with connecting flights we were going to spend 3 days at Sipadan Island before going on to Sangalaki. This was even better as we were going to dive Malaysia and Indonesia. Ok so now you know how I decided to make this trip.

So how do you get there? We started with a 10-1/2 hour flight to Tokyo, then a 6 1/2-hour flight to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). We had a 6-hour layover here and took advantage of the hotel in the terminal. For \$25 we rented a room for 6 hours. We were able to get a nap, shower and change clothes before continuing our adventure. A 4-hour flight took us to Kota Kinabalu (Borneo, Malaysia, West Coast) where we were met by Borneo Divers and bussed to the 5 star Pan Pacific Hotel. Our tour guide had arranged a dinner show at the Monsopiad Headhunters Village. Great cultural show in a palm thatched tribal meeting house. Tanya and I had the opportunity to dance with the native dancers. I was also involved in a blowgun contest. Great fun. At 6:00 AM the next morning Borneo Divers transported us to the airport and we caught a one-hour flight to Tawau on the East Coast of Borneo. Met again by Borneo Diver reps and bussed 2 hours north to the coastal city of Semporna. The route cuts through miles and miles of cocoa and palm tree (palm oil) Plantations. At the dock in Semporna we met Ron Holland owner and founder of Borneo Divers. Ron was the first to discover the diving at Sipadan and build a resort there. Here we boarded a large speedboat ferry and 1-1/2 hours later (1:00 PM) we stepped on to the beach at Sipadan Island. We did the customary orientation, paperwork and settled into our rooms. Our orientation checkout dive was a beach dive in front of the dive center with our assigned divemaster. The beach dive at Sipadan is considered by many to be the best beach dive in the world. Why you ask? Less than 50 feet from the beach the ocean plummets 2800 feet. Talk about your wall diving. The talk at the resort is there are resident hammerheads down the wall at around 200 + feet. They occasionally are seen in shallower water. I really wanted to see them but knew better than to go that deep. Back to the orientation dive. Tanya and I weren't in the water 30 seconds and I saw a green sea turtle only 20 feet away that had to go 300 lbs. and was all of 5 feet long. I was stunned. I grabbed Tanya's arm and her eyes lit up. Oh I am scoring lots of points with Turtle Girl. We dropped over the wall and saw it descended into the abyss. Loads of tropicals and white tip sharks. Good dive. The resort does 3 boat dives a day and unlimited beach diving. To keep it short and sweet there are 8 different type Angelfish, 9 different type Butterfly Fish, Round-faced Batfish, Morish Idols, 3 types of Bannerfish, Surgeonfish, 5 types of Unicornfish, Bigeyed Jacks, Bluefin Jacks, Bream, 6 types of Anemonefish, 2 types of Damselfish, 4 types of Snappers, 3 types of Sweetlips, 5 types of Grouper, 7 types of Anthias, 12 types of Wrasse, 3 types of Hogfish, 4 types of Parrotfish, Squirrelfish, 4 types of Hawkfish, Lizard fish, 3 types of Triggers, 5 types of Puffers, 4 types of Lion fish, Scorpion fish, Morays, White tip shark, crocodile fish, and barracuda. I may not have seen all of them but as I look at my underwater video I caught a lot of them on tape.

We had the next full day to dive then one boat dive the morning of the third day. After lunch our gear was loaded onto the speedboat ferry and along with the owner Ron Holland we motored all the way back to Tawau. We were then transported to the Marco Polo Hotel. Borneo Divers treated us to dinner that evening. The restaurant was a seafood establishment. By this I mean most everything we were going to eat was swimming in tanks as we walked in. We ate sea snails, steamed fish, shrimp, soft-shell crabs, veggies, and rice. Sorry Karl no "Uni". What a treat as I love seafood.

At 6:00 AM Borneo Divers transported us to the airport. Until now all domestic flights had been on 737's. Today we boarded a German built Fokker 50 turboprop for a 25 min. flight south to the Indonesian town of Tarakan. Again Borneo Diver's meets us at the airport. They helped us with the paperwork to clear customs and immigration. Once clear we are bussed about 10 miles south to the dock and a speedboat/ ferry boat ride 90 more miles south to the Island of Sangalaki. The ocean was fairly smooth so we made the crossing in 3 hours and arrived around 1:00 PM. The island is 30 acres of rain forested jungle with a beautiful resort built on the East Side. Upon our arrival the entire staff of 18 people made us feel very welcome by greeting us on the beach. Our tour group of 24 people filled the resort with its 12 bungalows. We are ushered into the main lodge / dining room for our orientation. As at Sipadan we never had to touch our bags. They were brought from the boat to the lodge. We identified them and they were whisked off to our rooms. We were told we would make one dive this afternoon. They asked us to set up our dive gear the first time in the dive shop locker room. The rest of the week they set it up and loaded it on the boats for us. We only had to carry our camera gear to the boat.

