



AUGUST 2006

MAKE SURE TO COME
TO THE MEETING...SEE
THE PHOTOS OF FIJI.

ANTICIPATION, the unbelievable excitement of the new and unknown. As I write this several of us lucky SOCDC divers are about to embark on a trip to Beqa Lagoon in Fiji. Most have never been to Fiji and do not know what to expect. I have landed in Suva at the airport at 2AM and was surprised that the terminal had a native Fijian band playing and that ALL of the gift shops were open for business. That is a good sign that tourism is important. We never left the airport on that trip since it was a stop-over on the way to New Zealand, but the thrill of the unknown I felt being there is what drives many of us to dive.

**PRESIDENT'S
CORNER**

BY
Konrad Fry



Think about what goes through your mind before you enter the surf zone. What is going to happen? What am I going to see? Are there going to be big things, dangerous things, colorful things? This thrill of the unknown gives us a spark of energy that carries on through the mundane grind of our daily work. We dive to thrive! I often get people asking me to compare diving with skiing or surfing or horseback riding or a multitude of other sports. In each and every case, I point out that only diving puts you in an alien world, part of the food chain (significantly below several large toothy creatures) and you stay in that world for an hour. Diving is a total experience. Surfing lasts 20 seconds if you are lucky, Skiing maybe 15 minutes, and both are just skirting the environment they take place in.

**THE IMAGES OF
FIJI ARE
LITERALLY OUT OF
THIS WORLD!**



So back to anticipation. The images of diving Fiji are literally out of this world. We should see clouds and clouds of amazing fish of every possible color. Even the giant clams have purple lips and that's not from drinking grape juice. What blows me away is that any cool u/w photograph in the Indian or Pacific Oceans of cool looking fish, sponge, coral, or pelagics could easily have been taken in

Fiji. You will all see the results because the group is going camera heavy. Oh yes, one more thing, I am at dive number 494 and will be doing my 500th no kidding dive in Fiji. Yabba-Dabba-Dooooooooooooooooo!

More anticipation. After reading the Lonely Planet guide to Fiji I discovered that the Fijians are the hands-down kings of cannibalism. They ate strangers and each other. They love to turn the skulls of victims into drinking goblets. Priests had special forks just to eat human flesh so it would not touch their sacred lips (eyeeew). But the best part is they were so mean, they would cut off a LIVE victim's limbs and make them eat their own arms or legs. Bega Island is where the fire walking started and is very much into cultural history. If I wake up being forced to eat one of my toes, I will know they are still in the conservative mode.

SOCDC goes on.

We had an excellent picnic with the Laguna Sea Dwellers two weeks ago. Approximately 50 people showed up for my BBQ'ed chicken and grilled romaine lettuce. Try it, you will like it but only leave the halved lettuce on the grill for about 1 minute. Thanks to Tom Dunbar for doing all the grilling. Debbie Karimoto and John Doyle dived in the afternoon and were treated to a three-foot juvenile giant sea bass and nice visibility. Some from SOCDC joined the LSD (Laguna Sea Dwellers) for their 9:30 AM dive at Shaw's Cove. We all went over to the store for dessert and more commingling. Gordie was very happy about his talk at our last meeting.

Sport Chalet has a new Head of SCUBA. We have been in a kind of limbo for the last eight months after Jim Guido resigned as head of SCUBA at Sport Chalet. Last month Chris Robinson was named head of SCUBA at Sport Chalet. Chris comes from PADI and is a very nice guy. He verified that all the club discounts and benefits are still good!

If you have had a problem getting your air card, discounts or anything else club-related at a Sport Chalet Store, please email me kcfry1@yahoo.com and I will send it on to Chris. He promised me he would send a reminder of benefits to all the stores. Thank you Chris!

Next month we will focus on our **membership database**. Theresa and I will send letters out to those who have slipped through the cracks on renewals. My old and infirmed PC will be replaced next month during the INTEL / AMD highly convenient price war.

IF YOU ARE GETTING EMAIL BUT HAVE NOT RENEWED IN 1 YEAR CAN YOU LET US KNOW?

If you are downloading this off the website but do not get notices by email can you email me at the email above? We are cleaning up the whole thing and printing new membership cards and making new T-Shirts.

August 16th Meeting with CEMR re: Rigs to Reefs & Captain Ray Arntz (Sundiver) on Oil Rig diving.

