



# Barbary Coast Bulletin

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Barbary Coast Divers*

*January 2001*

**Join Us At Our Next Meeting:**

**January 17th**

Club meetings are held in sunny San Francisco on the third **Wednesday** of every "ODD-numbered" month (example: January, March, and so on) at **ROUND TABLE PIZZA** - (415) 668-4300, 5160 Geary Blvd. at the corner of 16th Ave. We gather upstairs in the "party" room. Our Meetings in "EVEN" months will be held at that month's Club Dive.

**At the Next BCD Meeting:**

We'll discuss the fallout from the Christmas party, including the merits of spousal loyalty during the gift-exchange. Thanks to Roy and Colleen for hosting this year's event!

**At the Last BCD Meeting:**

We ate pizza, discussed upcoming dive club events, told a few jokes, and confirmed our new president (it didn't take us near as long as the folks in Florida). After dinner we viewed the pictures from Rick Fanta's first foray into underwater photography.

Read this newsletter on the web at [www.barbarycoastdivers.org](http://www.barbarycoastdivers.org)

If you're ready to read this newsletter on the "World Wide Web" (come on, you've heard of it), we the editors would be happy to quit lickin' stamps -- just let Catherine know who you are: [catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org](mailto:catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org).

# Barbary Coast Dive Club Newsletter

Page 2

## Announcements & News



**It's that time again: Pay**

**your BCD dues!**

Just when you thought you might be able to afford your gazillion-dollar PG&E bill, here comes the BCD renewal. But think of all you get: camaraderie, jokes that are in bad taste, an opportunity to listen to Pete's Baja spear-fishing story one more time, a complete set of 35 diving buddies and rent-a-friends, all for only \$35.

But, wait. If you act now, we'll throw in a subscription to CenCal diver's club (<http://www.cencal.org>), a \$20 value. CenCal represents all divers in California and lobbies for the rights of divers.

Send your \$35 check to: Carol Reed, 150 Sadowa, San Francisco, CA 94112  
Queries? Call Carol at 415-668-6662 (work) or 415-333-8820 (home).

## Where's the Club?

Remember, we will no longer meet every month at Round Table on Geary. Instead we will meet there on **ODD** months and at the site of our monthly club dive during **EVEN** months.

Got it?

OK, then, when is our next meeting? If you said January 17, give yourself ten I.Q. points and move onto the next question.

**Upcoming Club Dives:**

See [Page 4](#)

**NEW CLUB LEADERS:**

**Ready to lead us boldly into the new millennium are**

**Roy Coto, our new club president**

**Dan Schwartz, our new vice-president**

**Carol Reed, our treasurer and**

**trip-planner par excellence Catherine**

**Zandonella Fanta, who may manage to**

**hold onto her job as newsletter editor**

**with lots of help from club member Siodin**

**Kho.**

PS, Thanks to Jim and Tracey for doing such a fantastic job with the newsletter last summer!

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**2001 : The Channel Islands  
Will it happen?**

It looks like we may be on our own for the fall trip to the Channel Islands. Most boats have sold their group bookings and we may have to join up with another club such as reef divers (gasp!) to get some spots. If you have a lead on a boat, contact Roy at: [calif\\_diver@email.msn.com](mailto:calif_diver@email.msn.com).

# Barbary Coast Dive Club Newsletter

Page 3

## NEW FISH AND GAME CHANGES FOR ROCK FISH

- The minimum size limit for cabezon in the recreational fishery will increase from 14 to 15 inches.
- Recreational lingcod fishing north of Point Conception (north of Santa Barbara) will resume on Jan. 1, 2001. As last year, the lingcod sport regulations will allow for a two-fish daily bag limit for fish 26 inches or longer in total length.
- The current March and April rockfish and lingcod closure off central California will remain the same for recreational diving depths, although the ban will be extended through June for species found in waters greater than 20 fathoms (120 feet) in depth.
- The canary rockfish daily bag limit statewide is reduced from three to one fish.
- For sheephead in the recreational fishery, the Commission approved a reduced bag limit of from ten to five fish and the establishment of a 12-inch minimum size limit for the species.
- No changes were adopted for the recreational rockfish and lingcod season north of Cape Mendocino (not to be confused with the town of Mendocino--see the map) which is open year round and is managed in concert with Oregon fishery managers.
- Two large areas off the coast of southern California will be closed to fishing of cowcod, bocaccio and most other rockfish species. One area begins 40 miles offshore of San Diego and the other begins 20 miles off the Palos Verdes Peninsula and extends south.
- Abalone regulations have not changed for the year 2001. Divers are limited to four abalone per day, and a total of 100 for the year. Each diver must possess an abalone iron, an abalone measuring device, and must have an ocean fishing license and abalone sport stamp within 100 feet of shore. Scuba gear may not be used, nor may scuba gear be in your boat if you are hunting abalone.



