



# Barbary Coast Bulletin

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Barbary Coast Divers*

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September 2001

Next Meeting: **September 19th**

All meetings are held the third **Wednesday** of every OTHER month at  
ROUND TABLE PIZZA ON GEARY AT 16TH AVE.  
upstairs in the party room  
(but check downstairs as well--sometimes we get booted by traffic school!)

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## Upcoming Club Events:

### October 6-7 Columbus Day Weekend

Spend the night at the house in Mendocino to commemorate the imperialist oppressor named Columbus, and to do some scuba and abalone diving too.  
See page 5 for directions and details.

November 17-18 (Abalone Season Closes for the Winter on November 30)  
Another trip to the little Mendocino house. Stock up on some abalone for the cold winter ahead.

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Read this newsletter on the web at [www.idiom.com/~catzan/bcd](http://www.idiom.com/~catzan/bcd)

If you are getting a paper copy of this newsletter and wish to switch to an all electronic format (ie, you receive an e-mail each month telling you to go to the web page to read the newsletter), let me know at [catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org](mailto:catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org).



## Nudibranchs

Sexy little critters, aren't they.

Check them out at:

<http://www.slugsite.tierranet.com/>

## Fish ID site

too bad you can't take the Web  
underwater

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/  
msfindx0.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/msfindx0.html)

## Old Ships - No- body Loves Them Anymore

[http://www.rand.org/publications/  
MR/MR1377/](http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1377/)

## Reminders

Upcoming Meetings

We now meet on ODD months at

Round Table Pizza

September 19

November 21

December - Christmas Party  
(Date To Be Announced)

Join the Club!

Dues are \$35 and include CenCal  
membership.

Contact our treasurer Carol Reed  
at

[seareed@barbarycoastdivers.org](mailto:seareed@barbarycoastdivers.org)  
to join.

(For information on CenCal, see  
their website at [http://  
www.cencal.org](http://www.cencal.org))

Abalone Cook-Off at Van  
Damme State Park  
October 6-7

Win prizes! Have fun! Eat ab!

Our club has booked the  
Mendocino cabin for the weekend.

## Announcements

### Monterey Harbor Cleanup Saturday Sept 15

Win prizes! Do good for the environment! Eat free food! See your  
buddies!

There are innumerable reasons to don your gear and join the  
Monterey Harbor Cleanup. At the first such cleanup this year, BCD'er  
Peter Fong won a top-of-the-line BC.

For details, see:

<http://www.cencal.org/montcleanup.html>

### Public Hearings for the Nearshore Fisheries Management Plan

Do you enjoy spearfishing and/or just seeing fish? Then attend a public  
meeting on the proposed Nearshore Fisheries Management Plan.

What is the Nearshore FMP? It is a plan to manage 19 nearshore  
finfish along California's coast. These fish include spearhunting favor-  
ites like cabezon, greenlings, sheephead, and 13 species of rockfish.  
The draft Nearshore Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) is now  
available for review on the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game's Web site at  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/nfmp>.

What you can do:

1. Written comments are invited through Oct. 5.

California Fish and Game Commission  
Draft Nearshore FMP  
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr.  
Monterey, CA 93940  
fax (831) 649-2917

or e-mail your comments to the Commission at  
[NearshoreFMP@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:NearshoreFMP@dfg.ca.gov)  
(don't forget to include your name)

2. Attend a public meeting

The meetings are from 7 to 10 p.m. and are as follows:

Sept. 6, Seaside, Seaside Oldemeyer Center, 986 Hilby Ave.  
Sept. 26, Oakland, Elihu Harris State Office Building, 1515 Clay St.  
Sept. 27, Eureka, Eureka Public Marina, Wharfinger Building, Great  
Room, 1 Marine Way.



## AND THE OFFICIATING COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER....

Dan Schwartz reports from the Monterey Beach Dive Photo competition, held June 23rd

Looking out over the waves crashing in at Butterfly House, Monterey, I said to myself, "I hate shore dives". Swells coming in high, 14 seconds apart, leaves some room to get in. Today, as also the previous day, they were coming in at six seconds apart. Visibility, to use nautical language, "sucked eggs". Still, I was driven to make this shore dive happen. I was driven not by the sheer love of bashing against rocks, entering and exiting the water, or by the thought of some macho feather in my cap for coming out and looking cool doing it. No, I was driven by the fact that the only way my butt was going diving in the tropics was for me to win some prize at a dive photo contest. So here I was, at Butterfly House, going for gold at the 35th annual Northern California Underwater Photographic Society Beach Photo Competition.

Most of the competing divers in the morning headed straight for the calm waters of Wharf 2. A few other souls tried Monastery with minimal success, and some friends of mine, with whom I should have been diving, had less than minimal success at Big Sur before heading for the calm waters of the aforementioned Wharf 2.