August 19th SOCDC 2006 Summer Boat Dive

Sundiver to Oil Rigs and Catalina Italian Gardens

- Boat leaves at 6:30AM returns 5-6PM from Alamitos Bay, check <http://www.sundiver.net/> for directions
- Can board the night before after 8:30PM
- Depending on our divers' pace, 2 dives on rigs and up to 2 dives at Catalina
- \$110 members, \$120 non-members incl. food, tanks and air \$45 non-divers includes food and a great day out on the water
- Signup by sending an email to socdcdivboat@hotmail.com
- Spots are secured by sending checks to SOCDC, PO Box 3687, Mission Viejo, CA 92690
- Wine tasting on trip home, participants bring a bottle to share

Email socdcdivboat@hotmail.com to signup with Wendy.

Send all checks to:

SOCDC, PO Box 3687, Mission Viejo, CA 92690

-Konrad

This Month's Speaker...George Steinbach

George Steinbach is the Executive Director of the California Artificial Reef Enhancement Program (CARE). Prior to joining CARE, George worked for Chevron Corporation managing its California offshore operations, during which

time he became interested in the marine habitats around the offshore oil platforms. He retired from Chevron in 2001 and has pursued this interest by educating environmentalists, government officials and the public about

these platform reefs. Prior to joining Chevron, George was a Captain in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has a B. S. from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and a M. S. from the University of Texas at Austin.



Sundiver has new tanks...take note of this information on how to adjust your diving set-up.

By Debbie Karimoto

Sundiver is pleased to announce that we now have 26 brand new low-pressure XS Scuba steel 85s in place of our prior aluminum 80s, as well as our 2 aluminum 63s and 4 aluminum 50s! Sometimes it is good to be negative and these steel tanks are **7lbs negative full and .7lbs negative empty**. Now, our divers can take pounds off belts and out of pouches, and maybe even stay under a bit longer. You steel lovers can even save your backs and leave your personal tanks at home if you like! Sundiver greatly appreciates your future feedback and comments as to whether you like the steels. ~ Captain Kyaa Heller

So gang, here are two commonly used scuba cylinder manufacturers' specs so you can make comparisons and adjust your weights appropriately to use the new Sundiver tanks. Oh, and the XS low-pressure tanks have Thermo-Pro convertible DIN/yolk valves so if you have a DIN regulator, you don't need your adaptor!

PST Steel Tanks

<http://www.pstscuba.com/products.htm>

PART	LBS. EMPTY	FULL
E7-65 HP-65	-1.5	-6.4
E7-80 HP-80	-2.5	-8.5
E7-100 HP-100	-1.0	-8.5
E7-120 HP-120	0.0	-10.5
E8-119 LP-119.0	-2.0	-10.5
E8-130 LP-104	-1.0	-10.5

CATALINA SCUBA Cylinder Specifications

<http://www.catalinacylinders.com/scuba.html>

COMPACT SERIES 3300 PSI (228 BAR)

Part No. Capacity*	Diameter (in / mm)	Length (in / mm)	Empty Weight (lbs / kgs)	Water Capacity			Buoyancy** (lbs.)		
				(cu in)	(lbs)	(liters)	(full)	(500 psi)	(empty)
C100	8.00 / 203.2	27.3 / 693	46.2 / 21.0	807	29.2	13.2	-7.8	-2.0	-0.4
C80	7.25 / 184.2	25.1 / 638	34.4 / 15.6	625	22.6	10.3	-5.9	-1.4	-0.2
C60	7.25 / 184.2	19.9 / 506	27.3 / 12.4	486	17.5	7.9	-4.9	-1.4	-0.4

STANDARD SERIES 3000 PSI (207 BAR)

S80	7.25 / 184.2	25.8 / 654	31.6 / 14.3	679	24.5	11.1	-1.8	+2.6	+4.0
S63	7.25 / 184.2	21.6 / 550	27.2 / 12.3	552	19.9	9.0	-2.6	+1.0	+2.0
S53	7.25 / 184.2	19.2 / 486	25.6 / 11.6	464	16.8	7.6	-4.1	-1.1	-0.2

More "Up-to-Date" News from *Debbie Karimoto*

Welcome our new SOCDC secretary Leslie Holtman!

July Raffle Winners!