The first dive on the second day at Sangalaki Island, which when translated means "manta man", was at a dive site called manta run. I was first to back roll into the water. After being handed my video camera I looked down and saw my first manta. I got some footage before it swam off. We had a good dive but because I had sucked up a lot of my air chasing my first manta I was the first to surface. I looked around and found the boat. The captain and deckhand were hollering at me that there was a manta between the boat and me. I looked just under the surface and low and behold a manta was heading right for me. I missed the straight on shot as I powered up my video camera.

BORNEO (continued)

I chased it for a bit then signaled the boat for pickup. Once on board the captain pointed out the manta was still around the boat so after shedding my scuba gear I went back in with my snorkel and camcorder and found two mantas and got my best manta video of the trip. When the mantas left me I got back on the boat. By this time the other 7 divers in my group surfaced and I found out only 3 of us had seen the mantas. I told the group I had been snorkeling with them. They thought I was kidding. So I played them my video on the boat. My new video housing controls the VCR functions on my camcorder and has a 3" monitor back. I can edit in camera or review just shot video.

Sangalaki Island has 9 dive sites with visibility generally 50'-60' because of the plankton rich water. Here is where you will see the Mantas. The divemasters told us when the current is ripping it is common to see 20-30 mantas at a time. Four in our group had bypassed Sipadan Island and arrived 4 days earlier than us and said they had seen 10-15 Mantas in a group. The current was slack when the rest of us got there and I never saw more than 2 together. But I am just glad to have seen them. Sangalaki is where we also saw cuttlefish and the blue ribbon eels.

Other islands that we dove during our 7 days here included, Kakaban, Samama, and Maratua. Kakaban is a beautiful Island that has a jellyfish lake (non-stinging) similar to the one in Palau. We hiked into the lake and made one skin dive I will never forget. I kept waiting for Tarzan to yell and swing through the jungle. I carried my video housing and shot the hike in and the dive. Beautiful walls surround this Island with visibility 80-100'. We made one drift dive that ended at a point called Barracuda. When we drifted to the point we met another current and had to move up the wall and started drifting back whence we came. During our safety stop at the end of the dive we suddenly began being pulled down. This was my first experience with a down current. I found it very unsettling. Back on the boat we were missing one diver, an ardent photographer who tended to dive by himself. We were starting to get worried when we heard a horn (dive alert) in the distance and spotted his safety sausage. After picking him up he told us he was drifting about 20' - 30' deeper than the group when he got to Barracuda point and ran into a down current which pushed him to 165' before he was able to reverse his decent. During our two-week vacation I got to know this person pretty good and I do not feel he was pulling our leg.

Samama Island, macro diving, visibility 40'-60'. Maratua Island, good visibility 80'-100', steep walls, must be dove on the strong incoming tide to enjoy the schools of pelagic's, eagle rays, sharks etc. It takes one-hour travel time to this island so you do two dives here. The sit time between dive 1 and 2 is done at a beautiful little volcanic island in the lagoon. On the second dive I found a banded sea snake. Everybody had a chance to photograph the 6 footer.

Most everything we saw at Sipadan we saw in and around Sangalaki. The big difference was most of the fish were juveniles. Sangalaki Island is located in a National Marine Reserve so the corals both hard and soft are in pristine condition. The other islands are outside the Reserve and it was sad to see the damage dynamite fishing has done to the reefs and walls. Unique to this area we saw cuttlefish laying eggs in the reef, leopard sharks, flatworms, and many different colored leaf fish, ghost pipefish, giant clams as large as 2' across. Sangalaki has (on average) 30 turtles every night coming ashore and laying their eggs. It was not uncommon to hear them digging next to our bungalows at night. I got up one night and shot video of the egg laying. Borneo Divers has the concession on Sipadan but is still negotiating with the Indonesian government to buy the egg collection concession on Sangalaki Island. The last offer made was \$70,000 for the year. 3 guys who live in a shack on the other side of the island collect the eggs every morning. They work for the company that has the egg concession.