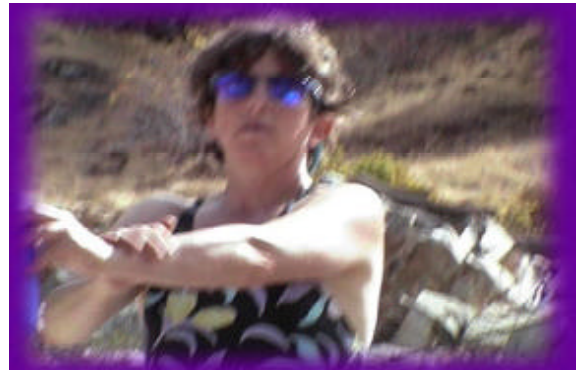
Viz for me was about 3 ft. White outs in some areas. I got out, having only shot about 4 frames. I thought I'd see what Monastery held. Mostly I was going for eels. If a seal or sea lion got in way I wouldn't be too bummed though. This dive nothing was going on. I just hoped everyone shot macro and the competition would be slim in the wide angle division. Monastery was less than promising. The waves crashing on Monastery could be lethal to camera gear and I almost went for it until I saw all the pebbles on the exiting divers. Not only was it lethal, it was one hell of a mess too. OK, Breakwater, hope for 8 feet of viz and a sea lion buzzing by.

There were no sea lions on the Breakwater dive. There were two Spanish Dancers going after some tube anemones, some hermit crabs (which with those buggy eyes I entered into the humor division) and some fish which I tried to make a good composition out of against some kelp. To make a long story short, none of my entries even got an honorable mention. No Sipidan, Belize or Fiji trip out of this day's roll. Not even a snorkel, although I did get a nice t-shirt just for entering.

For more information on NCUPS, see <http://www.ncups.org/>

Wild times at the River

Forget Burning Man, the place for action is Mylandia, Pete's foothill getaway, where anything goes...



Carol practices Qi Gong while smoothing on sunscreen



Curt finds God (or dog) at the River  
(Does anyone else see the resemblance to Kurtz?)



Kaii just doesn't understand why these adults are acting this way



## Northeast of Eden

Catherine Zandonella tells YOU what to look out for in the northeast Channel Islands

On August 2, Michael and his buddy John, Rick and I (Catherine), set out to explore the northern Channel Islands of San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz.

We were diving off the Conception, one of the Truth Aquatics' boats from Santa Barbara. Not having found enough BCD'ers to charter our own boat, we hooked up with a group of nice folks out of Vacaville.

Nice folks, yes, but I missed the camaraderie of my BCD brethren. I missed hazing Roy about losing his gear, hazing Dan about his curious attraction to sea lions, hazing Pete about just about anything. Luckily I Had Mike on board to haze about his hammock.

As for the diving, I have to say that now I know why so few dive boats go that far east. I hate to make categorical statements about a dive trip (such as, "it sucked") because each dive is complex and subtle, like a good wine. Yeah. But truly I was not impressed.

Much of the dismal visibility was not the Islands' fault. There was a major fish spawn going on at San Miguel, and the water was dense with mud-yellow hatchlings each about a quarter-inch long. I felt like I was diving in runny pea soup.

After two days of diving San Miguel, we skipped over Santa Rosa and headed to Santa Cruz. For the first time on the entire trip, the sun broke through the clouds. The visibility was not great here either but if you stayed between 0-30 feet you could have a dive full of green sea grass, pink anemones and yellow starfish (pink hearts, yellow moons, orange stars and green clovers, too). And we saw the occasional kelp stalk, a rarity on the trip.

The Vacaville folks were mainly hunters, which probably played into the choice of dive sites. But even so, San Miguel was a complete write-off. Some day I will return in the fall to see if viz is better then.

Each time I visit the Islands I return with an unsettled feeling. Since my first visit 15 years ago, I've noticed the changing balance of undersea life that I think is due to overfishing and poor management of the resource. To my uneducated eye, the ecosystem seems out of balance--too many purple urchins, too many brittle stars, few rock scallops, no abalone. You don't have to have a PhD in marine biology to realize that the selective kill-off of valuable species sends the predator-prey relationship into a tailspin.

Hence my plea to you: get involved. Check out the web pages that describe the Marine Life Protection Act, with its new emphasis on creating marine reserves and providing an overall plan for managing the nearshore fishery. See page 2 for links and details.



Michael "I ain't afraid of no urchins" Walsh



Catherine and Rick, united against sea urchin dominance



## Mendocino Saturday-Monday - October 6-8

Come celebrate Columbus Day in Mendocino.

We've booked the little house for Saturday and Sunday nights.

Yes, I realize not many of you knew we had a Columbus Day, since only government workers get the day off. Some Native American groups consider it a day of mourning.

Come honor their tradition with a ritual sacrifice of fresh abalone.

If you want to find out more about the history of oppression and why many Americans oppose Columbus Day (no, it's not because they don't get the day off), see <http://www.transformcolumbusday.org/>

What to bring to the little house:

Sleeping bags, pillow, towels, toilet paper, food, beer, and a dish for the potlucks on Saturday and Sunday nights. There is no phone at the house.

Space is limited

so sign up early by calling Carol Reed or e-mailing her at [seareed@barbarycoastdivers.org](mailto:seareed@barbarycoastdivers.org)

### Directions to the Little House in Mendocino

Take Hwy 101 N. Exit at Hwy 128 West to coast. Take Hwy 1 North to Mendocino. Once you reach Mendocino, take a Left on Main St. (at the stop light). Make a Right on Lansing. Left on Ukiah. Go to the end of the street. Make a Right on Kelly. It is the house immediately to your right on the corner of Ukiah and Kelly. Address is 10531 Kelly.

