



# Barbary Coast Bulletin

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Barbary Coast Divers*

March 2000

**Next Meeting: April 19th**

**(This Month's Meeting was March 15th)**

All meetings are held the third **Wednesday** of every month at  
**ROUND TABLE PIZZA ON GEARY AT 16TH AVE.**  
upstairs in the party room

## **At Our Next Meeting:**

Beer, pizza, fish stories, abalone stories, and maybe some slides

## **At Our March Meeting:**

### Fish Identification Night

Don't know your garibaldi from a lingcod? Confused about the new Fish and Game size limits? We reviewed how to identify fish so that next time you aim your speargun, you'll know whether you've just bagged dinner or you've earned yourself a \$50 Fish and Game citation. To get the full regulations, check out the California Department of Fish and Game web site at

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

## Announcements



### ***Dues are (over) due!***

Most of you are paid up. But if you haven't paid, please send your \$35 check to: Carol Reed, 150 Sadowa, San Francisco, CA 94112

If you have questions, call Carol at 415-668-6662 (work) or 415-333-8820 (home).

The cost is \$35 per person or couple, which includes a subscription to CenCal diver club (<http://www.cencal.org>). CenCal represents all divers in California and lobbies for rights of divers.

### **Abalone Opener**

**April 1-2 Mendocino (Saturday and Sunday nights) we've rented the little house, socall Pete Davis if you'd like to go.**

**ps, Buy those stamps and licenses now!**

### **Take Note: Canceled Trip!**

#### **Channel Islands Dive on the Peace**

Since few of our members could make the August 6-8 trip this year, we decided to cancel it and reschedule for 2001.  
Stay tuned!

### **Wallin's Dive Shop Big Sale**

Wallin's Dive Center 1119 Industrial Road San Carlos, CA 94070 Phone: 650-591-5641

Saturday April 1

### **At Our February Meeting:**

**We decided on a new domain name for our web site, and it is my responsibility to sign us up.  
Stay tuned!**

### **Web page/newsletter editor needed:**

I am going to Long Island this summer for three months to do an internship. I'm looking for someone to do the Barbary Coast Dive Club Newsletter while I am gone. I can train you.

Pay: pure satisfaction (can you put a price on that?)

Hours: as many as you can

Benefits: the joy and adoration of 35 club members

P.S. Unless you want to read about diving in the East River all summer, someone had better take me up on my offer!

talk to me: [catzan@idiom.com](mailto:catzan@idiom.com)

## More Announcements

# year 2000 Calendar:

*Here is our calendar for  
the year 2000*

**April 1-2 Mendocino  
Little House- Abalone  
opener**

**May 27-29 - Memorial  
Day at Caspar Cove  
Campground**

**June 24-25 - Salt Point  
Camping**

**July - Mylandia --  
Camping and sitting by  
the stream at Pete's  
land in the Sierra  
foothills.**

**Aug. 12-13 Mendocino  
Little House**

**Sept 2-3 - Labor Day at  
Manchester State  
Beach Campground**  
(Note: BCD members are free,  
guests are \$10 each unless  
accompanied by a club  
member)

**Oct 7-9 - Big Sur  
Camping**

**Nov. 18-19 Mendocino  
Little House**

### Marine Biology Classes at the California Academy of Sciences

#### Steinhart Aquarium: An In Depth Look

Tues. March 21, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Join this behind-the-scenes  
look at how an aquarium  
functions. Cost: \$25  
members/\$35 non-mem.



#### Nautical Nautiluses and Opulent Octopuses

Tues. April 4, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Come learn about the  
octopus, the speedy squid,  
and the living fossil known  
as the nautilus. Cost: \$25  
members/\$35 non-mem.

For more information, call  
415-750-7575.

Register by mail only. Send  
a check to Educational  
Programs, California  
Academy of Sciences,  
Golden Gate Park, San  
Francisco, CA 94118.

### What is the plural of Octopus?



### Octopi or Octopuses?

Answer provided by Carol DeLancey  
of the Oregon Coast Aquarium:

"The word 'octopus' is derived from  
the Greek oktopous - okto meaning  
"eight" and pous meaning "foot." The  
Greek plural of pous is podes. Since  
it is best to use a Greek plural for a  
Greek root that means the most  
proper plural for octopus is  
octopodes. However, practically no  
one uses this term, not even the  
scientists who study the animals.

"The word octopi is the least correct  
of our options. That usage mistakes  
the "us" on the end of octopus as a  
Latin suffix, and applies a Latin  
plural to it. You shouldn't put a Latin  
plural on the end of a Greek root.

This leaves us with octopuses, which  
isn't as technically correct as  
octopodes, but conforms to the rule  
for English plurals."

Editor's note: Webster's gives both  
octopuses and octopi as plurals for  
octopus.

## Recent BCD Adventures:

### *Diving Tahoe* by Jim McCormick

If you are starting to plan your spring dive weekends, here's an idea that you may not have considered: Lake Tahoe.

For obvious reasons, diving California's great lake is not really an enticing option during the winter, but I found the water surprisingly warm -- 68 degrees -- last September. Traci and I dove two spots that weekend: Rubicon Bay Wall on Tahoe's west shore, and Fallen Leaf Lake, about a mile due south of Tahoe.