**Free Fishing Days:** June 9, 2001 and September 22, 2001. On these days only, ALL regulations apply-- but no license is required for sport fishing.

**Confused about the new regs? Check out the press release at:**

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/com00\\_10.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/com00_10.html)

(Or check out the regs at

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg\\_comm/fishregs.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/fishregs.html)

although be forewarned that the web site says the regs may not yet have been updated.)

# Barbary Coast Dive Club Newsletter

Page 4

## Year 2001 Dive Club Events:

Our calendar is slowly taking shape. Stay tuned for more!

### January and February Dives:

Come to our next meeting and give your two cents worth on where we should go next.

### March 31 - April 1: Abalone Weekend Opener

We've reserved the little house in Mendocino. Sign up for your space today by contacting [Carol Reed](#).

### May 26 - 27 Memorial Day Weekend

We have four camp sites reserved.

### Summer

We are discussing the possibility of a river rafting trip.

### October 6-7 Columbus Day

We've reserved the little house to commemorate the imperialist oppressor named Columbus, and to do some diving too.

### November 16-17

The Mendocino house. Stock up on some abalone for the cold winter ahead.

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## Changes in the Point Lobos Reservation System:

In a letter dated Sept. 29, Pt. Lobos Ranger Glen McGowan said that due to abuses of the system, the Pt. Lobos rangers would begin enforcing the reservation rules more strictly. The main change is that the rangers will begin requiring the person who is named on the reservation to be present on the day of the dive. Here is a summary:

- Make reservations up to two months in advance using the web site:  
<http://pt-lobos.parks.state.ca.us/scuba/divereserv.htm>
- Reservations are made for "teams" of two divers each. If you have a group of six, you must make three separate reservations.
- Each team's reservation must be under a different name, and that person must show up on the day of the dive.
- Reservations are not transferable, so if the person who made the reservation does not show up, the team member cannot dive.
  - There is a \$7 nonrefundable fee per team.
- If you find that your team leader cannot make the dive, call Judy at Pt. Lobos at least a week in advance and she will allow you to swap in a new leader.
  - Pt. Lobos State Reserve: (831) 624-8413

# Barbary Coast Dive Club Newsletter

Page 5

## You are not going to believe this!

Last summer I was diving in Mexico in the Sea of Cortez. The diving overall was pretty bad due to poor visibility all week.

However, my first dive of the week was exceptional: I saw and rode a whale shark. It was huge creature--at least 25 feet long. Here's how it happened: A few divers were at the end of their dive. We were doing our three-minute safety stop, and all of a sudden this huge whale shark came over to check us out. I did not hesitate one second. I had an experience with a huge manta ray about 8 years where I hesitated just a split second before deciding whether or not I should ride it, and the indecisiveness was enough to miss out on that opportunity.

I swam over to him immediately and gripped on to its pectoral fin. Immediately after gripping him I moved up to his dorsal fin. My dive buddy grabbed on as well with 2 other divers. The creature turned and swam with the current so I knew our time was limited with him. On top of that, we were all fairly low on air. He dove down to 40 feet and then leveled off. He was traveling at a fairly high speed. It seemed like a long time but I imagine it was only about 30 seconds when we all let go. I think I would have rode him longer, but I felt sorry for him with so many people clamoring all over him.

His skin was about as rough as that of a sand shark. He was so incredibly powerful. Every motion of his tale made me very aware of his strength. His size I gauged with my height and the length of my fins. I have some extremely long Dacor fins with which I am sure I measure about 10 feet with my arms extended. Well, I did not touch his tale as I clung to his dorsal fin. I can only assume he was at least 20-25 feet in length. I have over 1,000 dives under my belt and I am sure this will never happen to me again. I consider myself very fortunate.

David Eckert, Aug. 29, 2000



The whale shark is the largest fish on the Earth today. Here are a few facts:

Family Name : Rhincodontidae  
Common Name : Whale Shark  
Scientific Name : Rhincodon typus  
Adult Size : Up to 30 to 40 feet (9-12m)  
Habitat : Open water  
Occurrence : Common  
Food Source : Plankton

Learn more at:  
<http://www.whaleshark.org/>