Nancy Tyrone	Towel
Deb Karimoto	Akona Snorkel Bag
Gary Sanders	Shears and snips
Nancy Tyrone	Save-a-Dive tool kit
Susan Wright	First aid Kit
Rick Valasek	Humann's Coastal ID Book
Nancy Tyrone	Drybox
Gary Sanders	UW Lights
Susan Allen	Akona Regulator Bag
Nancy Tyrone	Copper Firepit
Don Spencer	Digital Camera (donated back)
Susan Wright	Dr. Deb's new DVD
Cathy Kligman	Fuddrucker's GC
Cathy Kligman	Citizen AQUALAND Dive Watch (Quarterly Prize!)

Joe Packi's name was called for the cash drawing but he missed out on the \$70.

Don Spencer donated his camera back to the club to be raffled at the beach picnic on July 22. Konrad was the lucky winner of the camera!

Did you notice that Nancy Tyrone won LOTS of prizes at the July raffle?? I asked how much she spent on her raffle tickets and she said \$100. It sure paid off for her!! Thanks for supporting SOCDC, Nancy! It helps that Don Spencer always has such great raffle prizes for us.

Fiji comments

"Eagle rays, humphead wrasses, 300 pound trevally, sharks, clown fish...oh ya a humongous school of barries...That was day one" mike bartick

"Absolute paradise inhabited by the friendliest group of people we have ever met! We're very thankful that we could enjoy this experience with our dear dive buddies." Love, Dale & Denise Laube

"12 foot Bull sharks...seen by many....broad daylight... many pics....=)....bula"...mike bartick

A New Scuba Store in OC!!

Master Sea Sports is a new scuba shop in Garden Grove. Owner Bornard Shin is a very friendly guy who wants to sponsor SOCDC.

10% discount on all non-sale items
10 free air fills per year (regular air)
\$10 Nitrox fills (Reg. price for Nitrox is \$15)

Master Sea Sports
8342 Garden Grove Blvd., Suite 11
(between Beach & Dale)
Garden Grove, CA 92844
(714)534-3848

Sport Chalet Benefits for SOCDC

Over the last few months SOCDC members have had difficulty getting their dive club discounts at various Sport Chalet stores. Sport Chalet's Scuba Manager, Chris Robinson, assures us that all benefits for SOCDC members are in full force. This includes: 10% off non-sale dive merchandise, 10% off dive rentals and charters, and a free airfill card each year if you show your valid SOCDC membership card with no hole punched out yet.

See you in the water!

Debbie



Ask Dr. Debbie...

Equipment Options & Versatility with the Backplate System

By Debra A. Hill, MD

While getting ready for our trip to Fiji, I was reminded about how much I like diving with a backplate system because of its incredible versatility. So, I'd like to share with you a brief article that I wrote sometime ago, and it is also viewable on my website, www.divein.tv. The webbing on my backplate for this trip is bright pink--great for photos & video here in Fiji, the soft coral garden of the world.

Bula! and Happy Diving!

Buoyancy Compensators:

As a female diver, I've struggled with finding a comfortable buoyancy compensator. I've tried various jacket style BC's, including those with back style inflation bladders. My favorite option to date is the Halcyon backplate/harness system used with a back mounted BC bladder. What I like about it is the comfort, versatility and safety features.



- 1. Comfort** - The Halcyon backplate/harness consists of a simple strap system. The backplate itself is stainless steel and offers the opportunity to remove 4-5 pounds off the weight belt. Additionally, it is quite versatile in that it can be used with either a single cylinder using a tank adaptor or double cylinders. But the most important reason that I enjoy the Halcyon backplate and harness system has to do with the shoulder straps and waist belt allowing for greater freedom of mobility and comfort.
- 2. Versatility** - The color of the webbing can be changed to match any mood - and this makes for great photos! The Halcyon backplate/harness can be integrated with a single cylinder of air, double cylinders, and various sized bladders, depending on what is needed for the type of diving being performed. This enhances its cost effectiveness as it eliminates the need for many types and styles of jacket BC's.
- 3. Safety** - This system allows for the streamlined attachment of lights, safety sausage, light canister or stage bottles. No quick releases prevent just that... an unexpected quick release during a dive.

Ladies, try it! I think you'll like it!

Dr. Debbie

Meeting is August 16th 6:30

Please give your support to all of the people who support us...the dive shops, Fuddruckers and all of our diving friends....



Picnic Photos... Yes, We all had a lot of fun...thanks again to all the folks at Laguna Sea Sports (and the club members for making it a great day.



**Come join us Wednesday Night
for Good Food and Good Friends!**