Jim combs the depths of Lake Tahoe for the elusive crawdaddies.

To get to Rubicon, drive northwest on Highway 89 from the South Lake Tahoe area. Once you drive past Emerald Bay, look for the entrance to D.L. Bliss State Park. We bought a waterproof fishing map to help us find the dives site described by Jean Lundeen and my book "Mountain Lake Diving: California & Nevada." Although kayaks would be preferable, it is possible to do a shore dive at Rubicon, but be prepared for a short hike carrying all your gear. Most of the hike is on an obvious trail, but you will need to veer off to get close to the water. There is no surface swim to speak of: the Rubicon Wall starts in really shallow water and literally plunges to 800+ feet.

At the end of the day, we drove south to Fallen Leaf Lake. The waters here were not as clear, but there was no hike to the shore. We just jumped off the boat dock after walking thirty feet from our cars. The dive itself was a little spooky because the bottom of the lake was littered with trees, remnants of ancient avalanches.

This is true wall diving, probably the only wall like it in California. The water is clear and fresh with visibility nearing triple digits, and, best of all, it is like diving on the moon. The wall is made up of huge, house-size grey boulders that stretch off into the depths as far as you can see.

Although I did not see any fish, there were lots of crawdaddies. The little red guys are fun to catch, and since I've never hunted lobster, good practice, if only on a miniature scale. According to a game warden I met the day before, a fishing license is required.



Jim fights off wild mountain predators for his crawdaddies.



Traci and Jim's sister emerging after a dive well-done.

A few words on the technical aspects of altitude diving: of course you should be certified for this type of diving. ("P.ut A.nother D.ollar I.n" offers a course), but your dive computer may make the necessary adjustments (mine did). The two main things to watch out for are buoyancy and bottom time. The fresh mountain lake water will make you far less buoyant, so be sure to shed a few pounds from your weight belt or you'll be blowing most of your air into your BCD. But, you and your gear will be fresh and clean after the dive, not salty and stinky. If you're using the dive tables, follow the rules for altitude diving and be very conservative... you'll be amazed at how fast you "narc up" at altitude.

The Controversy About Kelp

## ***Kelp Harvests: Good or Bad?***

Facts courtesy of  
Monterey Bay  
Aquarium web page

Most kelp is harvested for a natural gelling substance called "algin." Algin is a thickener and emulsifier that is used in ice cream, toothpaste, bread, beer, and make-up.

Commercial kelp harvesters use large ships equipped with tools like big hedge clippers, prune the top one to four feet (0.3 to 1.3 meters) from the kelp canopy.

Kelp grows quickly and the plants recover rapidly. In waters off southern California, a pruned patch can be ready for a second harvest in a month.

Some 100,000 tons (91,000 metric tons) of giant kelp are harvested each year off the coast of California; about 97% of that from southern California.

## ***Do Divers Impact Kelp?***

A 1998 report, which has been criticized for being poorly conducted, found that recreational SCUBA diving causes a variety of disturbances to kelp communities.

The study was funded in part by the NOAA Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. However, some CenCal members have suggested the study is simply another product of the anti-diving contingent in Pacific Grove and Monterey.

The report surveyed 42 divers as they explored Breakwater Cove, Macabee Beach and Lover's Point Cove in Monterey Bay. The divers were not chosen randomly, but "by convenience."

The study authors also sent questionnaires to dive training officers at universities on the Pacific Coast, asking how often their divers unintentionally touch the bottom, stir up sediment, or detach algal blades during a 30 minute dive in a kelp forest or bed.

The study found that during a half-hour-long dive, the average diver contacted the bottom 43 times, touched four animals, and detached two algal blades. They concluded that while diver-impacts may be relatively minor on an individual basis, they may become ecologically important to the structure of these communities when many divers concentrate in a small area.

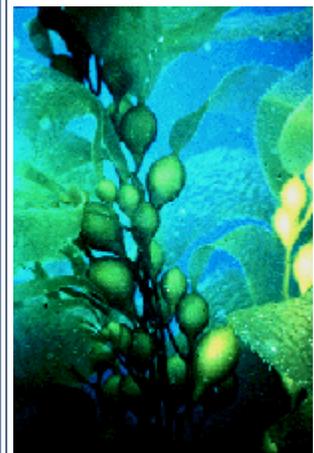
You can read the report for yourself at:  
<http://www.cencal.org/kelpstudy.html> (If you'd like a copy of the report and you do not have access to the internet, contact Dave Whittington of CenCal at 707-648-3299.)

Naturally, CenCal has spoken out against the report. The report makes no mention of the impact of kelp-harvesting, which is currently unregulated in California.

Should Fish and Game regulate kelp-harvesting? Cen-Cal says yes. Kelp provides a shade canopy for sea otters, rockfish, and white sea bass. Marine invertebrates that cling to kelp are killed when kelp is harvested.

[Read the March 13 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle for more information about the controversy surrounding kelp harvesting.](#)

The Ca. Dept. of Fish and Game is currently reviewing kelp-harvesting practices. To speak your mind on this issue, contact  
Mr. Rob Collins  
California Dept. of Fish and Game 20 Lower Ragsdale Dr., #100  
Monterey, CA 93940



California Giant Kelp  
(*Macrosystis pyrifera*)