The meals at both Sipadan and Sangalaki are served buffet style. You will eat a lot of chicken, rice, pastas, seafood (shrimp, squid, and fish). Very little beef some lamb, no pork. I think I like Malaysian food a little better. The accommodations on Sangalaki are beautiful and very comfortable. At Sipadan the rooms are very spartan (a bit run down) but acceptable. Sipadan has unlimited beach diving after the 3 boat dives per day. No beach diving around Sangalaki as it is very shallow for 1/4 mile around the island. The fish are bigger and the visibility is better on Sipadan. It was not uncommon to see 10-20 white tip sharks on a dive. I enjoyed both resorts but if I had to choose one over the other it would be Sipadan. Sipadan is very popular and is always sold out. Book well in advance. The average # of divers per week at Sangalaki is 6-10. We dove Sangalaki from 28' fiberglass boats with 8 divers per boat. The only hyperbaric chamber on the West Coast of Borneo is located at Sipadan. There is a photo shop with E-6 processing at Sipadan. Borneo Divers is looking to open one at Sangalaki soon.

Ken Knezick was involved in the first American familiarization trip to Sipadan, and has been representing Borneo Divers continuously since 1989. In 1992 Ken was on the exploratory trip to Sangalaki Island. Borneo Divers with an Indonesian Partner opened a resort shortly thereafter. In 1994 the resort closed because of problems with the partner. Borneo Divers with the Indonesian Government Tourism Development Office as a partner has recently reopened the rebuilt / reconditioned resort. The result is an efficient, experienced, reliable operation run by Borneo Divers. Sangalaki is off the beaten path. The remoteness was one of the reasons we made this trip. I feel very fortunate to have found someone (Ken) who's knowledge of the operation, country, and relationship with Borneo Divers enabled us to travel to such a remote part of the world so trouble free. A trip like this has to be undertaken with the attitude the traveling is part of the adventure. The sights, smells, the people, the jungles made this trip unforgettable. On one flight I sat next to a guy wearing a turban, dressed sport coat, skirt and sandals. In Tarakan just after sunset and at about 4:00 AM I heard the singing from a nearby mosque. I saw a 5' long monitor lizard on Sipadan. We drove on the left side of the road. That was scary. If you would like to read more on Sipadan or Sangalaki check out the Borneo Divers web site www.jaring.my/bdivers/. The Island Dreams Travel web site www.islanddream.com also contains a lot of info on these two sites and a new resort in Southwestern Indonesia we considered called Wakatobi www.wakatobi.com/infocent.htm. As of last year only 200 divers had made the trek to this remote site. Island Dreams is escorting 3 groups to Wakatobi this year. Tanya & I both agree that we will do this trip (Sipadan and Sangalaki) again.

2000 BOAT DIVE SCHEDULE

DIVE	DAY(S)	DATE(S)	DESTINATION	PRICE*	BOAT	LOCATION
00-1	SUN	6 FEB	SANTA BARBARA / SUTIL	\$90	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
00-2	SAT	11 MAR	SAN NICOLAS	\$95	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
00-3	SAT	8 APR	SAN CLEMENTE BACKSIDE	\$90	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
00-C12	WED	3 MAY	CHAMBER DAY 12 / CATALINA	\$70	(Various)	22 ND STREET
00-4	FRI/SAT	12/13 MAY	SAN MIGUEL / SANTA ROSA	\$185	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA
00-5	SAT	3 JUNE	OIL RIGS: EUREKA, ELLY/ELLEN	\$80	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
00-6	SAT	24 JUNE	FARNSWORTH / CATALINA WEST END	\$85	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
00-7	FRI/SAT	21/22 JULY	BEGG ROCK/SAN NIC /SANTA BARBARA	\$195	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
00-8	SUN	13 AUG	OLYMPIC WRECK / OIL RIG EUREKA	\$80	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
00-9	FRI/SAT	22/23 SEPT	SAN MIGUEL PINNACLES	\$185	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA
00-10	TUES/WED	10/11 OCT	TALCOTT SHOALS	\$165	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA
00-11	FRI/SAT	27/28 OCT	CORTES & TANNER BANKS	\$195	GREAT ESCAPE	22 ND STREET
00-12	SAT/SUN	2/3 DEC	NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLES	\$185	PEACE	VENTURA MARINA

*Prices are all inclusive (air, food, and beverages). Non-members add \$10 for single day and \$15 for two-day dives. New members paying full annual membership allowed one single day dive at approximately two-thirds of member price. Dive 00-C12 does not include air, food, and beverages. All dives except 00-C12 are limited load of 28 divers.

Great Escape - 22nd Street Landing

South on Harbor freeway, left on Gaffey, left on 22nd Street, down the hill and park in designated areas.

Peace - Ventura Marina

North on Ventura freeway to Victoria Ave. in Ventura. Turn left onto Victoria and continue to Olivas Park Drive. Turn right and continue all the way down toward the beach and across Harbor Drive, go to the left onto Spinnaker Drive. Look for Milano's Italian Restaurant and turn right into the parking area. If you get to the end of Spinnaker, turn around and take the second left. Park adjacent to the berth (Slip #20) to unload, then park overnight in the last row adjacent to Spinnaker Drive.

DIVE BOAT POLICY

A club member may, but is not required to, have a boat deposit on file with the club. A club member may make a reservation on an upcoming dive as follows:

- A) Unconfirmed reservations may be made for any boat dive at any time. To confirm a reservation, payment in full must be received.
- B) For single day dives, divers holding an unconfirmed reservation will be called 3 weeks prior to the dive and advised that payment in full is required no later than 15 days prior to the dive to be confirmed. Dive boat deposits will be considered as payment in full.
- C) For two day dives, divers holding unconfirmed reservations will be called 5 weeks prior to the dive and advised that payment in full is required no later than 30 days prior to the dive to be confirmed. Dive boat deposits may be used as part of the payment in full.
- D) If payment in full is not received by the deadline, the diver may be replaced by a wait listed diver who has paid in full.

Any reservation may be cancelled two weeks prior to a dive with a full refund. Cancellations will not be accepted within two weeks prior to the dive unless a diver holding a reservation can sell or transfer their reservation to another qualified diver. The dive reservationist will assist in this process, but is not responsible for providing paying alternates. When confirmation is received by the dive boat reservationist that a cancelling diver is being replaced by another qualified diver, the replacement diver is then fully responsible for the cost of the dive.

If a diver has a deposit on file with the club and uses that deposit to secure a reservation on a boat dive, he may not use that deposit to secure additional dives until he has paid the club for the first dive. Two years after a diver has ceased to be a member of the club, his unclaimed dive boat deposit will be forfeited to the club. Only club members of The Sea Divers and members of other selected clubs may make boat dive reservations prior to one month before a scheduled boat dive. Partial refunds from single day boats which do not make the advertised dive location will be passed on to members who request them within two weeks of the dive.

BOAT DIVE RESERVATION FORM

DIVE DATE: _____ DESTINATION: _____

NAME OF DIVER(S): _____

PHONE (DAY): [] _____ (EVE) [] _____ COST OF DIVE \$ _____

MEMBER [] YES [] NO DATE OF LAST DIVE* : _____

* Please include date of last dive for each diver

BOAT DIVE RESERVATIONIST:

Curt Billings

Phone: (909) 945-3461, Fax: (909) 477-2849

e-mail: curt@diver.net

Please make checks payable to THE SEA DIVERS and mail to:

THE SEA DIVERS

P.O. Box 2415

Redondo Beach, CA 90278

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

February 1
February 6
February 10
February 17
February 25-27

General Meeting - 7 PM - Round Table Pizza
Boat Dive – Santa Barbara / Sutil Island – *GREAT ESCAPE*
The Sea Divers 35th Anniversary
8th Annual KCUCU Meeting – 6:30 PM – AES Conference Room
Beach Dive – 20th Avalon Underwater Cleanup – Avalon Harbor, Catalina

MARCH						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March 7
March 11

General Meeting - 7 PM - Round Table Pizza
Boat Dive – San Nicolas – *GREAT ESCAPE*

IN THIS ISSUE!!!!

- 1999 President's Awards!!!
- Tales from Borneo!!!
- 20th Avalon Clean Up!!!
- ...and MORE!!

THE SEA DIVERS
P.O. BOX 2415
REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

